

# Shenandoah Press

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## A Message from our General Presbyter

Nancy and I have had the good pleasure of meeting with groups from within the presbytery during the last couple of months. Gathering with pastors regionally, Commissioned Ruling Elders, Interims and Committees.

I have also been able to meet individually with some folks as well and it is doing me good. Because we are continuing to recover from the pandemic. We are still learning how the pandemic affected us, and we will continue to do so for some time to come.

Part of the learning is how we learn to connect with one another again. Zoom is so helpful because we can get together from home. (there is nothing like wearing your slippers during a meeting) and we have seen that there are folks who are participating because technology can make it easier to do so.

While Zoom is convenient, there is something to be said about physically being together. We interact differently when we are together. Small conversations can happen in between agenda items. We notice body language better, smiles, or quizzical looks that might help us stop and consider something. In the gatherings recently I have discovered those who this is the first time meeting folks in person they have been working with. And it makes a difference because there is now a new connection, be it a handshake, a smile, a shared laugh or thought.

That is why I am hoping that each of our committees will meet at least once in person this coming year. That we all will make the effort to connect with one another in person, to get to know our neighbors in ministry. Nancy and I will help to gather folks, but my hope is that we will all reach out to make stronger connections in the New Year.

But before the New Year, I hope that you will be making connections during the holidays with friends and loved ones in whatever way you can. (I know we will be on FaceTime with some family!) Just as we find ways to connect with the One who is and who is to come!

Let us all share and show the love of Christ in this season, giving thanks to God in all things!

Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas to all,

*Bronwen*

## 203rd Stated Meeting

To read the Highlights and Minutes of the 203rd Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery, held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 via Zoom, visit our webpage: <https://shenpres.org/presbytery-meeting/>. You will also find a link to view the recording of the meeting.



## Presbytery Staff

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## Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

As church, we begin a New (liturgical) Year on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, which is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent.

The church tells time in a way that is different from the world.

In fact, the church often chooses things, affirms things, that are different from the world. I grew up in a tradition in which it was often said of God's faithful churches, that we were "in the world, but not of the world."

Some people and traditions have intentionally taken up practices that helped define where the world was, and which activities to avoid. In the past, the "worldly" list might have included dancing, or drinking, or playing cards. For some, it is a partial or whole-sale rejection of technology.

While the liturgical season of Lent is often a time of "giving up," what if in Advent, in order to prepare our hearts for the coming Christ, we began a practice of taking things on?

When Jesus' mother sings, in her Magnificat (Luke 1: 46-55), I think we have a clear picture of what the world and the worldly are like: the rich, the powerful, the proud, and what God is like: One who is full of mercy, lifting up the lowly, remembering God's promises.

So what might taking things on look like? It might include us being "in the world," as in looking around our communities and seeing: who needs mercy? Who needs lifting up/support/resources? And how can we make the world we live in one that not only fills the hungry with good things for a meal, or a day, but begins creating a world in which everyone has access to food, clean water and safe shelter? Is there a way that our toy drives, Christmas Boxes, and hat and mitten trees (all good things) can expand in love and compassion all the year round? How can we be "in the world" faithfully? After all, Jesus was born into this human world to love and to save and redeem. That is Good News for any time. In this Advent, we not only await His coming, but also join in Christ's work of mercy and justice.

May you have a Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Joyous New year!

*Nancy*



## SAVE The Dates!

There are a number of educational events coming in early 2025

### **Lent Overview via Zoom January 22, 6:30-7:30**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and Easter is April 20. We will discuss the texts, liturgies, and other resources for the season of Lent.

### **Mandatory Boundary Training for Pastoral Leaders and Sessions**

**Via zoom: Saturday, February 15, 9:30-12:30 and Thursday, February 20, 6:30-9:30**

### **March 1, 2025, 9:30-3:00 at Massanetta Springs Conference Center: Training Day**

for Ruling Elders, Clerks of Session, Treasurers, as well as workshops on Intergenerational Ministry, Youth Ministry, and more!

Registration buttons will be on the Shenandoah Presbytery website soon: <https://shenpres.org/registrations/>

## Camp Paddy Run Year-End Summary 2024

Camp Paddy Run had another fantastic year, continuing to build upon its strong programs and relationships. The spring season, however, saw local wild fires that devastated the lives of so many, including our own supporters and volunteers. For six weeks, Camp Paddy Run became home for a family of 9 who lost their home in the fires– and whose children attend camp. We were blessed to be able to support our campers and their families in such a big way! By May, the property was once again welcoming rental groups and hosted New Hope Church in Front Royal for a Memorial Day family camp for the third year in a row.



Over 140 in attendance during June's Day Camp

June's Day Camp saw over 100 campers and 26 counselors (who were once campers themselves!) return for the biggest week of the year. The Wild West theme was big hit with everyone for both the fun AND fashion! The week ended with a teen overnight event that included a 'rodeo' and square dancing hosted by a local caller. The activity earned strong marks and goes to the top of the list as things to repeat!

