



PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS



office@peakspresbytery.org

Welcome To  
**PEAKS POSTINGS**

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS BELOW

## PRESBYTERY CALENDAR

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
7-20-22	1:00 p.m.	Transformation Team



### OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY  
8:30AM - 4:30PM

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An Invitation to Choir Members of the  
Presbytery of the Peaks  
to join in a community choir at  
Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church  
on Sunday, July 31st, 4:00pm for the

Ordination and Installation of  
Pastor Mark Rackley


To be held in the Sanctuary at  
Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church

The community choir will lead two congregational hymns  
and present the offertory anthem, "Here I am Lord",  
an SATB arrangement by Craig Courtney  
Music is provided and there will be rehearsals  
on the following Wednesdays:

July 13th, 20th, and 27th at 7:00 pm

We request that you attend as many rehearsals as you can.

Please RSVP to Joy Siddons, Director of Choirs at  
[Joycesiddons@icloud.com](mailto:Joycesiddons@icloud.com) if you can join us  
for this special service



Now that the 2022 General Assembly has ended – the first-ever hybrid assembly – the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will try to live into the commitments made and the work ahead. Ruth Santana-Grace and Shavon Starling-Louis, the new co-moderators, stood for election using the theme “Unbounded We Thrive,” and the assembly spoke its mind on issues affecting the church and the world.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY 225 ROUNDUP

**Israel/Palestine.** The assembly voted 266-116 to approve one of the most controversial items before it — INT-02, declaring that the PC(USA) recognize the laws, policies and practices of the Israeli government regarding the Palestinian people “fulfill the international legal definition of apartheid.” Some have criticized the PC(USA) stance towards Israel as antisemitic, saying it hurts interfaith relations. Others say the assembly spoke courageously in supporting human rights for the Palestinian people.

**Climate change.** Voting 340-41, the assembly directed PC(USA) entities to divest from five oil and gas companies it concluded are not moving quickly enough to try to slow global warming — Chevron, ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66, and Valero Energy. The vote reflected continued support for the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI)’s strategy of corporate engagement and selective divestment. Action on another item, ENV-09, also affirmed “that working in the fossil fuel industry is a necessity for many” and assured Presbyterians that “divestment is not a condemnation or judgment of their choice of employment.”

**Litany of repentance.** One of the assembly’s most powerful emotional moments came when White Presbyterians recited a litany of repentance from RGJ-08, offering an apology to African Americans for the sin of slavery and its legacy. One assembly committee focused exclusively on issues of race and gender justice — including violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, disparities experienced by Black women and girls, and racial disparities in health care. Other concerns: confronting White supremacy in the PC(USA) and working for reparative justice.

**Gun violence.** With recent mass shootings still echoing, the assembly approved VIOL-07, declaring 2022-2032 a “Decade to End Gun Violence” — asking the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) to develop tools for faith-based advocacy against gun violence and for studying “the intersection of white supremacy culture, Christian nationalism, and gender with gun violence.” It also approved VIOL-11, directing MRTI to begin a process of corporate engagement with Walmart, Dick’s Sporting Goods, and Kroger, three publicly-traded companies included in the investment

portfolios of either the Board of Pensions or Presbyterian Foundation, and which sell guns not classified as semi-automatic and assault-based weapons. (Those weapons previously mentioned are already on the divestment list.)

**Family leave.** The assembly approved a **proposed amendment** to the PC(USA) constitution to say a minister's terms of call shall include at least **12 weeks of paid family medical leave** (covering the birth, fostering or adoption of a child; care for ill or disabled family members; and healing following a loss or tragic event). To take effect, the proposed change needs approval from a majority of the presbyteries.

**Immigration.** The assembly voted 340-25 to declare the PC(USA) a **"sanctuary and accompaniment church"** — saying the denomination stands with immigrants and asylum-seekers and is committed to working for justice in U.S. immigration policy. **That work** often involves Presbyterians accompanying immigrants by offering housing and legal assistance, going with them to immigration hearings and other appointments and trying to get people released from detention.

**Restructuring.** Supporting recommendations from a **special committee**, the assembly voted to **create a commission** with the power to act and the responsibility for unifying the PMA and the Office of the General Assembly — basically, to restructure the top level of the PC(USA). Citing **financial stress on congregations and presbyteries**, the assembly also created a team to develop experimental models as alternatives to the current **per capita funding system**.

**Reproductive justice.** In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the assembly approved a **resolution on reproductive justice** — **saying the PC(USA) rejects** "attempts at all levels of government to reduce, limit, or eliminate access to contraceptive and abortion care."

**LGBTQIA+ equity.** The assembly created a **new LGBTQIA+ Equity Advocacy Committee** as a permanent committee of the General Assembly — equivalent in access and accountability to the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice and the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee.

**Per capita.** The assembly set the **new General Assembly per capita assessment** at \$9.85 per member for 2023 and \$9.80 per member for 2024. **That compares** to the current per capita rate of \$8.98 per member.

**2024 General Assembly.** Presented with four options, the assembly **opted for a hybrid approach** again for the 2024 assembly — choosing **Plan Omega** with online committee meetings and in-person plenary sessions in Salt Lake City, Utah.

