

#### **NEXT THURSDAY MAIL DEADLINE**

Submissions are due MONDAY, December 2 and distributed Thursday, December 5

Send to communications@thepresbytery.org

# THURSDAY MAIL

**November 7, 2024** 

#### MISSIONAL, PASTORAL, PROPHETIC

#### IN THIS EDITION

**NCP Calendar of Events** 

from the Desk of Rev. David Baer

Notice for Presbytery Meeting & Registration

from the Desk of Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

**Amendment Discernment Process** 

Save the Date: 2025 Leadership Training

Save the Date: 2025 Continuing Ed

Gathering & Retreat 2025

Save the Date: 2025 Healthy Boundaries Opportunity

**November Birthdays** 

Welcome Rebekah Greniven

Missional Incubator

**Around NCP** 

**Other Organizations** 

**National Capital Presbytery** 

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

communications@thepresbytery.org







#### NCP CALENDAR

November 18 Action Item Dialogue: 2025 Budget 7:00 pm and Amendment Discernment via

Zoom

November 19 Stated Presbytery Meeting via Zoom

6:00 pm

November 22–24 Keep Awake! at Massanetta

November 28-29 Office Closed - Thanksgiving

December 2 Thursday Mail Deadline

December 5 Thursday Mail Distribution

December 10 Prayer over Amendments @

12:30 pm Fairlington PC

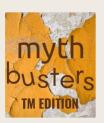
December 24- Office Closed

January 1

\*\*NEW DATE\*\*
THURSDAY,
January 23, 2025

5:00 pm

Stated Presbytery Meeting IN-PERSON at National PC



**MYTH:** Content for the Thursday Mail can be sent at any time, any format and it will be included in the next TM.

**FACT:** Send content for the TM by the deadline on the front page of the TM. Submit a ONE-page PDF (preferably 1000 kb or less)

#### From the Desk of Rev. David Baer Stated Clerk November 7, 2024



[Jesus said,] "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy."

Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

- Luke 10:36-37, NRSV -

Dear Friends,

The election this week set me to thinking about our role as a church in the days that lie ahead of us, and I keep coming back to Jesus' teaching about love for our neighbors. Not as a platitude, or a nice sentiment, but love for neighbors as a commitment to tend to the most vulnerable among us.

One time a lawyer asked Jesus to tell him what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus told him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." But it seems the man got stuck on the word neighbor. According to the Great Commandment, a neighbor is someone who deserves to be treated on an equal footing and loved in equal measure with oneself. But this is difficult! Surely there must be limits, the man thought. **There must be some place I can draw a circle** and say, "The people inside I will love as myself. They are my neighbors. Everyone else is a stranger, and I don't need to love them as I love myself."

So he asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Maybe he thought Jesus would say, "Your family" or "your village" or "the Jewish nation." Those are understandable boundaries. At the edge of one of these groups, perhaps, the duty to love others as oneself might come to an end.

But Jesus doesn't give him a boundary, a limit to the commandment to love. Instead he tells a story, where a hated, feared Samaritan is the one who stops to care for a victim of robbery and violence. The Samaritan does this at risk to himself—he doesn't know where the robbers are, or even that this isn't a trap. He does this for someone he has no affinity with—someone who is not a member of his family or village or nation. (In fact, in Jesus' story, the priest and the Levite, who at least shared his nationality and ethnicity, left the victim for dead.) Jesus asks the lawyer a question of his own, not "Who is my neighbor?" but "Who acted as a neighbor?"

The lawyer answers correctly: "The one who showed him mercy." "Go and do likewise," Jesus says.

I wonder what boundaries we feel tempted to draw as we define our neighborhood, the scope of those we are commanded to love. Is it family? Community? Nation? Or, as with the Good Samaritan, ought the presence of vulnerability or need itself be enough for us to recognize a neighbor?

#### From the Desk of Rev. David Baer (continued)

Jesus won't allow us to build walls or draw borders that put others outside our duty to love them as ourselves. The good news of Jesus is that despite our sin and unworthiness, God loves and chooses us. God only asks that we turn and lavish the same grace and generosity on others—deserving or not, "one of us" or not, safe or not.

If you are feeling vulnerable at this time, I hope that your church community will meet you with this kind of grace and care. It is good to gather every Sunday to remember Jesus' resurrection, to sing, to hold hands, and to be strengthened to meet whatever the world may impose on us as those who know we are in the keeping of God and of one another.

