

## Special points of interest:

- Welcome Back, Bronwen!
- Hunger Funds Report
- Disaster Preparedness
- International Peacemaker
- and more...

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## A Message from our General Presbyter

Grace to You and Peace!

September is upon us, and I am back in the valley! Thank you all for your support this past year as I stepped into a call that I never thought would happen.

As people ask about the year my first answer is that it was an adventure! And adventure in learning, teamwork, leadership and seeing how God is continually at work. I was blessed this past year and hope that the work I did for the national church will continue into the future. I believe that is showing itself in the election of our new Stated Clerk the Rev. Jihyun Oh. She is an amazing person that I hope we can host at some point so you can all meet her!

That being said, we have our own work to do and as I catch up with all that happened in my absence, we will be looking at what the future holds for us as followers of Christ in this time and place. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming meeting of presbytery.

Until then, blessings,  
*Bronwen*



### Dinner out during General Assembly

(L-R) REC Denise Rouse, REC Pam Snyder, Stephanie Sorge TEC, Bronwen Boswell, Howard Boswell, Carol Witt, TEC David Witt, Nancy Meehan Yao, and YAAD Lizzy Healy.

## GA 226 In Brief

The General Assembly has shared an overview of the 226th GA Meeting. You may view it or download [here](#).



## Presbytery Staff

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## Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

I hope that as summer closes, you take some time to reflect on where you saw and experienced God.

My husband and I had the blessing of being in Shenandoah National Park for one of the nights of the Perseid meteor showers. They were beautiful and awe inspiring. An expert from NASA gave a lecture about the heavenly bodies we were seeing, (including the Milky Way), and we saw several spectacular shooting stars. We all “oohed” and “aahed” at this celestial firework display.

One of my favorite psalms is Psalm 19, which begins: “The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.” This same psalm ends with a verse we often use in worship, either before or after the sermon: “May the words of my mouth and the meditations of [our] hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and redeemer.” (v. 14).

The night sky was so beautiful that it did indeed show the glory of God, but I do not think I had any words. But to be in God’s beautiful creation was a deep blessing, even beyond words.

As you “meditate” on your summer, and look forward to the fall, where will you see God and God’s handiwork? At school? In your employment, in nature? In church?

As you meditate on the goodness of the Lord, may you be blessed.

*Nancy*

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## Faith and Politics

Thursday, Oct 17, 6:30-8:30 pm via Zoom

“How does our faith inform and shape our communal, social and political life? And should it?”

We will look at the intersections between Scripture, our rich theological history, and how we live as dual citizens: both of the heavenly kingdom, and this world.”

To register, [click here](#).

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## Mandatory Boundary Training

To serve our Lord faithfully, and to guard the welfare of our congregations, Shenandoah Presbytery requires that all congregational leaders (Teaching Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and those At-Large) take part in a Mandatory Boundary Training, given through Shenandoah Presbytery, every three years. Others are invited and welcome to attend these trainings: Ruling Elders and Deacons from congregations, staff, and members of congregations as well.

Many of you have already attended these trainings. If you are due for renewal in 2024, Nancy Meehan Yao has sent an email to you stating that you are due. If you have questions about when you last completed your Mandatory Training, please contact Nancy at [assocgp@shenpres.org](mailto:assocgp@shenpres.org) and not the office staff.

Our fall Zoom Boundary Training will be held on Thursday, October 3, 6:30 pm—9:30 pm. [Click Here to register](#).

## Big Event Joins Stated Meeting of Presbytery

The Lord says to us: “Behold, I am doing a new thing!” (Isaiah 43:19), and Shenandoah Presbytery is doing a new thing, too! We are combining the Big Event and the Presbytery meeting into one time and one place—Massanetta Springs Conference Center, on **Saturday September 14, beginning at 9:30 am.**

Registration for the events, and lunch, are available here: <https://shenpres.org/presbytery-meeting/>

We will join together in the Stewart Room, for the opening of the Presbytery meeting and will have worship.

Everyone is welcome to these events. You do not need to be an elder commissioner from your congregation to attend (register as a guest), but the privileges of voice and vote in the Presbytery meeting are reserved for commissioners.

The **Rev. Dr Jaqueline Lapsley**, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary, will be our preacher. Her Scripture will be Acts 3:1-10, and her sermon is titled “Feeling Seen.” Communion will be celebrated. International Peacemaker Peter Egwudah will join us, and the offering from that morning’s worship is designated for his work with the Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication, a Nigerian national-based NGO working across multiple sectors and geographical locations in Nigeria to eradicate poverty and suffering.