It is clear that COVID will influence the way we live and do ministry for years to come. Yet in an adapting world, natural disasters continue to affect communities, who still rely on the generosity of volunteers to support the long-term recovery from floods, fires, hurricanes, and tornadoes. Individuals and families who have been marginalized in the past continue to be marginalized during disaster recovery.

Along with many other faith-based and non-profit groups, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) provides opportunities to step into the gap, walk with those impacted, and work towards healing.



PDA currently has 7 host sites receiving volunteer teams witnessing to the healing love of Christ by supporting rebuilding efforts in areas that have been affected by natural disasters, including tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, and fires.

These sites are:

- Pines Presbyterian Church in Houston, TX Presbytery of New Covenant, Synod of the Sun responding to Hurricane Harvey.
- First Presbyterian Church in Orange, TX, Presbytery of New Covenant, Synod of the Sun responding to the multiple hurricanes that impacted Lake Charles, LA.
- Trinity Presbyterian Church in Oroville, CA, Presbytery of North Central California, Synod of the Pacific responding to the Camp fire that impacted Paradise, CA and surrounding communities.
- La Casona de Monteflores in San Juan, PR, Presbytery of San Juan, Synod in Boriquén responding to Hurricanes Irma and Maria.
- New Hope Village at Neuse Forest Presbyterian Church, New Bern, NC, New Hope Presbytery, Synod of the Mid Atlantic responding to Hurricanes Matthew and Florence.
- Presbyterian Church of the Cross, Omaha NE, Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, Synod of Lakes and Prairies responding to severe flooding.
- We also support an independent site at First Presbyterian Church in Madisonville, KY, Presbytery of Western Kentucky, Synod of Living Waters responding to tornado damage.



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- ***Finally, we plan to open an eighth site at First Presbyterian Church in Calvert City, KY, Presbytery of Western KY, Synod of Living Waters responding to tornado damage. This site is tentatively scheduled to receive volunteers in the late summer of 2022.***

We are writing to ask if you would be willing to share the information about our host sites with your congregations and other interested group, encouraging them to consider sending adult or youth



**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

work groups to one of these sites this year or in 2023. More information is available at [www.pcusa.org/pdavolunteersites](http://www.pcusa.org/pdavolunteersites), or those who are interested can contact Nell Herring (Mission Specialist for Volunteer Ministries) at [PDA.CallCenter@pcusa.org](mailto:PDA.CallCenter@pcusa.org) or (866) 732-6121.

## UKIRK Campus Ministry at VA Tech

At UKIRK, we are making plans for the fall semester. We always get excited thinking about the new students who will come to be a part of our ministry. In talking with students about how they found UKIRK, many of them have said that their pastor or youth director told them about UKIRK and encouraged them to find it when they got to campus. This speaks to the important role that pastors and youth leaders play in our ministry. We need your help in building this ministry and helping students find us. If you have students who will be attending VA Tech this fall, please send their contact information to Kathy Carpenter, Campus Minister: [campusminister@pcusa-ut.org](mailto:campusminister@pcusa-ut.org) I will reach out to them with an invitation. Our welcome picnic is August 23 and our fall retreat at Montreat will be at the end of September.





## FREE PRESCHOOL FURNITURE

First Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg is renovating their school and has children's furniture available for free. The furniture would need to be picked up by the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. Office hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. M-F. For questions, contact the office at [office@fpcly.org](mailto:office@fpcly.org) or 434-384-6231.



[Justice and Mercy Specialist with  
Presbytery of the Peaks](#)

[Church Pianist/Organist](#)

[Presbyterian Church of Radford](#)



Creative Justice Ministries  
Resource Hub

## FEATURED RESOURCES

This 2022 Earth Day resource contains liturgy, action ideas, and informational articles to prepare you and your congregation for faithful climate resilience.







Creative Justice Ministries  
Resource Hub

## FEATURED RESOURCES

Summer is the perfect time to care for creation via our oceans! Learn more and find resources for preaching and teaching in this document.





## Creative Justice Ministries Resource Hub

### FEATURED RESOURCES



**Creation Justice Ministries**

Justice for God's Planet and God's People

[www.creationjustice.org](http://www.creationjustice.org)

# Carbon Fasting 101

## Why a Carbon Fast?

Humans were put on this earth with the responsibility to be stewards of God's great creation. We know that some of our actions have led to a changing global climate, which translates to warmer temperatures, rising sea-levels, and severe storms, just to name a few.

It is time to repent and ask God for forgiveness for our carelessness with His many gifts to us. We can also take action to change our world's projected course. Little steps can have big results.

A carbon fast is a great way to make small personal changes, while also drawing attention to our society's unsustainable love affair with carbon.

## What is a Carbon Fast?

A carbon fast is a way to be mindful of our consumption, while participating in self-imposed restrictions. These restrictions can be simple to moderately challenging depending on an individual's comfort level with energy moderation.



***Peaks Postings*** is published each week on Tuesday. Please submit news, events, or prayer requests **by noon on Mondays** to Julie Burnett at [julie@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:julie@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](#)**