



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL • PASTORAL • PROPHETIC

THURSDAY MAIL

September 12, 2024



MISSIONAL, PASTORAL, PROPHETIC

IN THIS EDITION

Clerk's Corner

from the Desk of Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

2025 Pastor Compensation Policy

Presbytery Meeting - Conversation & Meeting

Healthy Boundaries Training

September & October Birthdays

Calling ALL Singers! Presbytery-Wide Choir

Installation Service & State of the Denomination w/ OGA's Stated Clerk

Presbytery-Wide Youth Gathering

Matthew 25 Mid-Atlantic Summit

Around NCP

Other Organizations

National Capital Presbytery

11300 Rockville Pike, Suite 408
Rockville, MD 20852
240-514-5348
www.thepresbytery.org

communications@thepresbytery.org

2025 PASTOR COMPENSATION POLICY



The 2025 Pastor Compensation Policy is on the website. To help with this transition, NCP's Committee on Ministry and NCP staff will host their last Q&A Zoom session on Thursday, September 12 at 5:00 p.m.

LEARN MORE



HEALTHY BOUNDARIES TRAINING



ATTENTION MINISTER MEMBERS!

The Ministry Relations Team (MRT) of the Committee on Ministry (COM) has scheduled the next training (**IN-PERSON**) for **Wednesday, October 9, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at National Presbyterian Church** (4101 Nebraska Ave NW, Washington, DC). Lunch provided. Teaching Elders are required to take a healthy boundaries training AND renew every three years. Click [HERE](#) for more information and see FULL flyer in TM.

NEXT THURSDAY MAIL DEADLINE

Submissions are due **MONDAY, September 30**
and distributed Thursday, October 3



Clerk's Corner

September 12, 2024



Dear Friends,

Three members in my family of four spend their day in the public schools, so the transition to fall lands sharply and decisively on our household each year. Perhaps your family, like mine, is plunging into new routines or returning to a familiar schedule you had set aside for summer. In any case, as we jump into fall, I wanted to be sure to let you know about a few important upcoming events in the life of National Capital Presbytery.

Our **stated meeting on September 24 will be held in person at National Presbyterian Church at 5:00 p.m. (with pre-presbytery dialogue beginning at 3:00 p.m. – see below)**. Please remember that while this meeting will be live-streamed, members of the presbytery and session commissioners will be able to participate in deliberations and exercise the privileges of voice and vote only if they are physically present. But I encourage you all to come for what promises to be an eventful and joyful meeting. At this stated meeting we are hoping, among other business, to:

- worship God together, hearing the proclamation of the Word by our outgoing Moderator, Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon, installing our new Moderator (Elder Lou Durden) and Vice Moderator (Elder Jesy Littlejohn), and celebrating the Lord's Supper;
- welcome new members of our community and reconnect with old friends;
- engage in table conversations as a follow-up to the Landscape survey the presbytery community took in the spring; and
- hear and act on the reports of our committees, commissions, and officers.

Don't forget to join **the conversation around two proposed amendments (POL01 – began as Olympia Overture) to the Book of Order**, taking place at National Presbyterian Church on the same day, September 24, at 3:00 p.m. Please have a look at the last edition of the Thursday Mail for more information about this gathering.

I am also looking forward to **our second annual presbytery-wide installation service** at Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church on October 19 at 3:00 p.m., celebrating the individual calls of new pastors while giving thanks for the gift of shared ministry. The Rev. Jihyun Oh, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, will be our preacher, and we will be led in praise by a presbytery choir. Come and help us complete the call process as we install these new pastors in an enthusiastic and energetic service of worship.

May God bless you in this fall season of new beginnings!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. David Baer, Stated Clerk

From the Desk of Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe
Director of Congregational Development and Mission
September 12, 2024



Greetings People,

This summer I participated in Wind-Down Wednesdays at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. I admit it, I first thought I heard wine-down Wednesday. There was no wine. There were spiritual encounters throughout the Cathedral that was open to the public (for a small entrance fee). I hope to share more formally what this whole experience was like but for now, I was deeply moved by how the Cathedral was able to take advantage of their strengths and cultivate an evening for four weeks straight so that ANYONE could engage in spiritual practices as a community. We all started out as strangers and in our breath came together as one. It was attended very well (and they made some money)!

My biggest take-a-way is that each congregation **DESERVES** to stretch with their **STRENGTHS** by cultivating “warm friendly encounters.” (This is the top ministry recommendation out of MissionInsite - American Beliefs Study). Your Presbytery, the Equipping Congregations Committee, and my desk have the resources you can utilize so that your congregations can grow...in spirit, in practice, in discipleship, and in membership.

Grants have been utilized to strengthen the impact of our congregations in Northern Virginia as a community through Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (aka VOICE). Their collective actions and witness are deepening the supports needed to curtail the teen mental health crisis we are in the midst of today (see Act on Addiction Summit flyer in this TM).

