



## Weekly Calendar

Date	Time	Event
6-10	2:00pm	Financial Resources Sub-Committee
6-12	9:30am	Commission on Ministry
6-12	10:00am	Church Partnership Commission

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**The Spirit is moving.**



**Keep reading...**

So much for the summer doldrums. This is a jam packed edition of Postings, and to see all of it, you may need to click at the end of the email to “view clipped message”. Or simply click below and view it from the

website.

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CLICK HERE:

For a PDF version of the newsletter that is copy & paste friendly.

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**Register  
NOW!!!**

**Note the format change!**

As this will be Carl's final Presbytery meeting as GP, presbytery voted to meet in-person rather than via Zoom.

## **Our Next Presbytery Meeting**

**Thursday  
June 26, 2025**

**IN-PERSON**

Hosted by the Martinsville and Henry County congregations  
at

**First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville**

**Register**

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## **GENERAL PRESBYTER HONORED**

At its Spring Gathering at Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church on April 26, 2025, Presbyterian Women (PW) of the Presbytery of the Peaks honored The Reverend Dr. Carl Utley with an Honorary Life Membership. This honor is bestowed upon a woman or man in special recognition of faithful service to PW and to the church. Recipients

of the honor receive a lapel pin and a certificate of the award.

Carl has been an avid supporter of PW, participating in its programs and gatherings and championing its accomplishments. PW could not let his retirement pass without acknowledging his contributions.

In presenting the award, Shelda Wills, PW Moderator of the Presbytery of the Peaks, stated, “Carl, you have always been so supportive of PW, and we truly appreciate that. Thank you for everything you have done for us. We will miss you more than you will ever know.”

PW is thankful for Carl’s leadership and wishes him a rich and fulfilled retirement. His presence will definitely be missed at future Spring and Annual Gatherings!



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## Small Church Listening Sessions

Commission on Ministry will host Small Church Listening Sessions around the presbytery this summer.

Listening Sessions scheduled this summer are for our smaller churches to come and share with the COM their highs and lows...what could the presbytery do to support them best in the coming months and years. A survey is being sent out ahead of all of these sessions but sometimes we learn more with face to face gatherings. The hope

of the COM is for these listening sessions to help us design a Small Church Summit for this fall to glean new ideas, make connections and feel the full support of the presbytery.

June 22, First PC, Covington, 4-6pm

June 29, Farmville PC, 4-6pm

July 13, Blacksburg PC, 4-6pm

**Take the Survey**

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## Out of Office June 12th-August 10th

Like educators, Jen Brothers, Church Leadership Ministry Specialist, serves the presbytery on a 10 month contract. She will be out of the office beginning on June 12th. On August 11th, she will be back in the office to support our ministries and with new ideas to share.



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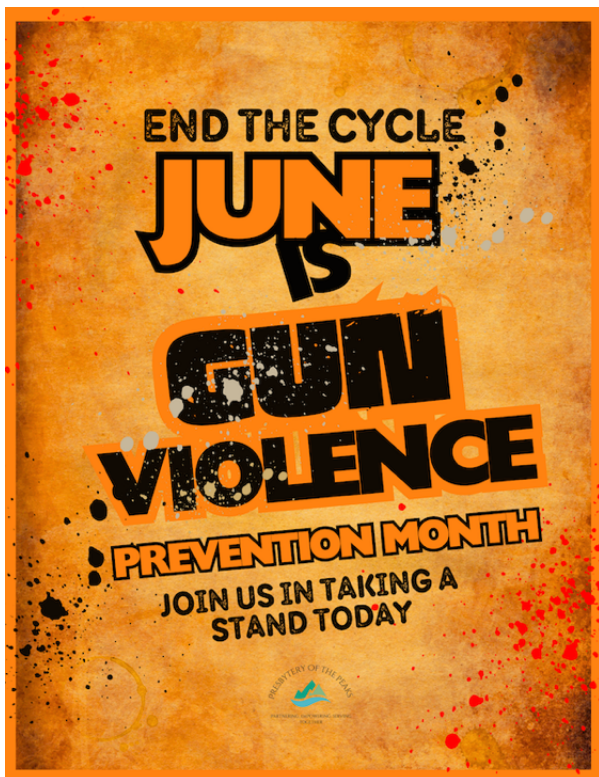
## General Presbyter Search Update

The Transitional Presbyter Search Committee has reviewed about 40 resumes so far, coming from both CLC system matches and referrals. After written communication with those where we felt a strong initial match, we are now beginning virtual interviews with the most promising candidates. We appreciate your continued

prayers for this process and for all involved in discernment at this time.

