



Issue 5

Important Announcements from the Presbytery of West Virginia

February's Stated Meeting will now be a hybrid meeting at Village Chapel Presbyterian Church with an option to join the meeting on Zoom. Registration will be opening soon, so please plan to join us on Saturday, February 21, 2026!

2026 Dates for Bluestone

WEEK 1: JUNE 21-27
WEEK 2: JUNE 28-JULY 4
SUMMER SEND-OFF
RETREAT: JULY 3-5

GUYS' WEEKEND:
APRIL 24-26
SPRING GETAWAY:
MAY 1-3

Contact Mark Miller for
more information.

The Presbytery is gathering a list of our church's Lenten practices. Please send what your church does to mark the season on Lent to Kristin Rhodes at communications@wvpresbytery.org by Friday, January 30.

We will be compiling a list of churches offering Ashes to Go. Please let us know if your church should be added to this list.

Please note:
Publications from
the Presbytery
are best
viewed on a
computer.

SAVE THE DATE



**An evening of live music, dancing,
food, drinks, and a silent auction.**

Raising funds for
**Saturday of
Service**, a project
of Edgewood
Presbyterian
Church, serving
food and
fellowship to the
community.

Saturday
March 28, 2026
6:30p – 11p

**WVSOM
Student Center**

Sponsored by
**WVSOM Christian Medical
Dental Association**

Living Matthew 25: Feeding the Hungry, Serving with Love

“TELL ME A STORY” Festival of Faith

Saturday, March 21, 2026 from 9:30 am to 3:45 pm

First Presbyterian Church, Charleston



Keynote: The Widow's Mite and the Widower's Might: Seeing Scripture in Ordinary Actions

Keynote Presenter: Bil Lepp, storyteller, author, and recording artist

This year's Festival of Faith promises to be another exciting day of learning, fellowship, and worship. Complete information will be sent in an eblast the week of January 19 and will also be available on the website. The early registration deadline is Monday, March 2. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend! You'll have the opportunity to grow in faith and knowledge, gain insights and skills to take back to your congregation, and connect with colleagues in ministry.



COMMUNION TRAINING FOR RULING ELDERS **Sunday, February 1 from 3:00-5:00 pm on Zoom**

The presbytery has a responsibility for “authorizing and training specific ruling elders to administer or preside at the Lord’s Supper when it deems it necessary to meet the needs for the administration of the Sacrament.”(G-3.0301b) As the Presbytery seeks to fulfill this responsibility, Susan Sharp Campbell, Associate for Educational Ministry, will hold a training event on Sunday, February 1, from 3:00-5:00 pm on Zoom.

All sessions, particularly those whose churches do not have pastoral leadership, are invited to send ruling elders (they don’t have to be on the session currently) to this event. However, all participants must be approved by the session of their church of membership to be authorized; ideally this would be done prior to the training, but it may follow.

Part of the preliminary assignment includes reading sections of the 2025-2027 Book of Order. This can be downloaded at <https://pcusa.org/resource/book-order-2025-2027-interactive-version> or ordered from <https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/9798988550143/book-of-order-20252027.aspx>. You might also check to see if the Presbytery has any copies available for sale.

Advance assignments will be emailed the week of January 19.

There is no cost for this event. The registration deadline for these events is Monday, January 19. Complete information can be found here: www.wvpresbytery.org.

To register, please send your name, church, email, phone, and date of session approval to attend this training to susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com. If you have any questions, you may contact Susan at this email address or 304-667-9428.

Invitation to Healthy Boundary Training Event

The Committee on Pastoral Ministry sponsors workshops on healthy boundaries in ministry including financial, social media and relationship boundaries as well as sexual misconduct prevention and child and youth protection. These events strengthen and refresh skills for all presbytery leaders as well as comply with the policies of the Presbytery and the Book of Order. All leaders – ministers of Word and Sacrament; Certified Christian Educators; Certified Associate Christian Educators; Commissioned Pastors; candidates, inquirers, and supply preachers including Authorized Lay Preachers; officers and employees of the Presbytery; members of committees, councils and commissions – are required to complete a Healthy Boundary Training Workshop. The Book of Order requires that training be completed every 36 months.


The Committee on Pastoral Ministry is tasked with implementing this updated requirement. This event is open to all leaders to receive the required training led by Susan Sharp Campbell and Maureen Wright. To register for this event, please email info@wvpresbytery.org or contact Susan Sharp Campbell or Maureen Wright.