Grants have been utilized to support Geneva Presbyterian Church as they strengthened a playground ministry to welcome families with children of differing abilities into the church and connect to outside organizations as safe spaces that can build up trust and faith! These grants did not only come out of a good idea. They have been organized, practiced, and discerned out of authentic strengths within each congregation.

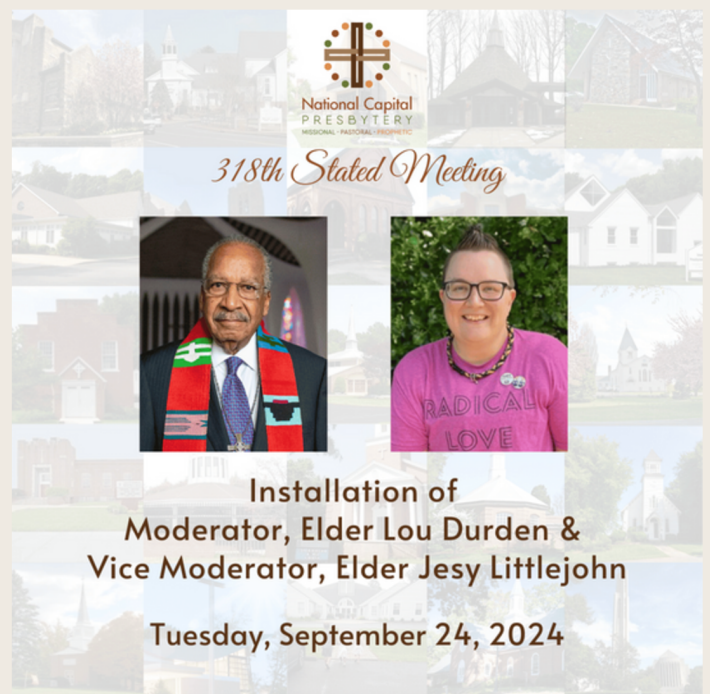
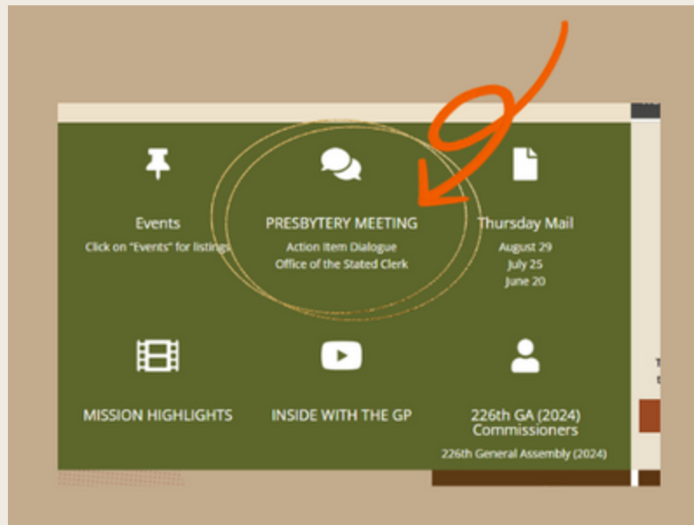
Whether it is Wind-Down or Wind-Up, the resources are available to support your leadership to stretch with your **STRENGTHS**: small, medium, and big. You deserve to be energized as leaders in our churches so that you are able to encounter the amazing presence of Jesus Christ and invite others to join you! Take advantage of the Ministry Incubator sessions. Look for the upcoming webinars on Congregational Vitality. Most importantly join us in-person at our upcoming Presbytery Meeting as we engage with one another on prayer, discussion, and discernment.

Peace and Courage,

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

UPCOMING PRESBYTERY MEETING

Look for the Notice for the meeting in your inbox soon. Registration will go live on the website on Tuesday, September 17 with the packet posting no later than Friday, September 20.



HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Training

- *Required training for Teaching Elders and those who need it as an ordination requirement.*
- *Renewed every three years.*
- *Connect with colleagues to form relationships and learn best practices*



Wednesday, October 9, 2024

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Lunch provided



National Presbyterian Church

4101 Nebraska Ave, NW,
Washington, DC 20016



**NCP Colleagues with Olanda Carr
(Presbyterian Foundation)**

Facilitators



**SEXUAL
MISCONDUCT**

**CHILD SEXUAL
ABUSE
PREVENTION**

**FINANCIAL
BOUNDARIES**

SELF-CARE

SELF-AWARENESS

**CONNECTING TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES
TO STRENGTHEN BOUNDARIES**



REGISTER NOW

Questions?
Contact Blair Moorhead
bmoorhead@ipcmclean.org



HAPPY Birthday

September

Jim Adams, retired
Marty Albershardt
Alice Bellis
Heather Bobbitt
Meghan Brown
Judy Chan, retired
Emily D'Andrea
Judith Fulp-Eickstaedt
Campbell Hackett
Shelby Harasty
Minette Hope, retired
Kasey Kaseman
Willie Keaton
Cynthia Kekung
Jeanne MacKenzie, retired
Catherine McCollough
Sam McFerran
David Milam, retired
Roger Miller, retired
Bernice Parker-Jones
Kenneth Rathje
Hallelujah Son, retired
Katherine Stanford
Rachel Vaagenes
Jose Velazco, retired
Caroline Wilson
Eunice Yang
Chris Yim

