

Shenandoah Press

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February 2026

A Message from our General Presbyter

Thank you to all who have held me and my family in your prayers in this time of mourning for my beloved Howard. And though we made it through the holidays, the loss, I believe, will become more intense in the quiet of the days ahead. But that is how mourning is, and I appreciate those who are walking with me and the family in this time.

But I realize that my sadness is not only brought on by the loss of my husband, it is caused by the deeper concerns arising in our nation. The scripture appointed for Sunday, February 1, is Michah 6:8 "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God!" When we are at a loss for words in our grief, our sadness, our outrage and our pain, scripture speaks to us and for us.

If we are wondering how we should respond during these troubling times in our neighborhoods and our nation, read what Jesus says, listen for the Holy Spirit speaking to us in our appointed text, listen to the cries of our neighbors and friends. If we are truly followers of Christ, then we need to be acting in a more Christlike way. Jesus didn't force his ways upon people, he invited them. Jesus didn't accept the status quo, he challenged it, again and again and again. Jesus healed, fed, welcomed the outcast, the outsider, the sinner.

How are we healing, feeding, welcoming the stranger and those in need? What are we doing as followers of Jesus to make this country a place of welcome, respite and safety? That is the conversation we each have to have with God. May we listen with open hearts and act with courage "to love our neighbors as ourselves" in every way to be the people of God for this time and place.

In prayer for us all,
Bronwen



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**LET ALL THAT
YOU DO BE
DONE IN LOVE.
1 CORINTHIANS 16:14**

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Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

January is very frequently a time for the ordination and installation of new Elders, Deacons (if your church has those), and commissioning of Trustees.

We might think of those people as “extra holy,” and certainly, the congregation, in electing them, has seen their gifts.

One of the things to remember is that Sessions (and congregations) are called to be bodies both of decision (do we need a new water heater?) and discernment.

Both kinds of actions are required in our life together as faith communities.

But it might be that the “discernment” part is difficult to wrap our minds around.

In its ministry, the Session is called to guide the congregation’s witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world. (Book of Order G-3.0201). This is where discernment comes in. As we seek to follow God as a faith community, we need to constantly be discerning the will of God, and how we (all of us) measure up to that. This is why Elders are sometimes called “Ruling Elders.” Just like a yardstick, we are to measure the congregation’s fidelity to the word of God.

Deacons are also called into discernment, as their ministry is one of sharing the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. (Book of Order G-2.0201).

All of this might seem daunting. But Elders, Deacons, and Trustees (given the ministry of stewardship, at the direction of the Session) have all received the anointing of the Holy Spirit in their baptism. The Triune God is with you in this.

Your faith walk doesn’t stop when you are elected to these ordered ministries, In fact, it deepens and grows.

The PCUSA has many resources to help Elders, Deacons and Trustees in our mutual ministry.

A quick resource can be found here, with links to other sources: <https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/Quicksheet-elder-Deacon-Training.pdf>

Equip, an online/downloadable resource, is available for use with Sessions: <https://equip.pcusa.org/course/view.php?id=379>

If your Session or congregation would like to engage in training for Elders in an in-person setting, or would like help creating training, please contact Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao, assocgp@shenpres.org

Friends, remember your baptism, and be thankful. God is working in you, as you discern and decide, with and for and among your congregation.

Blessings,

Nancy



Small Church, BIG Generosity

We know our churches, no matter the size, are full of generous people. But what we might not know, or know how to do, or feel uncomfortable about, is talking about Stewardship.

“We don’t talk about money,” many of us say in our personal lives, and as a faith community. Or “we don’t really do Stewardship—we tried that, and it didn’t work,” we might hear. Or “Stewardship campaigns are for those big churches—we’re small!” Or “isn’t that just that week in the fall, so we can make our budget?”



But at its heart, Stewardship is about helping faith communities express their faithful, generous response to God’s faithful, generous grace, and to join in the mission of the church.

Rev. Erin Skinner, Ministry Relations Officer from the Presbyterian Foundation will be leading 2 events about Stewardship and Generosity, Wednesday March 5, beginning at 6:30 via zoom, and Saturday, March 7, beginning at 10:30, at Massanetta Springs, with lunch provided.

