



# Shenandoah Press

Volume 11, Issue 8

October 2025

## Message from Our General Presbyter

I'm tired. Tired of the violence happening in our country and in the world. I pray for peace. I pray for families; I pray for victims – I'm tired of just praying.

What must happen so that our elected officials enact sensible gun laws? What do we need to be doing to help young people have a better sense of self, of community, or right and wrong?? What is going on that men are feeling isolated, and women aren't listened to? What happened to the weekends of men's breakfast and then doing odd jobs around the church, from gardening to painting Sunday school rooms? What has happened to quilting bees and Bible studies? What has happened to gathering together, for the sake of gathering together? Why do we feel it is a waste of time to be together to share our lives with one another, good and bad? What happened to sitting and "chewing the fat"?

In our desire to be successful we have lost our way. The pandemic hastened it on and now we are experiencing what comes from isolation and loneliness. People thinking we live in an "us versus them world" rather than understanding that we are all in this together one way or another.

How are you doing community? What is your church doing to foster community, to find those that are lost and lonely? How are we sharing and showing the love of God and making it available to everyone? I heard a program not too long ago that was about men and the need for companionship. It began with one guy and has grown – a walking group – I think it's one day a week – but it's enough. The expert that they talked to said – text weekly, call monthly and be in person once a quarter. Meaning we have to work to build community, it doesn't just happen.

I would challenge us to make our circle bigger as well. Who needs to be invited, to mentor, to befriend? I believe that if more of us made the effort to know folks, it would definitely be a better world, a more connected world, a more understanding and kind world. It is far too easy to place people into the camps of us and them when you have never talked together.

I'm tired – perhaps you are too. Let's work to make the difference we want to see because it is what Jesus would do.

*Blessings,  
Bronwen*



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## Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao



Fall is one of my favorite times of year. I love the changing leaves, the crisp temperatures, wearing snugly sweaters...and pumpkin pie!

Fall, for many of us, is also Stewardship season.

Sometimes it is an entire month, sometimes leading up to people coming forward and putting pledge cards in the front of the sanctuary during worship.

Sometimes it is just one Sunday, while in other churches it might be a year-long, episodic emphasis. And there are all kinds of resources, from our own Presbyterian Foundation, to books and plans to schemes with charts for "Step up to Tithing," as well as others.

But I want us to think about stewardship in a broader sense, and to consider our whole lives, as individuals and as bodies of faith, as stewardship.

I Peter 4: 10-11 says <sup>10</sup> Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. <sup>11</sup> Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen."

So in our life together, as we worship, as we meet, as we discern, all of us are engaged in ministry.

And that ministry is Stewardship. It is stewardship not only of things, or property, but of the lives entrusted to our care, which are the people of God and the family of faith.

Even if it sometimes that stewardship requires another long slog through documents, or creating policies, or sitting through yet another training. Even, or maybe, especially, in changing times in which the church is called to change. For being a steward does not mean we hold on to "the way things were" with a closed fist and rigid adherence to "the way we've always done it."

Rather, as good stewards of the things and lives God has entrusted to us, we are also called to faithfully respond in changing times. At that means we have eyes and hearts that are open both to what the world needs, and to what God is already doing in our midst and in our congregations. I believe that, like the Apostle Paul, we are to "think of [ourselves] in this way: as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries." (1 Corinthians 4:1) That mystery is the love given to us in Jesus Christ. We live out that love in all our decisions and interactions. We share that love, through our decisions, and policies, and interaction, with the world God so loves. As the hymn "God Whose Giving Knows No Ending" says: "Open wide our hands in sharing...serving You by loving all." May God bless us in our Stewardship!

Blessings-

*Nancy*



## Advent Lectionary Overview

**Thursday, October 23, at 6:30, via Zoom.**

Advent begins November 30, and we begin the Church Year anew as we look forward to the coming of the Infant Jesus. We will, via zoom, be discussing Scripture and themes for Advent, Christmas Eve, creative possibilities for Christmas Day worship, and the first Sunday of Christmas.

