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## Weekly Calendar

|      |        |                           |
|------|--------|---------------------------|
| 9-23 | 1:00pm | Constitutional Ministries |
| 9-25 | 9:30am | Cabinet                   |

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

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## Small Church Summit on 9/27

Join us for a day of learning, sharing and fellowship at Amherst Presbyterian Church. We'll start the morning with worship and a

keynote with Rev. Bronwen Boswell, General  
Presbyter and Stated Clerk of Shenandoah  
Presbytery. Following we'll have two sessions  
of workshops, share a meal and close with a  
time to share with each other in group  
discussion.

**Register by September 24th.**



**Learn More or Register**

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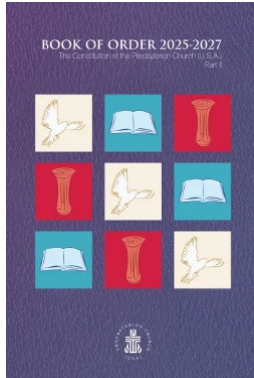
## Anxious to Talk About It

The poster is for a book study titled 'Anxious to Talk About It' by Carolyn Helsel. It features a blue and yellow color scheme with abstract circular shapes. At the top, a speech bubble contains the title 'ANXIOUS TO TALK ABOUT IT' and the subtitle 'HELPING WHITE PEOPLE'. To the left, it says 'Join Us!' and to the right, 'Peaks Reading Together'. The main title 'PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS BOOK STUDY' is in the center. Below this, the schedule is listed: 'On the four Thursdays from September 18 - October 9, join with other Peaks Presbytery members to discuss Presbyterian pastor and professor Carolyn Helsel's book, "Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism" (2nd Edition)'. The dates 'THURS SEPT 18 &amp; 25' and 'OCT 2 &amp; 9' are highlighted in yellow, along with the time '7PM TO 8PM'. To the right, a paragraph describes the book's focus: 'Helsel draws on her successful experiences with white congregations to offer tools to embrace and explore anxious feelings and more faithfully engage in crucial conversations about race in America.' At the bottom, it says 'REGISTER FOR ZOOM LINK: HERE' and 'RACIAL EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE JUSTICE AND MERCY COMMISSION'. A small logo for the Presbytery of the Peaks is in the bottom right corner.

**Register Here**

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## **Taking Orders 2025-27 *Book of Order***



The 2025-2027 PCUSA Book of Order is now available. Orders place before October 20 will be available to pick up at the October 23 Presbytery Meeting. No orders will be mailed from the office until December.

**Order**

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## **Bible in Black & White**

WEDNESDAYS IN OCT. | 12 PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Second Presbyterian Church | 214 Mountain Ave SW | Roanoke, VA 24016

## Conversations — THAT CHANGE US —

What happens to faith when it becomes more about talking *about* Jesus than talking *to* Jesus? Do we risk reducing a living relationship to abstract ideas—Jesus becoming a topic rather than a presence? The Gospel of John resists such drift. It is a Gospel built on conversations—long, rich, and transformative ones. From Nicodemus under the cover of night to the Samaritan woman at the well, from a man born blind to Mary, Martha, and Pontius Pilate—Jesus doesn't just talk *at* people, he speaks *with* them. And they are never the same.

This October, the Bible in Black & White community will listen in on these conversations—and join them. Our hope is to encounter Jesus as we encounter each other, with open minds, honest hearts, and a willingness to be changed.

**Schedule:** October 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2025.

**Learn more:** [www.spres.org/the-bible-in-black-and-white](http://www.spres.org/the-bible-in-black-and-white)



THE  
BIBLE IN  
BLACK  
&  
WHITE



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## Earth Care: What We Eat

As part of Covenant's Earth Care ministry for 2025, we asked the congregation to choose from various environmental topics they would like to explore. The top response was around food.

In addition to providing monthly newsletter articles on food-related topics like sustainability, pesticide reduction, buying local, composting, reducing food waste, and moving towards more plant-based food sources, we added earth-friendly items to our typical post-service Mingle & Munch fare.

This allowed us to practice what we preach, offering samples of plant-based milks and creamers along with organic fair-trade rainforest alliance coffee; organic applesauce oat muffins made with maple syrup and organic walnuts for a protein-packed breakfast option; a delicious lentil and chickpea stew topped with Greek yoghurt; and a variety of organic fruits and vegetables. The feedback was very positive, and the foods made for good conversation starters.