We will talk about:

- ◇ Stewardship as a response to God’s abundant grace
- ◇ Stewardship as Generosity
- ◇ Stewardship as a year-round, orientation of life, rather than “just a week in the fall.”
- ◇ And Stewardship for small congregations: what if YOU are the entire Stewardship team?

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

For Thursday, March 5, via zoom: [REGISTER HERE](#)

For Saturday, March 7, in person at Massanetta Springs: [REGISTER HERE](#)



Mandatory Boundary Training March 2026

The Book of Order, and Shenandoah Presbytery, require that:

All councils shall adopt and implement the following policies: a sexual misconduct policy, a harassment policy, a child, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities protection policy, and an antiracism policy. Each council’s policy shall include requirements for boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training for its members at least every thirty-six months.

This means that Sessions, the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly all must have these policies, AND must complete Boundary Training at least every 36 months, or 3 years—the length of a term of service as an Elder.

We require this not because we want to make more rules, but because we want to help you be a healthier church. The more people in the congregation know, and have, healthy boundaries, the healthier our congregations will be! Boundary Trainings are offered periodically throughout the year. **The next Boundary Training will be available via zoom. Registration is required to receive the zoom link.**

Thursday March 19 at 6:30 pm: [REGISTER HERE](#)

Saturday March 21 at 9:30 am: [REGISTER HERE](#)

SPACE IS LIMITED!

In person trainings may also be arranged: contact Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao assocgp@shenpres.org.

Or, Sessions may choose to use the Boundary Training with content approved by the Presbytery, as a Session directed training, either at one event, or as a devotion at Session, spread over months of Session meetings. Contact Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao for information.

Committee on Mission and Outreach

Warrenton Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church, Staunton, were among the churches receiving a portion of the \$38,530 that was awarded as part of the CMO grant process in October 2025. Both were engaged in local mission projects. Warrenton Church catered dinner for volunteers at the Fauquier Free Clinic and First Presbyterian helped fund their Home Goods Pantry. These are two examples of the mission being undertaken in our Presbytery.



If your church is considering *global or domestic mission projects* that “empower congregations to be centers for mission... sending servant leaders to minister at home and abroad,” consider applying for a grant. *There is one application form for all grants.*

The next deadline for the receipt of applications is March 1.

Information about grants and application forms, is found on the Presbytery web site under Committees - [Committee on Mission & Outreach](#), and under Resources - [Scholarships & Grants](#).

Visit the Shenandoah Presbytery web site at <https://shenpres.org/>.

Submitted by Frances Craig, CMO

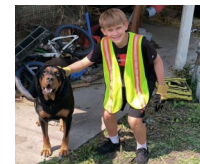
Summerlee Mission 2026

Celebrate Summerlee Mission’s 40 years of serving together. We are excited to share that we have confirmed our dates with the Lewis Christian Community Center for Summerlee Mission 2026. Please mark your calendars for **July 12–17, 2026**. More details will be shared in April 2026, at which time we will invite participants to begin the registration process.

Lewis Christian Community Center asks that all registration information be submitted by June 1, 2026. We hope you’ll be able to join us again for this meaningful week of mission and community.

For questions, please contact John and Brenda Bosserman of Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church.

Learn more at: <https://summerleemission.weebly.com>



Baja Mexico Mission Trip 2026



2025 BAJA MEXICO MISSION TRIP

For more than 25 years, churches across Shenandoah Presbytery have traveled to Baja California, Mexico to serve, build homes, and form lasting relationships with families and communities.

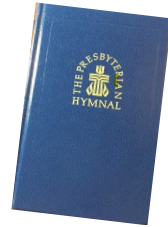
Serve with us this summer in Baja **July 12–18, 2026**. Find full details at shenpres.org/baja, including sign-up forms due by April 1, and what to pack for your week-long mission experience in Mexico.

If you have questions, please contact Keith Folsom or Rev. April H. Cranford at bajaleadershipteam@gmail.com. Our next planning meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2026.

Front Royal Hymnal Give-Away

Front Royal Presbyterian Church recently purchased new hymnals and are giving away their blue hymnals (1990 edition). They have quite a few available—probably at least 75. They are for pick up only.

