



A Message from our General Presbyter

With the death of Pope Francis, I think many of us have taken time to reflect not only upon his life of service to the church but on our own as well. At least I have.

It seems appropriate during this Eastertide, to think about how we live out our calling as children of God and followers of Christ. How is it that we are serving our neighbors? How are we treating others as we want to be treated? How are we encouraging each other to live our lives according to Christ's teachings? Who do we need to be in this world right now as followers of Jesus?

Prayer – yes, bible study – yes, feeding the hungry – yes, sheltering the homeless -yes, welcoming the stranger – yes. What does this look like currently where we are and what does it need to become?

I hope from reflection, invitations for service will emerge and that we will grow in being the hands and feet of Christ in our neighborhoods, our wider communities, the nation and the world.

Because with God, all things are possible.

Blessings,

Bronwen



Mandatory Boundary Training

If you are due for renewal in 2025, Nancy Meehan Yao will send you an email stating that you are due. If you have questions about when you last completed your Mandatory Training, please contact Nancy at assocgp@shenpres.org and not the office staff.

We will have two sessions in June:

Saturday, June 21, 9:30 am--12:30 pm - [register here](#).

Thursday, June 26, 6:30 pm—9:30 pm - [register here](#).

SPACE IS LIMITED!

**BOUNDARY
TRAINING**

Presbytery Staff

Bronwen Boswell,
General Presbyter & Stated Clerk
Email – presbytersc@shenpres.org

Nancy Meehan Yao,
Associate General Presbyter
Email – assocgp@shenpres.org

Kim Stroupe, Admin. Assistant
Email – kims@shenpres.org

Heather Carter, Funds Admin.
Email – bookkeeper@shenpres.org

Donna Lanaghan, Communications
Email – shenpres@shenpres.org

Ken Smiy, Treasurer

Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

After Easter, after the empty tomb and the resurrection, the disciples remain in Jerusalem. The book of Acts reports on how this group is understanding God, and themselves, in new ways.

I like to think of this Scripture less as the Acts of the Apostles, and much more, as the Acts of God. Matthew Skinner, Presbyterian and Professor, goes even further. He has named his commentary on Acts “Intrusive God, Disruptive Gospel.”

Skinner writes that Acts is primarily about the transformation which is part of the salvation God provides. “Acts looks back on transformations and discoveries rooted in the past, but in doing so holds out hope for future ones, too.”

We often look to the past—in our personal lives, and in our church lives. That makes sense. But if we worship a God who raised Jesus from the dead, and who, to use Skinner’s words, is constantly intruding and disrupting... then I think we need to ask what God is doing, and what God calls us to do in response. Which might intrude on the ways we know to do and be church.

The entire book of Acts can be seen as a faith community adjusting to challenges presented to them and adapting faithfully. They now have to learn how to lead, after Jesus’ Ascension. They are witnesses to the powerful action of God at Pentecost. They need to find solutions to local issues at hand, and, as the church grows, have to understand and adapt to different locales, ethnicities, languages, practices and habits. All in the service of the Risen Lord, who has sent them out to share Good News.

Disruptive, indeed.

The book of Acts closes with Paul “proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.” (28:31)

What hinders you in your proclamation about the goodness of God? What hindrances did the early church encounter—and how did they overcome them?

And where is this intrusive God pushing you, and your church—to extend more grace, mercy and peace? How is God is disrupting our lives, our worship, our habits and loyalties?

May we be blessed in this Easter season, as we worship the Triune, Intrusive and Loving God.

Blessings- *Nancy*



Rooted Good

Does your congregation have unused buildings, no longer used building spaces (classrooms/gathering spaces/fellowship halls) or empty land? We might wonder what good use they could be put to or wonder if there is a way to generate some income from those spaces.

In this changing time, we find ourselves wanting to be good stewards of all that has been entrusted to us. And that might mean re-thinking, re-purposing, re-dedicating some spaces. We also know that in nearly every area, there is a lack of affordable housing—or even any housing at all. Scripture compels us to look at these issues through the lens of Matthew 25, providing for the least of these, those in our communities who are members of Jesus’ family—which means, our family.