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## Gun Violence Prevention



June is Gun Violence Prevention Month. It is symbolized by the color orange. Learn why [HERE](#). Incorporate the color orange into your worship and daily life. Find Worship, education and action resources in the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship's Gun Violence Prevention Congregational Toolkit [HERE](#). Share stories of gun violence survivors. [HERE](#)

Protect Children from Gun Violence by sharing "Gun Safety & Secure Storage" cards. Download a free PDF [HERE](#) or order printed cards [HERE](#).

Contact your Representative in Congress and ask him to oppose HR 38 which would allow concealed carry firearms to be carried in every state without a permit. Find contact information [HERE](#).

Plan now to attend the James Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage conference at Massanetta Springs Conference Center, Harrisonburg, September 24-27, 2025. You will

receive faith-based training and continuing education for clergy and lay leaders for practical, pastoral and prophetic ways to engage congregations in an effective ministry of gun violence prevention. Learn more [HERE](#).

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## **A Taste of Afghanistan at Westminster Presbyterian, Lynchburg**

Westminster Presbyterian Church (Lynchburg, Va) wants to invite everyone to a special event featuring foods and flavors from Afghanistan. Haven on Garland, a non-profit operated by Westminster's pastor Rev. Shawn Hyska and his wife Sarah Hyska, provides financial and living support for 6 young women from Afghanistan who attend a local university and who live with them in Garland Hill neighborhood in Lynchburg. One of the joys of having these ladies in our lives is them sharing their home and flavors of home, and they want to share these flavors with the larger Lynchburg community.

The Afghan ladies will be preparing some of their favorite and traditional Afghan cuisine and all proceeds will go to support Haven on Garland and the continuing support of them.

Event Name: A Taste of Afghanistan

When: Saturday, June 21, 2025 from 12pm-2pm

Where: Westminster Presbyterian Church.



## A Taste of Afghanistan

*Kabuli Pulao - Kofta - Feni - Koco*

Saturday, June 21, 2025

12pm - 2pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1022 Floyd St Lynchburg Va. 24501



All proceeds go to Haven on Garland  
[www.havenongarland.org](http://www.havenongarland.org)



**Learn More about  
Haven on Garland ...**

**from the *Outlook*.**

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## **Rev. Malave Shares His Experiences and Insights on Immigration & Faith**

**AMERICA FIRST**

*"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in."*  
MATTHEW 25:35

**IMMIGRATION \$ FAITH**

*Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses  
yearning to breathe free...*  
EMMA LAZARUS

**The Church and It's Faithful Role**

**WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 6:30-7:30 PM**

Rev. Carlos L. Malave, pastor of the Appomattox Court House and New Concord Presbyterian churches in Virginia, is the president of the Latino Christian National Network (LCNN) and served nine years as Executive Director of Christian Churches Together in the USA (CCT). Passionate about advocacy, unity, and love, Rev. Malave's work converges at the intersection of immigration, hunger, justice, and faith concerns.

JUSTICE & MERCY COMMISSION

PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS  
PARTNERING. EMPOWERING. SERVING.  
TOGETHER.

**Join Us on Zoom**

**News You Can Use...from around the**



# PCUSA.

*Courtesy of the MidCouncil Newsletter*

## Font & Faith

### *A message from the Center for Excellence in Christian Education*

Partner with the Center for Excellence in Christian Education in nurturing faith in children and families through worship and prayer. Pastors, educators, families, and congregational leaders are invited to join in the Font & Faith journey. [Information sessions every Tuesday in June at 2 p.m. \(EDT\) on Zoom.](#)

Learn more about the [Font & Faith Initiative](#).

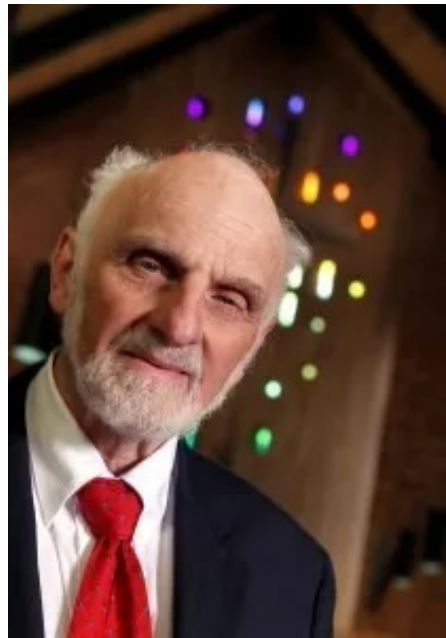


*Courtesy of the Presbyterian News Service*

**Dr. Walter Brueggemann,  
who published more than  
100 books and inspired  
generations of pastors and**

## **scholars, dies at age 92**

The influential Bible interpreter began teaching at Eden Theological Seminary and concluded his distinguished career at Columbia Theological Seminary.