Dr. Lapsley will also be our keynote speaker, speaking on “**Seminary Education for a Changing Church and World.**” Lunch is available in the Massanetta Dining Room, and we will rejoin in Stewart after lunch, where we will have the opportunity to attend either of 2 dynamic workshops:

- ◇ **Rev. Sandra Moon**, Ministry Relations Officer from the Presbyterian Foundation, will lead a workshop on **Legacy of a Lifetime**: “As church continues to change, congregations will increasingly need to look beyond regular annual giving to financially sustain their ministries. Come hear about the importance of legacy giving programs in church ministry, and learn the building blocks to starting a program in your own congregation.”
- ◇ **Dr. Jacob Cook**, Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics at Eastern Mennonite Seminary will lead another workshop, also dealing with change, **Transformational Leadership for Tough Conversations**. “This workshop will present a framework for forming congregations to more skillfully navigate differences of opinion on moral issues. We will engage key concepts from conflict transformation, adaptive leadership, and moral psychology to imagine how to nurture communities of people who can manage their inner life and engage diverse perspectives with curiosity.”

Hope to see you all there, for a new way of being together as a Presbytery!



## Hunger Funds Report

submitted by Sara Holben

Do you know what difference a few cents can make? Your donations to the Hunger Fund of Shenandoah Presbytery through the **Cents-ability** campaign (previously known as “Four-Cents-A-Meal”) help to support local, regional, national, and international organizations helping to fight hunger.



Want to know where your donations go? Here is just one example of how your “cents” help to end hunger:



The **Craigsville Area Food Pantry** started in 2003 in the garage of the church manse of the *Craigsville Presbyterian Church* as the members prayerfully sought ways to help their neighbors in need. One hundred families showed up the first day they were open! Now, the food pantry is located in an old grocery store serving about 230 families each month, along with 70+ home deliveries to families and individuals who lack transportation or are shut in. Members of the Craigsville Presbyterian Church still provide the leadership and many of the volunteers for this important community ministry.

*Your donations to the Presbytery designated for “Cents-ability” (Four-Cents-a-Meal) help the **Craigsville Area Food Pantry** and 31 other organizations like them. The donations are distributed quarterly - with 60% of the money given to local agencies fighting hunger; 40% is given to regional, national and international agencies. Giving a few “Cents” for every meal can truly make a difference in the lives of many people who don’t have enough to eat. Make a difference today!*

## September is Disaster Preparedness Month

submitted by Carolyn Thalman

Disasters strike with little warning and produce chaos among families and communities, including churches. Shenandoah Presbytery has a Disaster Preparedness and Response Team that can help families and churches be prepared for disasters to reduce the chaos and improve the time for recovery. The Presbytery website has resources to help. <https://shenpres.org/disaster-preparedness/disaster-preparedness-resources/>



There are several online resources for families to prepare. Both the Red Cross and FEMA have excellent advice on how to plan. <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan> and <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/make-a-plan.html>.

For churches there are sample plans and resources on the Presbytery website. Carolyn Thalman, member of the Presbytery Team and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team is available to assist churches in creating disaster plans. ([cjthalman@comcast.net](mailto:cjthalman@comcast.net)).

We can also be prepared to help our neighbors impacted by disaster. Preparing Church World Service Kits (<https://shenpres.org/disaster-preparedness/church-world-service-cws/>) and taking them to the Church of the Brethren District Office in Weyers Cave. There they will be ready to deploy to when needed. <https://lwr.org/ingathering/shenandoah-district-church-brethren-office>.

## Woodstock Church

Woodstock Presbyterian Church spent the summer collecting supplies for PDA Cleanup Buckets (now overseen by Church World Service).

This summer, WPC was thrilled to be able to offer 33 completed clean up buckets. In 2015 the town of Woodstock received buckets from PDA in response to a flood that overtook main street and many businesses (including our own church). These new buckets were touched by almost everyone at the church either physically with the donation of supplies, in the packing process, through prayer, or monetarily.



Truly a whole church effort that came full circle for our congregation!

*Submitted by Brittney Lane, Pastor*

## Augusta Stone Church

The Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church announces a Homecoming, which will happen on **Sunday, September 8th** at the church in Fort Defiance. Part of the reason is that we are celebrating the 275th anniversary of the original building, which was dedicated on January 22nd 1749.

There will be a festival worship service at 11:00 am, followed by a carry-in lunch (fried chicken provided) during which we will receive a congratulatory resolution from the Virginia House of Delegates.

