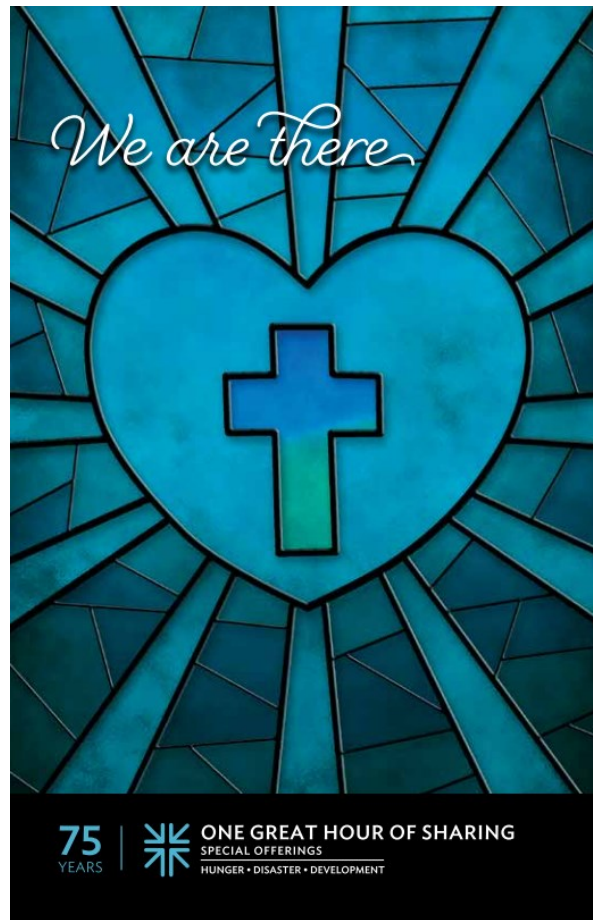


# Shenandoah Press

Volume 10, Issue 3

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## WAYS TO GIVE —

- ✦ Through your congregation
- ✦ Online at [pcusa.org/give-oghs](https://pcusa.org/give-oghs)
- ✦ Text OGHS to 91999 to give

-or-



You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

You may also send your gifts to the presbytery office and we will apply them to the correct fund.

## Presbytery Staff

Bronwen Boswell,

General Presbyter & Stated Clerk  
Email – [presbytersc@shenpres.org](mailto:presbytersc@shenpres.org)

Nancy Meehan Yao,

Associate General Presbyter  
Email – [assocgp@shenpres.org](mailto:assocgp@shenpres.org)

Kim Stroupe, Admin. Assistant  
Email – [kims@shenpres.org](mailto:kims@shenpres.org)

Heather Carter, Funds Admin.  
Email – [bookkeeper@shenpres.org](mailto:bookkeeper@shenpres.org)

Donna Lanaghan, Communications  
Email – [shenpres@shenpres.org](mailto:shenpres@shenpres.org)

Ken Smiy, Treasurer

## Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

Ephesians 5: 8-10

“For once you are in darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Examine what is pleasing to the Lord.”

This Lent has felt like a lot of darkness to me.

And even though I did not like losing an hour of sleep when we turned the clocks ahead, I rejoiced in the growing daylight.

At Easter, we rejoice in the Light of God’s eternal promises, given to us on Easter morning.

Many of us have celebrated a sunrise service, perhaps showing up in the pre-dawn darkness and cold, waiting for the light to appear as we hear the good news of the Gospel, that Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

One of the things that has helped me during this Lent, and into Easter, is listening to Randall Thompson’s “Walk as Children of Light.”

Thompson starts this work in scary darkness- and then moves, in tempo and in pitch, into glorious light.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63DiDNoko50>

We are called to walk as children of light, examining, in our words and actions, what is pleasing to God. In that walk, we will bear fruit.

May you have a blessed Eastertide, as you walk in light.

Nancy



## New Monmouth Prayer Blanket Ministry

*Submitted by Rev. Rachel Clark, New Monmouth Church*

Jennie Gaines began crocheting blankets sometime in the 1990’s as a way to care for loved ones in the community. She would hear about someone who was sick, and she would take them a blanket as a tangible sign of love. Jennie crocheted all different sorts of patterns and enjoyed being creative and trying new patterns.

