



PEAKS POSTINGS

June 30, 2020

A bulletin summary of the June 13, 2020 Called Presbytery Meeting is now available on the Presbytery of the Peaks Webpage.

The Loving Thing to Do – Cabinet Decides to Lean Into Zoom

Concluding his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul writes:

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.

Meeting on the 4th Thursday of June, Presbytery's Cabinet voted to do what in their eyes is faithful to Jesus' call to love one another, particularly the most vulnerable, and Paul's admonition to seek the good of all. By unanimous consent Cabinet members agreed to hold electronic meetings via Zoom for both the August and November 2020 meets of the presbytery.

Presbytery meetings require no small amount of advanced planning, so the decision about where, when and how to host a meeting during the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak also needs to be made well in advance. With the positive feedback for our first effort at a Zoom meeting on June 13, we will keep learning how to best make use of this popular platform.

Paul encourages the church to pray without ceasing and to give thanks in all circumstances. The Cabinet gives thanks to God for all of you, and pledges to be faithful stewards of everyone's life within the scope of their responsibilities.

We have the means to continue in ministry as a presbytery. Thanks be to God.



Pastors, Session Clerks, Treasurers, Finance and Personnel Committees



Board of Pensions Benefits Update for 2021

The Board of Pensions is putting in place several exciting new benefits for 2021. It may seem early, but the time for churches to consider staff benefit offerings for next year is approaching.

So what's new? Who's eligible? How can my church and I take advantage of these new offerings and packages?

The Presbytery of the Peaks is sponsoring a Zoom conference session with our BOP Church Consultant, Martha Reisner, for a brief presentation and Q&A opportunity. This time is designed for pastors and members of sessions, personnel and finance committees, but anyone is welcome. Please invite the appropriate people in your congregation who might be involved in benefits decisions.

WHEN? Tuesday, July 14, either 10 am or 7 pm. The same information will be presented at both sessions. A registration form will be available next week (in Peaks Postings and on the Presbytery website).

Zoom Webinar, July 8, 10:00 a.m.

Connecting Congregations with their Neighbors through Facebook

Rev. Dave Baker, pastor of Williamson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Ringgold, will be leading an informative and practical webinar on Wednesday, July 8, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. on how make use of Facebook in reaching out to neighbors. In addition to being a pastor, Dave has expertise in helping congregations "get the word out" through internet platforms.

No matter what size your congregation might be, if you have a Facebook page, you can benefit and so can your neighbors who might be seeking a relationship with God.

Dave will cover topics such as:

- How to advertise effectively on Facebook; The variety of ads; What is the cost?; Where to spend the money and what to avoid;
- What works for video; Creating images and when to use words; How to follow up with people who express interest?;
- Case studies: Examples of what is working

The goal is to connect with real people in your community.

The Webinar will last one hour followed by a thirty minute Q/A session. For more information, contact the Presbytery Office. You can register below.

[Register Here](#)



Matthew 25 in the PC(USA):

A bold vision and invitation

Actively engaged in the world

What is a Matthew 25 church?

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

How the vision unites all Presbyterians

By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, you can help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world. We recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. And we rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission.

A 3-minute introduction to Matthew 25

[Watch the video](#) | [Watch the longer version \(8 minutes\)](#) | [The 40-second version](#)

Download video instructions (hover cursor over this line for instructions)

To learn more about becoming a Matthew 25 congregation, visit

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>



Greetings from UKirk! We are busy planning for the end of August when the students will come back to campus. Things will be different with all of the extra health safety measures because of Covid-19. One thing remains the same and that is the students' excitement about returning to their faith community here at VA Tech. We want to welcome new students into our midst and we need your help in finding those students. Please send me the names and addresses (email and snail) of young adults who will be entering VA Tech this fall. I want to reach out to them to let them know that they have a home away from home here on Washington Street. My email address is campusminister@pcusa-vt.org and my phone number is 434-426-4599. Thanks in advance for your help with this. I want to close with another reflection from one of our students, Catherine Long, who is a rising Senior.

During our meetings in the Fall semester of 2019, the leadership team was busy planning the events we were going to partake in the spring semester. While we were looking forward to dinners in the backyard of Cooper House and new spring days in Blacksburg, the world took a turn and it felt like the rug was swept up from underneath. UKirk is usually the place to escape from the craziness that envelops campus, but because of the Coronavirus, Cooper House was no longer our physical place to gather. Most of our members left Blacksburg and returned to their families, but even though we were no longer able to be together in person, we quickly pivoted to online gatherings on Tuesday nights. We have met each Tuesday night since the end of March and it has been a great comfort to see familiar faces and hear each other's voices, even if it is through the computer screen. And even during this difficult and uncertain time, UKirk was able to keep supporting, gathering, and praying together. This year has been a series of many firsts for all of us, and we decided as a group that we would continue to meet throughout the summer. All are welcome, and we enjoy being able to see and speak to each other when our schedules allow. The leadership team might have to start from scratch again while planning for this semester, but we are grateful to have our UKirk community to lean on. Thank you to all our covenant churches and to Presbytery of the Peaks for supporting us through this time and we cannot wait to be together again."



PRESBYTERY CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location
7/02/20	1:00 p.m.	Reading in Reformed Theology Class	Zoom
7/06/20	1:00 p.m.	Reading Greek in NT	Zoom
7/07/20	10:00 a.m.	Missions Committee Meeting	Zoom
7/07/20	1:30 p.m.	Sexual Misconduct Policy Meeting	Conference Call

Next Presbytery Meeting:
August 15, 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@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](#).

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