



Two Cents a Meal Grant Applications due date has been extended to April 30, 2020. Please send to the Presbytery Office or email to: [julie.dyke@peaks-presbytery.org](mailto:julie.dyke@peaks-presbytery.org)



COVID-19 Responses and Guidelines as of March 24, 2020 are on page 3 of this newsletter.

Committee and Workgroup Meetings scheduled between March 17 and April 30 will be meeting by Conference Call or Zoom. Please check the Presbytery Calendar on our webpage for that information.

Thank you to all of the churches that have provided links to their worship services. Listings are included on the next page.

The Presbytery Office will be closed from March 24 - April 22. We will be working from home. Please contact us through email.

[office@peaks-presbytery.org](mailto:office@peaks-presbytery.org)



Sermons Available from around the  
presbytery:

Northminster Presbyterian Church:  
<https://www.northminsterpcusa.org/worship/audio-sermons/>

Northside Presbyterian Church:  
Facebook Page: Northside Presbyterian  
Church in Blacksburg, VA or  
[www.northsidebburg.org](http://www.northsidebburg.org)

Bedford Presbyterian Church  
[bedfordpresbyva.org](http://bedfordpresbyva.org)

Altavista Presbyterian Church  
[www.altapres.org/worship-services](http://www.altapres.org/worship-services)

Clarksville Presbyterian Church  
<https://www.clarksvillepresbyterian.org/copy-of-worship>

Williamson Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Streaming live via Facebook at 11 a.m. on  
Sunday  
<https://www.facebook.com/WilliamsonChurch/>

First Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg  
1. Live Radio Broadcast, Sunday at 10:30 a.m.  
on 105.9 FM, WLNI  
Radio's streaming service:  
<https://v7player.wostreaming.net/2216>  
2. Streaming live via Facebook at 10:30 a.m on  
Sunday  
<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>

Second Presbyterian Church  
1. Streaming live via Facebook at 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday  
<https://www.facebook.com/spresroanoke/>  
2. Two podcasts: Second on the Mount and  
Child of God  
<http://www.spres.org/connect/podcasts/>

Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Streaming live at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday on  
[twitch.TV/QMPC](http://twitch.TV/QMPC)

New Dublin Presbyterian Church  
<https://www.newdublin.org/blog/categories/online-worship-services>

First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski  
<https://melissank.podomatic.com/>

Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church  
[www.youtube.com/rcpres](http://www.youtube.com/rcpres)

Salem Presbyterian Church  
<https://www.facebook.com/Salem-Presbyterian-Church-251197948291932>

Forest Hills Presbyterian Church  
Streaming live at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday  
<https://youtu.be/ufkGCKiCIU>



## **Covid-19 Responses and Guidelines – Carl Utley, Transitional General Presbyter**

I'm still trying to wrap my mind around all that is occurring in our present time because of Covid-19. In light of the Governor's executive order that goes into effect tonight, I urge the following:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge God, and God will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

**In the midst of all the uncertainties, put your confidence in God.** Faith does not exempt us from trouble, but in Christ God is certainly with us and already at work to heal our distress.

"Pray without ceasing." The full text from 1 Thessalonians 5 reads:

"Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Under stress, people are prone to get fussy and impatient. **The will of God in Christ is clear – we are called to be peacemakers, now more than ever – to encourage, to help, to nurture patience, to resist evil, and to do good.**

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." (Matthew 7:12)

**For goodness' sake, stay home. Love your neighbor by keeping your distance. Suspend ordinary congregational worship and gatherings through April 22nd.**

Even congregations that regularly worship with fewer than ten people, exercise the extreme caution and common sense that medical professionals are urging. God is glorified when we unite in a common purpose – to take care of each other and prevent further illness.

**I know – that cuts into Holy Week and Easter. The resurrection, however, is a reality that can be celebrated in our homes and next year we can celebrate together again. Take the long view. The Lord still reigns and will in 2021.**

**Make use of technology as it is available to you.** "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." (Psalm 24:1) The internet may not be an unqualified good, but it certainly can connect us.

The presbytery is collecting online worship services, teaching, and devotionals, that pastors and congregations are creating and posting. We are also posting regularly on the presbytery's Facebook page.