The blanket ministry expanded as Jennie learned about the needs of hospice patients and as her own mother went on hospice care in 1995. Through hospice, Jennie learned about “prayer blankets” that were made and blessed with a prayer. So Jennie began to deliver the blankets along with a written prayer for the patient.

When Jennie started experiencing vision problems, crocheting and following patterns became very difficult. Nonetheless, Jennie persevered. She began to buy fleece blankets, and even with her limited vision, was able to crochet a beautiful edge onto the blankets. Due to her vision issues, there are some things that Jennie can no longer do, but making prayer blankets is “something I can do for the Lord,” she says.

This ministry has blessed so many people in our community, and it has motivated others to join in as well. Jennie has taught others how to beautifully edge the fleece blankets, and so the love and the comfort continue to spread. The witness and service committee at New Monmouth, inspired by Jennie, has decided to start making quilted prayer blankets.



## Trinity Church Upcoming Events

"Plan to join us at [Centering Space](#) as we explore, create, and contemplate together on the second Saturday of each month. A link is provided within each description for registration and fee payment. So that anyone can participate without worrying about the cost, there are options for free and reduced fees as well as for making additional donations to support the ongoing work of Centering Space.

**Saturday, April 13 from 9:00 – 12:30:** Watercolor workshop with Judi Coleman. In this class, local artist, Judi Coleman, will share her love of watercolor as she demonstrates how to paint in a loose and playful style. No experience is necessary and drawing skill is not required! This session begins with coffee, tea, and refreshments and then we move into our time of reflection and learning the basics of watercolor tools and techniques. All materials are provided. Recommended fee for this session is \$35. Click [here](#) to register and pay, or contact the church office.



**Saturday, May 11 from 9:30 – Noon:** Ashley Isernhagen will offer A Circle of Care for people who are interested in a quiet space of community, contemplation, and renewal using fiber arts. This session begins with coffee, tea, and refreshments before officially moving into the 2-hour session of working with materials as a spiritual practice of rest and renewal. During our time together participants can refresh and reset within a community of care, sharing joys and concerns, and reflecting on how God moves in, through and among us. Ashley will return in May and June to continue this opportunity. All materials are provided. Recommended fee for this session is \$30. Click [here](#) to register and pay.

**Saturday, June 8 from 9:30 – Noon:** Inspiration! with [Liz Forney](#). What stokes the fire of your heart and draws out the best of you? What feels "Spirit" breathed in your life? Drawing on poetry, scripture, life experience, and stories we'll wonder together what inspires us and brings us more alive. After a time of verbal exploration we will enter into some visual expression using simple collage materials. You don't need any experience to have a blast playing with putting together images and delighting in what shows up. Recommended fee for this session is \$30. Click [here](#) to register and pay."

**Saturday, July 13 from 9:30 – Noon:** Circle of Care with Ashley Isernhagen. Recommended fee for this session is \$30. Click [here](#) to register and pay.

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## Trinity Group to Walk the Camino

*Submitted by Mark Facknitz, Trinity Ruling Elder*

There are six of us traveling, led by Mark Dewey, currently a candidate for ordination in the Presbytery. Mark is also a ruling elder, as are three of the others, Mary Lou McMillin, Teresa Harris, and myself. My partner Lisa Wilson is with us, as is Sid McMillin, Mary Lou's son. We see this as a challenge, physical and spiritual. We look forward to meeting other pilgrims, hearing their stories and sharing time, talk, and communion with them. We take this as an opportunity for ecumenism--with orthodox, Catholic, reformed, non-Christian, and agnostic travelers. We wonder at the evolution of the walk, its topographical and historical ups and downs. We walk and wait as we walk, sure of the surprises about ourselves and our Creator that will rise within us at each next horizon.

We will be gone from 2 to 17 April, walking from twelve to twenty miles on twelve of those fifteen days. Our expectation is to check in via zoom with members of our congregation—connection available through the Trinity PC website. And to provide discussions and a shared meal—in the manner of the Camino—upon our return.

During the February 27th Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery, Mac Sterrett, Ruling Elder at Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church, recited a Psalm he wrote for Baja. There were many requests to see this psalm.