**Recipe Links,  
Food Tips for  
People and  
the Planet**

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## CP Courses Start in October



Leadership Institute

### PATHWAYS 2025-26

~~8/12-9/16~~ Polity & Administration

~~8/28-10/2~~ Intro to Pastoral Care

10/16-11/20 Teaching the Bible

10/27-12/2 Preaching

October is your final opportunity in 2025 to start courses towards becoming a Commissioned Pastor (CP)

Courses are through Union Presbyterian Seminary. At less than \$200 for most classes, it's more affordable than you might think.

**Learn More About Union's CP Courses**

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**Our Next Presbytery Meeting**

Thursday  
October 23, 2025

Northminster Presbyterian Church  
Roanoke

In-Person  
All Day  
with Lunch



**Save the Date!**

**SEEKING A PASTOR**

*Fincastle Presbyterian Church*

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FINCASTLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LOCATED NEAR ROANOKE, VIRGINIA IN THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS, IS SEEKING A CANDIDATE TO FILL OUR FULL TIME PASTOR POSITION.

Candidates should provide leadership with vision and direction to staff, volunteers and the congregation. Skills should also include communication, organization, outreach and promoting growth.

Come join with us in our small, inviting and historic church. Nearby recreation, hospitals, event venues and restaurants help to make Fincastle a wonderful place to live.

Submit Pastor applications to  
Paul Phillipe at  
[prp@c-roa.com](mailto:prp@c-roa.com)

## Small Churches as Anchors in Their Communities



*Below, Kim Jeffreys, shares some of what she learned at Small Church conference she and three other leaders from Peaks attended in Clarksville, Arkansas this summer. If you're a small church leader interested in learning more about how small churches are or can be anchors of their communities, join us at the Small Church Summit on September 27th--it's the topic of one of our workshops.*

I have been to a few continuing education functions and often find that the information given is not very helpful for the size of our church and the location of our community. I was very excited to see if this conference would be a more inspiration conference. Over a hundred people from surrounding states attended this conference. It was a wonderful experience.

The conference was run by the Town Square Collaborative. It had several core principles including to help churches in rural areas and small towns to be the best version of themselves and serve as anchors in their communities. They reminded us that in large city churches charities and other organizations have taken over the importance of the church to the community. Because of where our church is located it is an institution to the community. People in the community look to us to be a leader and to guide. The conference facilitators spoke about the important and special work that our church does and reminded the attendees that if our churches didn't do the work...no one would. There is no one to step in in our communities. We serve an important role in our community and we need to recognize this and honor it.

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## **Support Cohorts for Christian Educators and CPs**

- Collegial, personal and professional support via Zoom cohorts with peers for one year.
- There is no cost to participants. A stipend is paid twice a year to cover

any materials costs.

- Two tracks, one for CEs and one for CPs.
- Starts in 2026. Application deadline is November 30, 2025. Space is limited.
- Open to Commissioned Pastors in solo calls. See link for more details.

**Learn More**

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## High Bridge Celebrates 255 Years of Ministry



- **Saturday, September 27th, 2:00 p.m.** "Remembering the History of High Bridge Presbyterian Church and the Village of Springfield" speaker Dr. Tom Camden, retired professor at Washington and Lee University and unveiling of the newly refurbished fellowship hall with display of history and memorabilia.
- **Sunday, September 28th, 11:00 a.m.** Worship Service Celebrating the History and Present Mission of High Bridge Presbyterian Church, Rev. Steve Willis, preaching. Worship followed by a luncheon under the trees.



## **Earth Care, Church Partnership and Redevelopment Grants Available**

**The next Earth Care Mini-Grant Deadline is September 30th.**

Earth Care mini grants are available for congregations seeking to engage in earth care ministry through worship, education, outreach or their facilities.

**The next Church Partnership Grant Deadline is October 1st.**

These grants are given to congregations for projects that strive to build partnerships to help foster discipleship within the presbytery.

**Church Redevelopment Grants are being considered on a rolling basis.**

The type of projects that will be considered in this program will have a goal of building relationships, provide a spiritual growth component and/or missional components oriented to the community in which the congregation is displaced. Grants will be awarded based upon the potential for effective congregational development and community engagement.

**Learn More or Apply**

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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.

**Presbytery of the Peaks**

1195 Carters Stable Road, Forest  
United States of America

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