

Special points of interest:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Shower Trailers
- Pneumatrix
- and more...

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A Message from our General Presbyter

The final walkthrough is done, we have turned the keys over to the city and we have moved to our new space at Massanetta Springs! What a summer this has been. No slow down for your presbytery staff. While sorting, packing and decluttering we continued our day-to-day work of the presbytery.

Thank you to all of you who have checked on us, came to the “grab and go” and kept us in your prayers as we continue to make the transition to our new offices. We have some more unpacking to do, but isn't that always the case!

While we continue to be open from 8:30—4:30, Monday – Thursday, we are working on our schedule so that you will know what days you can stop by. Staff will be taking some well-deserved time off and until we are all back, we remain in flux.

It's hard to believe that it is September. Autumn is just around the corner, a new season and a time for new beginnings, wondering where God will lead us next!

Hope to see you at the Big Event!

*Blessings,
Bronwen*



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Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

The 8 Habits of Evangelism

Habit #7 Fellowship

Koinonia- it's a word we have all heard, I imagine. We think of fellowship—perhaps fellowship dinners at church, or the camaraderie lived out when working together on a project, or the feeling of connectedness in a prayer circle or Bible study. We don't necessarily connect koinonia with evangelism.

But Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri (former Co-Moderator of the General Assembly) and Jose Manuel Capella-Pratts remind us that “the way we relate to others is a practice of evangelism, a way of communicating the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ.”

And we find examples of koinonia in Jesus' life. When Jesus meets Zaccheus, he goes with him to his house, not to “sell” him anything, or push a dogma on him, but to be in fellowship with him. When the disciples are sent out in Acts 2, we are told “day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Cintron-Olivieri and Capella-Pratts remind us that it is the LORD'S action, not ours, that added. “It is not our task to “add,” they say. Rather, instead of focusing on getting new members, perhaps we should focus on practicing fellowship in a way that reflects the character of Jesus Christ.

Virtually every church describes themselves as “friendly.” But when I work with congregations, I ask “are you a friendly church, or a church of friends?” Often churches are very good at greeting and welcoming people into worship. But then I often see the second action, which is to turn to someone they already know (perhaps grew up with, raised their children together, etc.) and talking with them: “How's the grandkids? Did you get out to the beach this year?” and the newcomer...is left standing alone.

We need to cultivate the habits of listening and paying attention. Rev. Kay Lindahl writes “learning to truly listen to one another is the beginning of new understanding and compassion.” It creates authentic relationships, with God and with each other.

And, to be honest, it takes time and energy. But God calls us to be apostles, to be sent out into the world. How can we know the needs of the world, of our communities, until we listen and pay attention? How do we join God's work in the world God so loves, unless we see and hear and model God's love?

John Pavlovitz asks: “What if the best way we make disciples is by showing people the fullest incarnation of Jesus that we can manage, and rest in that?”¹

Discussion Question:

In light of this idea of koinonia as evangelism, can you identify examples of what authentic fellowship looks like in your context/community?

Blessings, Nancy

¹ Quotes for this article taken from 8 Habits of Evangelism, Office of Theology, Formation & Evangelism, PC(USA) Presbyterian Mission Agency.



Adaptive Change...

We have heard about it, and experienced it ourselves. Perhaps you see that the ways we are church no longer works in our contexts. Sunday mornings are no longer reserved solely for church, the neighborhoods around us have changed, the old ways of reaching out (flyers, billboards, ads in the phone book or newspaper) no longer work. The pews are a little emptier, the offering plate a little lighter, the energy level, low, as we know that something isn't working, but everything we have tried...just doesn't work.

You know you are faced with an adaptive challenge...when none of the solutions we have used on a problem work.

But we rest in the promise that Christ will always have a church, and so we look for new ways to be the church in this time and context. Learning adaptive change skills is part of that new way.

Shenandoah Presbytery, through our Committee on Congregational Vitality and Transformation, will be working with Pneumatrix, who bring "Adaptive Change Leadership skills for congregational transformation with 'roll-up-you-sleeves' consulting and capacity building." This training is designed to have trained leaders ("apprentices") walk with congregations and their congregational leaders (session, members, pastoral leader) for a 2-year period, seeing what is, and discerning what is possible, to be the church God is calling us all to be.

Pneumatrix training will take place in 6, 90-minute zooms, plus a single one-on-one training with an "apprentice," over the course of a year. We are looking for people who have the gifts, skills, and energy to work with congregations and their leaders in adaptive change, as well as congregations themselves.

The overall adaptive process with congregations will hit each of these elements:

- The Life Cycles of a Congregation and "Gathering on the Balcony"
- Leadership v Authority- Creative Disequilibrium
- Diagnosis- Archetypes, Reading the Landscape and Naming the Elephants
- Reframing the Questions, Resetting the Defaults
- Culture Shifting- sharing the new lens and Reaching the "Aha" moments
- Orchestrating Conflict- Embracing the Minefields
- Fine Tuning your Role as an Adaptive Change Leader: Motivation, Inspiration, Courage
- Positive Deviance and the Value of Failure
- Jeremiah 29 – exile and the prosperity of the City
- Adaptive DNA

Individuals, congregations and their leaders interested in this should contact Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao (assocgp@shenpres.org). We hope to begin this mid-September.