July was jammed packed, as we hosted 2 family reunions, as well as a returning group from Washington DC. This year marked our 8th edition of Adventure Camp! This time, campers pitched in for a much-needed service be rewarded with a trip to Kings Dominion. While so much as going on in Star Tannery, our own Lori Orndorff consulted for a Culpepper-area camp that saw an incredible first year, attracting over 60 kids.

The rest of the summer was bustling with Hipcampers, more returning groups from the DC area, and churches of Shenandoah Presbytery– Highland and Strasburg.



Campers explore Paddy's Run during November's Fall Retreat.

During our Fall Retreat, members of Bunker Hill Presbytery got to see this event in action and presented Camp Paddy Run with a \$1,000 donation that they collected during their camping-themed VBS this past summer. We also took time this weekend and held a Celebration of Life service for Bill Painter– who championed the cause of Camp Paddy Run and outdoor ministry for decades as a member of Shenandoah Presbytery. We are forever grateful for the legacy Bill Painter has built. It permeates the lives of every camper that comes through our gates today.

As the year comes to a close, we are excited about what lies ahead for the 'Little Camp that Could.' We are blessed beyond measure by the campers and families whose lives are touched by God's mighty presence in this quiet, beautiful place. Please continue to keep our camping ministry in your prayers.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,  
Amy Tubbs

## 2024 CMO Highlights

The Committee on Mission & Outreach (CMO) had a busy year. Here's an overview of how CMO served.

The purpose of CMO is to coordinate and oversee the Presbytery's local, national, and international mission work carried out by congregations, mission organizations, and the PC(USA). CMO provides information, resources, encouragement, and support.

CMO has ten members, elected by the Presbytery, that serve for three years in three rotating classes.

In 2024 CMO distributed \$13,300 annually in budgeted funds for:

- Our Ethiopian Partners

- Disaster response

- Two PC(USA) mission co-workers, Doug Dicks in the Middle East and Cindy Corell in the Dominican Republic

- And other mission initiatives within the Presbytery as needed.

In addition to the annual budget, CMO reviewed and approved grant requests from mission-restricted accounts that are funded by 11 trust funds. One of the most accessible is the Moffett Fund that will provide 7 grants to congregations for mission projects in 2025 totaling \$11,720. CMO also helped support the annual Baja Mission Trip, and collected and distributed iCare donations from individuals and congregations. There is more information about these grants on the CMO pages of the Presbytery website.

One of our most successful and visible mission activities in the Presbytery is distribution of an average of \$12,000 every quarter to organizations that feed hungry people.

This effort is tied to the PC(USA) Cents-Ability hunger program, formerly called 4-cents-a-meal.

CMO formed a new sub-committee to review and manage these donations. Every 3 months CMO distributed hunger donations from about 40 congregations to 24 local hunger organizations across the Presbytery, as well as 9 regional, national, and international programs – including the PC(USA) Hunger Program.

And, of course, you can find more information about this mission program on our website.

Thank you all for supporting our vital and on-going mission activities in Shenandoah Presbytery!

*Dave Thalman – Chair, Committee on Mission & Outreach*

## Church Treasurers

Please note:

2025 acceptance forms are due on **December 12, 2024**.

In order to be included in the 2024 calendar year, church remittances are due in the office by **Wednesday, January 15, 2025**.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather at [bookkeeper@shenpres.org](mailto:bookkeeper@shenpres.org)



## Church treasurers, clerks and pastors:

You should have received your church's asking letters and acceptance forms by the middle of October. These were e-mailed to you. We ask that the form be returned by December 12, 2024.

If you have not received one for your church or if you have any questions, please contact Heather at [bookkeeper@shenpres.org](mailto:bookkeeper@shenpres.org)

## Hunger Funds Report

Start the New Year of 2025 out right - with plans for collecting "Hunger Funds" in your congregation. *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.*



*Here is what one local organization is doing with the funds you help to provide (many thanks to the Moorefield Presbyterian Church for providing the photo and story):*

"Moorefield Active Caring (the MAC House) began as an emergency food source for the community after the 1985 flood. This was a joint effort headed up by Rev. Bruce Macbeth of the Moorefield Presbyterian Church along with other local ministers, religious and civic organizations, social service agencies and private citizens.

"In the early nineties, Moorefield Active Caring was designated as non-profit and was able to secure a building with grants, loans and donations. The current food pantry continues to operate at this location. The primary goal of the MAC House is to prevent food insecurity in this area by providing good nutritious food to those in need. We currently serve approximately 350 individuals per month.



"The MAC House receives a monthly allotment of USDA commodities from the Mountaineer Food Bank. This is supplemented by generous donations of food and monetary gifts from local churches, businesses, organizations and individuals [including the contribution from the Hunger Funds of Shenandoah Presbytery]. The food pantry is not intended to be a grocery store. Food is given to those whose benefits don't last a full month or to those with emergency needs.

"We also sell gently used clothing and some household items for a very reasonable price to help cover expenses of the facility. We find that the used clothing is also an important benefit provided by the MAC House."