If you are interested, please contact Misty Border at admin@frontroyalpres.org, or 540-635-3894.



Tabler Church Clothing Closet

The Martinsburg *Journal* featured the Tabler Presbyterian Church's "Tabler Threads Clothing Closet" in a feature story yesterday, Wednesday, January 14, in print and on-line, including a photo of Deb Morgan, ruling elder, and primary coordinator of the closet project which averages about 500 items of clothing given away to needy persons every 2nd Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the church. Already more people from the community have volunteered to assist with Tabler Threads.

Submitted by Rev. Brad Langdon, Tabler Church pastor

Read the full article [HERE](#).



Tabler Threads Clothing Closet director Debbie Morgan folds a pair of children's pants in the basement of Tabler Presbyterian Church on Saturday.
TABITHA JOHNSTON/Journal photo

Elkton Church Ash Wednesday Worship



Elkton Presbyterian Church announces a change for their upcoming Ash Wednesday service. To better serve our community, we are adjusting our schedule this year to a daytime service.

For the first time, we will be holding our service at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, February 18. We hope this new time provides a convenient option for those who may be unable to attend an evening service to join us in worship and reflection.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Stated Presbytery Meeting—February 28, 2026

The 208th Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery will be held on **Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 9:30 am** via Zoom.

Please mark your calendars and watch for emails along with the Handbook for the Meeting. [Register here](#) for the Stated Meeting.

Practice Session February 25

We will also be holding a practice meeting on Wednesday, February 25 at 7:00 pm. This is for those new to Zoom or who need a refreshment of the instructions. [Click to register](#) for practice meeting.



2026 Standard Mileage Rates

WASHINGTON - The Internal Revenue Service issued the 2026 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup or panel truck will be:

- 72.5 cents per mile [driven for business use](#), up 2.5 cents from 2025.
- 20.5 cents per mile driven for medical purposes, down a half cent from 2025.
- 20.5 cents per mile driven for moving purposes for certain active-duty members of the Armed Forces (and now certain members of the intelligence community), reduced by a half cent from last year.
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations, equal to the rate in 2025.

These rates apply to electric and hybrid-electric automobiles, as well as gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs. The charitable rate is set by law. (To view the IRS web page, [click here](#).)

If you have any questions about this, please call [Heather Carter](#) at (540) 433-2556 ext. 104.

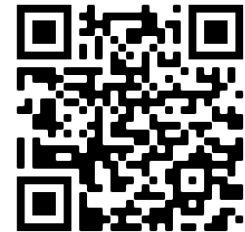


You Can Now Pay Online

We now have online payments available on our website. Churches can pay their 2026 pledge, and other remittances, with a few clicks of the mouse.

To use this feature, point your camera at the QR code below, or go to the [payment webpage](#).

If you have questions, contact Heather at bookkeeper@shenpres.org.



*"So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has
for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God,
and God abides in him."*

1 JOHN 4:16



Because You Shared Through CWS Blankets and Kits
 Because you shared so generously, hope showed up when it was needed most. Your compassion brought comfort, care and the promise of a new beginning to neighbors facing a difficult time.
 Thank you for being part of a community that shows up – again and again – with love.

17,317 blankets

1,600 disaster preparedness kits

5,400 cleanup buckets

6,147 period packs

71,760 hygiene kits

39,300 school kits

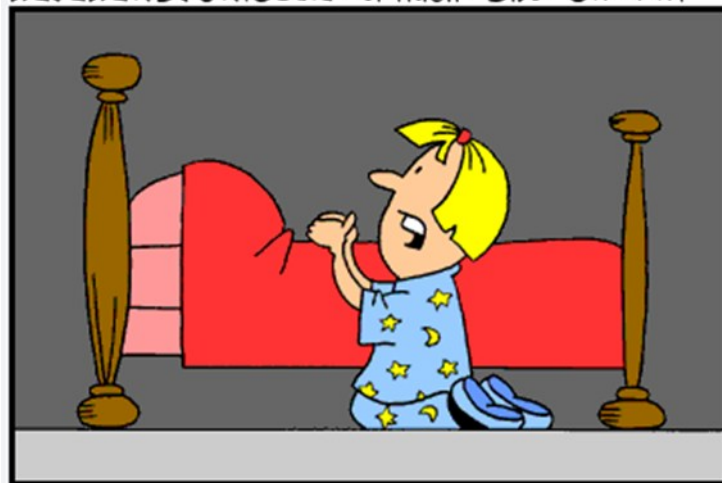
CWS
YOUR COMPASSION IN ACTION
 2025 CWS Kits & Blankets Shipping Report

Totals as of December 1, 2025
 Scan the QR code to see the complete 2025 shipping report.