See the story below, about a church in Raleigh, and its joint venture with a community land trust initiative. <https://www.salisburypost.com/2025/01/01/kevin-campbell-can-churches-help-solve-the-housing-crisis-one-raleigh-church-thinks-so/>

Rooted Good is a program which helps congregations discern what assets they have, how and whether they might best be used. It provides a step-by-step discernment process. The Committee on Congregational Vitality has resources, through faith based Rooted Good, to help in this process of discernment.

Rooted Good: <https://www.rootedgood.org/>

For More Information, contact Nancy Meehan Yao, assocgp@shenpres.org or Jaci Smith Patman, jsmithpatman.presby@gmail.com Moderator of CCVT for more information.

205th Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery May 20, 2025 at Woodstock Presbyterian Church

The Presbytery of Shenandoah will meet in stated session on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at Woodstock Presbyterian Church in Woodstock, Virginia.

The Handbook will be sent out by email next week.

OFFERING: An offering will be taken during morning worship designated to the *Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association*.

Lunch registration and payment is required. Please register and purchase lunch no later than Tuesday, May 13 at NOON.

CHILDCARE: *There will be NO childcare opportunity at this meeting.*

REGISTRATION: Please follow this link to register for the meeting and purchase lunch:

<https://shenpres.breezechms.com/form/May20-StatedMeeting>

**PLEASE STOP BY THE REGISTRATION TABLE ON MAY 20
TO CHECK-IN SO WE CAN GET AN ACCURATE ROLL FOR THE MINUTES**

LUNCH: will be purchased during your registration online - cost \$16.00 - provided by Starvin' Marvin Food Truck

Classic

chicken & beef kabobs
roasted veggies
scalloped potatoes
spring salad
rolls
sheet cake

Vegetarian

multi-mushroom kabobs
roasted veggies
scalloped potatoes
spring salad
rolls
sheet cake

Gluten Free

chicken & beef kabobs
roasted veggies
spring salad
fruit cup

For any other dietary needs, please call 540-717-9900.

DIRECTIONS: For your GPS, the church address is 142 E. Court St., Woodstock, VA 22664

Traveling SOUTH to Woodstock:

Traveling south on I-81, take exit 283. Turn left onto West Reservoir Rd. Go .7 mile and turn left (at Sheetz) onto Main Street. Travel on Main Street for 1.2 miles. Turn right onto E. Court Street. 2nd church on the right.

Traveling NORTH to Woodstock:

Traveling north on I-81, take exit 283. Turn right onto West Reservoir Rd. Go ½ mile and turn left (at Sheetz) onto Main Street. Travel on Main Street for 1.2 miles. Turn right onto E. Court Street. 2nd church on the right.





From the Hunger Funds Sub-committee of the Committee on Mission and Outreach

Where do you go and what do you do if you are in crisis or have nowhere to live? In Harrisonburg, that question is being answered each day at The Navigation Center through their year-round low-barrier emergency shelter, Open Doors. The Navigation Center, a public – private partnership between the City of Harrisonburg and Open Doors, provides guidance and support for anyone who is in search of health, housing, or human/social support.

Located at 1111 N. Main St. in Harrisonburg - the site of the former Shenandoah Presbytery office - The Navigation Center has been in operation in that location since December 2024. Open Doors also offers meals three evenings a week to guests of the shelter.



As part of our presbytery's commitment to Open Doors, that meal program is now one of the local organizations that receives funds quarterly through the "Cents-Ability" hunger offerings that 47 of our congregations collect.

Volunteers from many local churches have helped to provide support for Open Doors since they began as the Harrisonburg and Rockingham Thermal Shelter, or HARTS, in 2007. Through church involvement, Cheryl Henderson, a member of Massanutten Presbyterian Church and a member of the Hunger Funds Sub-committee of the CMO, has been a volunteer with HARTS and Open Doors for many years. In addition to donating food, toiletries, and financial contributions – all things anyone may do – Cheryl prepared and served meals and interacted with the guests when the program was at her church or other locations. The majority of the guests were appreciative and thankful; many just seeking a friendly face and listening ear as they often shared their life stories. Cheryl looked forward to and found these weeks rewarding for her; as much as a service to the guests but as a blessing to her to be able to give in this manner.