Maybe your life circumstances are such that your cup is running over right now, and you have time and space to care for neighbors inside and outside the church. May God strengthen you for this ministry. I suspect, though, that most of us fall somewhere in between. Please know that you are not meant to love your neighbor out of your emptiness, but out of the fullness of God poured out on you through your relationships with others. Even the Samaritan shared the work of caring with the innkeeper! The work of loving that God calls us to is meant to be shared. Let's support one another, let's breathe together, let's pray with and for one another.

There is a lot of not-love abroad in the world. Let's be God's witnesses to love.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk



# NOTICE OF STATED MEETING & PRESBYTERY MEETING REGISTRATION

Click HERE for the Notice and HERE to Register.



# From the Desk of Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe Director of Congregational Development and Mission November 7, 2024

Greetings People,

We hope you can play with us on social media and engage with our Presbyterian Mythbusters! Our churches are stationed in a prime time of teaching and showing what it means to be a Christian and a citizen. **We want your questions and assumptions about what it means to be PRESBYTERIAN!**One could be:



Politics has not place in the Pulpit - yes and no in our tradition!

Honestly, we know that 'politics' can be subjective for many of us. What is comforting for one may not be comforting for another and in the discomfort a possible assumption made is, 'that was too political'.

As Presbyterians and as religious organizations, we do not endorse candidates or election ballots from the pulpit. As Presbyterians we do hold elections for the spiritual leaders in our congregations who then are guided with Lord of Conscience in their leadership and faith for themselves and the congregation. As Presbyterians we recognize a shared similarity in order and privilege of governance through discerned and elected bodies (as reflected in our own Government system). And as Christians, Scripture is the authoritative Living Word of God and that the Testaments are God's self-revelation. That the Living Word is how we learn of God through Jesus, as in scripture and in life.

This is where for some the 'politics' can be subjective for us. Jesus' life points us to encounters with leaders and followers in times of health, wealth, governance, prisons, and grief. As disciples, we are guided to be with these situations and people so that all may know the love of God. When things get in the way of knowing this love (through people and life) we seek deep guidance of what we are called to do as children of God and citizens in the place we call home, in the building up of God's Kingdom. As Presbyterians, we are called to discern greatly! Here is a summary guidance of how we can rely with scripture as authoritative in our lives of citizenship\*:

- 1. Recognize that Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, is the Center of Scripture
- 2. Focus on the plain text of Scripture
- 3. Depend on the Holy Spirit's guidance for interpreting and applying God's message
- 4. Be guided by the Church's doctrinal consensus of "Rule of Faith"
- 5. Let all interpretations be in accord with the "Rule of Love"
- 6. Remember that Biblical interpretation requires earnest study
- 7. Seek to interpret a particular biblical passage in light of all of the Bible

May we be assured in the embrace of God's love and authoritative Living Word.

Peace and Courage, Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

\*Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture and Biblical Authority and Interpretation

#### **Amendment Discernment Process**



Discerning Amendments 24A & 24C General Presbyter John Molina-Moore facilitated a prepresbytery discussion at 3:00 p.m. in Stone Hall.

(VIDEO Summary – HERE.)

All members of the NCP community were invited to participate. These proposed amendments were approved by the General Assembly last summer and are now among the thirteen items sent out to the presbyteries of the PCUSA for their consideration.

The Stated Clerk provided a brief presentation on the amendments: 24-A would add sexual orientation and gender identity to a list expressing the diversity of those united in Christ through baptism in F-1.0403. 24-C would amend the language of G-2.0401b, which addresses the examination of church officers, to require that the examination cover "the Historic Principles of Church Order (F-3.01), and ... the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403." Currently, the Book of Order requires only that the examination address the requirements expressed in the constitutional questions asked of candidates at ordination and installation (W-4.0404).

The Stated Clerk noted that the affirmative votes of a majority of presbyteries would be required, in order for the amendments to be incorporated into the next edition of the Book of Order. Should this happen, he advised, it would be necessary for NCP's Commission on Ministry to revise the set of questions in its examination policy that all candidates for ordination and membership are asked, in order to address the new requirements.

The General Presbyter invited participants to spend some time in groups discussing their fears or excitement around these proposed amendments, as well as their hopes for how NCP should implement them, if they are adopted. At the end of this time, the groups summarized their discussions.