October

Currie Burris, retired
John Chiang, retired
Abigail Evans
Nancy Fox, retired
Patricia Futato
Ron Hankins, retired
Wally Harman, retired
Glenda Simpkins Hoffman
Woong Joe Kang, retired
Haekil Kim
Robert Long III, retired
Peter Manning
Joseph Matthews, retired



OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

FROM CAMP HANOVER



Come to the Waters Women's Retreat October 4-5

Step out of your usual routine and gather near Camp Hanover's lake this fall. Reflect on the gift and responsibility of water in connection to the places in our lives where we feel parched and distressed, and the places we find nourishment and refreshment. We'll find time to rest and recreate, connect and be quiet, pray and play.

This weekend of faith and fellowship in the beautiful setting of Camp Hanover helps women get away from the hustle and bustle of day-to-day life. We take care of the details, so you can relax and enjoy time away. Come alone, or with friends!

<https://www.camphanover.org/womens-retreat/>



MVP Internship Program

Apply now to become a Camp Hanover MVP! MVP stands for mission, vocation, and practice. MVPs are paid interns who live and work at Camp Hanover for nine to twelve months while developing skills to help in their futures. Applications are being accepted now for the 2024-2025 year.

www.camphanover.org/about/mvp/

FROM MASSANETTA SPRINGS



Confirmation Retreat, January 31-February 2, 2025: Whether your congregation has one confirmand or a large group, we can all learn

something from each other's church experience and faith journey! \$165 per person, scholarships available. Learn more here:

<https://massanettasprings.org/programs/confirmation>



Upcoming MISSIONAL INCUBATOR EVENTS 2024 - 2025

Explore ways to use your existing facility to create fresh expressions of church that build new communities.

19
SEPT | **2024**

WHO

Thursday, September 19, 4:00 -7:00 PM

Ridgetop Coffee and Tea, Sterling, VA Cost: Free

The Who comes before the what. Guest guide: Shannon Kiser, Training Director of Fresh Expressions US.

Learning to discern the “who” God is asking us to engage should precede any planning or budget discussion. Otherwise, we risk repeating tired approaches while the culture and world change around us. We need to see and embrace the people who are not now at our table in order to create new expressions of church that will engage them. This event will introduce you and your team to the starting point for developing your facilities and property in new ways that to accomplish this. Dinner provided. To reserve your spot, register [HERE](#).

21
OCT | **2024**

WHY

Monday, October 21, 4:00 -7:00 PM

Ridgetop Coffee and Tea, Sterling, VA Cost: Free

Why are we doing this? Guest guide: John Molina-Moore, General Presbyterian of the National Capital Presbytery.

The answer must always be Jesus. The “why”--our motivation--drives what is formed or not formed. This event will help your team see that our work must be something greater than survival or financial relief. We will explore together the concept that, while we should avoid ruin, we must embrace risk. Dinner provided. To reserve your spot, register [HERE](#).

16
NOV | **2024**

WHAT

Saturday, November 16, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Ridgetop Coffee and Tea, Sterling, VA Cost: Free

What are others doing that is out of the typical church box? Guest Guide: Lindsay Armstrong, Executive Director/CEO The Start-Up Studio of the Presbytery of Greater

See the possible and expand our imaginations with examples of new expressions of church that are compelling businesses or social enterprises. This event will benefit your team as they continue brainstorming, imagination-expanding, and dreaming of what God may be asking your church to do at this time. Lunch provided To reserve your spot, register [HERE](#).

29 - 31 JAN 2025 | MISSIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IMMERSION

Wed, January 29, 4:00 PM - Fri, Jan 31, 11:00 AM

Riverside PC / Ridgetop Coffee and Tea, Sterling, VA

This is deep dive into repurposing your facility for mission, hosted by the Missional Incubator of the National Capital Presbytery and Fresh Expressions US.

What if the best way to connect with people in a diverse and rapidly changing world is not with another church program or better preaching?

Churches just like yours are opening missional businesses, such as workout studios, produce markets, surf shops, indoor play areas, ice cream fountains, game cafes, coffee shops, and more—not just as income-producing businesses, but also to connect and build meaningful relationships in an increasingly disconnected world.

