



PIECES
of the Presbytery

Issue 6

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




Please join the
Presbytery of West Virginia

FOR OUR FIRST STATED MEETING OF THE YEAR.

Saturday, February 21, 2026 9:00 a.m.
Village Chapel Presbyterian Church
3818 Venable Avenue
Charleston, WV 25304

Watch for registration to open next week!




THE PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA
INVITES YOU TO THE

INSTALLATION OF NICK KORETSKY

Sunday, February 8, 2026 • 2:00 pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LOGAN
622 STRATTON STREET
LOGAN, WV 25601



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](#) by
Friday, January 30.

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

Festival of Faith

"Tell Me A Story"

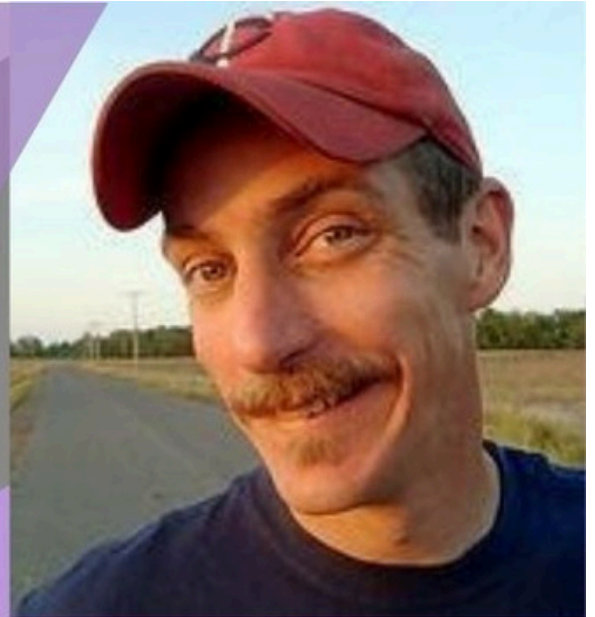
Keynote: The Widow's Mite and the Widower's Might: Seeing Scripture in Ordinary Actions

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

Saturday, March 21

9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Charleston



[Register for Festival of Faith now!](#)

[Download Bulletin Insert](#)

[View Workshop Information](#)

[View more Festival of Faith Information](#)

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](#).

Kuhn Memorial in Barboursville, West Virginia, has the following items available due to their dissolving:

- Communion Serving set
- Communion table
- Baptismal Font
- 2 Pulpits
- 2 standard pianos
- 1 Electronic piano
- 2 flags & Flag poles. 1 with Presbyterian Flag & 1 with American Flag
- Flower stand
- 8 round tables that seat 8, foldable for storage with casters
- 6 rectangular tables 72" foldable
- Several file cabinets
- Dz of sheet music for different musical programs
- New Presbyterian Hymnals
- New Bibles
- 20 blue choir robes, various sizes
- 20 maroon choir robes, various sizes
- Approximately 80 metal folding chairs with portable storage rack
- 2 Desks
- Kuhn Memorial China, various size plates, bowls and cups
- Many kitchen items
- 6 chairs that were on the Chancel in our Sanctuary and our Chapel
- Extension and step ladders
- Many books from our church library

If you are interested in any of these items, please email [Stephen Gold](mailto:StephenGold@kuhnmemorial.org) or call 304-710-0883.



Summer 2026

I want to ...

Come to Camp!

Camp Dates:

Week 1: June 21-27

Week 2: July 1-4

Register Online Feb-1st !

bluestonecamp.org

Scholarships are available!

Work at Camp!

Paid Staff Positions:

Resident Counselor

High School Graduate
College Ages 17+

CIT Support Staff

High School Jrs & Srs

Service Support

Kitchen; Lifeguard

Volunteers Welcome Too!

Camp Nurse; Keyleaders; Crafts & More!

Bring the Whole Family!

Family Camps:

Half-Week #1: June 24-17

Half Week #2: July 1-4

Summer Send-Off

Retreat: July 3-5

Get Some More Info!

