



Issue 10

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

### **The Presbytery's Resource Center**

The Nurture and Relationships Committee is presently discerning the future of the resource center, and its contents are not presently available for check out. Thanks for your patience!

### **Session Record Review April 12 & 13**

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.

Join us:

**April 12 in-person at Bridgeport Presbyterian at 3:00 pm; or,**

**April 13 via Zoom at 7:00 PM.**

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](#).

## Solar Sessions From The Holler

On April 23 at 12:00pm, Solar Holler is hosting a virtual Solar Session regarding commercial electrical increases and for many small businesses, nonprofits, and churches how those rising costs are putting real pressure on monthly budgets. It is getting harder to predict, manage or control what you'll owe each month. Rates in our Appalachian region have increased nearly 80% in the last 20 years.

We will be joined by our VP of Commercial Development, Jessica Edgerly Walsh, who will share details about the anatomy of electric bills and how solar can drastically reduce it. We'll also leave plenty of time for questions!

Join us through [Zoom](#). [Click Here](#) for our Facebook Event Link

## Stated Meeting, May 2026:

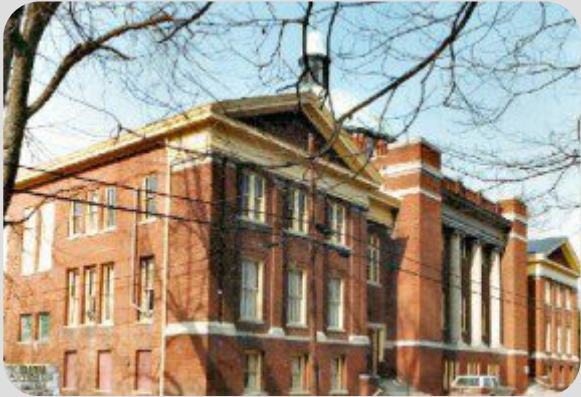
Our second Stated Meeting of 2026 will be here soon! On May 22, 2026, we will gather together at Marshall University Campus Christian Center. Be watching for more information soon and make plans to join us in person!

## Our Churches in the News

- [Ukrainian pastor brings taste of home to Logan community dinner](#)

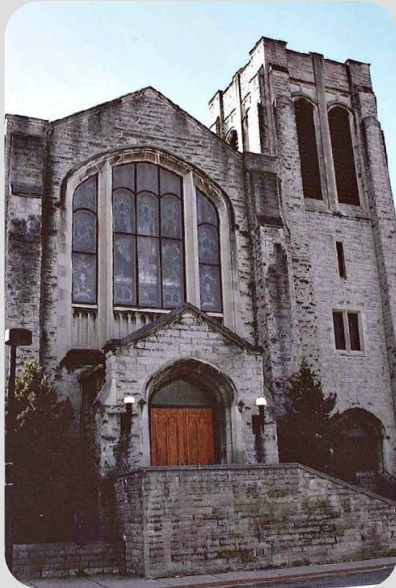
Pieces of the Presbytery is distributed the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. If you wish to include an announcement or share photos of something your church has done, please send it to [Kristin Rhodes](#) by the second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

## Invitations



Join us in celebrating  
Second Presbyterian Church's  
118 years of life and ministry in a  
closing worship service on  
May 17, 2026, at 3:00 pm.

901 Jefferson Street  
Huntington, WV 25704



Join us for  
Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church's  
final worship in the building on  
May 31, 2026, at 3:00 pm.

317 Washington Street West,  
Charleston, WV 25302

### 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.

## 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](#)

## PCUSA Group Ruling-

[Click here to read](#)

There are times when a church will need a copy of its 501C3 letter, which is from the IRS and under the blanket of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). (TechSoup is an example of a vendor that would need a 501c3 letter if someone is creating an account with them.) Use the link above to request the letter from the PCUSA A Corporation General Counsel.

## 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](#).



# 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!](#)

## Monthly Mod Musings

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

### An imagined conversation after Easter

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

*OK, so you say, but what does it matter? I mean I've heard lots of people saying that lately, even greeting each other that way, but WHAT DOES IT MATTER?*

Oh, it matters alright! It matters a lot. It's always mattered, but especially now, I think.

*Really? You really believe it? But why?*

Yes, I believe it and here's why: I've been hearing a lot about hope in the last several weeks. For me and many of the people I know and/or read, the subject of hope has been, as it were, "top of mind," largely because so much of what is swirling around us and the world seems to have sucked all hope out of life.

The resurrection is what I believe brings hope back to life and shows that hope is not misplaced nor is it a fantasy built on two millennia of wishful thinking.

I can go the churchy route, and point you to some (all?) of the confessions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Heidelberg Catechism, question 45:

First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death.

Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life.

Third, Christ's resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.

And The Second Helvetic Confession:



“Even pansies have hope.”

Further by his passion and death and everything which he did and endured for our sake by his coming in the flesh, our Lord reconciled all the faithful to the heavenly Father, made expiation for sins, disarmed death, overcame damnation and hell, and by his resurrection from the dead brought again and restored life and immortality. For he is our righteousness, life and resurrection, in a word, the fulness and perfection of all the faithful, salvation and all sufficiency. For the apostle says: “In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,” and, “You have come to fulness of life in him.”