Churches just like yours are repurposing their properties to leverage them, not just for monetization, but also for greater mission impact with a vision for new forms of faith community to emerge. From tiny-home villages to art studios, to day care centers, to nonprofit hubs, and more...your church can shift from a one-day-a-week gathering place for a few church members to a hub of relational connections and new faith communities.

Join us for an immersion experience at Riverside Presbyterian Church. Enjoy coffee and conversation in their coffee shop, Ridgetop Coffee and Tea, and experience for yourself what can happen when a facility becomes a community hub. Learn from leaders who have navigated this shift in their own congregations, and dive into deep discussions with peers who are captivated by this possibility. Take advantage of breakout sessions around the practicalities of this entrepreneurial approach to ministry. Explore Biblical foundations for the mission and engage in whole-hearted worship to reconnect with God's purpose for your life, your leadership, and your church.

Details: Cost: \$225 until Jan 6 (price increase to \$250). For the first 40 members of the National Capital Presbytery that register the cost is \$115 if you use the code "Missionalincubator" when you enroll from the registration page

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/missional-entrepreneurship-immersion-tickets-962039936347>

For those who would like to stay overnight, there is a special hotel rate at the Hyatt Place Dulles South, 4994 Westone Plaza, Chantilly, VA 20151, ph. (703) 961 - 8160 of \$119 per night plus taxes. Price expires 12/31/24 [Click HERE to make a reservation](#)

so that our churches can grow 

You are invited
to the
*Presbytery-wide
Installation Service*

**Saturday, October 19, 2024
at 3:00 PM**

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church
610 S. Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Preaching

The Rev. Jihyun Oh
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Presbytery-wide Choir (see sign up)

Renewal of Ordination Vows

Reception to follow
RSVP by
Friday, October 11, 2024



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL - PERSONAL - UNIMURDER

Prior to the
INSTALLATION SERVICE
You are invited
to the
State of the Denomination
with

Rev. Jihyun Oh
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Rev. John Molina-Moore
NCP General Presbyter

and other NCP key leaders

Saturday, October 19, 2024
from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM
The Gathering Place
Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church

Come and discuss the role of the Church today
and how it relates to
National Capital Presbytery.



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL - PASTORAL - MINISTRIES



Calling ALL
Sopranos, Altos, Tenors and Bass
for the



Presbytery-wide
Installation Service
Choir



All are invited to the join the presbytery-wide choir!

Led by Abby Madden
Minister of Music
Arlington Presbyterian Church

Saturday, October 19, 3:00 PM
Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church

Rehearsal information forthcoming.
Sign up [HERE](#).



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
REGIONAL MINISTRIES

Presbyterian Women National Capital Presbytery Fall Gathering



Topic: Mental Health of Youth

Presented by The National Alliance on Mental Illness

On: Saturday, September 14, 2024

10 am to 1pm – including lunch

At: Saint Mark Presbyterian Church

10701 Old Georgetown Road

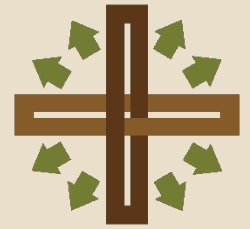
North Bethesda, MD 20852

Registration Information

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdGketKxjFrAvnKVno2toFn40STqQflmQ2IPwWyef8b4ju3Gw/viewform>



Global Mission Network Partnership Grants Proposals Deadline



The Global Mission Network (GMN) is soliciting applications for the National Capital Presbytery (NCP) **Global Partnership Grants** program from congregations for new cooperative initiatives between congregations and their global mission partners. **The next deadline for grant applications is September 30, 2024.**

The program supports interactive, hands-on global mission projects with impact on the community. Preference will be given to new initiatives; applications may be submitted for continued funding in years two and three of a given project. Some preliminary work should be done to assess feasibility before applying, so that the project has a reasonable chance of success and some way to measure when success has been attained. Priority will be given to projects where there is an established relationship and a high level of confidence in the in-country team and where there is a plan for project sustainability. Projects with Presbyterian ecumenical partners are encouraged, but this is not a requirement.

This is a matching grant program; the contribution of your congregation toward the project in both money and labor will be considered. A congregation may submit only one application each year. Travel costs will not be considered, nor will reimbursement grants. Grant proposals requesting up to \$5,000 will be considered, for \$5,000 in matching funds.

A written report and presentation will be required in the year following the award outlining how the funds were spent, the progress of the project to date including impact on the community and plans for the future. Partnerships with grant awards will be required to provide information to be included in the NCP Global Mission Partnerships Directory, available for download on the **NCP GMN webpage** at <https://thepresbytery.org/the-work-of-the-presbytery/committees/mission-coordination/global-mission-network>

Proposals are due to NCP by email by **September 30, 2024** to Judith Dahmann (jdahmann@mitre.org) using the NCP standard application (download from [NCP Common Grants & Scholarships | National Capital Presbytery \(thepresbytery.org\)](https://thepresbytery.org/the-work-of-the-presbytery/committees/mission-coordination/global-mission-network)) and addressing specific questions for Global Partnership Grants (part 2).