## A Psalm of Baja

### Beckoning God!

Who calls this innocent child from Virginia  
 To lands unlike my lush green mountains and valleys  
 To travel in crowded hot uncomfortable vans  
 with poor air conditioning and no shock absorbers  
 To hot little buildings with primitive hard bunk beds  
 To serve people who have not the material things and  
 comforts I know.

### Eye-opening God!

Who leads me to people who look at me with frightened,  
 excited eyes  
 Whose mouths speak words I don't understand  
 Whose clothes often are dirty and don't fit well  
 Who live in hovels of cardboard, plastic, broken boards  
 and whose furniture I would haul to the landfill were it my  
 own.

### Prodding God!

Who shoves me out of my comfort zone  
 Who lifts the sides of my mouth into a smile to greet these  
 strangers I do not know  
 Who raises my arms to wave and shake hands  
 Who draws me closer for a hug.

### Pushing God!

Who makes me learn to use tools I'm afraid of  
 Who makes me work hard in the heat  
 so that sweat stains my shirt and paint covers my clothes and  
 arms  
 Who shoves me up a ladder to put a roof on a new home  
 Who leads me to a 5-gallon water jug to hydrate my  
 withering body.

### GPS God!

Who guides me to 6-pound tacos and sangria  
 And drags me to mint chocolate chip ice cream from a sweet  
 lady who smiles at me  
 and lets me sit on the steps of her shop and use her WIFI  
 Who drives me back to base and turns hard bunks into  
 marshmallow mattresses.

### Sunshine God!

Who wakes me in the morning and feeds me  
 Who lets me sit among the olive trees and praise His name.

### Tearful God!

Who cries with me as the tears flow down my cheeks  
 as I say goodbye to my new friends in their new house  
 and my old friends Bill and Asher.

### Protective God!

Who places me in an aluminum tube and tells me I'll be fine  
 speeding at 525 mph six miles above the earth  
 To Trust Him.  
 Who brings me home to my family, friends, and fine modern  
 house  
 with electricity and clean water and a toilet that flushes my  
 toilet paper.

### Enfolding God!

Who just made the world much smaller  
 But who made my world much larger  
 Who gave me new friends  
 and taught me that all men and women are brothers and  
 sisters in Christ  
 Who opened my eyes in so many ways.

### Loving God!

Who loves me.  
 Who loves us all.

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## \$200 Mission Checks

Since the February 27th Presbytery Meeting was the **200th Stated Meeting** of the Shenandoah Presbytery, each of our 96 churches was sent \$200.00 to be used for mission work to share the love of Jesus! We hope to hear back from all the churches on how they are using the money.

We have received two "Thank You" notes back—one from Rocky Spring Church and one from Williamsville Church. They are both grateful for the money and look forward to sharing what they will use it for.

## 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.

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## Camp and Conference Scholarships

The Presbytery has limited funds to provide scholarships to young people (under 18) to participate in a church-related camp, conference, or work camp in the summer. Preference is given to PC(USA)-affiliated camps and conferences, but we welcome all applicants! Grant applications are available at <https://shenpres.org/scholarship-grants/> and are due by 4:30PM on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The Committee on Educational Resources will evaluate and recommend fund disbursement shortly thereafter! If you have any questions, please contact CER Committee Chair John Dull ([dyyam@tinklingspring.com](mailto:dyyam@tinklingspring.com))

We look forward to supporting your church's growth through camp and conference experiences!



**Remember, you can pay  
your acceptances and mission payments  
online with this QR Code!**

**Try it!**

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Thanks to Richard Germain (See Genesis 6-8)

10-06-2008

**PRESBYTERY OF  
SHENANDOAH**

P. O. Box 1146  
Harrisonburg, VA 22803

Phone: 540-433-2556  
E-mail: [shenpres@shenpres.org](mailto:shenpres@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!

### April 2024

- 6 - CMO 9:30 am
- 8 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 9 - CNCD 3:30 pm
- 11 - CPT 9:30 AM
- 11 - CRM 9:30 AM
- 11 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 16 - CPC 10:00
- 17 - Nominations 10:00 am
- 17 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
- 23 - CER 9:00 am
- 24 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 25 - Strong Ministers 3:00 pm

### Other Dates

- 1 - Office Closed for Easter
- 1 - Oasis Dinner at Vito's 6:00 pm
- 4 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 18 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 27 - Session Minutes Review 10:00 am  
at Massanutten Church

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