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Remember, you can pay your acceptances and mission payments online with this QR Code!  
Try it!



## A Message from our General Presbyter

As I write this, we have just commemorated Memorial Day. Many of us look at this past weekend as the unofficial beginning of summer because school is over in many places, graduations are done, and vacations seem to be coming up fast – yet this Memorial Day caused me to be more reflective because not everyone gets to live the length of time I have.

That's what Memorial Day is all about – those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country – our country. And recently a dear friend buried her 39 year old son and we got word that a beloved teacher and coach of our children died yesterday, not to mention the many health issues friends and loved ones are dealing with – not everyone gets to live the length of time we have.

So, no matter what length of time we do have in this life, it matters how we live our lives. It matters how we live in community and as congregations. How are we together responding to Jesus' teachings, to God's call upon our lives? How will we respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit? Not everyone gets to live as long as we do – so I encourage you to do so with courage, gratitude, grace, and most of all love.

*Blessings,  
Bronwen*



## 227th General Assembly Commissioner Applications

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will meet in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-July 2, 2026. The Presbytery of Shenandoah is entitled to send two minister commissioners, two ruling elder commissioners, and one young adult advisory delegate (YAAD) to this assembly.

Representing Shenandoah Presbytery at General Assembly is a tremendous opportunity to participate in the work, witness, and worship of the larger church, to provide input and insight within the Assembly and bring back to us the news of what is happening across the Presbyterian Church. Below are links to the forms requesting consideration for nomination as a minister, ruling elder, and young adult advisory delegate at this meeting. Applications should be submitted by **SEPTEMBER 1, 2025** in order for the Nominating Committee to be able to consider persons for commissioners. For applications, go to:

<https://shenpres.org/227-general-assembly/>

## Presbytery Staff

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Ken Smiy, Treasurer

## Associate General Presbyter—Nancy Meehan Yao

In the Gospel of John, Jesus does many healings. And he, nearly always, gets into trouble for it. To quote Representative John Lewis, some might say this is “good trouble.”

When pressed about why he is doing works of healing on the Sabbath, Jesus answers: “My Father is still working, and so I also am working.” (John 5: 17)

Hebrew thought and practice always allowed for acts of healing and mercy on the Sabbath. The people who were so fussed about Jesus’ actions knew that. What they didn’t know—deep down, in their bones know, was how to live out the love of God to others.

Earlier in that portion of Scripture, Jesus had spoken to a man who had been unable to walk for 38 years. In those days, that span of time was almost an entire lifetime. And yet after an entire lifetime of laying on his mat, Jesus simply says to him: “Stand up. Take up your mat. Walk.” And the man does.

Stand up. Walk. Go forward into the future that God is already creating. Be part of God’s love and mercy and justice. To quote another saying, “just do it.”

In a world where so much is wrong, stand up for what is right: grace, and love, and mercy. Keep working, like our Father is still working. Keep going. And yes, some people will be fussed.

As Presbyterians, we talk about our lives being lives of gratitude, in response to God’s grace and goodness. And sometimes, our response of gratitude will look like getting into good trouble, doing or saying what is right, regardless of the consequences. Kind of like Jesus.

Nancy



## Pentecost Resources



Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early church. We sometimes call it “the Birthday of the Church,” and celebrate with cake, which is always a good idea!

But if you are looking for some more ideas/resources, it’s not too late.

The PCUSA has multiple activities for children, youth and adults for Pentecost worship, faith formation, and gatherings.

There are free downloadables for children’s games and activities, bulletin inserts, worship and liturgy, social media images and more.

<https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/pentecost-offering#all-resources>

Pentecost is also the day on which congregations receive the Pentecost Offering.

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person’s life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of children, youth, and young adults.

Happy Birthday, Church!

## Curriculum for 2025-2026

Planning ahead for the coming program year?

Looking for some curriculum that is theologically sound AND fits your congregation?

Here are some suggestions:

### **PCUSA's Follow Me Curriculum**

A curriculum based on embracing and growing into Biblical Practices for Faithful Living

Note: there are 3 complete years available. As well, there are congregations in this Presbytery who have done this series, and might be willing to lend/swap out/trade around curriculum. Please let me know if you are interested in doing so.

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Pages/Item/15439/follow-me-curriculum.aspx>

### **SHINE Curriculum**

A Curriculum for all ages, developed around loving Jesus, growing in faith, and being sent out to change the world.

<https://shinecurriculum.com/>

### **Dandelion Marketplace**

Dandelion Marketplace is an online curriculum store, where resources for a variety of learning styles/churches/ages are available. All are from a network of creators," providing reliably progressive spiritual formation resources for families and communities."

<https://dandelion-marketplace.com/>

### **Illustrated Ministry**

An Art based learning resource, with activities for all ages/stages, for church and home.

<https://www.illustratedministry.com/>

### **Presbyterian Outlook Fresh Outlook Bible Studies**

Fresh takes on enduring questions of faith for Gen-Z and Millennials

<https://pres-outlook.org/product-tag/fresh-outlook/>

For those who use the **Narrative Lectionary:**

**Spirit and Truth Publishing:**

<https://spiritandtruthpublishing.com/>

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## 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](mailto: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**

## Hunger Funds Report

Food Pantry, Blessings in a Bag Backpack program, Four Cents a Meal/Cents-Ability program, Open Doors ...addressing food and hunger missions are important priorities at Massanutten Presbyterian Church.

The food pantry operates twice a month, backpacks are provided weekly to a local elementary school, Open Doors needs are addressed on an ongoing basis, and every month, on the fourth Sunday, the MPC congregation contributes to the Cents-Ability program.