For more information contact Judith Dahmann (jdahmann@mitre.org).



Summit Schedule

[Register](#) for the Summit

Summit Site: [First Presbyterian Church of Howard County](#)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 8:30 – 12:00 p.m. | Registration |
| 9:15 a.m. | Welcome
Charese Jordan Moore, Presbytery of Baltimore (POB)
& Pat Jackson, National Capital Presbytery, Summit Co-Chairs |
| 9:45 a.m. | Opening Worship
Rev. Dr. Jaqueline Taylor, General Presbyter, POB & Worship Team |
| 9:50-10:30 a.m. | Plenary – The Repair of Historical Harms
Keynote by Rev. Jermaine Ross-Allam, PC(USA), Director, Center for the Repair of Historical Harms |
| 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. | Break |
| 10:45 – 12:00 p.m. | Workshop Block #1 |
| 12:00 -1:00 p.m. | Networking Lunch |
| 1:00 - 2:15 p.m. | Workshop Block #2 |
| 2:15 - 2:30 p.m. | Break |
| 2:30-3:30 p.m. | Plenary -- Ending Christian Nationalism
Introduction by Warren Lesane, Mid-Atlantic Synod
Keynote by Amanda Tyler, Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty |
| 3:30-4:00 p.m. | Closing Charge & Sendoff
Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter, NCP & Worship Team |

for 8th-12 graders

Presbytery - Wide youth GATHERING



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL • PASTORAL • PROPHETIC

PIZZA

EPIC SCAVENGER HUNT

RISE AGAINST HUNGER PROJECT

All while sharing some sacred
time together

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 2:00PM - 4:00PM

So that our churches can **grow**

AT NEW YORK AVE.
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WITH JOHN & TARA



Don't Miss Out. Sign up Today!
WWW.THEPRESBYTERY.ORG

For More Information:
TARA SPUHLER MCCABE



NOVEMBER 22-24, 2024

Massanetta Springs

This pay-what-you're-able retreat
for high school students and their leaders,
centered on worship, leadership development,
and small group discussion
while learning about PC(USA)'s Matthew 25 vision.

The 2024 conference will focus on the theme of
dismantling structural racism.

For more information - Click **HERE**
Group registration closes October 4, 2024

Questions? Contact Colleen Earp
540-434-3829 - colleen@massanettasprings.org

Contact NCP's Tara Spuhler McCabe -
tspuhlermccabe@thepresbytery.org
AFTER your church has registered.

Inova Act on Addiction

We invite you to join local experts for “Act on Addiction: Virtual Education on Addiction and Anti-stigma,” hosted by Inova Comprehensive Addictions Treatment Services.

SEPTEMBER 17 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Virtual Community Education Webinar:
Addiction

with Dr. Marquitta DuVernay

[Webinar link: English](#)

[Enlace del seminario web: Espanol](#)

SEPTEMBER 19 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Virtual Community Education Webinar:

Overdose: Fatal and Non-fatal

with Dr. Dan Avstreh

[Webinar link: English](#)

[Enlace del seminario web: Espanol](#)

For more information email:
robin.shultz@inova.org



Dr. Dan Avstreh

**Associate Operational
Medical Director**

Fairfax County Fire and
Rescue Department



Dr. Marquitta DuVernay

Senior Director of Recovery

Inova Health System

RSVP &
EVENT INFO



GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY

CENTER ON
FAITH + JUSTICE

TEST *of* FAITH:
A SUMMIT *to* DEFEND DEMOCRACY
S E P T E M B E R 1 9 - 2 0 , 2 0 2 4

McCourt School of Public Policy Building
125 E St NW
Washington DC 20001



Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by 9/16/2024 to
Kathleen Bonnette, 717-253-6132, kathleen.bonnette@georgetown.edu

AN AFTERNOON WITH
REV. SARAH HENKEN

PC(USA) MISSION COWORKER
BARRANQUILLA, COLOMBIA



at
Immanuel
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 2:00PM-3:30PM

1125 SAVILLE LANE, MCLEAN VA 22101

To sign up - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ACA929AAF49-50912059-talkqa>

Faith Presbyterian Church Men's Day

“Men Who Know God”

Daniel 11:32b “The people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.” (ESV)

September 22, 2024 – 11AM Worship Service

Speaker

Reverend John Molina-Moore
General Presbyter – National Capital Presbytery

Faith Presbyterian Church
4161 South Capitol St SW
Washington, DC 20032

Rev. Bernice Parker-Jones, Pastor



Stewardship Kaleidoscope

Real Tools for Real Ministry

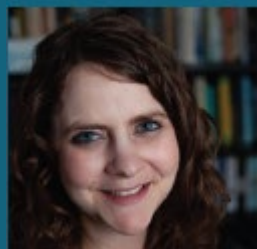
**September 23-25
Portland OR
Hilton Portland
Downtown**