Please join us and our General Presbyter, Bronwen Boswell, to celebrate the faithfulness of both God and our forebears!

*Submitted by Stan Farthing, Pastor*

## Loch Willow Church

Loch Willow Presbyterian Church, together with four other churches in the Churchville area, hosted a community-wide Vacation Bible School in July, the theme being "Camp Firelight" from Cokesbury.

We have plans in September to host a community Music Festival, with an offering going to support scholarships for women students at Terfa Jarso Theological Seminary in Ethiopia. The event will be Sunday, September 22, with a meal at 5:00 and music beginning at 6:30. We hope to have music from an interchurch choir as well as groups and individuals within area churches and in the community.

For more information, call 540-337-8543 or email [lochwillowpastor@comcast.net](mailto:lochwillowpastor@comcast.net).

*Submitted by Reed Hopkins, Pastor*

## Beulah Church Celebrates 150 Years submitted by Ardis Stephenson (Beulah 150th Anniversary Committee Member)

Beulah Presbyterian Church, located in Mill Gap Virginia, celebrated its 150th anniversary on June 30, 2024. With nearly 100 people attending, Beulah was buzzing with joyful noise inside and out. The message was provided by Chip Hill, a local pastor and lover of Highland County's rich history. He provided a wonderful service recollecting the hard work and perseverance that it took to make Beulah into the family it is today.



Throughout the service hymns chosen and played by our extraordinarily talented pianist, Richard Simmons, were sung with a reverence that I feel sure the entirety of Mill Gap could hear. Some were played on old organs used during the church's long history. Beulah's bell choir, the Glory Bells, and the Monterey Presbyterian Church Choir also provided music. Reverend Bill Cox and Reverend Sarah Payne, former Beulah ministers, shared prayers.

After the service everyone moved into the fellowship hall to continue the celebratory proceedings planned for the day. The recently-renovated kitchen was dedicated to the late Viola P. Rexrode, a very special lady who spent years in charge of church dinners, lunches and of course, ice cream socials. Cappie Hull and Donna Hooke performed a fun skit and the group was delighted to share stories of Viola's kindnesses, as well as her seriousness about working in the kitchen. Members of her family were on hand to see the congregation honor Viola for all her years of hard work and their contributions to the major project of remodeling the kitchen.



Those who attended the kitchen dedication were served a delicious lunch that preceded more songs by the Glory Bells. Those who were able to stand the extraordinarily hot afternoon stayed for a brief synopsis of major church events from the last 150 years, recounted by church elders Richard Simmons and Karen DeVore. The last remaining people sang several more hymns accompanied by the piano. Reverend Fletcher Hutcheson shared a prayer.

The anniversary day came to a close in the afternoon with people lingering on the lawn still discussing days past. After an exciting day of celebration for the incredible accomplishment of 150 years of faithful service to our community, and with the kitchen newly dedicated, the church was cleaned and prepared for the next week of worship.

**Written By** *Mary Anne Rogers*  
*Sixteen year old Highland High School Senior*

The article was written by Mary Anne Rogers, a 16 year old senior at Highland High School. She has been attending Beulah PC for about four years, and has enjoyed getting to know all of its members. Along with her parents and younger brother, Mary Anne was formally welcomed as a member at Beulah on Sunday, August 4, 2024. Mary Anne grew up in Highland County and spends much of her spare time doing community activities such as FFA and 4-H. She also serves as a part time waitress at a local restaurant. She enjoys showing her creativity through writing and crocheting.

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## Online Payments

Some of you know by now that you have the ability to make payments online through our website.

Here is what you can do:

- ◆ Churches may send in their acceptances
- ◆ Churches and individuals may contribute to our Stated Meeting Mission Offering, or pay for lunch for the Stated Meetings, and more!

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.



## Mt. Olive Church

submitted by Lois Howe, Ruling Elder and Mission Chair

Back to School Night was Sunday July 28th 5:00-7:00 pm. A light meal was served and there was lots of school supplies to give away for the kids. They played games to receive the supplies and they went to the tables and picked out what they needed or wanted. It was a good evening to distribute school supplies to the church and community kids.



VBS (Vacation Bible School) started Monday June 17th- Friday June 21st from 6:00-7:30 pm with a light meal, music time, lessons, title (Training God's Secret Agents), crafts, playtime, and ended with cookies and a drink. We had an average of 28 kids a night and 10-12 youth leaders and adults that helped each night. A great week for all.

