

Shenandoah Press

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A Message from our General Presbyter

The word is out. I am retiring at the end of September.

I thank those of you who still think I'm too young to do so – but the reality is I turn sixty-nine this fall and have been doing this work for almost 40 years.

Howard's death changed the timeline. It is time for me to move back to family and, if you know me, that means I'm headed back to Buffalo. Yes, it snows a lot, but Buffalo knows how to move snow and I like sweaters.

The thing is there is still work to do! Please pray for your General Assembly Commissioners. They begin their work June 22 on Zoom, attend the in-person portion in Milwaukee beginning June 26, and will not be done until July 2. I will be attending as well. So, it is a busy upcoming month.

Thank you for your continued prayers, they have truly sustained me in this time of grief.

Blessings,
Bronwen



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When I go “back home” to visit my sister, we do what I describe as “the cemetery tour.” That is, we go to visit the graves of my mom, my dad, my grandmother and grandfather, and my other sister. Those visits are a way to remember and honor the people we have loved.

Per the records of the Presbytery, there are (at least) 35 cemeteries related to churches and chapels in this presbytery. I know how dear those cemeteries, and those ancestors and family memories are. I know how much churches want to be respectful, faithful, and good stewards of those church cemeteries.

I also know how much time, energy and, frankly, finances, maintaining those cemeteries takes. Even with a separate “cemetery fund,” the costs continue to rise, and upkeep may become increasingly difficult to maintain. The care of the cemetery is also one more thing on the plate of faithful sessions and trustees.

The Presbyterian Foundation, hearing our, and other, Presbyteries’ stories and questions about cemeteries (they were here in Shenandoah Presbytery 2019 to talk about cemeteries with us) have created a resource guide and inventory to help sessions and congregations.

This resource can guide your discernment about what options are open to congregations and sessions: whether to keep the cemetery, create an independent cemetery association to maintain and manage the records, finances, and physical spaces, or find some other way of management.

The Foundation begins the resources with this:

“In life and death we belong to God. Congregations live out this foundational belief in myriad ways, from celebrating the birth and baptism of children of God, through worship and mission in growing disciples, and for some congregations, by offering a final resting place for the remains of the faithful.”

Thoughtfully discerning ways to care for our cemeteries is part of our congregational life and stewardship.

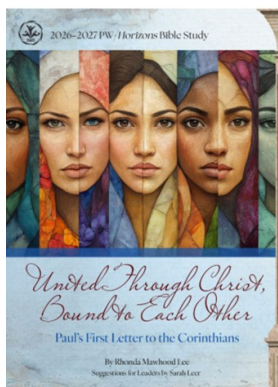
These resources from the Presbyterian Foundation may be found at:

<https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/cemetery-guide/>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at assocgp@shenpres.org.

Blessings-

Nancy



Save the Date!

PW Bible Study Overview via ZOOM - Thursday, August 6 at 6:30 pm

Please mark your calendars for a Zoom gathering for an overview of **“United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians,”** the 2026-2027 PW Horizons Bible Study.

Written by Rev. Rhonda Mahwood Lee, with suggestions for leaders by Rev. Dr. Sarah Leer.

This overview is for Circle leaders, Bible Study participants, anyone who wants to know more. Registration links will appear on the Presbytery website - look for an announcement.

Questions? Contact Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao: assocgp@shenpres.org

209th Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery May 19, 2026 at Charles Town Presbyterian Church



Rev. Mary Ann McKibben Dana preached for the Presbytery, and led the Presbytery in "Designing Your Ministry", as the Education time, sponsored by the Committee on Congregational Vitality and Transformation.

You may view the video and documents of our Stated Meeting of Presbytery of May 19, 2026 on our web page: <https://shenpres.org/presbytery-meeting/>.



Rev. Rob Vaughan, RE Mark Facknitz, RE Joe Crockett were commissioned for the 227th General Assembly.



Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Kate Rascoe



The Bridgewater Presbyterian Church family congratulates “Pastor Kate” on the successful completion of her Doctor of Ministry degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in May, after six years of study with the Risking Faithfully cohort. Her project paper, “Towards an Authentic Body of Christ: Encouraging Conversations with Humility and Curiosity in the Church,” is available in the PTS library.

As she completes this endeavor, Pastor Kate begins another with us, as she has answered the call to become BPC’s next installed pastor.



Pastor Kate along with Bridgewater members at the May 19 Stated Meeting

Submitted by Judy Rees, Bridgewater Presbyterian Church Communications Team

Hunger Funds Report



Summertime! And while we sometimes get to slow down this time of year, there can be other special summer activities we look forward to - Vacation Bible School, summer camps, summer picnics - and just lots of times to get together.

As you gather this summer, consider remembering our neighbors in need. Could you add an “offering can” for the Cents-ability ministry at your picnic or dinner table at church? Or maybe have people bring cans of food to share with your local food pantry or “blessing box” when they come to Vacation Bible School?

Caring for our neighbors doesn’t go on a summer vacation - reach out to one another and share what we have all year long. You can find a “wrapper” for a can and more information about “Cents-ability” on our website: <https://shenpres.org/cents-ability/>.

Submitted by Rev. Sara Holben, Hunger Action Subcommittee and the Committee on Mission and Outreach

Mandatory Boundary Training

If you are due for renewal in 2026, 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:

Thursday, June 4, 6:30 pm—9:30 pm - [register here](#).

Saturday, June 13, 10:00 am--12:30 pm - [register here](#).

SPACE IS LIMITED!

**BOUNDARY
TRAINING**



Massanetta Springs

Pass It On

Bible & Church Music Conference 2026

“One generation shall extol your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.”

Psalm 145



Join us for Bible & Church Music Conference at Massanetta Springs, July 19-25! This year's theme of "Pass it On" is grounded in Psalm 145, and our weeklong Bible study will work through themes throughout the Psalter. There are programs for church leaders of all ages, including choirs, Bible studies, workshops, and plenty of time for fellowship and renewal.

Join us for one day, one choir, or the whole time. Worship is free and open to all each night. Learn more and register at <https://massanettasprings.org/programs/bcmc>

Bulk Book Orders Available Soon

It's almost time for bulk book orders!

The 2026–2027 Presbyterian Planning Calendar is your indispensable companion for purposeful planning from September 2026 to December 2027. Also available will be The Book of Confessions 2016 and The Book of Order 2025-2027.

Watch your emails for ordering information.



October 16-18
At Massanetta Springs
with Keynote Leader Rev. Erin Skinner

Shen Pres Youth Retreat

“Out of his heart will flow
rivers of living water.”
John 7:38

Grades 6-12
\$175/person
Group Registration due by September 30
Questions? Email colleen@fpcwinc.org

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SHENANDOAH**

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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!

June 2026

- 1 - CRE Oversight 11:30 am
- 3 - CCVT 11:00 am
- 9 - Nominations 10:30 am
- 9 - CER 2:30 pm
at Winchester First Church
- 10 - CPM 10:00 am at Massanetta Springs
- 11 - COM 9:30 am
- 17 - CNCD 1:00 pm at Strasburg Church
- 18 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 20 - CMO 10:00 am
- 22 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 24 - Staff Meeting 11:00
at Slanesville Church

Other Dates

- 4 - Boundary Training 6:30 pm
- 11—14 - Presbyterian Women Summer Gathering
at Massanetta Springs
- 13 - Boundary Training 10:00 am
- 18 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- June 22—July 2 - 227th General Assembly

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