"When neighbors help neighbors, hope shows up in the most beautiful ways—thanks to the compassion of CWS donors."
 – RISE AND SHINE COMMUNITY EVENT, GALVESTON, TEXAS

BP 26 43A

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WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?

02-13-1998

WHEN:

Sunday, February 22
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

WHERE:

First Presbyterian
Church, Waynesboro

JOIN US FOR:

A time of worship,
service, and fellowship
with Better Together
Churches

We will gather at 11:00
a.m. for worship in First
Pres's sanctuary, then
move to the fellowship
hall for a hands-on Seed
Packing Mission, and
conclude our time
together by sharing a
soup and sandwich
lunch

**Looking forward to
beginning the season
of Lent together.**



Society of St. Andrew
GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

SEED PACKING PROJECT

**Help package garden seeds, which will be
grown and harvested to share nourishing
produce with people in need.**




**"We had an
excellent growing
season. Thanks to
the seeds you sent.
God Bless you"
-Dawn Dale**

Join the Society of Sr. Andrew, a leading national hunger relief organization, to package garden seeds, The seeds will be shared with people who want to grow healthy food for their families but find fresh produce out of financial reach. The harvested produce will nourish neighbors in communities, congregations, and school garden projects across the country. The food grown from these seeds will never be sold but given freely to those who need it most.



Learn more about this project by contacting: Samantha Coggins






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 at Massanetta Springs for Bible and Church Music Conference, July 19-25! With a wonderful lineup of preachers, choir directors, and workshops, there is something for every age and kind of church leader.

Register for one class all week, one day, or the whole conference. Scholarships available for first timers and young adults.

Questions? Contact Colleen Earp, the Program Director: colleen@massanettasprings.org

This conference is recommended by one of our clergy members for some cost effective continuing ed.

The hope is it will give pastors a needed rest post-Easter and some thoughtful conversation inexpensively. So many clergy continuing ed budgets are too small to cover travel, hotel, conference fees, so, we think it best to bring good authors and theologians to us.

Rolf Jacobson is a nationally recognized -- and popular -- preaching prof, featured weekly on the Sermon Brainwave podcast from Luther Seminary.

[Register Here](#)

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS
Mountain Maryland Lecture Series

A Post-Easter Gathering with Dr. Rolf A. Jacobson

**Wrestling with God:
From Lament to Praise**



Dates:	Friday, April 17- Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19, 2026
Location:	St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 400 Arch Street, Cumberland, MD 21502
Cost:	\$50.00 (includes one session Friday evening and two sessions on Saturday)

About the lecture:

The biblical practice of lament has largely been either lost or ignored by the church. Perhaps the reason for this is that lament is seen either as negative or unfaithful. Engaging deeply in lament can help the church face the hard economic and divisive realities around us - and move us to trust and praise God.

Rolf Jacobson is Dean of the Faculty, Professor of Old Testament and the Alvin N. Rogness Chair of Scripture, Theology, and Ministry at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul. He is a familiar voice from both the Sermon Brainwave and Narrative Preaching Podcasts.

Come as you are - bring your questions and your hope with you!

**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!

February 2026

- 2 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 7 - CMO 9:30 am
- 11 - CPM 10:00 am
- 12 - COM 9:30 am
- 18 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
at Presbytery Office
- 18 - CNCD 1:30 pm
- 18 - CER 2:00 pm
- 19 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 19 - CPA 1:30 pm

Other Dates

- 19 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 25 - Practice Session for Presbytery Meeting 7:00 pm
- 28 - Stated Meeting of Presbytery 9:30 am via Zoom



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