Session Record Review Events 2026

Clerks of Session are invited to attend the first quarter Session Record Review for 2025 minutes. The in-person event will be held on Sunday, February 22 at 3:00 PM at Rock Lake Presbyterian Church in South Charleston. The Zoom event will take place on Monday, February 23 at 7:00 PM.

Additional events for 2025 records will be held quarterly in person and online. Clerks of Session (or a representative) will need to attend an event by October 2026.


The events are:




April 2 – Greater Bridgeport/Clarksburg Area in person event, 3:00 PM



April 3 – Zoom event, 3:00 PM



August – Greater Lewisburg Area in person event & Zoom event, dates TBD



October – Greater Huntington Area in person event & Zoom event, dates TBD

The checklists for the 2025 record review events will be posted on the website by Monday January 12. Please use the correct form for the type of event you attend. If you have any questions, [contact the Stated Clerk, Maureen Wright.](#)

Montreat Youth Conference II

Youth in grades 8-12 and adults over 21 are invited to Montreat's Youth Conference II in Montreat, NC, from Saturday, June 14 to Saturday, June 20, 2026. Find more details and the registration forms [here](#).

2026 IRS Standard Mileage

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2026, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be: 72.5 cents per mile driven for business use, up 2.5 cents from 2025.

14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations; the rate is set by statute and remains unchanged from 2023. Note: The rates apply to fully-electric and hybrid automobiles, as well as gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles.

While the mileage rate for charitable use is set by statute, the mileage rate for business use is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes, meanwhile, is based on only the variable costs from the annual study.

2026 Per Capita

The 2026 Per Capita rate is \$33.00 per member, according to the church's membership in the most recently file statistical report. With the total rate at \$33.00 per member, the Presbytery of West Virginia will keep \$19.34, sending \$11.26 and \$2.40 to the General Assembly and Synod of the Trinity, respectively.



Church Treasurers and Finance Committees

As the Treasurer of our Presbytery, I am reaching out to offer my support and assistance to you in your vital role within your congregations. Navigating the financial responsibilities of a church can often feel like a daunting task. However, you don't have to face these challenges alone. I am here to help ease your burden and provide guidance wherever needed.

I understand the unique complexities involved in managing church finances, and I am committed to offering support to your church. Whether you require assistance with budgeting, financial reporting, or any other aspect of financial management, I am at your service. Furthermore, I am more than willing to make visits to your church if that would be beneficial to you. Sometimes, a face-to-face conversation can be the most effective way to address concerns and find solutions. Please feel free to reach out to me at treasurer@wvpresbytery.org or 304-744-7634 any questions or to schedule a visit.

Together, let's ensure that our congregations are equipped with the financial tools and support they need to thrive.

Pieces of the Presbytery is distributed the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. If you wish to include an announcement or share photos of something your church has done, please send it to [Kristin Rhodes](#) by the second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

Due to the amount of information we will be sharing in February for the Stated Meeting, there will only be one issue of Pieces of the Presbytery on February 26.

2026 Special Offering Calendar

At the Denomination's 226th General Assembly, changes were made to the Churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and we have now gone to three offerings:

- One Great Hour of Sharing Feb 18 – April 5
- World Communion Offering Sept 6 – Oct 4
- Christmas Joy Offering Nov 30 -Dec 20

For more information on each offering visit <https://pcusa.org/giving/special-offerings>.

Portions of Hope: Lessons from the Lead Presbyter

In today's issue of **Pieces**, you will see a new feature from our Presbytery Moderator, John Bolt, titled *Monthly Mod Musings*. The Moderator of Presbytery has a unique role in the leadership of Presbytery both as the one charged with both preserving order at meetings and assisting us to conduct our business efficiently. The Moderator is a member of the Leadership Team and supports congregations – visiting congregations and especially presiding over Commissions to Ordain and Install. As we continue to transition into the Presbytery envisioned in our Presbytery of West Virginia Strategic Plan: A New Season approved in November 2024, I want to lift up the work of the Moderator. This monthly column is one of the ways that I hope you will come to better understand the work of the Moderator and to hear leadership voices beyond the Presbytery staff. I will continue to offer my Portions of Hope: Lessons from the Lead Presbyter feature so look for both monthly articles!

Monthly Mod Musings

By John A. Bolt, Moderator, Presbytery of West Virginia, 2026

I am one of those folks proud to be a part of the cadre of “cradle Presbyterians,” having been baptized by and a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC– and since been a member of five other Presbyterian congregations as we moved around the country (Anderson, SC; Lithonia, GA; Dallas, TX; Charleston, WV; and now Morgantown, WV).

