

Peaks Postings

May 26, 2020



Camp Bethel has suspended its summer camps for 2020, including the Presbytery of the Peaks adventure camps. We are sorry not to offer it, but this decision will help keep our kids safe. Have a great summer, and join us for adventure camp in 2021!



Register Now

Presbytery Called Meeting

June 13, 2020

Just a reminder that this will be a Zoom meeting and all participants to the meeting must pre-register. This includes Pastors, CP's, Committee Chairs, and Voting Elders. Registration will close on Monday, June 8 at 4:00 p.m. There will be a practice Zoom meeting for attendees on June 9th at 9:30 a.m.

To register, [click here](#).

Session Records Review and Covid-19

The current remaining schedule for reviewing 2019 Session Records is as follows:

Churches with names beginning P – W are scheduled June 13, 2020 (Zoom)

Churches with names beginning A – C are scheduled August 15, 2020

Churches with names beginning D – H are scheduled November 19, 2020

With the June 13 meeting being a Zoom meeting, P – W churches can either bring their minutes to a future in-person presbytery meeting or mail copies of minutes (please don't mail the only existing original) along with filled-out Session Records Review Forms (no binders or covers please) to Dave Hayes, Session Records Review, Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, 701 Church St. SE, Blacksburg VA 24060. We will mail your review forms and copies of minutes (let me know if you don't need the copies returned to you, saving mailing expense) back to the Clerk of Session. Churches whose minutes are so massive the expense would be prohibitive to mail can bring their minutes to the next in-person meeting whenever that takes place.



TO PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE PEAKS

Sometimes it is difficult to remember when things were normal just a couple of months ago. We have had to really adapt quickly to a new way of life and not being able to get together and see each other. Many of us are working from home and have not been able to just talk with one another face-to-face. This has happened so rapidly, and things continue to change. We are going to be okay, but we will have to make some changes to our programs going forward.

The Peaks PW Coordinating Team wants each of us to be safe as we begin to open activities again. To accomplish that goal, the Coordinating Team will be governed by recommendations from the CDC, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Presbytery of the Peaks.

The Coordinating Team met recently via conference call and made several decisions that we wish to share with each of you.

The decision was made to **postpone the Annual Gathering until the Spring of 2021** (originally scheduled for September 26), if everything is progressing in a positive way at that time. You will receive information regarding the date and location of the Annual Gathering as soon as those details are finalized. **Diane Patty**, Peaks PW Vice Moderator, will organize the Gathering and will send periodic updates to you.

As was announced in the last edition of *Peaks PW News*, PW in the Presbytery of the Peaks has decided to **publish a cookbook**. We are continuing to collect recipes from all over the Presbytery. Please email your recipes to **Theresa Underwood**, Peaks PW Treasurer. Her email address is: tundwood@aol.com.

We normally have a memorial service during our Neighborhood Gatherings, but because of COVID-19, those Gatherings were cancelled. **Carol Cole**, Peaks PW Historian, is compiling a **Memorial Booklet** that will be distributed via hard copy and email within the next couple of weeks so that you will have an updated list of our Presbyterian sisters who died in 2019.

Our Coordinating Team is seeking some leadership positions. We would like for you to consider serving with us. As a result, you will find a cover letter and **“Time and Talents Inventory” form** from **Cynthia Washburn**, Moderator of the Search Committee, on the Presbytery of the Peaks website. If you are interested, we ask that you complete the information and return the form to Cynthia. (Her contact information can be found at the bottom of the inventory form.)

We care about each of you, and we want you to be safe. Thank you for everything you have done to support Presbyterian Women! We look forward to seeing each of you personally in the Spring of 2021. May God bless each of you!

