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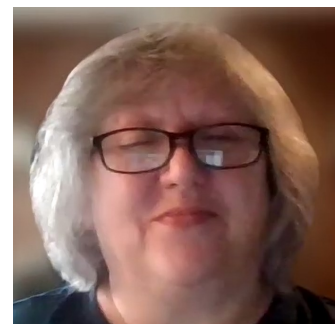
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## 200th Stated Meeting of Presbytery February 27, 2024



Bill North, RE Berkeley Springs Church,  
2024 Moderator of Shenandoah Presbytery



Melissa Avey, Rocky Spring  
Commissioned Ruling Elder

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Left to right: 2023 Moderator, Rev. April Cranford;  
2024 Vice-Moderator Debra Fitzgerald O'Connell;  
2024 Moderator Bill North;  
Rev. John C. Peterson, Stated Clerk Pro Tempore



Rev. Brint Pratt Keyes,  
Interim Minister,  
Tinkling Spring Church

For all documents and video of the meeting, find us at  
<https://shenpres.org/presbytery-meeting/>

## Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao



Friends, we are in Lent, and at the end of this month, will celebrate Easter.

Lent is a journey to the cross.

And during Lent, many congregations use a large cross, with a cloth lying over the cross bars, as a central visual prompt to remind us of that journey and that sacrifice.

But then, on Easter morning, many churches decorate the cross with flowers—some congregations even have the worship activity of having congregations members come forward during Easter morning worship to attach flowers to the cross.

And what was brown and barren, an instrument of torture and suffering, is now bursting with new life.

But one of the things we might forget is that those flowers, long before Easter morning, have been at work, under the soil, seeds sprouting, roots digging deep into the earth...all unseen.

I have been experiencing some of that recently in my ministry with the congregations of Shenandoah Presbytery—new life, bursting into joyous blooms and beginnings, after 3 or 4 years (depending on how you count it) from the first restrictions due to Covid, or from years of decline, or aging and weariness.

New things are happening, congregations are stepping out in faith to try things, our New Worshipping Community at Community Cup is growing.

And all these things, like the flowers we might put on the cross, began...

Long before that moment of “new life.”

Began in prayer, began in darkness, unseen, began in the Holy Spirit’s stirring of hearts and minds, of saying “I wonder” or “what if..” or “Maybe we could...”

Easter is about new beginnings, is about God’s triumph over sin and death.

What new things are already beginning to grow and sprout in you and your congregation?

How can you help them come to blossom and bear fruit?

How can the Presbytery support you in this?

Blessings, Nancy

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## Boundary Training

In 2023, the Presbyterian Church (USA) created new guidelines for councils (Sessions, Presbyteries, and Synods, as well as the General Assembly itself). These guidelines require Boundary Training for all people serving on those councils, and must include specific content on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Sexual Misconduct Prevention. This training must be completed at least every thirty-six months. The same requirement applies to those who are Certified Christian Educators, and those under care of the Presbytery as Inquirers.

While the Presbytery has always mandated Boundary Training for those in pastoral leadership, and for those going on Presbytery sponsored mission trips, this addition of other categories of people is relatively new.

And you have responded overwhelmingly. So much so, that we have had to cap registration for each training. Thank you for your faithfulness, and your understanding that this training will make us a healthier church.

Please also watch for future trainings, some of which will be in person (I am available to come to your Session, or meet with groups of Sessions at a central location), and some of which will be via zoom.

More days and times (including weekdays) will be offered in May and June.

Look for information about these training courses to come.

## Anniversary Celebrations!

At the February 27 Stated Meeting, Shenandoah Presbytery celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> meeting. To mark this milestone, mission gifts of \$200 were sent to each congregation, to be able to engage in a new mission, or expand an already existing one. We look forward to hearing the reports of this celebration endeavor in the February 2025 Presbytery meeting.

But, have another anniversary celebration this year. Shenandoah Presbytery is 50 years old! (well, that's young, really, by Presbyterian standards).

Begun in a move to restructure Presbytery boundaries by the General Assembly, in 1972 conversations between Winchester Presbytery and Lexington Presbytery were begun. Shenandoah Presbytery was officially established in 1974. We are 50 years old!