Presbyterian Women's 2022-2023 Horizons Bible Study

Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight

By The Reverend Dr. Carol M. Bechtel, Professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary. With Suggestions for Leaders written by Rev. Laura Mariko Cheifetz.

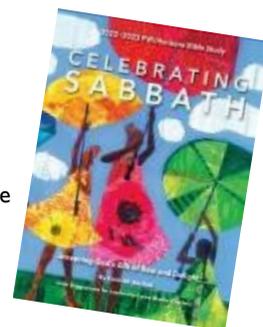
This study will begin Tuesday, September 27, at 7 pm., via Zoom, and continue for 9 sessions on the last Tuesday of every month.

An Introduction to the Bible Study will also be offered at the Big Training Event, September 10, 2022 at Massanetta Springs Conference Center.

From author Carol Bechtel: "God wants to give you a gift that could change your life—almost certainly for the better. That gift is Sabbath...The lessons in this study are organized around the ways Sabbath intersects with different themes. Each lesson focuses on a particular passage of Scripture. Since what the Bible says about Sabbath is scattered across both Testaments, it may seem like we are bouncing around a bit...remember, that the storyline for this study is your story. This is the story of how Sabbath is becoming an important part of your life in Christ."

I hope you will join us—the zoom link will be sent out soon. See you then!

For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao, assocgp@shenpres.org



194th Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery August 27, 2022 via Zoom

Welcome to Our New Pastors!



Rev. Julia Burkley
Associate Pastor, Opequon



Rev. Drew Ditzel
Pastor, Lexington Church



Macarthur Payne
CRE First Church Winchester



Rev. Jaci Smith Patman
Interim Pastor, Hermitage Church



Deborah Beam
CRE Franklin and Ruddle Churches

You may view the documents and recording of our Stated Meeting of Presbytery on August 27, 2022 on our web page: <https://shenpres.org/presbytery-meeting/>.

Shower Trailers Move On

About ten years ago Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) expressed a need for more shower trailers. Our Presbytery responded by building two. Twenty-foot box trailers were outfitted with shower stalls and one trailer had a washer/dryer and sinks. Covenant Church built one unit with a matching grant from PDA. The other trailer was procured and converted by donations from many Mountain Valley Mission Community churches. Both trailers were designed and built by church volunteers. They were designed for use by work teams at PDA volunteer host sites to work on long-term recovery from natural disasters. The Covenant trailer saw PDA service in South Carolina and then in Baton Rouge, LA. Our work teams annually going south delivered and moved that trailer across a three-year period. The MVMC trailer saw service each winter for the Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS) and several other assignments within the Presbytery.



Recently our Disaster Preparedness & Response Team with responsibility for operating and maintaining the trailers thought it was time to find new homes for the shower trailers where they could be put to better and more frequent use at disaster recovery sites. Using contacts with the PDA National Response Team, arrangements were made to transfer the trailers (DPRT members Dave & Carolyn Thalman are on that Team). After approval from the Committee on Mission & Outreach and the Coordination & Planning Commission, transfer arrangements were

made. The Covenant trailer was recently refurbished by Dan Drumheller of Covenant Church. It has been transferred to the West Virginia VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster) where it has already been deployed to Smithers, WV on the Kanawha River to aid the flood recovery there. The MVMC trailer was transferred to Charlotte Presbytery who has a Community Disaster Response Team that specializes in maintaining and deploying shower and tool units for PDA. They will refurbish that trailer and expect to deploy it to Kentucky.



The DPRT wishes to thank all those who assisted with this ministry over many years. We are very pleased that these resources will be put to good use for disaster response over many more years to come.

September is Disaster Preparedness Month

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).

We can also be prepared to help our neighbors impacted by disaster. Preparing Gift of the Heart 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>.

Zetta Church Says Goodbye to the Farthings



Zetta Presbyterian Church sadly said goodbye to Pastor Stan Farthing, and Candace Farthing, following services on July 24, 2022. Stan accepted the call to Zetta eighteen and a half years ago, and Zetta was the first church he served after becoming ordained. In doing so, Zetta also gained a wonderful piano player in his wife Candace who not only played the piano, she also created beautiful bulletins for us each week. Together they provided wonderful leadership for Zetta.

Stan and Candace endeared themselves to the congregation and became more than just our friends, they became part of our family, and always will be.

After the service they were presented with a handmade quilt to remind them of the time they spent at Zetta.

Submitted by Pat Lawhorn



This was submitted by Rev. Bob Osborne after he discovered it in old paperwork.

REFLECTIONS From Sally Hinchman, Interim General Presbyterian

I recently learned about a Japanese tradition from a colleague of mine, Steve Yamaguchi.