August 18th 2024 the youth and children lead the Sunday Morning Worship Service. Starting with welcoming the congregation, praise and worship time reading scriptures, sharing God's Blessings, special music, prayers for the people, praise and worship time reading scriptures, the sermon "Just Pray". Praise and worship time the Elders and youth leaders laying hands on all the youth and children. The final prayer and benediction. The morning message was well embraced by the congregation. We finished the morning service with a Church Family Picnic that was enjoyed by all.




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## Strong Ministers Fund

The Strong Ministers Program continues to accept grant applications for the fall 2024 distribution. 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.

Submit applications no later than **September 30, 2024**, for fall disbursements.

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## Moffett Grant Fund

The Lyle Moffett Grant Fund serves to "empower congregations to be centers for mission through the task of diakonia: sending servant leaders to minister to the pain of a hurting world."

Applications receive consideration based on the following priorities: Small churches, ministries which use lay leadership, ministries which enhance the mission and the understanding of mission in the local congregation, Mission Communities, and other congregations within the presbytery.

- Average amount of awarded grants range from \$500 - \$2,000 each year.
- The deadline for submitting applications to the Presbytery Office is no later than 4:00 pm on Thursday, **October 3, 2024**.

The application is available through the Shenandoah Presbytery website: <https://shenpres.org/scholarship-grants/> or you may [download it here](#).

### International Peacemaker Here

Shenandoah Presbytery is excited to welcome Peter Michael Egwudah in September! Peter is an international peacemaker from Nigeria, where he works with the Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication. He works as an activist and advocate for peace, coordinating work between many organizations to bring humanitarian aid and justice to people in his community and across the region.

Peter will be joining us for the Presbytery Meeting and Big Event on September 14 and then visiting with communities across the presbytery the following week. Whether at presbytery or at one of the events below, we hope everyone can have a chance to join in conversation with Peter!

**International Peacemaker:**

PETER  
EGWUDAH



↘

SETEMBER

↘

2024

SAT 14	<p>9:30 AM</p> <p><b>SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY BIG EVENT AND PRESBYTERY MEETING</b></p> <p>Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center</p>
SUN 15	<p>8:30 AM</p> <p><b>WORSHIP</b></p> <p>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Staunton, VA</p>
	<p>10:30 AM</p> <p><b>WORSHIP &amp; LUNCHEON</b></p> <p>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA</p>
	<p>5:00 PM</p> <p><b>PRESENTATION</b></p> <p>Opequon Presbyterian Church, Winchester, VA</p>
MON 16	<p>↘</p> <p>Unassigned opportunity in the Northern part of the valley</p> <p>7:00 PM</p> <p><b>EVENING PROGRAM</b></p> <p>Charles Town Presbyterian Church, Charles Town, WV</p>

Questions

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[kphillips@massanuttenchurch.org](mailto:kphillips@massanuttenchurch.org)  
[wpcpastor@lumos.net](mailto:wpcpastor@lumos.net)



## Shen Pres Youth Lock In

All Youth in Grades 6-12 & their Leaders are invited to the Shen Pres Youth Lock In on October 19 at 1:00pm-October 20 at 12:00pm. This event will take place at Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center.

The focus will be "God Is Love," based on 1 John 4:7-21. There will be games, a service activity, keynotes, and a campfire! Leaders should submit group information here, <https://forms.gle/ZKWT0NeYymIYWReR6>, and then will receive an online registration form for their youth to complete.

Registration is due by **September 30**. The cost is \$40 per person, which is due upon arrival. Checks should be written out to Shenandoah Presbytery with "Youth Lock In" in the memo line.

Please email Colleen Stearns at [colleen@fpcwinc.org](mailto:colleen@fpcwinc.org) if you have any questions.

Grades 6-12  
At Massanetta  
Springs

## Shen Pres Youth Lock In

October 19 at 1:00pm-October 20 at 12:00pm  
Theme: God Is Love!  
1 John 4:7-21  
FAITH | FUN | FELLOWSHIP

Register by September 30

Questions?  
Email [colleen@fpcwinc.org](mailto:colleen@fpcwinc.org)

Cost  
\$40/person

**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!

### September 2024

- 2 - Office Closed for Labor Day
- 7 - CMO 9:30 am
- 9 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 11 - CPM 10:00 am
- 12 - COM 9:30 am
- 12 - CER 2:00 pm
- 12 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 18 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am  
at presbytery office
- 18 - CNCD 3:30 pm
- 19 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 23 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 24 - Nominations 10:00 am

### Other Dates

- 14 - The Big Event and Stated Presbytery Meeting  
at Massanetta Springs 9:30 am
- 19 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 30 - Strong Ministers Grant Deadline 4:30 pm

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