**Participate In-Person or
Virtually!**

**PLENARY
PANEL
SPEAKERS:**

▶ EMILY NORRIS
▶ KATY STEINBURG
▶ KEVIN RILEY
▶ NIKKI COLLINS

**2024 Keynote
Speakers**



Grace Pomroy



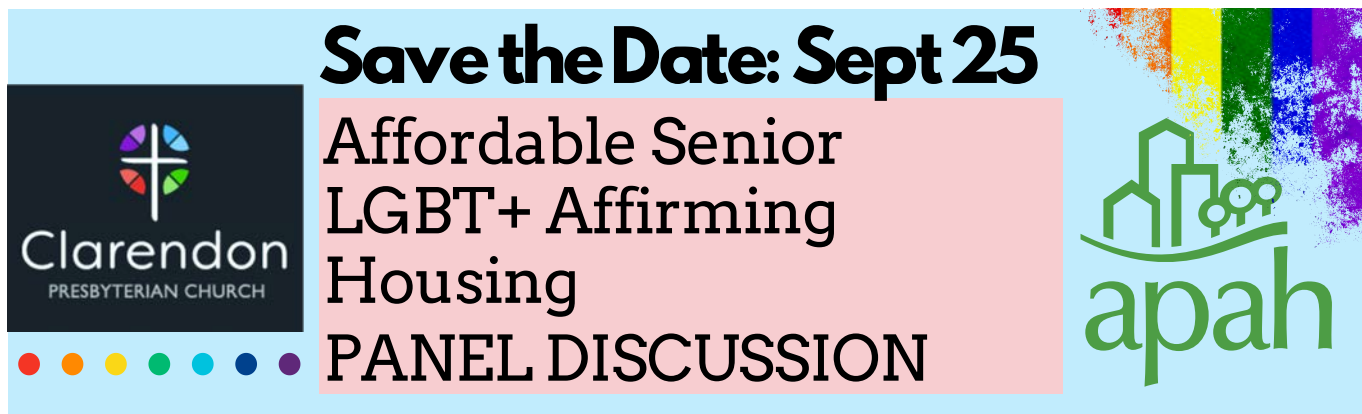
Eric Barreto



Amos J. Disasa

Register today at:
stewardshipkaleidoscope.org





Housing with Pride: The Case for Creating Affordable LGBTQ+ Welcoming Senior Housing in Arlington

Reception: 6:45 pm | **Panel Discussion:** 7:30 p.m.

September 25, 2024 📍 **Clarendon Presbyterian Church**

1305 N. Jackson St., Arlington, VA 22201 | Clarendon Metro Station | Parking 1308 N. Irving Street

Join us for an insightful panel discussion on the challenges and solutions for creating affordable, LGBTQ+ welcoming senior housing in Arlington.

Clarendon Presbyterian Church, in partnership with Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH), proposes to redevelop its property to provide affordable senior housing that warmly welcomes LGBTQ individuals. This initiative aligns with the church's mission since the 1970s to support affordable housing and create an inclusive community for LGBTQ+ people.

Key Discussion Points:

- Challenges faced by LGBTQ+ elders including discrimination in some retirement communities
 - Lower rates of home ownership among LGBTQ+ elders and higher levels of poverty
 - A high portion of LGBTQ+ elders living without family support
 - A regional and national lack of LGBTQ+ welcoming affordable housing and how we can address it
 - Personal stories of potential residents of this proposed community
-

Distinguished Panelists:

- **Jay Fiset** (*he/him*)- Former County Board Member (Moderator)
 - **Jane Haskell** (*she/her*)- Director, SAGE National LGBTQ+ Housing Initiative
 - **Alice Tewell** (*she/her*)- Pastor, Clarendon Presbyterian Church
 - **Carmen Romero** (*she/her*)- CEO, Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing
 - **Tom Villa** (*he/him*) - Potential Resident - IMPACTO LGBT Director of Operations
 - **Potential Resident** - To Be Announced
-