Web: bluestonecamp.org

Email: mark@bluestonecamp.org

Phone: call (304) 397-5050 and
leave a voicemail

[Click here for a printable
PDF to distribute at
your church!](#)

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

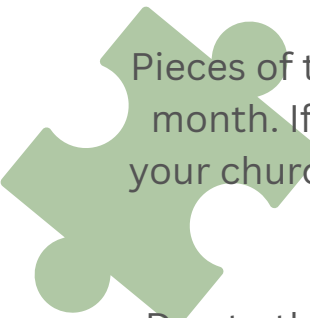


August – Greater Lewisburg Area in person event & Zoom event, dates TBD



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

The checklists for the 2025 record review events can be found [here](#). Please use the correct form for the type of event you attend. If you have any questions, [contact the Stated Clerk, Maureen Wright](#).



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.



Our latest issue of Magnify the Message is out now! [Click here](#) to read stories from First Presbyterian Church, Dunbar; First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown; and Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church and The Neighborhood SHOP.

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 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>.

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.

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.

Portions of Hope: Lessons from the Lead Presbyter

In late December I reminded the Presbytery of the conversations that I had with the Lead Presbyter Search Committee where the theme of hope had shown up and I invited you to join a hope focused conversation. In case you missed it here are the words of that original invitation. –

The Holy Spirit continued to weave hope throughout all of our time together, each interview and conversation. So this is where I will begin my work as Lead Presbyter, over the next few months. I want us to engage in a broad conversation about hope – to think about what the Bible has to say about hope, to think about the role of hope in the Good News of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, to think about the ways hope undergirds our ministry and mission.”

I do not know about you, but I continue to be surprised by the work of the Holy Spirit. At the top of my “to do list” was my plan to gather a list of scriptures, books, articles, pod casts, and more on hope. Most Stated Clerks have mad skills in process and plan building. I do not know if my skills are “mad”, but I am totally on board with a good plan. I have a file on my computer titled, Hope Resources. I even began the January staff meeting with a devotion on hope. I was gleefully checking off boxes on my plan. I am not going to commit blasphemy and suggest that the Holy Spirit ruined my plan, but let me say that my plan was interrupted when the Holy Spirit kept turning my attention to the question, what is hope?

As I reflect on that question, I am reminded of a statement made by DeEtte Decker who led the retreat in December for the Leadership Team and new committee chairs. She began her time by sharing that hope is a positional statement. What? She went on to state that hope is a muscle that gets stronger with use. What? She challenged these Presbytery of West Virginia leaders to answer the question, is my life marked by hope? Again, what?

Back to my awesome plan for a moment. In keeping with what I have been taught about best practices in Bible study, I had started a list of scriptures about hope and was set to do a word study on hope. This would become the basis of today's article.

The story that keeps coming to mind when I think about hope is the resurrection story, especially the post resurrection appearances of Jesus. These stories start with the disciples and followers of Jesus in hiding because they are afraid. Their grief, the loss of Jesus, is overwhelming. They can see no path forward. They have no hope. The familiar Road to Emmaus story begins with the disciples unable to think about what is next, without Jesus they can see no path forward. They have no hope. Yet we know that as disciples encounter the risen Christ, they begin to see the path forward as those who believe in the risen Christ. The resurrection story is THE story of hope. It is the basis of our declaring our belief in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ which changes our lives. It is the basis of our saying that we are called as individual disciples into the work of God's kingdom, to witness to our communities of our faith. The resurrection story is THE story of invitation into the conversation of what hope is.

This story calls us from our own places of fear and hiding – grief, life changing illness, a changing world, churches with less people, less energy, and less money. It is a story that challenges us to look back to the Israelites being led by Joshua. Remember Joshua 1: 6-9; the passage includes the words, “Be strong and courageous”. It is a story that invites us to be resurrection people. What is hope?

Resurrection people, Jesus Christ is our hope. He invites us to abide in this hope – to explore what hope means for the Presbytery of West Virginia and its churches. God is calling all of us to be strong and courageous – to abide in Christ, accept the mantle of hope and do the work that God is calling us to do together. I invite you to join me in this.

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.