I have often said that I’m not sure whether it’s God’s providence that my Southern Baptist mother and Methodist father “compromised” on becoming Presbyterian, or if I’ve been shaped and molded by Presbyterianism to be who I am at the core. It’s probably some of both.

So, it was no surprise, really, when at a recent retreat of the PWV Leadership Team and committee chairs, “relationships” was identified as a key trait of the presbytery’s culture. What was somewhat surprising, however, was that it turned out to be the main characteristic – and strength of – the presbytery.

At the same time, many of those present agreed this is an area that needs attention. For too long, for many reasons, it feels as if those relationships have been neglected or taken for granted.

That’s why the Leadership Team, led by Andy Rice, has committed to rebuilding and strengthening those relationships as well as creating new ones with the presbytery’s 100-plus congregations and their members in the coming year. I hope you’ve already noticed a foundational piece of that work with the addition of Kristin Rhodes to the staff as communication coordinator, and her initiative and creation of new vehicles to share each other’s news.

What you’re reading now – at least I hope you’ve stayed with me this far

– is another tool in that work. Monthly Mod Musings (I just can't resist alliteration) will come your way with various observations about the life and doings within the PWV bounds – and maybe some other voices or broader material tossed in for good measure. I encourage you to share your good news, or even your concerns, about the world around you. We have created a new email account to make that easier: moderator@wvpresbytery.org, so please send along your offerings, questions and/or suggestions often as you wish.

One more piece of this puzzle: congregations are encouraged and welcome to invite presbytery leadership to come speak to their members, either as part of a regular worship service or other event. Lead Presbyter and Stated Clerk Maureen Wright, as well as other presbyter leaders are willing to come to you to answer questions, update and/or explain the ongoing restructuring, or present any information you seek. Just ask; it will be helpful if you can give them plenty of lead time – two months is not too much.

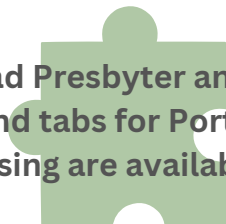
As Presbyterians, we often talk about being a connectional church, although sometimes we lose that sense of connection. We may look upon the presbytery as “they,” but actually, it is we, you and me and more than 5,000 others in our congregations.

When we live that out, we are stronger and more effective in following Christ, who says in Matthew 18:20: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

You will hear more about that retreat at the presbytery stated meeting on February 21 at Village Chapple Presbyterian Church in Charleston.

Grace and peace.

To easily find remarks from our Lead Presbyter and Moderator, please visit our website, select the communications tab, and tabs for Portions of Hope: Lessons from the Lead Presbyter and Monthly Mod Musing are available under Pieces of the Presbytery.



News from the Presbytery

Hunger Grant Awards Distributed to Support Food Ministries

The Presbytery of West Virginia's Mission Committee met Thursday, December 11, to review and select Hunger Grant recipients in support of their food ministries. Ten awards were given for a total of \$25,800.

Recipients include Bates Memorial Presbyterian Church in support of Eastern Cabell County Humanities Organization (ECCHO); Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church in support of The Neighborhood S.H.O.P.; Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Sutton, in support of United Christian Food Pantry; Edgewood Presbyterian Church in support of Saturday of Service (SOS) meals; Elk Hills Presbyterian Church in support of Lower Elk River Ministerial Association (LERMA); First Presbyterian Church, Dunbar in support of Blessing Bags and the Got Lunch Program; First Presbyterian Church, Hinton in support of First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry; First Presbyterian Church, Parkersburg in support of the Mid-Ohio Valley Community Christmas Dinner; Old Stone Presbyterian Church in support of the Lewisburg Fairlea Food Locker; and Philippi Presbyterian Church in support of the Heart and Hand House Food Pantry.

[Read More](#)

Presbytery of West Virginia Hosts Leadership Retreat

The Presbytery of West Virginia hosted a Leadership Retreat for the Leadership Team and incoming committee on December 2 and 3, 2025. Meeting in Charleston, West Virginia, the 15 committee members, the Presbytery of West Virginia 2026 Committee Chairs and the staff worked diligently to shape the next steps after adapting and implementing a new strategic plan, realigning the Presbytery of West Virginia staff and committee structures, and focusing on the future of the more than 110 congregations within our presbytery.

[Read More](#)

View past news releases [here](#).