For those who are Revised Common Lectionary preachers/teachers, this is Year A, a Matthew year. We will also look at the Narrative Lectionary offerings for Advent. Please bring your ideas to share with others. Hope to see you there!

[Register Here.](#)



## Rolls, Registers and Digitizing Records

Held Saturday, September 13 at Massanetta Springs



Thank you, people of the Presbytery of Shenandoah for giving some of your time on September 13 to the Presbyterian Historical Society. You can learn more on our website about our services for congregations, chief among them [deposit](#) and [digitization](#). You can also find guidance on writing an [anti-racist church history](#). Finally, we are grateful to those of you who already support our work financially. [Your contributions](#) help us extend our work for the church. Thank you.

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David Staniunas shared some resources to share with you:

[Keeping Archives 2025.pdf](#)  
[Congregations Retention Schedule.pdf](#)

## CRE Gathering



The Commissioned Ruling Elders of Shenandoah Presbytery, and the participants in the CRE Process were invited to join at Massanetta Springs on Saturday, September 20 for an Advent workshop. They were told to be prepared to share some ideas about Advent/Christmas Eve and Christmas- and how we can try new and creative ways for worship around those services.



Bobby Spurgeon, Goshen CRE, shared some Advent and Christmas hymn lyrics with the CRE group. We now share them with you!

[Click Here](#) to view the hymns from Bobby.



## World Food Day

Submitted by Sara Holben, Hunger Funds subcommittee

Celebrated every year on **October 16, World Food Day** is recognized by organizations worldwide that are working to defeat hunger. This year the theme is “*Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future*,” acknowledging that to defeat hunger it requires teamwork and a partnership among farmers, communities, individuals, non-profits, businesses, and governments.

Many of our local food pantries and food banks have reported seeing an increased number of people seeking help this year. Which means our presbytery’s support through the “**Cents-ability**” offerings in your congregations is more important than ever. In the first two quarters of 2025, thanks to your generous gifts, we have been able to send \$21,825 to 24 local agencies and 9 international/national/regional agencies all fighting hunger.



We are excited to be adding one more local food pantry to our hunger funds list, beginning in October. When the **Ashwood Food Pantry** (in Bath County) had to find a new home, the **Hot Springs Presbyterian Church** (in Hot Springs, VA) stepped forward to provide a new location for a very important ministry. When we told them we were adding the Ashwood Pantry to our quarterly donations list, their treasurer reported to us: “*We currently serve about 100 households each month. Roughly 40% of those households include dependent children, while 60% include at least one person over the age of 60. ... Please know how deeply grateful we are for your thoughtfulness and for keeping the Ashwood Food Pantry in mind. From the bottom of my heart — thank you.*”



What a difference a few cents can make when we work “hand in hand” for a better future without hunger. How will you celebrate **WORLD FOOD DAY** this October?

To find out how you can be a part of the **Cents-ability** program of our Presbytery, visit: <https://shenpres.org/cents-ability/> and look for special “Cents-ability” hand-outs and information available at our next in-person Presbytery meeting (November 15 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Staunton, VA).



## 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.

If you are due for renewal in 2025, Nancy Meehan Yao has sent 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](mailto:assocgp@shenpres.org) and not the office staff.

We will have two sessions in November:

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

**Saturday, November 8**, 9:30 am--12:30 pm - [register here](#).

**SPACE IS LIMITED!**

BOUNDARY  
TRAINING



## A Great Thanksgiving



In October of 2024, Elkton Presbyterian's Fellowship Hall was overrun with flood waters. Cost for repairs ran upwards of \$50,000. Turning to our insurance company, we were notified that we had coverage for \$5,000. The Session was beyond devastated. How would we ever fix this problem which could end the use of our Fellowship Hall. The loss of this area would have meant no more church social gatherings, but more importantly, our children from Elkton Elementary School would have no place to go for Weekday Religious Education.