[Read More](#)

## **All amendments proposed by the 226th General Assembly receive approval from a majority of presbyteries**



All changes, which will be included in a revised Book of Order, go into effect on July 4

[Read More](#)

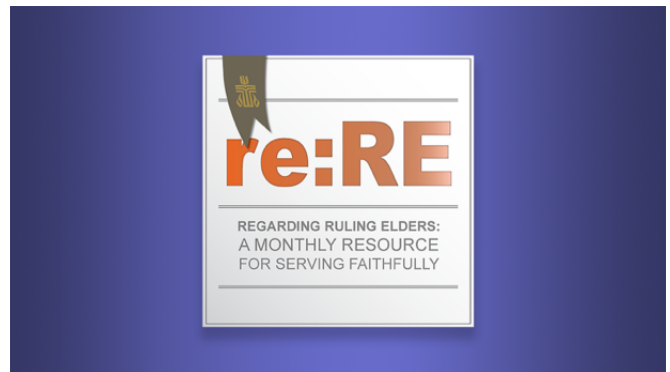
**“Cause every little thing  
gonna be all right!”**

Bob Marley's 'Three Little Birds' can minister to us when hope is hard to find.



[Read More](#)

## **Rooted: The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity — Mission of the Church: Jesus Christ**



Regarding Ruling Elders: A  
monthly series for serving faithfully

[Read More](#)

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## **Ruling and Teaching Elders: Is God Calling You to Consider Serving as Stated Clerk?**

The search committee for a new Stated Clerk for Presbytery of the Peaks is looking for interested persons to fill this important position. Active PC(USA) pastors or retired pastors, and Ruling Elders are encouraged to consider this part-time position. Solid knowledge of the Book of Order and Presbyterian polity will be important in carrying out the duties, but training is available for those who would like to learn. To request a job description or to express interest in the position, please email Rev. Bob McLavey, the search committee chair, at [pastor@pcfloyd.org](mailto:pastor@pcfloyd.org).

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## **Join FPC South Boston in Ministering to Disaster Victims**



# BLESSING BUCKET EVENT



First Presbyterian Church in South Boston, VA is hosting God's Pit Crew Mobile Blessing Bucket packing event.

- Aug. 23, 2025 @ 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Where: 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, 800 N Main St, South Boston
- Objective: Assemble/Pack 1,008 Blessing Buckets. All bucket items are supplied by GPC.
- Funding Goal – \$40,000: 100% of these funds go to bucket supplies and shipping
- Volunteers Needed – 60-70

Info Video



Donate



## What is a Blessing Bucket?

God's Pit Crew (GPC) distributes Blessing Buckets to individuals who need essential supplies due to natural disaster, tragedy, or severe poverty. These 5 gallon buckets contain life essentials like hygiene items, water, and toiletries. These buckets help to enrich lives and become a small token of God's love to a person in a time of disaster. Volunteer Registration on our website [www.1stpres.cc](http://www.1stpres.cc)

In 2024, GPC distributed 19,872 buckets to disaster victims like those impacted by Hurricane Helene and the CA wildfires. Please help us show God's love by sponsoring buckets @ \$35 each, or pallets @ \$1,920

You can donate by scanning the QR code, <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZWAP/campaign/C-15DKJ>, [www.1stpres.cc](http://www.1stpres.cc), or sending checks to 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church, 800 N Main St, South Boston, VA 24592 – (434) 572-3581 – [1stpres.cc](http://1stpres.cc)

You can use your smartphone camera to access the QR code links above or click on the links in the photo or click the button below for more information.

[Learn More](#)



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# Pastor-Chaplain Position Open at College Presbyterian Church and Hampden-Sydney College

[College Church](#) and [Hampden-Sydney College](#) seek a creative, strategic, and energetic person to fill the blended position of [Pastor-Chaplain](#) to advance the dual mission of serving a congregational flock and a collegiate community. The Church and College share a strong tie of two centuries, with residents devoted to the compelling 250-year-old mission of the College “to form good men and good citizens.”