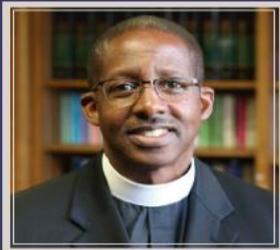
Peaks Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team



A GREAT CLOUD of WITNESSES

PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSICIANS
2020 WORSHIP & MUSIC CONFERENCE AT MONTREAT

— *every time & place* —



Byron Wade
Worship Leader



Jessica Tate
Worship Leader



Eric Nelson
Choral Clinician



Mel Bringle
Routley Lecturer

Join us ONLINE June 21-26, 2020!

Programs for Adults, Youth, and Children

Live Worship and Worship Reflections

Masterclasses with Eric Nelson, Mark Patterson, and Victor Johnson

Daily Concerts, including the Organ Recital and Hymn Festival

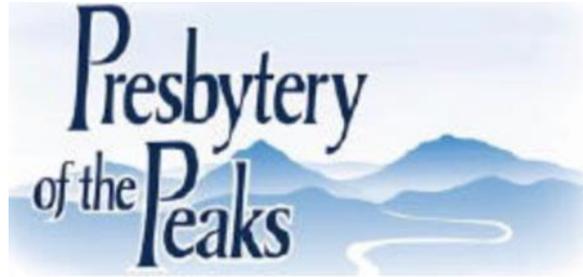
“Montreat Moments” throughout the day - even ice cream at The Huck!

All programs will be recorded - watch any time, even after the conference!

Learn more: www.presbymusic.org/2020conference



**In Case You
Missed This
Last Week...**



**Covid-19 Guidelines Update
Monday, May 11, 2020**

*“All things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial. All things are lawful, but not all things build up.” 1 Cor.
10:23*

As of Sunday, May 17th, by the order of our governor, congregations are permitted, but not required, to hold inside services with 50 percent of the building’s capacity. Though I’m sure some would make a different case, I think it is more prudent to wait until May 31st or longer, giving everyone time to assess the effectiveness of Phase 1 of the governor’s plans. Other denominational bodies, including the Episcopal and Lutheran bishops of Virginia, are advising “not yet.” Out of an abundance of caution, I hope sessions will consider waiting until Phase 2 has been approved, and even then, safety and compassion should govern our decisions more than what is legal. I am confident that those who decide to worship inside will take the precautions that are essential for their context.

One additional consideration: Church members will voluntarily attend or refrain from worship, depending on their self-assessed risk of contracting Covid-19 or contaminating others. For paid staff, such as pastors, church musicians and custodians, a session’s decision will compel their participation. If your paid staff are at risk, or if members of their family are at risk, consider postponing face-to-face worship until such time everyone can be safe.

By Carl Utley, Transitional General Presbyter

When reopening church - a Guide from the Presbytery of the Peaks

By Chad McCain, Jill Allen MD, Mark Hinchcliff, Morgan Whitfield, Carl Utley

The following guidelines are modifications of guidelines circulating nationally.

- Arrange your worship, meeting, or gathering space so that no more than 50 percent of its capacity is filled. Remove chairs from your sanctuary, block off pews, whatever it takes to ensure that family groups can maintain a cautious distance of 6 feet. No one should sit directly behind another.
- Require masks and have hand sanitizer ready. Worship leaders who do not use masks while leading worship should maintain an extra safe distance of at least 15 feet. Each person should clean hands upon entry.
- Prior to any gathering, ask each member to self-screen, using the following questions. If self-screening is unlikely to take place, consider Sunday morning screening by an usher or greeter. A positive answer to even one should compel an individual to stay home:
 - If I attend, can I resist normal contact with people, and can I comfortably follow safe practices while with others?

Continued on next page...