Now, 50 year anniversaries are, in popular culture, "golden" anniversaries. Some of that "gold" has already been shared as the mission starters, distributed at the February meeting.

Plans are being made for an in-person anniversary celebration, at the Saturday, September 14 Big Event and Presbytery meeting, to be held in person at Massanetta Springs.

In the morning, we will meet as the Big Event, with Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Lapsley, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary, as preacher and keynote speaker. There will be short workshops that morning, to serve in part as the "educational hour" for the Presbytery.

After lunch in the Massanetta Springs dining hall, the Presbytery will convene for its meeting. It will be a time of necessary business, but also of celebration for 50 years of God's presence in our ministries.

Here is a portion of the original 1974 Shenandoah Presbytery Mission Statement:

"Therefore, with glad and joyful hearts, we covenant together to be the Presbytery of Shenandoah; to be faithful in searching for the will of God as we listen to the Word, the church and the world; to depend upon the presence and power of the Holy Spirit; to offer always our daily life for His judgement and healing, that we may live together as His covenant people and look to the future to which He is calling us. We gratefully remember He has given us each other, the church and the world as a sacred trust and gift."

We look forward to giving God all the glory, and to the next 50 years of ministry and service!

Blessings- Nancy

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## Strong Ministers Fund Deadline—April 8

Members of the Strong Ministers Program have announced April 8, 2024 as the spring deadline for grant applications. There are a number of categories in which financial assistance is granted and those who may apply are: *Teaching Elders, Retired Teaching Elders, Temporary Supply Pastors (including Interim Pastors), and Christian Educators of Shenandoah Presbytery.*

Please investigate our Guidelines and Online application, at <https://shenpres.org/strong-ministers-program/>. All applications are confidential and it is our pleasure to offer this kind of assistance.

Please find a link to the guidelines and application form [HERE](#) and submit applications no later than April 8 for spring disbursements.

## Tabler Presbyterian Church

*Submitted by Brad Langdon, Pastor*

Outreach activities are planned by Tabler Presbyterian Church in the form of a community Easter Egg Hunt at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 30, followed up with "Invite a Friend Sunday" for April 14, 9 a.m. worship service.

Other special events and services during the Lenten season include: The celebration of the Lord's Supper during worship on March 3; a congregational "Eat and Meet" event, after worship on March 10, featuring a brunch followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting; on Sunday March 24, Palm-Passion Sunday, a special reading and special duet music will be featured, followed after worship by filling Easter Eggs in preparation for the Egg Hunt and enjoying some brunch; the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be shared on March 28, Thursday evening at 6 p.m. during the Maundy Thursday service of worship; and on Sunday, March 31 we will celebrate The Resurrection of the Lord during the 9 a.m. service of worship.

The session continues to work on furthering its growth and evangelism plans for the rest of 2024 and beyond.

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## Community Cup Coffee and More

*Submitted by Dwight McCormick, Pastor*

Greetings from Community Cup Coffee and More at 114 West Burke Street in Martinsburg West Virginia. It is a blessing to be a New Worshipping Community in West Virginia for the Presbytery of Shenandoah. I hope that some of you will take time to make a stop in the shop to get some coffee and food Monday through Friday 8am-4pm or Saturday 8am-8pm. In addition, I would like to formally invite you to attend, or lead, our worship services on Friday nights at 7pm. We recently moved our worship time and day to accommodate Recovery Church Martinsburg's Saturday worship at 7pm that was taking place at the same time as our previous day and time.

We are seeking to provide a place to be sober and welcome on two weekend nights for people in recovery. We celebrate communion every week, have informal dress, worship from the shop tables circled up around a communion table. Music is lead with a guitar or hammer dulcimer and we use a screen to display the Scripture and on occasion we use liturgy. We practice Lectio Divina each week for discussion and immersion in the Scriptures.

During the month of February, we have celebrated 5 baptisms and welcomed into our membership these first five members. We got to host Ash Wednesday services with Tuscarora, Gerrardstown, and Tabler Presbyterian Churches and had a near capacity number of people (for us that's 49) in attendance.