Based on the discussion on September 24, the Leadership Council has decided to provide for an extended period of discernment before a vote by the presbytery on 24-A and 24-C, including the following:

<b>~</b>	9/24/24	3:00 pm at National PC	In-person conversation to discuss Amendment 24-A and 24-C
~	10/19/24	1:30 pm at Gaithersburg PC	In-person conversation to discuss Amendments with OGA's Stated Clerk, Rev. Jihyun Oh.
	11/18/24	7:00 pm via Zoom	Action Item Dialogue - Zoom opportunity to discuss Amendments
	12/10/24	12:30 pm at Fairlington PC	In-person (hybrid) meeting for prayer over the presbytery's discernment
	1/23/25 (THURS)	5:00 pm at National PC	Opportunity for small group discussion prior to the meeting and formal debate and vote on Amendments

#### LEADERSHIP TRAINING



NCP's **Leadership Training** for elders will be held on **Saturday, February 22, 2025** at **National Presbyterian Church**, Washington, DC.
More information coming soon!

# CONTINUING EDUCATION GATHERING & RETREAT







Mark your calendars for NCP's annual **Continuing Education Gathering & Retreat for Church Professionals** on **March 10-12, 2025** at the **Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay** in Cambridge, MD.

We are excited to announce our speakers, <u>Rev. Dr. Ted Smith</u>, and <u>Lakisha Lockhart</u>! Registration will open in December. More information coming soon!

# HEALTHY BOUNDARIES TRAINING

ATTENTION Minister Members! SAVE THE DATE for the next IN-PERSON Healthy Boundaries Training opportunity on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. More information coming soon.



Paul Bauer, retired Robert Bell, retired Jacob Bolton Cameron Byrd, retired Saul Cardona-Morales, retired Hun Jung Cho Carla Gorrell, retired Chien-Di Hung Dave Jeltema Madeline Jervis, retired Mary Beth Lawrence Stella Lee Patrick McElwaine Nancy Neal Stan Ott, III Lisa Rzepka, retired Jim Sirbaugh, retired





FOR National Capital Presbytery members – Register NOW for 50% off admission to the MISSIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IMMERSION held Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:00 PM to Friday, January 31, 2025 11:00 AM. This event would be ideal for one or two leaders from any church considering the Missional Incubator for 2025 to attend. For more information and to register, click HERE

# INVITATION FROM WARNER MEMORIAL

On behalf of Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church, including the Administrative Commission, Rev. JC Cadwallander invites the Presbytery to join us in celebration and worship on **Sunday, December 8 @ 3pm.** In the context of worship, we will hold a congregational meeting wherein elders, deacons, and nominating committee members will be elected. The AC will hold a meeting in our presence to approve their examinations and to transfer jurisdiction back into the bounds of the Session upon their ordination and installation!



#### **WELCOME REBEKAH!**



Rebekah Greniven joined the presbytery staff as the COM Administrator. She is a recent graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary (MDiv) and is a candidate for ordination in the PC(USA) under care of the National Capital Presbytery. Prior to pursuing her call to ministry, Rebekah worked for five years in the energy policy field. Rebekah holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from NC State University and a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University.

Rebekah loves connecting with people and walking with them on their journeys. Rebekah also loves playing music in a myriad of styles including Celtic, classical, and musical theatre and she brings this creativity, flexibility, and joy to her work in the presbytery and the church.

Rebekah may be reached at <u>comadmin@thepresbytery.org</u>. Her remote office days are Monday, Tuesday & Thursday. Welcome Rebekah!

#### **OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS**

#### 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: <a href="https://massanettasprings.org/programs/confirmation">https://massanettasprings.org/programs/confirmation</a>



# MISSIONAL INCUBATOR EVENTS 2024 - 2025

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

19 % SEPT %

#### 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

#### 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 Presbyter 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 <u>HERE</u>.

16 A VON

#### 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 <u>HERE</u>.

# 29<sup>5</sup>202 31

#### 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







### 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.

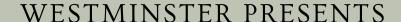
For more information – Click <u>HERE</u> Group registration closes October 4, 2024

**Questions? Contact Colleen Earp** 

540-434-3829 - colleenemassanettasprings.org

Contact NCP's Tara Spuhler McCabe tspuhlermccabe@thepresbytery.org

AFTER your church has registered.





