



Issue 8

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

## Church Events and Outreach Ministries

We want to stay connected with our churches and highlight every single one! To best fulfill that effort, we need to know all the events, ministries, services and collaborations for which your church is known.

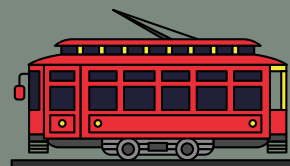
Please [complete this survey](#) of simple check boxes so we can plan to share your story soon!

## Directory Updates Still Needed

We are working on the 2026 Directory. If your church has not submitted a 2026 updated Directory form, please do so as soon as possible. You may fill out the form [online](#) or [print](#) and mail or email the document to [info@wvpresbytery.org](mailto:info@wvpresbytery.org).

## Mr. Rogers Day

March 20, 2026, is Mr. Rogers Day. We encourage you to wear a sweater and share a picture with us on our Facebook page!



## The Presbytery of West Virginia/ Nyeri Presbytery Partnership

In 1998, the Presbytery of WV and Nyeri Presbytery of the Presbyterian church of East Africa initiated a Covenant of Understanding, which has been renewed several times over the intervening year. Now, the partnership is up for renewal again, and the Outreach Committee is seeking to determine the ongoing vitality of this project and how churches have been engaged in this partnership. Click below to read the complete document with questions to consider and The Covenant of Understanding.

Please complete this [questionnaire](#) by Friday, March 20, 2026.

## Upcoming Events at Union Presbyterian Seminary

### **The Sprunt Lectures (May 4–6, Richmond)**

Our [116th annual Sprunt Lecture Series](#) brings pastors and Christian leaders together for worship, learning, and conversation. This year's speaker is Dr. Gregory C. Ellison II (Emory Candler) sharing lessons from Howard Thurman's *Growing in Love* sermons, with preaching from Rev. Anna George Traynham (UPSem '14).

### **Ecumenical Transitional Leadership Training (May 17–June 4, hybrid)**


Through our Leadership Institute and a partnership with Eastern Mennonite, we're offering [training for pastors serving congregations in seasons of transition](#)—designed for interim ministers, COM members, and judicatory leaders. There are several different pricing tiers, and we're running early bird pricing through February 15.

### **Resources for Churches**

We've also pulled together a [simple “menu” of programs, learning opportunities, and gatherings](#) for congregations and leaders who want to engage Union as a partner in ministry and formation.

## Session Record Review Events 2026

Clerks of Session are invited to attend the Session Record Review for 2025 minutes. Clerks of Session (or a representative) will need to attend an event by October 2026. **Please note the change of dates in April.** The events are:

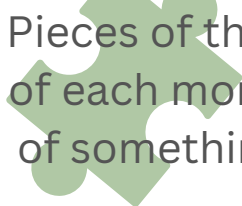
 **April 12 – Greater Bridgeport/ Clarksburg Area in person event, 3:00 PM**

 **April 13 – 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.

### **Lenten Devotion/ Reflection**

On Fridays throughout the Lenten Season (with a few extras during Holy Week) staff and members of the Presbytery will be providing a short devotion/ reflection. If you are not following the [Presbytery's Facebook page](#), now is a great time to begin!

# Festival of Faith

**"Tell Me A Story"**

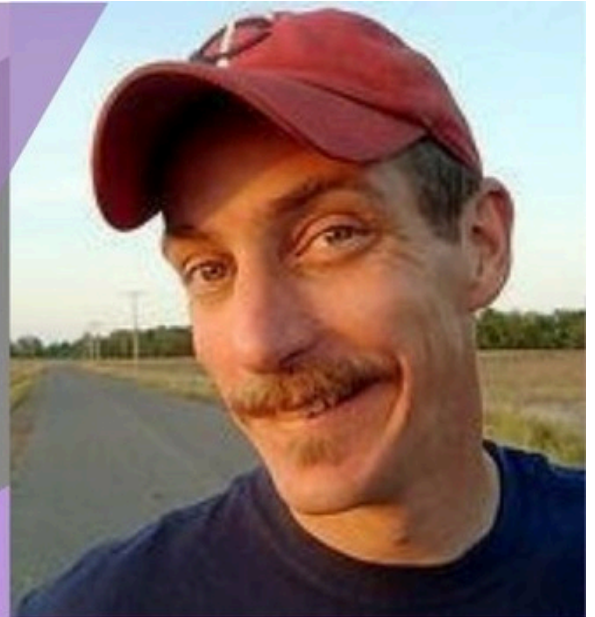
**Keynote: The Widow's Mite and the Widower's Might: Seeing Scripture in Ordinary Actions**

**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](#).

# 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*



# 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](http://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](http://bluestonecamp.org)

**Email:** [mark@bluestonecamp.org](mailto:mark@bluestonecamp.org)

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

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

## Background Checks

To help with data security the Presbytery has moved to a secure encrypted service with box.com to upload private information for background checks. When requesting a background check please either mail to:

Presbytery of West Virginia  
PO Box 11720

Charleston, WV 25339

or upload consent forms via the link below or on the website. If you need any assistance, please contact Chris Alfred.