The Committee on Mission and Outreach will hold its June 7 meeting at The Navigation Center and the members of the committee will volunteer to help as needed during that day.

For more information about The Navigation Center or Valley Open Doors, please visit their website at: <https://www.valleyopendoors.org/>

Your gifts through the Cents-ability offering are essential to help our neighbors in need. And you can learn more about the Cents-Ability program at: <https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/Centsability-brochure-2019.pdf>.

Submitted by Sara Holben and Cheryl Henderson

Quarterly Resource - R. Sy Hughes, Ministry Engagement & Support, PC (USA)

Pentecost Offering:

Pentecost Sunday is a celebration of the Holy Spirit's arrival, empowering the disciples to overcome their fear and boldly share the Gospel message. The [Pentecost Offering](#), which supports [children at risk](#), [ministries with children and youth](#) (including the Youth Triennium, which happens this July in Louisville), and the [Young Adult Volunteer \(YAV\) program](#), is a way Presbyterians encourage our young people to do the same. Please join us in receiving this offering to ensure that our younger siblings in Christ begin life with a solid foundation of faith.

Online [resources](#) include minutes for mission, worship resources, children's curriculum with activities, PowerPoint slides and social media/newsletter images for your use. There is also a short [video](#) titled "I Will Pour Out My Spirit" for use as a minute for mission in worship and other gatherings.

Cultivating Community — Phase III released

More than just gardening — a chance to sow, nurture and harvest faith in ways that strengthen congregations and support communities. Download the newly released Phase III or Phases I through III and get started today.

[download should link to: <https://pcusa.org/giving/giving-catalog/cultivating-community-youth-led-community-garden-activity>]

Register for PAM's Montreat Worship & Music Conference by April 30 to secure the current rate!

Join musicians and worship leaders for the most widely attended annual conference of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) denomination. The Worship & Music Conference will be held June 15–20 and June 22–27 at the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina! Together, we will create music, learn and worship. Your participation is an investment in the dynamic growth of our denomination as we explore the promising future together.

Registration is open now! Visit presbysmusic.org/conference for more information.

Join Presbyterian Advocacy Hour every fourth Wednesday!

The Presbyterian Advocacy Hour brings together committed people of faith each month to fill your solar batteries up with information and ways to act on the most pressing issues. Church members, lay leaders, pastors, mid council staff, all

Presbyterians and friends are welcome! Get nourishment for your spirit and resources for advocacy!

Each month, we'll start with spiritual grounding and then move to in-depth analysis of key issues. There will be an optional 30 minutes for smaller group networking, movement building and community building.

Register and join us every fourth Wednesday! [zoom.us/meeting/register/A8XGueegQPGDIV3aw-632Q#/registration](https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/A8XGueegQPGDIV3aw-632Q#/registration)

New books for group study with free video series from the authors

These new books are from two of your favorite PC(USA) leaders!

- **[“Appreciate These Things: Eight Ways of Cultivating Compassion,”](#)** by Jill J. Duffield.
- **[“Reckoning with History: Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and the Making of American Christianity,”](#)** by William Yoo.

New gun violence resources from Be SMART

To combat gun deaths among children and teens, the church partnered with Be SMART to provide resources that address secure gun storage. We are also hosting trainings with Presbyterian Be SMART leader Temple Hiatt. Check out the resources and sign up for a training today! pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/public-witness/gun-violence/secure-gun-storage-with-be-smart

Around the Table resources

The Around the Table initiative invites parents, caregivers, and congregational leaders to nurture children and youth, helping them grow in faith and discover who God created them to be in today's world. Check out the podcast, Flyaway book guides, Quicksheets and new books at pcusa.org/aroundthetableresources. These resources can help cultivate meaningful conversations and connections about Christian faith in everyday life.