- Am I or anyone in my household vulnerable to Covid-19 because of age or a compromising medical condition?
 - In the last 14 days have I experienced any of the following: fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, difficulty breathing, experienced a sudden loss of taste or smell?
 - Have I traveled by train, plane or ship in the last 14 days?
 - Have I been in contact with anyone diagnosed with Covid-19? Or worked in a facility with a diagnosed case of Covid-19?
 - If I attend, can I resist normal contact with people, and can I comfortably follow safe practices while with others?
4. Before and after each use of the building, conduct a thorough sanitizing cleaning.
 5. We recommend that churches suspend hosting outside groups and committee meetings unless people agree to the very stringent protocol that mirrors the safe practices of the worshipping congregation. Check with your insurer to know what your liability is in case of an outbreak from your church.
 6. Where possible, consider adding digital worship and meetings through YouTube, Facebook Live, or similar services, to include those who choose to stay at home for health reasons or those who are homebound.
 7. Fellowship gatherings should be postponed until conditions have returned to normal.
 8. No physical contact should be included in the morning worship. Instead of handshakes or hugs, people should greet one another with a nod of the head, or bowing, or waving.
 9. Modify the method for collecting offering – using a stationary collection box, the mail, or electronic methods – instead of passing an offering tray.
 10. Communion should be modified or suspended, conducted without passing a tray around the sanctuary.
 11. The National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), Chorus America, the Barbershop Harmony Society, and the Performing Arts Medical Association (PAMA) strongly recommend that group singing be curtailed until such time that there is a vaccine or cure for Covid-19. Research and anecdotal reports have shown singing to spread the virus more quickly than talking or coughing.
 12. Baptism, weddings, and funerals should be conducted according to the same guidelines as general worship.
 13. Cancel Summer VBS unless Phase 3 of the state’s recovery has been approved by the governor, if Phase 3 permits such gatherings.
 14. Postpone children’s church until Phase 3 of the state’s recovery has been approved by the governor, if Phase 3 permits such gatherings.
 15. Insurance- Call your insurer. Is there a liability if people attend a gathering at your church and subsequently fall ill, or if there’s damage while the building is unoccupied, or the possibility that you have a business interruption provision that might help with finances? Policies vary, so you should contact your church’s insurance broker to review your coverages and exclusions. Some insurance companies have posted information on their websites concerning issues during the pandemic event.
 16. Precautions and Procedures in case those “in the know” fall ill or choose to stay home – does more than one person/household know (and where do you find) the:
 - Session records, Emergency contact numbers and protocols
 - Lock down steps to ensure safety, Passwords and login information
 - Email list and program, Financial and computer security systems, Alternate IT support
 - Banking connections, Essential insurance and payroll documents
 - Offsite emergency strategy – where will you shift your operations, Emergency utility shut-offs
 - Transfer of authority if leadership is at risk of quarantine restrictions
 - Updated rosters of congregations and presbytery staff

Resources:

Beginning Conversations for Re-entry

https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/covid-19/beginning-conversations-for-re-entry.pdf

Returning to Public Worship Theological and Practical Considerations

https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/covid-19/returning_to_public_worship_may_2020.pdf

Wisconsin Council of Churches recommendations (great reference)

https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/covid-19/returning-to-church.pdf

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>

<https://www.pcusa.org/covid19/>

[https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorviriniagov/executive-actions/EO-61-and-Order-of-Public-Health-Emergency-Three---Phase-One-Easing-Of-Certain-Temporary-Restrictions-Due-To-Novel-Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\).pdf](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorviriniagov/executive-actions/EO-61-and-Order-of-Public-Health-Emergency-Three---Phase-One-Easing-Of-Certain-Temporary-Restrictions-Due-To-Novel-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).pdf)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility-H.pdf>



PRESBYTERY CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location
5/27/20	10:00 a.m.	G.A. Commissioners	Zoom
5/27/20	2:00 p.m.	CP Workgroup	Zoom
5/28/20	9:30 a.m.	Cabinet Meeting	Zoom
5/28/20	10:00 a.m.	Religion, Health, Body Class	Zoom
6/1/20	10:00 a.m.	Church Development	Zoom
6/1/20	1:00 p.m.	Reading Greek NT Class	Zoom

**Next Presbytery Meeting:
CALLED MEETING
June 13, 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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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.”