It appears that God's Spirit is moving and guiding us into the ministry to which we are being called in Martinsburg. We need additional church partners and additional volunteers to help spread out the work and gain a broader range of gifts in service to God's Realm. We currently partner with Tuscarora and Shepherdstown Presbyterian Churches. We need board members that represent even more congregations in the Presbytery to serve at a weekly meeting at 2pm on Mondays that meets at Tuscarora Presbyterian, (but could rotate locations based on where volunteers are from if needed). This board serves as advisory committee to the shop and the church. Please ask your Ruling Elders, Deacons, or ANY lay people who would like to give to a ministry with those in poverty and those in recovery to come and serve.

We also need people who are willing to come and lead (worship-clergy people in particular) who would like to preach; the sermons we have are usually 5-10 minutes so more of what we might call a "meditation". We also welcome anyone who may want to come and help set up communion, arrange tables, read Scriptures or lead music, and help clean up afterward. The more people from the Presbytery we have involved, the better. The more congregations we are able to partner with, the better. Thanks for considering this way of serving God through the Community Cup Coffee and More New Worshipping Community. If you feel led by the Holy Spirit to give to unhoused people, people who are vulnerable because of addiction, and people who are on the margins of society, please contact me (Dwight McCormick) 937-244-6769 or [communitycup114@gmail.com](mailto:communitycup114@gmail.com) to tell me when and how you'd like to volunteer.

If you are unable to volunteer, please do pray for the ministry and ask that God will reveals God's will and give us the power to carry out Divine will. Thank you.



## Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church

Youth Family Night was on Wednesday February 21st. Every Wednesday night is youth and children's night, but this was a special night with the parents and church family invited. We have a meal, Bible study, craft, and some activity on each Wednesday night. February 21st was a special night for families and was a pizza night. We had a good turn out with games, and prizes for children, youth, and adults. Everyone had lots of fun and fellowship. Thanks to everyone that helped with this event.



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

PW and Men's Bible Studies

One Great Hour of Sharing

Family Meal the third Sunday of each month

Tenderloin Supper's on Friday's March 22nd, April 19th, and May 17th.

### Easter events:

Good Friday service March 29th

Easter egg hunt Saturday March 30th

Sunrise Service Sunday, March 31st, a morning breakfast, and a Communion Church Service.

*Submitted by: Lois Howe, Ruling Elder, Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church*

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## Grottoes Chapel Congregation Fills Historic Church With Song

*Submitted by Doug Sensabaugh*

On February 15, 2024, the Harrisonburg Daily News-Record ran a story about the Grottoes Chapel. [Click here to read more](#) about the church and how it relates to Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church.



This chapel originally served  
as a satellite church for  
Mount Horeb Presbyterian Church

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## Host an International Peacemaker this Fall!

Would you be interested in hosting an International Peacemaker at your church or in your community this Fall?  
**If so, the presbytery needs to hear from you!**

The [International Peacemaker](#) visits are part of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, which is funded by the PC (USA)'s annual Peace and Global Witness Offering. From September 13th – October 7th, 2024, at least 11 peacemakers from partner denominations and organizations around the world will be visiting presbyteries to share about their ministries and interpret issues of peace and justice.

Last Fall, Shenandoah Presbytery welcomed Noemí Sánchez of El Salvador. She spoke during worship at Massanutten Presbyterian Church ([click here for video](#)) and did much more during her trip to the Valley.



Massanutten Presbyterian ruling elder Chris Hamilton served on the presbytery's hosting team last year. He said, "The visit from Noemí Sánchez had a big impact in several areas from religious studies students at Eastern Mennonite & James Madison universities, to members of Massanutten Presbyterian. All were blessed with rich conversations about life in El Salvador and how important peacemaking efforts are in that part of the world. I think the group most impacted were the Massanutten youth who listened intently and asked good questions. The folks who provided lodging, meals, and transportation were blessed with discussions and very positive feedback from Noemí."

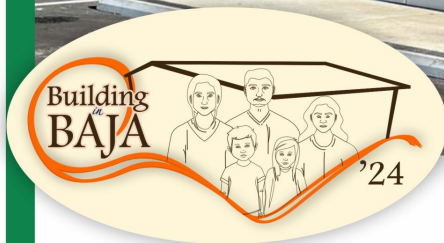
**Our presbytery is currently considering whether or not to host another peacemaker in 2024. To that end, we need to hear from you if you are willing to consider hosting a peacemaker. Please [click here to email Keith Phillips to indicate your interest or ask questions](#). A decision about whether or not to apply to host a peacemaker will be made by mid-April.**



Join us at  
**MiRancho**

in Weyers Cave

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024**



for

**Proceeds Night**

MiRancho will donate 15% of the revenue to our mission team traveling to Baja California in July. The funds we raise go toward building materials for the houses we'll build there.