PDA year at a glance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has published their 2024 At-A-Glance report summarizing their work over the past year.

Learn how your gifts to PDA and One Great Hour of Sharing have made a difference.

pcusa.org/resource/pda-2024-glance-report

‘Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ’ by Rhashell D. Hunter

Join Presbyterian Women in rediscovering our resilience, joy and identity found in Christ through the 2025–2026 PW/ Horizons Bible study, “Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ,” by Rhashell D. Hunter. The study is available in several editions (English, Spanish, large print and audio) with helps (companion DVD, Workshop for Leaders, author blog and supplemental resources available exclusively in Horizons magazine); visit presbyterianwomen.org/bible to learn more or to purchase.

“Finding Resilience” is suitable for personal and group study as well as a source for sermon inspiration!

Presbyterian Church (Mayesville, South Carolina), Edisto Presbyterian Church (Edisto Island, South Carolina) and the former Presbytery of Catawba. Contact David Staniunas at dstaniunas@history.pcusa.org.

A Day at Community Cup Coffee and More, Inc. A Covenant New Worshipping Community located in Martinsburg, WV.

My friends often ask, what do you do at the coffee shop? Here's what I saw over the course of one typical day.

Morning: I ordered coffee and sat alone. I watched the interactions between customers and staff. A man who I know well sat alone. His thoughts unknown. He suffers from schizophrenia. Sometimes he's quiet. That's a good day, a day when his medication can help control his demons. Today seemed ok, so far a quiet day.

A woman I didn't know sat with her breakfast. She was well dressed, seemed to be a professional. The staff made coffee, ground beans. The sounds were loud and familiar. There were phone conversations and people talking about this and that. There were perhaps 10 people in the room.

At noon I came back. I'd run 6 miles with a good friend. I was tired and thirsty. I drank a coke. The room was packed. Partners, singles, old and not so old, men and women, black and white. Three women that I didn't know were in an animated conversation. It was friendly and they laughed. Individuals sat at tables all over. Drinking, reading and talking on mobile phones.

I sat near two friends of mine. Men I've known for years. They were involved in a discussion so I stayed clear. The Bible Study crowd trickled in. A couple pastors were at another table. They were working, as usual. Soon enough they joined us. Food and drinks arrived and the study was on! Twelve or thirteen persons gathered. Just as the disciples did with Christ? No upper room. Just a coffee shop.

A large family enters and the noise level jumps. There are four, five, no six children aged perhaps six to sixteen. Two women, maybe moms, are with them. They eat, drink, play games, call on their mobiles. It's a beautiful scene.

The kids are animated and having a blast. But the local customer who suffers from schizophrenia starts to yell. No way to know what or why. He is angry. A staff person approaches and asks him if he's ok. Can he be a little quieter? Things regain a state of normalcy and the day progresses.

At 6 I'm back in the shop. I help my friends to make coffee for folks from The Recovery Church. This evening there are 13 present. People recovering from substance use disorder of one sort or other. I'm familiar with most of them now. They know me a little, not a threat to their lives. A helper.

The evening is disturbed by an interloper. A man I've seen, but don't know. He's a problem. He's pushy. Aggressive. He's also mentally ill. He sits in a corner. A minister asks if he'd like to join the discussion? He says no. He's fine. He's told that this is a private group. Based upon confidentiality and recovery. He stands and then sits in the circle with those who are also in recovery. An uncomfortable vibe descends. But it's short lived. He stands and with a flourish of meaningless words, departs the group. My friend closes the door behind him.

If Christ had been here, what would he have done? Healed him? Cast out demons We did what we could. At 7:25 I leave.

That was a typical day at The Cup.