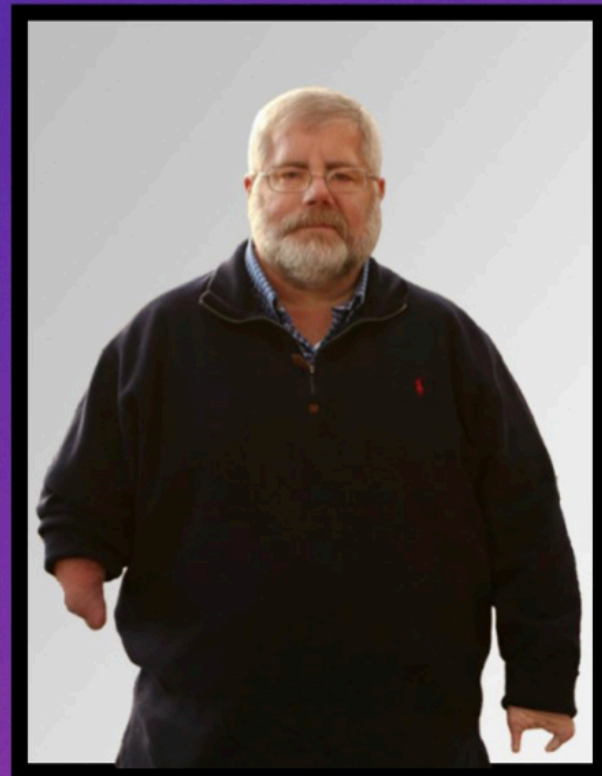
Let us know if you can come! Scan the QR code below. Thank you!



GARY HARMON

INCLUSIVE ACCESSIBILITY

Join us on October 6 to explore conversation about accessibility with Gary Harmon! After reading and discussing his memoir, *A Clown in Cobwebs*, we are excited to meet the author, who is an expert in the world of accessibility and inclusivity. Gary, who was born with a physical difference caused by Amniotic Band Syndrome, is a Presbyterian from Knoxville, TN and an avid speaker on all things related to inclusivity and accessibility. His book covers a wide range of topics: family relationships, self-love, loving others, healing, trust, disabilities, faith, acceptance, forgiveness, and so much more. Gary – under the pen name Walt Nelson – says it best:



[This memoir illustrates] the challenges of growing up in the rural south with disabilities, and a father who was ashamed of him. This memoir reminds us that worth and dignity can be found in all humans regardless of the design of the exterior.

Schedule of Events:

10:30 AM - Worship at Bush Hill in the Sanctuary

11:45 AM - Potluck Meet-and-Greet with Gary in the Dickson Room

1:00 PM - Accessibility Discussion with Gary in the Sanctuary



Bush Hill Presbyterian Church

4916 FRANCONIA RD., ALEXANDRIA, VA 22310 | 703.971.1171

NORTHEASTERN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



COME JOIN US
as we *Celebrate*

Sunday
OCT 13 2024
4PM

SAVE THE DATE



Dr. Laddie Bell's
30 YEARS
of Music Ministry at Northeastern

NORTHEASTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2112 Varnum Street, NE | Washington, DC | 20018 | 202.526.1730

Reading MARILYNNE ROBINSON

An Exploratory Meeting
Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 4-5:30 PM
Haverkamp Room (3rd Floor)

You are invited to a meeting of people living in the National Capital Region who are fans of Marilynne Robinson. The purpose of the gathering is to consider establishing a Reading Marilynne Robinson group. The group could be formal or informal, meeting regularly or sporadically to discuss a novel or essay by Robinson, or to hear a presentation about her writing. The structure and format of the group would be decided by your interest.

Learn more and RSVP at wpc-alex.org/adult or contact Scott Planting, Director of Adult Formation, at s.planting@wpc-alex.org.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2701 Cameron Mills Road in Alexandria, VA

Concert Series *at* Bush Hill

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024 | 6:00 PM & 7:30 PM

SPOOKY SUZUKI PIANO CONCERT

The students of Joe Gabalski will be performing classic works - in Halloween costumes!

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

Thrills and chills! The silent film, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," will feature LIVE organ music by music director, Joe Gabalski.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2024 | 3:00 PM

RITORNO A MUSICA

The Ritorno a Musica string orchestra, led by Ruth Erbe, features repertoire from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary eras.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024 | 7:30 PM

VIRGINIA BRONZE

Join the Virginia Bronze handbell choir as they ring in the Christmas holidays.