It had to be fixed and so we turned to you, our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Shenandoah Presbytery. You gifted us with grant funds to begin the most necessary repairs.



Shoveling the water



Oddly, I received a few days later a call from the adjuster who said we were eligible for the \$5,000. He hung up before I could catch the call, so I quickly called him back. His response was odd...he said, oh, I meant to call someone else about your claim. About our claim? Our claim was closed. My friends, God was not finished with His work at EPC. The insurance company reversed their decision on how the claim was adjusted. The work inside the Fellowship Hall was covered!

We were then able to use the funds from Shenandoah Presbytery to make certain no more water could come into our hall. A new sewer line was installed along with new water lines. New downspout lines were installed to make certain all water went away from the church. This was a very long project which is still not quite complete but because of you and our Father's blessings, we are back in business. I wish you could have seen the faces of the children in WRE when they entered their new classroom.



Completed!

My friends, we were lost but now are found!

Thank you and may God continue to bless the churches and people of Shenandoah Presbytery.

Pastor Judy



Completed!

## Online Payments

We now have the ability to make payments online through our website.

Here is what you can do:

- ◆ Churches may send in their acceptances
- ◆ Churches may now send in their full remittance
- ◆ Churches and individuals may contribute to our Stated Meeting Mission Offering

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.



## Report on welcoming Ukrainian students this summer

This summer, with the help of a gift from the Committee on Mission and Outreach, Massanetta Springs hosted three Ukrainian students from the Menaul School, a boarding school in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They are attending school in the United States on student visas that would allow them to travel home and return; however, not only is it expensive, difficult, and potentially dangerous to travel back to Ukraine, our own immigration process in the United States is presently unreliable in its safety as well. We were glad to welcome Nazar, Dasha, and Kostya for ten weeks.

We did some cooking together in the first few days after they arrived. One evening, we got together to make borscht, a Ukrainian vegetable stew heavily featuring beets. It seems that borscht varies quite a lot family to family, and each household's recipe is very personal and revered. The three, who did not know each other before starting English classes online ahead of coming to the US, had very different opinions about how it should be done. After much debate in Ukrainian and in English, one said, "I'm just going to call my mom." I quickly tried to squash that idea— it was 2:00 in the morning in Ukraine. But the response was quick. "She's up, there's bombing tonight." (He quickly assured me his family was safe, they were just awake. Still— this is the reality these kids exist in. Yes, of course, call your mother.)

Their visas do not allow them to work in the United States, but they were very willing to train and volunteer as lifeguards. CMO's financial support helped us cover the costs of the training and certification. All three students were glad to help us maintain the pool, and keep campers safe while swimming as well as canoeing on our lake. I often witnessed all three helping out with Netta Day Camp, particularly at lunchtime, when we can always use a few extra hands. They were a wonderful addition to our community: kind, responsible, helpful, and engaged. If the opportunity presents itself that they can return to us in the future, we will gladly welcome them all back.

The grant from CMO, in addition to gifts provided through Abingdon Presbytery, allowed us to provide a restful and meaningful summer break to these students, including:

- A trip to Washington, DC with our Program Interns, including many monuments and the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum
- A local tennis club membership for Kostya to continue practicing (and Nazar to learn!) (and the occasional take out meal so we could make it to practice on time)
- Two trips to go hiking in Shenandoah National Park (they were so excited by how green it is here, with a more similar climate to home in Ukraine)
- Their first college tour, tagging along with our Executive Director's eldest daughter and her mom to University of Virginia.
- Several trips to our local international grocery store as well as a Ukrainian bakery to pick up food that reminds them of home
- A basic new smart phone for one student, whose hand-me-down phone was no longer holding a charge (we wanted to be sure he could stay in close contact with his family)
- A little back to school shopping: new backpacks and socks for everyone!
- Fresh haircuts for the new school year, too
- Dinner at Ruta, a great Ukrainian restaurant in Washington, DC, before they flew back to Albuquerque from National Airport.

This gift also helped subsidize their room and board at Massanetta this summer.