*Submitted by Sara Holben, Hunger Funds Committee*



This meeting was funded by the Oasis funds.

On Wednesday, November 6 women clergy gather at Stella, Bella, and Lucy's Restaurant in Waynesboro, Virginia for faithful conversations about the church and the impact of Christ's love across the globe. Pictured left to right: Sarah Hill, Samantha Coggins, Amy Fetterman, Rachel Hamburger, April Cranford, Nancy Meehan Yao, Ray Watson, and Bronwen Boswell



Mark your calendars for Christmas with Massanetta, Saturday, December 7 from 5:30-8:30. We're excited to welcome The Soil and The Seed Project to share music after a wonderful banquet in the Historic Hotel. Tickets are on sale now, and rooms are available to reserve a little pre-Christmas respite. Learn more here: <https://massanettasprings.org/programs/christmas>



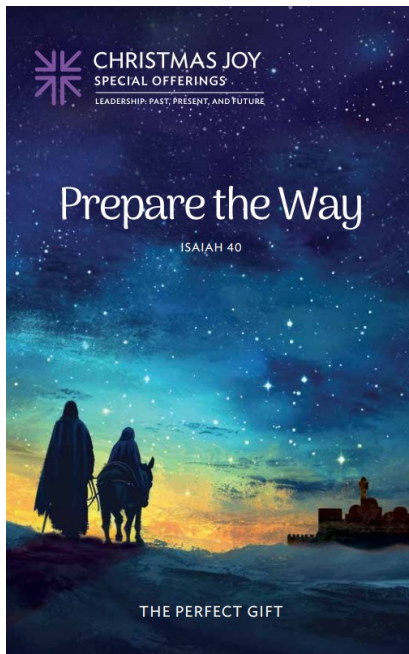
As the season of glad tidings approaches, we remember that not everyone experiences the Christmas in the same way. Many of us carry heavy hearts filled with sorrow, grief, or loneliness during this festive time.

To offer solace and support during this season, the Better Together Presbyterian Churches in Waynesboro invite you to a Blue Christmas Worship Service. This contemplative worship service holds space for grief and pain even as we await the healing and hope found in Christ's coming.

This service is open to all who seek comfort. Please feel free to invite friends, family, and anyone you know who may benefit from this meaningful gathering.

December 8, 2024  
 2pm  
 Second Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro  
 133 N Delphine Ave, Waynesboro, VA 22980





The PCUSA website is being updated (Hooray!) While this is a great thing and very needed, things will look different and that may cause some unintended confusion. We are encouraging those churches who typically [download Christmas Joy resources](#) to do so as early as possible this year. Alternatively, you can always set up a standing order by calling 800.728.7228 ext. 5047 or emailing [special.offerings@pcusa.org](mailto:special.offerings@pcusa.org).



## An Educational Opportunity From EMU's Shalom Academy: Release to the Captives: Restorative Justice, Abolition, and Ministry with Incarcerated Persons

Monday, January 6 - Wednesday, January 8, 2025

*The Shalom Academy is a peace-and-justice-forward retreat experience in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley with daily worship, keynotes, workshops, conversational spaces, and time set aside to relax or connect with fellow wayfarers. A virtual access pass is available for keynotes and teaching sessions.*

Workshops will feature a nonprofit organization accompanying children in detention, advocates for racial, social, and economic justice in public policy, learning for trauma-informed spiritual care, as well as current practices for restorative (even transformative) encounters in local communities. The schedule also holds time and space for creative processing and incubating actionable plans.

<https://emu.edu/seminary/shalom/academy/>

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(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-23-2013

YOU KNOW GUYS, RUMOR HAS IT THE BABY  
SHIVERS IN THE COLD ... MAYBE INSTEAD  
OF GOLD AND PERFUME HE WOULD ENJOY A  
BLANKET?



Bible & Church Music Conference registration opens in December! Family camp meets continuing education at this conference for all ages. Whether you are ordained or a lay person, staff, volunteer, choir member, or congregant, we invite you to find a wide variety of opportunities for inspiring preaching and worship, excellent teaching, incredible music, needed Sabbath, and warm fellowship. <https://massanettasprings.org/programs/bcmc>



The offices of Shenandoah Presbytery will be closed beginning Friday, December 20 to celebrate Christmas and the New Year with our families. We will return to the office on Monday, January 6, 2025. We wish everyone a safe, joyful, and blessed celebration of our Savior Jesus Christ.



**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!

### December 2024

- 4 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am  
at Presbytery Office
- 10 - Northern Get Together 10:00 am
- 12 - COM 9:30 am
- 12 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 19 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm

Dec. 20—Jan. 5 - Presbytery Office  
Closed for Christmas and New Year

### January 2025

- 8 - CPM 10:00 am
- 9 - COM 9:30 am
- 9 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 15 - CNCD 1:30pm
- 16 - CER 9:00 am
- 16 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 16 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 21 - Nominations 10:00 am
- 22 - Staff Meeting 11:00 am
- 22 - Lent Lectionary Discussion 6:30 pm
- 23 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 28 - CPC 10:00 am

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

