



PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS



office@peakspresbytery.org

## Welcome To PEAKS POSTINGS

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS BELOW

### PRESBYTERY CALENDAR

Date:	Time:	Event:
9-23-23	10:00 a.m.	PW Fall Gathering, Second PC
9-25-23	6:30 p.m.	COA Meeting, Zoom



#### OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY

8:30AM - 4:30PM

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FOREST, VA 24551



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## Isabella Fagiani

Teaching Elder

Co-Moderator

### Church Partnership Commission

Isabella grew up in Niagara Falls, New York in a family with devoted lay people. She was a ruling elder for three years in high school before attending Queens University in Charlotte. She spent a year as a YAV (Young Adult Volunteer) in Glasgow, Scotland, doing parish work that reaffirmed her belief that with God, you can find good things in unexpected places. She then went to Union Seminary in Richmond, where she earned an M. Div. and met her husband, Jonathan. Currently, Isabella is Associate Pastor at Raleigh Court in Roanoke and is involved across the life of the church. She enjoys getting to know and spend time with lots of different people.

If she could meet one person in history, it would be the most decorated figure skater in U.S. history and current Ambassador to Belize, Michelle Kwan.

The Church Partnership Commission gives her a place to apply her skills in asset based community development by doing connectional work and looking at what we can do together.

# 5 FAST FACTS *to know about* ISABELLA



## 1. Family

Isabella and her husband, Jonathan, celebrated their first anniversary in August.

## 2. Favorite Food

Her favorite foods are Western New York pizza and ice cream.



## 3. Favorite Hobby

Isabella is a competitive figure skater. She is on the ice several times a week, including teaching one day a week.

## 4. Recently Read

...Fourteen Talks by Age Fourteen by Michelle Icard and All the Light we Cannot See by Anthony Doerr.



## 5. Scripture Verse

Romans 12:9-13

*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.*



Partnering,  
Empowering,  
Serving, *together*



## CHURCH PARTNERSHIP COMMISSION

### 2023 GRANT UPDATE SUMMARY

Funding  
summary

6

11

\$ 19,090

January-  
August  
2023

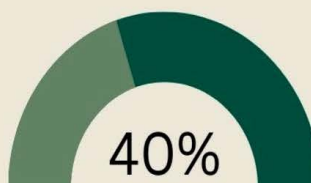
Grants  
Awarded

Churches  
Participating

Amount  
Awarded



Church Partnership Grants  
1/2023-8/2023 Funds



Church Redevelopment Grants  
8/2021-8/2023 Funds

## 2023 Deadlines: October 1 and December 1!!!

Applications are available on the [website](#) under  
Resources>Grants or by using the QR code.



*As we read and review grant applications, we hope to hear a church's excitement about what God is calling them to do at this particular moment within their context. We hope to hear a willingness to try something new and that while they have planned and prepared, an acknowledgement that they know this is an experiment that might not go the way they hoped. We are eager and excited to distribute grant funds as churches fund new discipleship ideas and new ideas of how to partner with other churches in their context!*

-Isabella Fagiani and Cheryl Peebles  
Co-moderators

[Click here to read the full report and see what congregations are doing together!](#)

## From the Earth Care Subcommittee



The white, porous styrofoam used in food containers, coffee cups, and package cushioning is technically **expanded polystyrene foam**. Churches often throw away a lot of these containers, especially coffee cups.



### What's the problem?

- Styrofoam is not biodegradable and takes up to 500 years to decompose.
- Styrofoam products break into small fragments that pollute our land and waterways. Fish and land animals mistakenly eat them and fall ill or die as a result.
- Heated containers can release toxic chemicals into food, and sunlight can heat them enough to leach chemicals into the environment.

### What are some alternatives?

- Bring your own reusable cups, containers, and utensils from home.
- At church events, use "real" cups, dishes, and utensils that can be put in the dishwasher. Take home leftovers in other types of containers.
- Use disposable paper products, especially coated ones that resist moisture. Paper is eco-friendly and will biodegrade when placed in landfills. If clean, it can also be recycled.
- Look for biodegradable products made from corn or derived from sugar cane processing.