After they returned to school, I received communication from all three of their mothers (none of whom speak English, so this was no small thing to take the time to get their messages translated and send along). Here are some excerpts:

*We are infinitely grateful to you for opening your heart and the doors of your home to Ukrainian students, surrounding them with care and love so that they could feel at home. It is very important to us that during these difficult times, Nazar had the opportunity to be useful, gain valuable experience, and make new friends at Massanetta Springs Camp.*

*I want to express my gratitude to you. We are grateful to you for your concern for our children. Our children spent happy days with you. Your support and contribution to our children gave them confidence, pleasant impressions, a new and wonderful experience that left a mark on the soul of each.*

Thank you for helping us create a safe, welcoming, meaningful space for these three teenagers this summer. This was a team effort to provide a place for them this summer; thanks for being on our team.

Sincerely,

Rev. Colleen Earp, Acting Director, Massanetta Springs



Nazar, Dasha, and Kostya in front of the Capitol the night before flying back to Albuquerque (There's a great Ukrainian restaurant just a few blocks away!)



## Warrenton Church Hunger Walk

On Sunday, September 14, 2025, the Warrenton church hosted a Hunger Walk to support the Fauquier FISH Weekend Power Pack Program. This program provides food for children to take home each Friday during the school year as well as food over holidays and during the summer break. It costs \$282 to feed one child for an entire year.



The Hunger Walk took place after the Sunday morning worship service along the Warrenton Greenway, a rails-to-trails walking path in Old Town Warrenton. The attached photo shows just a few of the walkers in front of the caboose, the start and end point of the 3 mile trail. The weather was perfect; sunny and warm but not too warm.

There were 42 walkers including adults, youth, children, and a dog. Our goal was \$564 to support two children with food for the year through FISH's Weekend Power Pack Program. The total amount raised as of 9/15/25 was \$1,676 which is enough to sponsor almost 6 children. Donations will be accepted through September 30<sup>th</sup> by check or online donation. [Click here to make a donation.](#)

### Attention: Church treasurers, clerks and pastors

Please look for your church's pledge letters by the middle of October. These will be e-mailed to you and mailed to the church. We ask that your pledge amount be submitted by December 15, 2025. 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). Thank you!



OOOOOOOH, LOOK AT MR FANCY JOSEPH

## Strangers No More

It was Saturday morning at Community Cup Coffee & More, but not just any Saturday. This was the first Saturday of the month and the coffee shop was participating in Martinsburg's First Saturday Gallery Walk. I was sitting talking with our guest artist who was new to the coffee shop. She had visited the shop before briefly, but only long enough to finalize plans to display her art.

During our conversation, I noticed an older woman crossing the street coming towards the coffee shop. She leaned heavily on her cane. As it became clear she was coming into the shop, I met her at the door, welcomed her and helped her in. I offered her a seat and introduced her to the artist. I left them together while I checked on things in the coffee shop for the gallery walk. Sometime later, I noticed the two of them at the counter. These two ladies who were only a short time earlier strangers, weren't strangers anymore. The artist placed her arm gently around the older woman's shoulder as she struggled to accept the kindness of strangers. The coffee shop staff helped the woman with her order and told her to sit wherever she liked and they would bring her food and drink to her.

Although the coffee shop has a Pay It Forward program, the artist insisted on paying for the woman's order. "We have to look out for each other" she said. Later that evening, the coffee shop had a special event, an Open Mic Night where people could share stories, music, poetry and the like. The guest artist came back that evening for a while and then left.

At some point during the evening the elderly lady also returned to coffee shop. After the evening was winding down and everyone prepared to go home, the elderly woman stepped forward to the microphone. "I see what you are doing here at the coffee shop" she said. "Is this thing on? I'd like to sing for you." The microphone was turned back on and everyone stood still as the woman began to sing loud and clear without any music. It was a beautiful moment. It was clear she sang because she was so happy to have found a safe and nurturing place among people who were strangers no more. It was her way of saying "Thank you!"