DISTRICT 5 WOODWIND QUINTET

TBA

MARCH 29, 2025 | 7:00 PM

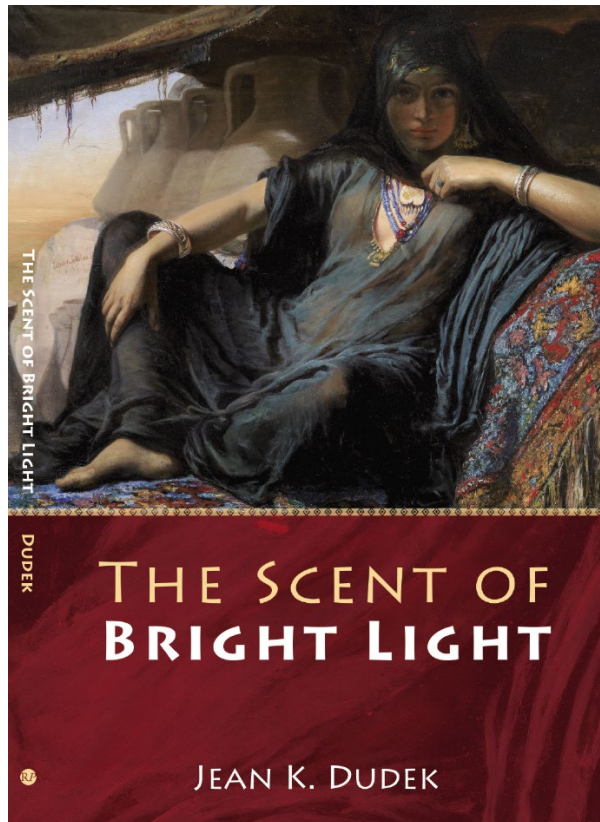
ORGAN RECITAL

Joe Gabalski, Music Director of Bush Hill Presbyterian Church, plays works featuring J.S. Bach, Calvin Hampton, Tom Trenney, and Maurice Durufle.

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025 | 7:00 PM

HYMN FESTIVAL

This festival is open to singers of all musical abilities who enjoy being a part of a large ensemble, featuring hymn arrangements by Tom Trenney and choral music of John Rutter, Paul Halley, and Dan Locklair. To participate, watch our website for registration and schedule information.



Sarah's infertility is a heavy weight over her life. Her situation looks even more hopeless when she is trapped for years in the harem of an Egyptian Pharaoh. Upon being freed, Pharaoh gives Sarah a little girl who was born in the harem, named Ta-Sherit. The mysterious God who speaks to Sarah and her husband, Abraham, seems to have great power and has promised them a multitude of descendants. But Sarah is old and getting older, and still has not given birth.

In this novel, Sarah tells her story through the lens of her relationship with Ta-Sherit, whom she loves and raises like a daughter—while others nickname the Egyptian girl "Hagar" and view her as a servant. In this creative reimagining of an ancient family drama, the biblical text becomes a new story when it comes from Sarah in her own voice.

"Jean Dudek's inviting presentation of Sarah and Hagar invites readers to imagine what could have been, and what could still be, when women tell their own stories."

—AMY-JILL LEVINE, distinguished professor of New Testament and Jewish studies, Hartford International University for Religion and Peace

"Jean Dudek's *The Scent of Bright Light* reimagines Sarah and Hagar's story not as a text of terror but one of feminine rapport. Dudek builds on an ancient Jewish midrash that Hagar was a gift of Pharaoh after he slept with Sarah because Abraham passed her off as his sister. With a feminist twist, she creates a back story, depicting the women as close. It is a fascinating retelling of a familiar story."

—ALICE OGDEN BELLIS, professor of Hebrew Bible, Howard University School of Divinity

"An important addition to the body of modern biblical fiction, *The Scent of Bright Light* is a brilliant work by an author-scholar who clearly knows her subject matter. Jean Dudek brings Sarah, Abraham, and Hagar—and their unexplored stories—to vibrant life with all the humor, frustration, irony, heartbreak, and dignity of humanity. Thoroughly engaging and ingeniously imagined."

—TOSCA LEE, author of *Havah: The Story of Eve*

"An achievement of imagination, wit, learning, and tenderness. Jean Dudek's debut novel brings the reader into intimate, almost familiar contact with the mysterious and strange biblical world in which Sarah lived—in which she breathed, ate, suffered, endured, and laughed. With characteristic concision and precision, Dudek lays before the reader a lavish work about pain and triumph, faithfulness and frailty, gain, loss, and most importantly humanity. Be prepared to be surprised and delighted!"

—PAUL K.-K. CHO, professor of Hebrew Bible, Wesley Theological Seminary

JEAN K. DUDEK is a teaching assistant at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. She received her master of theological studies degree with a concentration in biblical studies from Wesley, and her juris doctor degree from New York University School of Law. This is her first novel.



The Scent of Bright Light (Wipf and Stock, 2024) is historical fiction, retelling the story of Sarah and Hagar in Sarah's voice. This book may be used in Adult Education, book discussion groups, PW circles, or other groups in your church. It was reviewed in the [June 2024 issue of The Presbyterian Outlook](#). Author Jean Dudek has a Master of Theological Studies degree from Wesley Theological Seminary and works there as a Teaching Assistant in the Introductory Bible courses. If you'd like her to come to your church to lead a discussion, please contact her at jpdudek@comcast.net. See more about the book at <https://jeandudek.com>.



Northeastern Family, Friends and Neighbors!!

Free Prostate Screening including MRI

Run by the National Institutes of Health
in Bethesda, MD.

Free transportation (Uber or Taxi) is available.

GIVING OURSELVES PATHS TO BEST HEALTH!!

Contact details for
those conducting the
study, and information on
where this study
is being conducted

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