**3445 Lee Hwy  
Weyers Cave, VA 24486**





An ecumenical faith community for **ALL** emerging adults,  
ministering to and with **Harrisonburg** area  
**college-aged** children of God.

Successful ministry requires willing hands and open hearts.

**We need YOUR HELP**

**connecting** with Harrisonburg area emerging adults (college-aged)  
and **funding** our ministry

**Step 1: Donate today!**

**Step 2: contact to learn more about supporting this ministry**

Alexis Owens (RISE): [riseharrisonburg@gmail.com](mailto:riseharrisonburg@gmail.com)  
John Dull (Shenandoah Presbytery CER/ Ukirk): [dyyam@tinklinspring.com](mailto:dyyam@tinklinspring.com)



## Woodstock Pres. Easter Worship

March 31

Sunrise Service

6:30AM

W.O. Riley Park

Rotary Shelter

(Pavilion 1)

Community

Breakfast

@WPC 7:15AM

Flowering the  
Cross 10:30AM

Sanctuary

Service

11AM

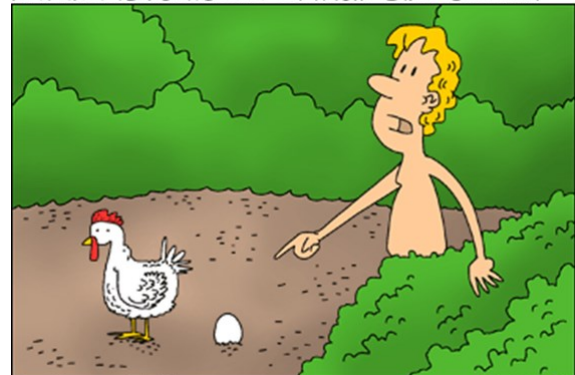
Communion



Website



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Genesis 1:1-2:3)

07-06-2015

I MISSED IT ... WHICH ONE CAME FIRST?





Have someone you want to send to Middle School Conference, but they don't have a youth group? Massanetta is staffing a group to attend Session 4 (July 16-19) of this annual conference series! Perfect for the Netta Day Camp graduate or the churches that have an awesome teenager or two in their midst but not a formal youth program.

More information go to: <https://massanettasprings.org/programs/msc>, or contact Colleen Earp, Program Director, at [colleen@massanettasprings.org](mailto:colleen@massanettasprings.org) or 540-434-3829.

BIBLE & CHURCH MUSIC  
CONFERENCE 2024  
JULY 21-27, 2024  
EARLY BIRD DEADLINE - MARCH 25TH  
Get \$40 off Your Registration  
OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS & DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE  
Contact Colleen Earp  
[colleen@massanettasprings.org](mailto:colleen@massanettasprings.org)  
(540) 434-3829



Registration for [Bible](#) and Church Music Conference 2024 is open!  
We are excited to have folks like Rev. Dr. Brian Blount and Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner,  
as well as many others be a part of leadership for the conference this year.  
For more information about BCMC 2024,  
please visit <https://massanettasprings.org/programs/bcmc>.

**PRESBYTERY OF  
SHENANDOAH**

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**ShenPres.org**



# 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!

### March 2024

- 2 - CMO 9:30 am
- 4 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 13 - CPM 10:00 am at Massanetta Springs
- 14 - CPT 9:30 am
- 14 - CRM 9:30 am
- 14 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 19 - CNCD 12:30 pm  
at Community Cup
- 20 - Nominations 10:00 am
- 20 - Staff Meeting 11:00 am at Office
- 21 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 21 - Shenandoah Press Deadline

### Other Dates

- 2 - Boundary Training—IN PERSON 1:00 pm  
at Strasburg Church
- 7 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 7 - Boundary Training 6:30 pm
- 9 - Session Minutes Review 10:00 am  
at Staunton Third Church
- 16 - Boundary Training 9:30 am
- 21 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 23 - Session Minutes Review 10:00 am  
at Opequon Church

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