Chris Gaidrich,
CCCM, Inc. Board Member & volunteer



You are invited to join Community Cup

as we celebrate the ministry of Rev. Dwight McCormick in the time he has served here and bless him and his wife, Sarah, as they seek to follow God into the next call on **Saturday, May 10, 6-8pm.**

If you would like to support the ongoing life and ministry of Community Cup Coffee and More, Inc., we invite you to:

- ◇ 1. Pray for Community Cup, for the community that is being built, for those who struggle - with substance use disorder and recovery, with mental health, with the lack of decent and affordable housing, with the lack of access to food, with unjust policies that compound these struggles - for Christ's love to be known and shown.
- ◇ 2. Stop in! We're open for business M-F 8am-4pm and Saturdays 8am-8pm.
- ◇ 3. Volunteer! In addition to the posted hours above, the local Recovery Church has small groups that meet at Community Cup on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6pm; Community Cup hosts Midweek Manna - a free meal for the community on Wednesdays at 6pm; and currently, worship services are held on Fridays at 7pm, with 4th Fridays (April 25 & May 23) as Yoga Devotions and 5th Friday (May 30) Messy Church. We would love to have groups volunteer to cook and serve a meal on a Wednesday. There are many other opportunities for individuals and groups to serve as well.
- ◇ 4. Give financially: you can send a check to Community Cup Coffee and More, Inc at 114 W. Burke Street, Martinsburg, WV 25401 or you can give online at the Presbytery website: <https://shenpres.breezechms.com/give/online>, choosing "Give to Community Cup - Coffee Shop Donation"
- ◇ 5. Find and Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Like, comment and share posts. The more social media traffic, the more people who can find us. There are also regular updates about all of the wonderful Saturday evening activities you might enjoy including live music, open mics, Trivia and more!





Middle School Conference Bridge program July 14—18

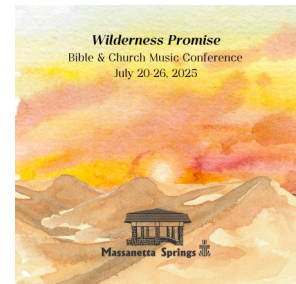
Do you have a student finishing 5th, 6th, or 7th grade, but no youth group to send them to Middle School Conference with? Massanetta hosts a group during session 4, staffed by our Netta Day Camp counselors. The group gathers a day early to get to know each other and enjoy the site, then enters Middle School Conference as a newly formed group of their own. Space is limited! For more information or to register, contact Cherokee Adams, Registrar: cherokee@massanettasprings.org.

Bible and Church Music Conference July 20—26

Family camp meets continuing education at this conference for all ages of worship leaders. Whether you are ordained or a layperson, staff or volunteer or congregant, there are plenty of opportunities to learn, practice, and worship together.

This year's theme "Wilderness Promise" will be brought to life through Bible study with Rev. Dr. Safwat Marzouk of Union Presbyterian Seminary; vocal and handbell choirs as well as other opportunities to make music; workshops in transitional ministry, spiritual direction, and percussion; thoughtful worship with great leadership; plus time for fellowship and sabbath.

Learn more and register here: <https://massanettasprings.org/programs/bcmc>




**Twilight Concert in a
Country Church**
Oxford Presbyterian Church
May 1 • 5 PM
Kevin Matheson, violin • Anna Billias, piano
Julia Goudimova, cello
Admission Free
Donations Welcomed



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to John Nunn & Mikel (See John 20:1-18) 04-07-1999

**PRESBYTERY OF
SHENANDOAH**

P. O. Box 1146
Harrisonburg, VA 22803

Phone: 540-433-2556
E-mail: 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!

May 2025

- 1 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 5 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 6 - Nominations 10:00 am
- 8 - COM 9:30 am
- 8 - CPM 10:00 am at Massanetta Springs
- 15 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 21 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
- 22 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 29 - CER 10:00 am
- 29 - CNCD 1:00 pm
at Middletown Church

Other Dates

- 8 - GA Amendments Discussion 7:00 pm
- 10 - Ruling Elders' Communion Training 9:30 am
at Moorefield Presbyterian Church
- 15 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 20 - Stated Meeting of Presbytery 9:30 am
at Woodstock Presbyterian Church
- 26 - Presbytery Office Closed for Memorial Day

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