**If members of your congregation do not have internet access, send them a hard copy of what you are doing. Paper, postage, and mail service still work.**

**The Presbytery staff will be working from home for the next 30 days.** We will continue to check mail and voice messages, answer emails, collect and disburse funds, and assist you in all the ways that we are able. Committee meetings will be held via Zoom or conference call. We will also take advantage of the time to attend to the writing projects that we as a staff never have time for in the ordinary course of business.

**The May 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbytery meeting will undoubtedly be cancelled when Cabinet meets this Thursday.** The cabinet will consider a proposed called meeting for Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, for essential business. It would be a morning only meeting at the presbytery office. We will wait and see what is possible.



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## Resources for Families with Children

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Each week we'll be providing in our emails and on our [Facebook](#) page a [free story with corresponding activities](#) and a [pack of five coloring pages](#) from the children's curriculum, Growing in Grace and Gratitude. Click the links above for this week's offering.

Our friends at Flyaway Books have a full list of free and downloadable activities like an [origami butterfly](#), a [paper airplane](#), parable-themed [coloring pages](#), and [more](#). Also, if you have some of their children's books, there are discussion guides as well.

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## Resources for Adults

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Our friends at Westminster John Knox Press have made a number of resources available for free or reduced cost.

You can [download chapter five](#) from Walter Brueggemann's new book [Materiality as Resistance](#). This chapter is about how the materiality of place informs our faith. As our concept of place changes during this crisis, this is an appropriate chapter to study individually or as a church community.

- The following three ebooks are available for free through Amazon Kindle:
- [Living into Lent by Don McKim](#) can be used as a devotional or group study. Please share this link with your church members and utilize the book for devotion and group study. You may read aloud from the book on live-streaming platforms. We ask that you read small sections at a time and not have your videos permanently online. Facebook groups are a great way to organize book studies. Leaders can ask questions and post videos and all can participate.
- [Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality](#) by Tim Stead can help provide readers with mindfulness practices during this time.

[Overcoming Stress](#) by Tim Cantopher, MD, offers information on both acute treatments and longer term management in avoiding stress and its ill effects.

[An ebook sale is also happening right now](#) from our ebook provider friends through Friday, March 27. You can also find all of these books in printed form on PC(USA) Store.

Last year Westminster John Knox Press also [started a Facebook group about reading the Bible in a year](#) using the resource, [The Year of the Bible](#). You don't need to have the book to participate in the group and readings and group discussion questions are posted in the group. The ebook version is currently on sale in the sale listed above if you want access to the book.



## PRESBYTERY CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location
3/24/20	2:00 p.m.	P.L. Search Committee Meeting	Conference Call
3/26/20	9:30 a.m.	Cabinet Meeting	Zoom
3/26/20	12:30 p.m.	POPYOCO Adults	Zoom

[On-Line Calendar](#)

**Peaks Postings** is published each week on Tuesday. Please submit news, events, or prayer requests **by noon on Mondays** to Julie Dyke at [julie.dyke@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:julie.dyke@peakspresbytery.org) for inclusion in the following issue.

**Guidelines for announcements or news items to be featured in *Peaks Postings*:**

- Keep the information to one page or less.
- Use links to web sites rather than including lots of details.
- Please obtain permission from the people pictured in your photos before submitting them to *Peaks Postings*.

**Peaks Postings Editors reserve the right to**

- feature or not feature an article. Our first priority is to feature activities within POP churches and the Presbytery.
- edit submitted articles/announcements.
- limit the number of weeks an article/announcement is featured.

**Past issues of Peaks Postings are archived for about six months on our website, [Presbytery of the Peaks](#).**

Presbytery of the Peaks  
108 Melinda Dr.  
Lynchburg, VA 24502  
Phone: 434-845-1754  
Toll Free: 1-888-557-3257  
Fax: 434-845-7829  
e-mail: [office@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:office@peakspresbytery.org)  
Web Site: [peakspresbytery.org](http://peakspresbytery.org)

**Julie Dyke**, *Administrative Support*  
**Robin Padgett**, *Office Manager*  
**Denise Pillow**, *Hunger Action Advocate*  
**John Wiederholt**, *Stated Clerk*  
**Carl Utley**, *Transitional General Presbyter*  
**Rachel Shepherd**, *Transitional Associate Presbyter for Discipleship*

“Building partnerships in Christ, to empower communities of faith to be the  
Body of Christ for the world.”