Wade Myers,  
Art Director, Advisory Board Member & Volunteer



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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 addiction and recovery, with mental illness, 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, Community Cup hosts Midweek Manna - a free meal for the community on Wednesdays at 6pm with a time of Scripture and Reflection. 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 25403 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 activities you might enjoy including live music, open mics, Trivia and more!





**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025**  
 9 a.m. Food Service Begins | 10 a.m. Auction Begins

**AUCTION ITEMS MAY INCLUDE:**  
 Variety of homemade goods and services, produce, firewood, apple butter, theme baskets and more!

**FOOD INCLUDES:**  
 Homemade soups, fried oyster sandwiches, ham sandwiches, BBQ pulled pork sandwiches, pies and much more!

*Proceeds support local missions. Drink sales benefit MCPC youth group.*  
 Auctioneer: Alan Zimmerman

### Harvest Sale at Mossy Creek Church

Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church's 58th annual Harvest Sale is scheduled for **Saturday, October 18th.**

Food service begins at 9am, auction begins at 10am.

Please join us and bring your friends and family.

Items will include a variety of homemade goods and services, produce, firewood, apple butter and more.

Food service includes fried oyster sandwiches, pulled pork BBQ, soups, pies and more!

Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church  
 372 Kyles Mill Road  
 Mt. Solon, VA



*Font & Faith is coming to Richmond!*  
**INTERGENERATIONAL FAMILY DAY**

**November 8, 2025 • 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond**

*Is worshipping with your child a joy?*  
 Do you want *your child's prayer life* to be more than meals and bedtime?

**Spend a day with us and your family**  
 children, parents, grandparents, caregivers – however your family is configured  
**exploring new ways to**  
 \*nurture your child's faith through worship and prayer  
 \*experience intergenerational learning

Let us partner with you on the journey of baptismal living.



*an initiative of the* Center for Excellence in Christian Education

**What to do next...**

We have 50 spaces for Richmond-area families including children up to 12 years old. Use the QR Code to apply to participate. All supplies, lunch, and snacks are provided. More information is available on our website. Spaces will fill. Apply now!



**Fall  
WORK DAY**  
OCTOBER 18

Become a part of our mission by volunteering with us!

We'll Provide:

- ✓ Meals
- ✓ Lodging
- ✓ Tools and Supplies




## Fall Work Day at Massanetta Springs

### Tentative Schedule

#### Saturday, October 18th

8:30 a.m. - Refreshments and Check-in

9:00 a.m. - Service Day Begins

12:00 p.m. - Lunch provided by Massanetta Springs

1:00 p.m. - Service Day Continues

4:00 p.m. - Service Day Ends



Lunch is provided, and folks are welcome to join us for any portion of the day. There will be a variety of projects for all ages and skill levels.

Sign-ups are through the form linked to the QR code, or at <https://forms.gle/p9ozd4PqfYiFPFEX9>




**2026 PROGRAM DATES**

**Confirmation Retreat**  
1/30-2/1

**Ringing at the Springs**  
2/13-15

**Netta Day Camp: Spring at the Springs**  
3/30-4/3

**Easter Respite**  
4/6-10

**Netta Day Camps**  
9 weeks starting 6/8

**Middle School Conferences**  
6/18-21, 6/23-26, 7/9-12, 7/14-17

**Bible & Church Music Conference**  
7/19-25

**Called Together**  
7/27-30

**Keep Awake**  
11/20-22



**PRESBYTERY OF  
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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!

### October 2025

- 6 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 8 - CPM 10:00 am
- 9 - COM 9:30 am
- 15 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am  
at Presbytery Office
- 15 - CNCD 1:30 pm
- 16 - CRE Oversight 9:30 am
- 19 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 21 - CPC 10:00 am at
- 23 - CER 9:00 am
- 23 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 28 - Nominations 10:00 am

### Other Dates

- 16 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 23 - Advent Lectionary Overview 6:30 pm



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