Prior to the Time with Children on the fourth Sunday, young people are invited to come forward to receive a red basket. Then as the congregation sings Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart (hymn 647), the children and youth circulate through the sanctuary collecting donations in their baskets. The percentage of funds received that stay at Massanutten are used to support the purchase of food for the Blessing in a Bag backpack program. Involving the children and youth in this mission activity helps them learn the importance of giving back and “giving thanks with a grateful heart” to their friends and schoolmates.

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

- Cheryl Henderson, member of Massanutten Presbyterian Church, the Hunger Funds Subcommittee and the Committee on Mission and Outreach



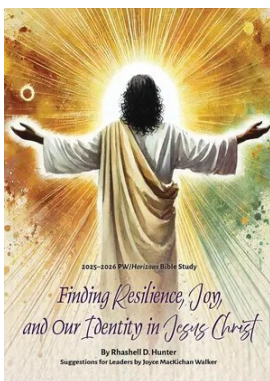
## Bulk Book Orders Available Soon

It's almost time for bulk book orders! Watch your emails for more information.

The 2025–2026 Presbyterian Planning Calendar is your indispensable companion for purposeful planning from September 2025 to December 2026.

*New Orientation:* The calendar grid is now vertical instead of horizontal and will span across two pages for double the writing space for personal dates and notes.

There will also be a new Book of Order 2025–2027, along with the Book of Confessions 2016. All will be available soon to order.



## Presbyterian Women's Horizon Bible Study Overview Coming in July

Associate General Presbyter, the Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao, will be leading an overview of the 2025–2026 PW/Horizons Bible Study, “Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ”. This will be via Zoom on Thursday, July 31, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

To register for the July 31 Overview, [click here](#).

For more information about the study, visit the PW page at: <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/resilience/>.

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



Rev. Erin Skinner,  
Ministry Relations Officer  
of the Presbyterian Foundation

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HR Rev. Harry Daniel

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You may view documents of our  
Stated Meeting of Presbytery  
of May 20, 2025 on our web page:  
[https://shenpres.org/presbytery-  
meeting/](https://shenpres.org/presbytery-meeting/).

## Breakout Groups at the 205th Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery Discussion of Adult Spiritual Formation



## “Opequon Church Expands with a Place at the Table to Meet Growing Needs”

Opequon Church, known as the “Mother Church of the Valley,” is proud to announce an exciting new expansion project designed to meet the growing needs of both its congregation and the wider community.

Founded in 1732, Opequon Presbyterian Church (OPC) is the oldest Presbyterian congregation west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. For nearly 300 years, it has been a beacon of faith, resilience, and service. From its humble beginnings with a few settlers, through periods of challenge and growth, OPC today thrives with a vibrant membership of over 500 individuals. Its rich history includes the oldest marked grave site in the Shenandoah Valley, located in the churchyard. Now, OPC is looking to the future.



“Our Capital Campaign and expansion plans—including a new Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, and Music Center—are rooted in a vision cast more than two decades ago,” said Pastor David Witt. “We believe this is God’s call for our next chapter. This 10,000-square-foot addition will enhance our hospitality, fellowship, and outreach as we continue to make a difference in the lives of others.”

The church’s recent community survey confirmed a significant need for larger and more versatile space—not only to support growing congregational activities, but to better serve the community at large.

In keeping with OPC’s longstanding commitment to generosity and service, the church will designate 10% of all pledged campaign funds to support four nonprofit organizations:

- **Local:** Bright Futures of Winchester/Frederick County and Family Promise
- **Global:** New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children (NOROC) and the Illubabor Bethel Synod of the Evangelical Ethiopian Church Mekane Yesus (IBS-EECMY)

“This tithe reflects our values,” Pastor Witt added. “We’ve done this before, during our 2002 sanctuary campaign, and we’re proud to partner again with organizations that share our mission. Our goal is \$1.5 million, which means we will divide \$150,000 between these four outstanding nonprofits.”



Opequon Presbyterian Church invites the community to be part of this meaningful journey. “This expansion is about more than bricks and mortar,” said Pastor Witt. “It’s about ensuring that everyone knows there is—and always will be—a *place at the table*.”



Day Camp at Camp Paddy Run is turning the **BIG 40**  
... and we'd like you to be a part of the celebration!

*You're Invited!* Please join us for an extra special Closing  
Ceremony & Dedication on  
**Friday, June 27th**

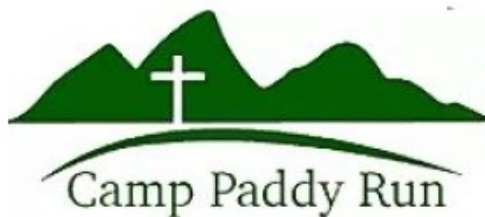
Arrive starting at 1pm | Ceremony starts at 1:30

Bring a camping chair if you wish and plan to tour our new swimming pool after the ceremony!

**RSVP** By June 25th

[DayCamp@camppaddyrun.org](mailto:DayCamp@camppaddyrun.org)

Thankful to the Parish of the Valleys  
churches for starting this tradition!



**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!

### June 2025

- 2 - CCVT 1:00 pm
- 7 - CMO 10:00 am at Navigation Center
- 11 - CPM 10:00 am
- 12 - COM 9:30 am
- 18 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am  
at Presbytery Office
- 18 - CER 11:00 am  
at Opequon Church
- 18 - CNCD 1:30 pm
- 23 - Shenandoah Press Deadline
- 26 - CPA 1:30 pm  
at Presbytery Office
- 26 - CRE Oversight 4:00 pm

### Other Dates

- 19 - Pastors' Meeting 12:00 pm
- 21 - Boundary Training 9:30 am
- 26 - Boundary Training 6:30 pm

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