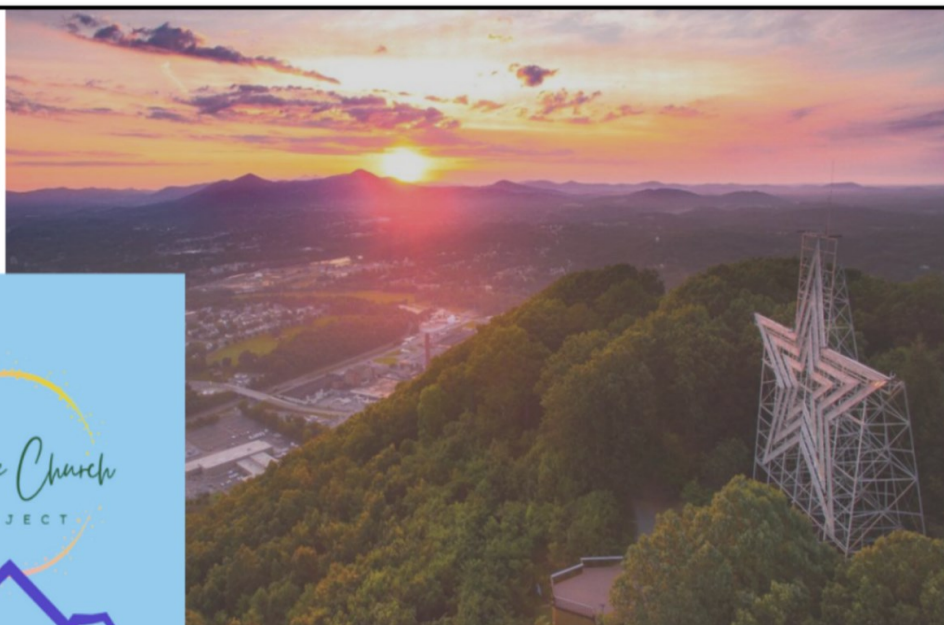
Many recycling centers will not accept styrofoam products. However, **styrofoam is accepted at Sustainable Roanoke recycling events!** Here are two upcoming events:

Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 a.m.– noon  
Westhampton Christian Church  
2515 Grandin Rd, Roanoke, VA.

Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 a.m.– noon  
Second Presbyterian Church  
214 Mountain Ave., SW, Roanoke, VA.



Check out the complete list of recyclable items (including #1, #2, #4, #5, and #6 plastics) at <https://www.sustainableroanoke.org/>.



**Adaptive Church Project  
POP Roanoke Neighborhood  
Sept 26 and 27  
Northminster Presbyterian Church  
9 am - 4 pm  
Register online at  
[peakspresbytery.org](http://peakspresbytery.org)**

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**Change is a constant in life. Count on it.**

**We don't fear change. We fear loss.**

The Adaptive Church Project helps participants consider the forces that inhibit thriving when environments change. In this two-day workshop you will develop tools for addressing adaptive challenges--those thorny, intractable challenges we can't seem to solve. You will practice listening for new information and frame an adaptive challenge of your own. You will give and receive feedback in a small group. You will find encouragement to consider letting go of legacy practices in exchange for new behaviors that can help your community thrive. You will experience fellowship. You will not be bored.

**Questions? Contact Jen Brothers  
[jen@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:jen@peakspresbytery.org)**

## **CEDEPCA's Disaster Ministry Works with Self-Development of People PC(USA)**

### **To Reduce Poverty**

"I have learned to make bread and to sell it, and with the income I have paid for my studies and I've helped my mother. I lost my father to COVID. My mother and I were very worried about supporting ourselves, but this project has allowed us to move forward. I am very thankful for the opportunity provided to me with this project."  
Eunice Perez (UTZPAN)

In Guatemala, 61.6% of the population lives in multidimensional poverty according to the World Bank. Factors for multidimensional poverty include: income per day of \$2.15 per person per day; at least one elementary or middle school aged child is not enrolled in school; no adult has completed elementary school; and/or the family has lack of access to basic infrastructure – clean water, sanitation, electricity.

The Disaster Ministry of CEDEPCA is working with the PCUSA Self Development of People to reduce these aspects of poverty. They are doing this through different projects aimed at helping people to start small businesses. The projects have generated income, contributed to a sense of dignity in the lives of those living in poverty, helped to reduce the need for migration, increased self-esteem in the participating groups, and lowered the vulnerability of the families and communities.

Along with helping to start businesses, the Disaster Ministry also strengthened relationships with these groups by providing workshops to strengthen resilience to confront the many crises that life presents.

One such project is UTZPAN in Mixco, Guatemala on the outskirts of Guatemala City. Through this project, people were trained to prepare and sell different types of bread. The quote at the beginning of this article is from a participant in this project.

