

Groundbreaking at Former Presbytery Office

On September 14, after many prayers, conversations, plans and discussions, the City of Harrisonburg, along with several community organizations, broke ground on what will become the Homeless Services Center. This new center, with a low-barrier emergency shelter, resources, and wraparound services for those who are housing insecure, is being built on the site of the old Shenandoah Presbytery office building at 1111 N. Main Street.



We give thanks to God for this! God calls us to be good stewards of all that God entrusts to our care, and that includes our neighbors. Thanks to all the Holy Spirit filled people who began this work and these conversations, including members of our own Committee on Pastoral Administration, who engaged with community leaders, and have, in this time, planned for the future. Alleluia and Amen!



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As I write this, I am in the first week of my sabbatical. I am at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, spending most of my time here at the library. This sabbatical is giving me the time to explore a topic I want to know more deeply: that is, about the church and change.

Many of you have heard me say this: I don't like change. Change is hard. And yet the story of the people of God is a story of change.

And Scripture is not simply change itself, but a narrative full of adaptive change. Change that requires us to step out into the unknown, challenges that require us to ask deep questions, to let go of previously known and used priorities, loyalties, skills and knowledge...and go where God is leading us.

You know the whole world, and the church, has been through a great deal of change. These past 3+ years of worldwide Covid (still not eradicated) have caused us, as congregations and a Presbytery, to make changes, to be flexible, to try new things. Even before that, we could look around and see that the world outside our walls was changing. People no longer routinely were Presbyterians simply because their family had been. Going to worship on Sunday morning was not a "given" any longer.

But friends, in Christ, there is always good news. One of the places we look for examples of faith-filled adaptive change is Scripture. The testimony of Scripture is filled with people of faith who step out into the unknown, still trusting in God. My hope is to write about some of them, and share them with you.

Thank you for the blessing of being able to be on sabbatical, to rest, to be with God, and to study God's word for us as the church.

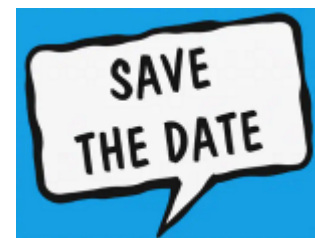
Blessings, Nancy



Pre-Retirement Workshop

On Friday, November 3, there will be a PRE-Retirement workshop, led by Keenan Rodgers from the Board of Pensions. This workshop will cover all the things you need to know/ask/prepare prior to retirement. This workshop will be held at Massanutten Presbyterian Church, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Registration is required. [Click here to register.](#)

If you are planning to retire in the next 1-3 years, this is an important workshop to attend, to help you prepare wisely for a good retirement.



Luncheon for Retired Pastors

Luncheon for Retired PC(USA) Ministers of Word and Sacrament will follow, at Massanutten Presbyterian Church. Look for an invitation from Keenan Rodgers and the Board of Pensions.

Mt. Olive Church Youth Sunday

On Sunday, August 20, 2023 our congregation celebrated our worship service with the youth and children handling the entire service. They gave a presentation of our whole Sunday morning worship service, normally given by our pastor, CRE, elders, or congregational adults.

Lois Howe Ruling elder and Mission Outreach Chair
Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church



Boundary Training

Shenandoah Presbytery requires that every person in pastoral leadership take part in a Mandatory Boundary Training every 3 years. In addition, the PC(USA) now requires that those Ruling Elders who are seeking to be commissioned as a CRE, those who are Certified Christian Educators, and those who are under care and preparation to become a Teaching Elder (Minister of Word and Sacrament) also take this training.

Notices have been sent out to those who are due this year, but others are welcome to take part. The next training will be **Thursday, November 9, 6:30-9:30**, via zoom.

You may register for the training at <https://shenpres.breezechms.com/form/Boundary-Training-Nov09>
Certificates will be sent electronically to those who complete the training.

Online Payments

We now have the ability to make payments online through our website.

Here is what you can do:

- ◆ Churches may send in their acceptances
- ◆ Churches may now send in their full remittance
- ◆ Churches and individuals may contribute to our Stated Meeting Mission Offering

Place your camera over the QR code to the link, or go to [our webpage](#) to make your payments.

If you have any questions, please contact the presbytery office at 540-433-2556.



Attention: Church treasurers, clerks and pastors

Please look for your church's asking letters and acceptance forms by the middle of October. These will be e-mailed to you. We ask that the form be returned by December 12, 2023. If you have not received one for your church, or if you have any questions, please contact Heather at bookkeeper@shenpres.org. Thank you!

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(See Genesis 37:3-36)

10-14-1999

JOSEPH LOVED THE REACTIONS THAT HE
GOT WHEN WEARING HIS NEW COAT ON AN
AUTUMN COLOR TOUR

Better Together


The Waynesboro area "Better Together" churches are now offering a Bible study that is led by Westminster DCE John Tindall, and rotates among the various churches. The study meets on Mondays at 1:00 pm. The rotation is as follows:

1st Mondays - Smyrna Presbyterian
 2nd Mondays - Second Presbyterian
 3rd Mondays - Hermitage Presbyterian
 4th Mondays - Finley Memorial
 5th Mondays as needed - First Presbyterian

Community Cup NWC - First Worship Service on October 7

"We will be holding our first worship service at Community Cup Coffee and More at 114 West Burke Street Martinsburg WV at 7:00 pm on October 7th following the 4pm-6pm Open Mic night. Come try your hand at music, poetry, story telling, or comedy and then stay for an informal worship service at 7:00 pm. The Word will be shared, live music will be played, and we will celebrate communion. Please join us for this joyful time of fellowship and worship."

Peace of Christ be with you,
 Dwight




How has POP-CULTURE influenced our FAITH?

Are there STORIES that shape us more than we realize?

How can we love God with our IMAGINATION?

Karen Swallow Prior
NOVEMBER 4 - 2PM
 @ New Monmouth Presbyterian Church
 2348 W Midland Trail Lexington VA
 RSVP - Space is limited



NewMonmouthPres.org **FREE**

Karen Swallow Prior (PhD, SUNY Buffalo) is the award-winning author of *On Reading Well: Finding the Good Life through Great Books*. She is a frequent speaker, a monthly columnist at Religion News Service, and has written for Christianity Today, The Atlantic, the Washington Post, the New York Times, and Vox. She is a contributing editor for Comment, a founding member of the Pelican Project, a senior fellow at the Trinity Forum, and a senior fellow at the International Alliance for Christian Education.



CONFIRMATION RETREAT

February 2-4, 2024

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

For more information contact
 Colleen Earp at
colleen@massanettasprings.org, or
 call (540) 434-3829.

**PRESBYTERY OF
SHENANDOAH**

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Shenandoah Presbytery

A Community of Christ for Worship, Nurture and Mission

SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY is a covenant body where:

- CONGREGATIONS are empowered to be centers for mission
- PEOPLE OF GOD are equipped to be Disciples of Christ in a challenging world
- CHURCH LEADERS and members are nurtured and strengthened for service
- OPEN COMMUNICATION and information are used constructively and creatively to keep us connected



Dates to Remember!

October 2023

- 1 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 7 - CMO 9:30 am
- 10 - CNCD 3:00 pm
- 11 - CPM 10:00 am
- 12 - COM 9:30 am
- 12 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 18 - Nominations 10:00 am
- 18 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
at Presbytery Office
- 18 - Strong Ministers 3:00 pm
- 19 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 23 - CER 9:00 am
- 23 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 26 - Community Cup 9:30 am

Other Dates

- 5 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 19 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm



* Unless otherwise noted, all meetings
will be held via Zoom.