College Church is in the heart of the Hampden-Sydney campus, which offers an extensive mission field for the church. With the opportunity to help students determine their religious and spiritual calling, the dual role of Pastor-Chaplain, served by the College Church teaching elder, makes this a truly unique call.

Applications for the position should be submitted through the Church Leadership Connection (CLC), Personal Discernment Form, found at [PCUSA.org](http://PCUSA.org); or with a resume and



cover letter of application to Anita  
Garland, Chair, Pastor-Chaplain  
Nominating  
Committee, [agarland@hsc.edu](mailto:agarland@hsc.edu).

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## Forest Presbyterian to Hold Yard Sale

Forest Presbyterian is holding a yard sale on Saturday June 28 from 7 am to 1:00 pm.  
There will be a \$5.00 bag sale beginning at 12:30... we provide the bags.

Forest Presbyterian Church: 1226 Two Church Lane. Forest Va 24551.

We are accepting donations (NO clothes or televisions) on Wednesday, Thursday, and  
Friday (June 25, 26, 27) from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

For more information contact Lisa Klingenfus: [lklingenfu@aol.com](mailto:lklingenfu@aol.com).

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## A Creation Care Garden

At Blacksburg Presbyterian Church,  
we have a Creation Care garden near  
our parking lot door, and between the  
sidewalk and the building. It is a  
relatively small garden, which we have  
been working with for nearly a decade,  
in which we seek to provide:

--a showcase for easy-to-grow native  
plants and "natives" (cultivars of native  
plants). See photo A: Inside the small

kiosk is a laminated garden guide with names of the native plants, their characteristics and benefits to wildlife. We are not expert gardeners, so we grow plants that are not finicky and can thrive on their own without extra water or care. The primary maintenance needed is weeding (our soil is rich, so weeds grow well there, too), thinning and pruning.

--a home and food source for pollinators, over-wintering bugs, birds, and other critters. See photo B: The New River Plant Society recently gave us a “Native Pollinator Habitat” sign, designating our garden as good place for monarch butterflies. In the background of this photo, one can see goldenrod, common milkweed, joe pye weed and native asters (none of it blooming yet), which are loved by pollinators, including monarchs. See photo C: This photo shows a sign that says “Leaving leaves and flower stalks provides food and shelter for birds, butterflies, bees and bugs.” Each year, we leave our leaves and stalks until mid-spring.

—a welcoming outdoor space for observing wildlife, enjoying the colors and textures of flowers, shrubs and trees, breathing in the floral scents, and listening to the calming sounds of birds, humming of bees, and the wind through the wind chimes. Our garden is open to the public, and enjoyed by





all the community members who visit our building, as well as our congregation. See photos C and D: We have a bench (acquired through collecting plastic film for the Trex company) and newly installed hand-painted flagstones (a project done by our children) for even closer access. Photo D shows the wind chimes and the rainbow of colors during the height of the bloom season.

We hope that our garden can be an inspiration for your congregation or your home garden!



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## Earth Care Mini-Grants Due June 30th

The Earth Care Subcommittee of the Justice and Mercy Commission

encourages your congregation to apply for an Earth Care Mini-grant.

Just a few ideas you might consider: plant native plants; replace a dying tree with a native tree; purchase supplies for a community garden or for composting; buy recycling trash cans to recycle things in your community that can be recycled; install a bicycle rack; purchase a rain barrel for watering needs; replace incandescent or fluorescent bulbs with LEDs or lights with motion sensors to name a few.

[Click here for more ideas or an application](#)





Peaks Postings is published each week on Tuesday. Please submit news, events, or prayer requests by noon on Mondays to Donna Garrison at [communications@peakspresbytery.org](mailto:communications@peakspresbytery.org) for inclusion in the following issue.

Guidelines for 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 and items within and of interest to PoP and PoP churches.
  - Edit submitted articles/announcements.
  - Limit the number of weeks an article/announcement is featured, usually to not more than three weeks.
- If you have specific dates you want an item to run, include them when you submit the item. Limited to three weeks.
- Past issues of Peaks Postings are archived for about six months on our website, [peakspresbytery.org](http://peakspresbytery.org).



### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday-Thursday  
8:30AM-4:30PM**

**FAX: 434-845-7829**

**Mailing Address:**

**PO Box 2519  
Forest, Va 24551**



### OFFICE LOCATION

**1195 Carter's Stable Road  
Forest, VA 24551**



**office@peakspresbytery.org**



**peakspresbytery.org**



**434-845-1754**

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