Green tea is called 'ocha' and condiments are never added to this tea. However, black tea is called "kocha" and takes sugar and cream nicely. The same plant (Camellia sinensis) yields these two different drinks for two different worlds. He went on to share that when the Japanese drink ocha there is one pot on the table. Also when your cup is empty, etiquette does not allow you to lift the pot and fill your own cup. You may and should fill the empty cups of others at the table. You must wait for another person to fill your cup. It would be impolite and self-serving to fill your own cup. He said that these manners work wonderfully as long as everyone tunes into the etiquette and pays attention to each other's needs and cups.

His hope and prayer (and I concur) is that at this year's General Assembly we would have an opportunity to drink ocha together. His prayer is that we will sit down for ocha with God. That we would linger with God as we drink ocha and be filled with God's spirit. That we would not try and fill our own cup with words but to listen to one another and fill each others cups.

I have recently been cleaning out old files and boxes. This presbytery has a rich and wonderful history that grew out of your past from the Presbyteries of Lexington and Winchester. To become the Presbytery of Shenandoah I believe that you drank ocha with each other along this journey. It was important for each former presbytery to fill one another's cup.

As the Presbytery of Shenandoah moves into this second year of transition I hope and pray that we also will learn to fill one another's cup. To step back and celebrate all that is good throughout the past. But to also be open to filling one another's cup which 'may' mean letting go of some of your long standing ways of being a presbytery. It 'may' mean opening yourself up for another to fill your cup with new ideas. It will require individuals to be attentive to someone else's cup at the table.

May it be so, Sally

Finley Memorial Church Works With O.U.R. Hearts

In July, a group from Finley Memorial Presbyterian Church was blessed to spend a couple days serving the Craigsville community through Craigsville Presbyterian's Outreach, Understanding, Rejoicing (O.U.R.) Hearts Ministry! Rev. Gwen Carr taught the group about the challenges of rural poverty and shared her congregation's story of meeting those challenges with the grace, mercy, love, and service of Christ. Over the course of a couple days, the group was able to complete several church projects, assist at the Craigsville Food Bank, partner with Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta to complete home repairs in Craigsville and West Augusta, and grow together in fellowship through service.



Dan Tetlow, Finley's Mission and Outreach chair, summarized the trip saying "we learned that small churches can make a big difference in the life of a community. We also learned that when a person is called by God to be a missionary, things seem to fall in place...It was hard work, it was a fun time, and I think we accomplished what was on God's list." Thank you to the Finley volunteers for faithfully following God's leading, being flexible in bad weather, and faithfully serving. Thank you to Gwen for her vision and leadership and thank you to the congregations of Craigsville Presbyterian and Buffalo Gap Presbyterian for your witness to the transforming power of Christ!

Submitted by Rev. Tommy Carrico, Finley Memorial Church Pastor

Online Payments

It is an exciting time!
We now have the ability to make some 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

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.





A pay-what-you're-able retreat for high school students and their leaders, centered on worship, leadership development, and small group discussion while learning about PC(USA)'s Matthew 25 vision.



Conference Preacher: Rev. CeCe Armstrong
Associate Pastor at St. James Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC

NOVEMBER 18-20, 2022

For more information and to register, visit <https://massanettasprings.org/programs/keep-awake>
Questions? Contact the Program Director, Colleen Earp, colleen@massanettasprings.org or call (540) 434-3829



Keep Awake! is a new pay-what-you're-able retreat for high school students and their leaders, centered on worship, leadership development, and small group discussion while learning about PC(USA)'s Matthew 25 vision. It's happening November 18-20, 2022.

To learn more and to register, visit <https://massanettasprings.org/programs/keep-awake> or contact Colleen Earp, Program Director, at colleen@massanettasprings.org or 540-434-3829.

Cooks Creek Church Seeks Admin Assistant & Treasurer

Cooks Creek Presbyterian in Harrisonburg is seeking a friendly, organized, detail-oriented person to be our next administrative assistant and treasurer. You can view the full job description here or go to cookscreekchurch.org/hiring.

The person who takes on this role will be comfortable planning for and executing multiple tasks/events each week and willing to learn church-specific computer software. This is a task-oriented position in a relaxed office environment. This position is 16 hours per week and there is the opportunity to do about half of those hours remotely after a brief introduction period.

If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please contact Pastor Seth at pastorsethnormington@gmail.com.



Homecoming Celebration

The Kirkin' O' the Tartans

September 18, 2022
11:00 with Luncheon to follow

BBQ & beverages provided.
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

New Providence Church

**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 2022

- 5 - Office Closed for Labor Day
- 6 - CPT 10:00 am
- 8 - CRM 9:30 am
- 8 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm
- 4 - CMO 9:30 am
- 12 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 13 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
- 13 - CNCD 3:30 pm
- 14 - CPM 10:00 am
- 15 - CPA 1:30 pm
- 21 - Nominations 10:00 am
- 21 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 22 - CER 9:30 am
- 22 - Community Cup 9:30 am

Other Dates

- 8 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 9 - Oasis Event for Pastors
- 10 - The Big Training Event
at Massanetta Springs
- 22 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm

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