Together with our partners at CEDEPCA, we at BPC are part of this ministry which is lifting people out of poverty.



A group of young men and women from UTZPAN are preparing bread to sell.





# PUERTO RICO

## *Mission Trip*

**JUNE 15-21, 2024**



### *Praise*

Partnering with Praying Pelican Missions and Iglesia Cristiana Cristo Redentor in Toa Alta, Puerto Rico.



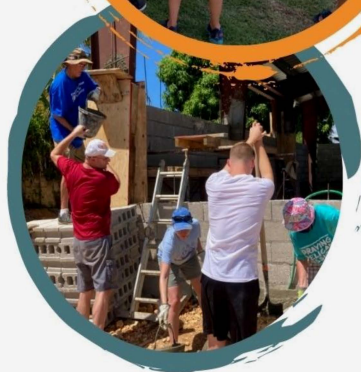
### *Relate*

Serving impoverished communities in storm-battered neighborhoods helping to bring hope and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



### *Work*

Building up the Kingdom of God one brick and one nail at a time helping to rebuild hurricane-swept homes and churches.



**2022 TRIP JOURNAL**

**INTERESTED?  
LEARN MORE:**

Contact Rev. Ed Soto  
Altavista Presbyterian Church

**(434) 369-5286**  
revsoto@altapres.org

The Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Peaks will take place Saturday, September 23, at Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke. Everyone is invited to join us for registration at 9:30 a.m., followed by the Gathering at 10 a.m.



Our special guest speaker will be **Meighan L. Sharp**, assistant professor at Hollins University, who has twice appeared in the annual Best New Poets series. Her new book, *Effusive Greetings to Friends*, is a set of poems by two first-rate poets concerning the life and doings of Ms. Hazel Hicks, both here and in purgatory; it is often hilarious, often wise, and always engaging.

The Annual Gathering will feature some other surprise guests! Come and join us Saturday, September 23, at Second Presbyterian Church. Again, registration begins at 9:30 and the Gathering starts at 10 am. We look forward to seeing you!



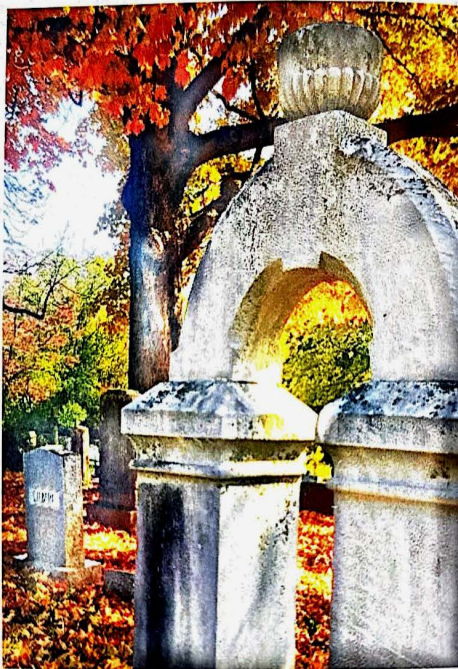
Two Cents a Meal Grant Applications are due into the Presbytery Office by October 1, 2023. Applications may be mailed to PO Box 2519, Forest, VA, 24551 or emailed to [julie@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:julie@peakspresbytery.org). Click [here](#) for the application.





“The Climate Crisis & Empowering Hope” is our theme for our 2023 national conference. The conference will deal with the greatest moral issue of the day and practical ways that our faith can guide us to act for creation care. We will gather in person in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley and at three satellite locations (California, Arkansas and Minnesota) and we will also stream all presentations online. We will learn from top church leaders, gifted biblical and theological teachers, activists, pastors, and one another. This important conference will make a difference for God’s creation and the [Church](#).

Click [here](#) for conference information and registration



**FALL IN LOVE!**  
*with the Presbyterian Cemetery*

*watercolor raffle by Winston Cobb Greene*

*You're Invited to  
"A Journey Through Time"  
cocktail reception  
October 14th 4-6 pm  
Commemorating our 200th Anniversary  
1823-2023  
RSVP 434-845-0551 or  
[office@presbyteriancemeteryva.com](mailto:office@presbyteriancemeteryva.com)*

*Attire: Dressy Casual*

*Raffle tickets for the painting will be sold on  
site during our event. The drawing will be  
that evening.*

*Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100*



***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](#)**