

PEAKS POSTINGS

September 1, 2020



Facebook Outreach Webinar from the Church Development Committee

The CDC is doing a follow up webinar on how to do Facebook ads for your church. Last time, we covered some Facebook ad strategies that some of our churches are using to get more virtual attendees during the pandemic. In the follow up, we'll be walking one of our churches through the entire process, start to finish, so that you can see exactly how it's done and ask any questions you might have. The Webinar will be held on Zoom at 10am on Wednesday September 2nd. Register for this event on the Presbytery Webpage under events beginning August 19.

Register Now!

Boundary Training Workshop, Sept. 17th

The Sexual Misconduct Policy Committee will be hosting the Boundary Training Workshop presented by Church Mutual Insurance, Sept. 17, at 10:00 a.m.

This training is **REQUIRED** for all active Teaching Elders, Commissioned Pastors and Certified Educators.

You must register for this event on the Presbytery of the Peaks webpage under events by September 16 at 4:00 p.m.

Another training session will be held in the spring if you are unable to attend this one.

For questions contact Lisa Marshall at:
mlambgarden@aol.com

Register for Fall 2020 Pathways Online Courses at Union Presbyterian Seminary

- › Courses open to all, including Commissioned Ruling Elder candidates or any individual seeking further knowledge & edification
- › Each course meets weekly for five (5) weeks, 7:00pm – 9:00pm EST
- › Two courses, Biblical Interpretation and Polity & Administration, begin this September 2020
- › Two more courses, Reformed Theology/Church History and Teaching the Bible, begin this October 2020

For more info, click here: [Pathways Online Courses](#)



Dear friends and colleagues,

I am deeply grateful that you have elected me as your General Presbyter. I've gotten to know our congregations and leaders fairly well over the last three years while serving as the transitional presbyter, and I am pleased to know that we'll be walking the journey of faith together in the coming years. I am grateful that my election coincided with the approval of a new mission study and design, and the announcement of a "transformation team" whose members promise to be competent and faithful stewards of our broad vision. We all recognize that life and ministry are changing. It seems to me that we are being called back to our fundamental roots - to be connected to each other in caring and responsive relationships, to work together in and with Christ because we need each other, and most fundamental of all - we are being called to a renewed commitment to be the body of Christ in and for the world. 2020 has been apocalyptic so far - a revealing - of just how deeply the world is in need of the saving grace of God. I am confident that God continues to heal the world and I also think Peaks Presbyterians have more to offer God and the world. Honestly, I hope we can begin to have greater expectations of each other. It is human nature: if we expect little we get little, and when we expect more, even excellence, we are far more likely to become better servants of the Lord.

I am moving this week to Roanoke - just a mile or two off the population center of our presbytery. No, I'm not having 12,000 over for dinner any time soon. But I will be coming to you. We'll use communication technology for necessary business. But I look forward to the free movement we'll enjoy post-Covid. Relationships are built face to face, in person, over coffee. Let's see where God leads us.

The administrative home base will continue to be in Lynchburg, where Robin and Julie competently anchor the presbytery's daily business. More staff will be hired soon to complement the work that the presbytery is doing, according to the approved mission study report. A Program Director for Discipleship will begin in a couple of weeks - preparing for Fall and Winter youth and young adult ministries, and anticipating Camp Peaks in a post-Covid Virginia. A Communications Director position description has been approved and I expect that person will be hired soon. That position is a reflection of how the church is adapting, not just to Covid, but to the digital context in which we live and in which we communicate the gospel. The pandemic has been a kick in the seat of the church, compelling us to catch up with the world. The new communication (and technology director) is expected to equip us for the new landscape. The search for a neighborhood presbyter will take place after we've had a conversation as a presbytery about race and representation. When the presbytery was formed 30 years ago a commitment was made to our Black congregations that an African American would always be on the staff of the presbytery. The promise, the reasons for it, how it has been fulfilled and when fulfillment lapsed and why... all of these need a fresh look before we search for another presbyter. Once we have discerned together our current needs and commitments, we'll be in a position to fulfill the plans approved by the presbytery.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your general presbyter.

In Christ,

Carl Utley

The Presbytery of the Peaks is God's people dispersed throughout our region. When Covid-19 is under control and we are more free to travel, I'll be where our folks are



Presbytery Seeking Candidates for the Position of PRESBYTERY STATED CLERK

The Presbytery of the Peaks is encouraging applicants to apply for the position of Presbytery Stated Clerk for the 2021-2024 term of office. An updated position description, a list of the qualifications/personal characteristics needed and an application form have been mailed to the clerks of session of each church in the presbytery as well as teaching elders and CPs. You can also view these documents on the presbytery web site under 'job openings.' Applications may also be obtained by contacting Rev. Jim Slate, (Chair, Stated Clerk Nominating Comm.) at (540) 968-2994 or by email at corley@ntelos.net. Applications should be received by September 20, 2020.

Grant Applications Due October 1, 2020

Through the generosity of our congregations, members and friends, \$41,500 has been awarded in 2020 through Two Cents-a-Meal grants.

Thank you to all who have continued to support this offering during especially challenging times. The need is greater than ever for those dealing with hunger and poverty.

The next, and final round of 2020 grant awards will be made in late October. Applications must be postmarked by October 1 and should be sent to: Presbytery of the Peaks, 108 Melinda Drive Lynchburg, VA 24502 or emailed to office@peakspresbytery.org.

Has your church been doing a creative and interesting ministry during this time of coronavirus? We would like to hear about it. The Church Development Committee is compiling a list of all the ways people in our Presbytery are responding to this pandemic crisis. Whether it's a worship practice, something on Zoom, or just something you're doing for fun and fellowship, please share it with us! Our goal is to share our best practices with one another so we can replicate good ideas. Please let us know what you are doing by sending an email to:

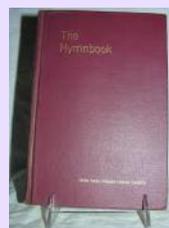
revjimmos95@gmail.com

Thank you!

- Jim Moss

Chair, Church Development Committee

Northminster Presbyterian Church has hymnbooks to give away. They have 103 red hymnals (The Hymnbook), 103 blue hymnals (The Presbyterian Hymnal) and a 12 volume set of The Interpreters Bible. Call the church office at 366-8115 between 9:00 am and noon if you are interested.





PRESBYTERY CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location
9/2/20	10:00 a.m.	Church Development Webinar	Zoom
9/7/20		Office Closed – Labor Day	
9/8/20	1:30 p.m.	Missions Committee Meeting	Zoom

Next Presbytery Meeting:

November 19, 2020

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@peaks-presbytery.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](#).

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Robin Padgett, *Office Manager*
Denise Pillow, *Hunger Action Advocate*
John Wiederholt, *Stated Clerk*
Carl Utley, *General Presbyter*

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