And The Confession of 1967:

The resurrection of Jesus is God’s sign that [God] will consummate [the] work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

There’s lots more about resurrection in our PC(U.S.A.) Book of Confessions, which you can even read for free online ([The Book of Confessions | Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#))

Perhaps my favorite, though, comes from John Calvin’s commentary on Hebrews. He writes:

The word hope I take for faith; and indeed hope is nothing else but the constancy of faith.

*Yeah, yeah, yeah. Spare me all those words from dead white men decades and centuries ago. What does it mean to me, today, in 2026?*

It means, my friend, that regardless of what things look like today, we have faith that somehow, sometime, the wrongs and evil happening around us will cease. It’s what Martin Luther King Jr. meant when he said, reiterated actually, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

It's what the Rev. Jesse Jackson meant when he implored us to "Keep Hope Alive."

We have faith/hope because, "[u]njustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition [i.e. by sacred and secular establishments], Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. **God raised this Jesus from the dead**, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal." (*A Brief Statement of Faith*, PC(USA), emphasis added.)

I acknowledge that I can't tell you what "resurrection" will look like, but to my way of thinking that doesn't matter.

Will it be "bodily," as we say in The Apostles' Creed; will it be reincarnation, as some believe; will it be ephemeral and/or spiritual, as others suggest? There are, indeed, lots of ideas and concepts out there about what Jesus' resurrection looked like, some more scriptural than others, but there're out there among the Christian world.

I do not pretend to know the details, but I have FAITH that it *will be*.

As Lead Presbyter/Stated Clerk Maureen Wright wrote last week, "I believe that ... hope is a verb, it is action. God calls us to hope. Hope actively, hope with the belief that God will be with the people of God. Hope with your boots on."

And because I have faith, I have hope.

It may be Pollyannish, but I have felt rumblings of Resurrection taking place for a while now. I began sensing it when Phyllis Tickle gave voice to the idea that the church goes through a "rummage sale" every 500 years or so in *The Great Emergence*. (Do the math.)

Since then, we have seen various movements within U.S. Christianity preaching a faith that more resembles the teachings of Jesus, unsullied by the influence of empire, e.g. The Poor People's Campaign.

I feel Resurrection happening in the writings of [Diana Butler Bass](#), e.g. [Grounded](#); the Rev. Dr. Mark Sandlin, a PC(U.S.A.) pastor in North Carolina; and even [James Talarico's](#) the U.S. Senate campaign in Texas.

Look around you, and I think you'll feel it, too, if you'll be open to it.

As the hymn says:

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace;  
singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

*OK, OK, you've made your point. I'll give it a try.*

**To easily find past remarks from our Moderator, please visit our website, select the communications tab, and then the [Monthly Mod Musings](#) tab under [Communications](#).**

## Older Adult Ministry Corner

### Advanced Directives at the End of Life

Aging brings its share of challenges. For some these include long-term illnesses or protracted deaths. As hard as it may be to think about such difficult possibilities, being prepared ahead of time is the best way to ensure we get the kind of treatment we desire. Having our end-of-life wishes documented not only protects us, it also provides helpful tools for our loved ones as they make heart-wrenching decisions.

Simply telling family and friends what we want is an important first step. As a hospital chaplain I frequently worked with family members making medical decisions in the midst of a crisis. When asked if they had ever discussed the patient's wishes with them the most common answer was simply, "No." It's hard enough to make end-of-life decisions when implementing a loved one's wishes. Making them without their guidance is tremendously difficult.

When my father died of Covid during the pandemic we couldn't visit him. We did the best we could with phone calls, FaceTime, and snacks left in the hospital lobby. But Dad had a Living Will, MPOAs, and a pre-planned funeral. The last had to be adapted because of Covid restrictions, but we still managed to have a service which honored his life, even if only seven people could attend. In my grief I appreciated his thoughtful thoroughness since the most important decisions had been made.

There are many kinds of Advanced Directives. The most familiar are medical: Living Wills and Medical Powers of Attorney (MPOA.) Code status decisions are primarily hospital-based: Do we want CPR if our hearts stop? Or do we want to forego any extraordinary treatments once our health has begun to fail? Some Advanced Directives are financial, such as Durable Power of Attorney, and require a lawyer. Funeral-planning can be done with paper, pen, and a pastor. Pre-planned, pre-paid services can be arranged with a local funeral home. Having a Last Will and Testament is often crucial if we own property, lessening possible family conflict over who gets what after we die.

I will write about Advanced Directives in some depth in upcoming issues of Pieces of the Presbytery. In May I will focus on Living Wills and Medical Powers of Attorney. What are they? Is one better than the other? Can we have both? Relevant websites and resources will be included.

Are there specific questions you would like addressed? [Email me](#)

Sincerely,

Kathy Weed

Rev. Kathryn Willoughby Weed

Associate for Older Adult Ministry, Presbytery of West Virginia