[Background Check Consent Form](#)

[Upload Background checks](#)

## Grant for BOP Dependent Medical Coverage

At the November 2025 Meeting the Presbytery voted to give \$1,200 grants for 2026 to help churches cover medical dues for congregational pastors with dependent medical coverage. If your church qualifies, please email a request to the Presbytery Treasurer with a copy of your most recent 2026 Board of Pension Statement. This grant will be paid in two installments, once in the spring and the second in the fall.

## Church Annual Financial Review Resources

It's that time of year again to conduct our annual financial reviews, as required by the Book of Order (G-3.0113). These reviews are more than a constitutional requirement, they are an important expression of faithful stewardship and accountability. An annual financial review helps ensure that proper procedures are being followed, resources are handled with integrity, and the congregation can have confidence in the church's financial practices. By completing this review each year and utilizing the available resources, churches strengthen transparency, protect those who handle funds, and demonstrate their commitment to responsible and ethical ministry.

[FINANCIAL REVIEW CHECKLIST- from the PCUSA](#)

*The Volunteer's Audit Guide for Churches & other Non-Profits* is available [on Amazon](#).

## Monthly Mod Musings

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

There's been a lot of energy and imagination, some intelligence, but perhaps not so much love in the air in recent months as people of faith debate the church's role, if any, in that discussion. Much, maybe even most, of it is around the question of how "political" the church should be.

Political is deliberately in quotes because it depends on what is meant by political. Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines the word as "of or relating to government, a government or the conduct of government; of, relating to, or concerned with the making as distinguished from the administration of governmental policy."

Contrast that with the definition of "partisan:" "feeling, showing, or deriving from strong and sometimes blind adherence to a particular party, faction, cause, or person."

And that's what the debate is really about because far too often we say political when what we really mean is partisan.

Should the church be political? Yes.

Should the church be partisan? No.

That's good to keep in mind as we approach Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, we will celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Immediately after Matthew recounts the entry, the very next verse says, "Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves." (Matthew 21:12, NRSVue)

It's not the first time the church has been embroiled in the question of being political.

Were the prophets being political when they repeatedly reminded the Hebrew kings that they had led their nation astray and would suffer the consequences?

Was the church political when Jesus stood up to Pilate? Was the church partisan when the Pharisees took Jesus to Pilate, using the excuse that Jesus had said he was a king?

Were Paul and Peter being political when they challenged Rome and were killed because of it? Were Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Confessing Church being political when they railed against National Socialism?

Was the church being political as ministers and members marched alongside Martin Luther King Jr. during the Civil Rights struggle?

Is it being political in reminding those in power of how we are to treat the “alien in our midst”?

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be faced with this same question when the 227th General Assembly convenes this summer. Two items of business address the issue of Christian Nationalism, one comes from the Presbytery of San Jose, proposing a Book of Order change that would prohibit the denomination from aligning with any theology that seeks to privilege any faith over another, singling out Christian Nationalism.

The second comes from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy in response to a directive from the last GA and asks that the denomination “repudiate ideology and practices of white Christian nationalism in all its forms and affirm the PC(USA) historical support for disestablishment of religion.”

These are important questions as many, including high-ranking government officials, call for a particular kind of “Christian” government of our nation. Let us pray that intelligence and love join the conversation in full force.

To easily find past remarks from our Moderator, please visit our website, select the communications tab, and then the [Monthly Mod Musing](#) tab under Pieces of the Presbytery.

## Older Adult Ministry Corner

As Presbytery's Associate for Older Adult Ministry, I assist members and congregations with education, resources, and connections. I lead workshops on topics impacting seniors and their families, including grief, death and dying, and medical-ethical decision-making. I also do elder training for home and hospital visitation. As a notary I frequently help individuals complete Advance Directives.

I hope to contribute monthly to this newsletter. What should I write about? What topics interest you the most? Please feel free to [contact me](#).

Would you like me to visit your congregation? I would be delighted to jointly create a program which will meet your needs.

About me: I served as a hospital chaplain for thirty years, retiring from Thomas Health System in 2022. Most of my ministry was spent at Saint Francis Hospital in Charleston. I've had a long affiliation with First Church St. Albans and currently moderate the session at Rock Lake Church in South Charleston. A native of Atlanta, I also have lived in California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and North Carolina. I moved to West Virginia in 1995 and fell in love with the state and its people. It's long been home.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kathy Weed

Rev. Kathryn Willoughby Weed

[revka4@gmail.com](mailto:revka4@gmail.com)