East Coast Premiere

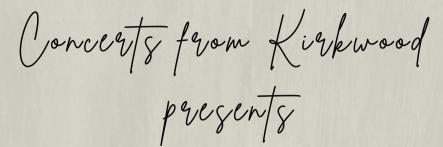
# Requiem for Solace

Kim André Arnesen

Westminster Choir & Orchestra Dr. Benjamin Hutchens, conductor

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024 11:00 A.M.

Westminster Presbyterian Church 2701 Cameron Mills Rd, Alexandria wpc-alex.org





Free Admission

Donations

Appreciated

## INTERWOVEN TRIO

Founder and Grammy award winning violinist

Keiko Tokunaga

On the Koto (a Japanese traditional stringed instrument)

Yoko Reikano Kimura

Interwoven Trio
is a New York-based
intercultural group
that celebrates
and integrates
traditional Asian
music and Western
classical music.

The



Mihai Marica

Saturday, Nov. 16 at 3 pm

Kirkwood Presbyterian 8336 Carrleigh Parkway Springfield, VA 22152

# Ritorno a Musica



FREE - family friendly, orchestral chamber concert featuring works by Hubert Parry, Gustav Holst, Gabriel Pierne, Tara Islas, and Kent Baker.

#### Saturday, November 23, 2024, 3:00 pm

Bush Hill Presbyterian Church 4916 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA

Food donations welcome! Canned and non-perishable goods collected at this concert will be donated to Koinonia, serving those in need in the Franconia, Kingstowne, and Rose Hill communities.



ritornoamusica.org



## TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

FIRST WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM

MUSIC, PRAYER, CANDLELIGHT AND SILENCE IN The style of the taizé community

Fairlington United Methodist Church Chapel 3900 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302

Hosted by Fairlington United Methodist,
Fairlington Presbyterian and St. Clement Episcopal Churches.
Parking available in Fairlington UMC and Presbyterian lots.



November 6 Prayer after the Election

December 4 Advent Prayer

January 1 Prayer to begin the New Year

February 5 Midwinter Prayer

March 5 Ash Wednesday

#### **PRESBYTERIAN**

# WORLD PRIDE 2025 PLANNING COMMITTEE



# Seeking enthusiastic volunteers to support with World Pride 2025 events!

"Support Our World Pride Planning Committee!

Are you a fun-loving, welcoming, and hospitable person interested in supporting LGBTQ+ initiatives? We're seeking dedicated volunteers to contribute to the events we're organizing.

We need your help with:

Designing and decorating floats
Greeting people
Parade support
Prayer

Even if you don't know where you want to serve, we'd love to have you join! Your creativity and enthusiasm will help make this event a memorable one for all.

#### Contact:Ivana & Héctor

- imiranda3426@gmail.com
- htorres734@gmail.com



#### Sabbath Symposium with Leland Seminary Nov. 9



A scholar from Truett Seminary at Baylor University, Dr. Angela Reed, comes to Arlington, VA to share a framework of living the Sabbath Life as Faith Leaders. Pastors/priests, educators, youth workers, lay leader, elders, and deacons face ongoing stress and demands that cannot be handled alone. They need peers and mentors to walk with them: they need spiritual companions. Dr. Reed shares research in the work demands of church leaders, and offers a model of reclaiming Sabbath life and renewal through spiritual companioning. Sponsored by the Leland Seminary in Arlington and the Rising Day Ministries. RSVP TODAY. (virtual attendance available for distance viewers).

**RSVP HERE:** <a href="https://risingdayministries.com/events/">https://risingdayministries.com/events/</a>



#### **Leadership Retreat**

The Fellowship Community invites you to a church leadership retreat hosted by the northeast region.

Our event will be led by John Chaffee focusing on "Made in the Good Image of our Creator." We will explore our identity in Christ and how it intersects with loneliness in leadership, imposter syndrome with pastors and other church leaders, and fatigue in ministry.

This event is open to ALL church leaders - Pastors, Elders, Deacons, Church Staff, Committee Chairs, Laity, Volunteers, Anyone and Everyone!

Thursday, January 30 - Friday, January 31 Summit Grove Camp & Conference Center

140 South Front St., New Freedom, PA 17349 (located on the PA/MD border)

\$215 single occupancy \$175 double occupancy \$150 triple occupancy \$50 for Thursday or Friday only

Discounts on full registration:
\$25 if registered by November 1
\$50 for leaders from churches with less than 75 members

**REGISTER BY NOV. 15TH** 



John Chaffee is a spiritual director, author, and adjunct theology professor for Eastern University, Palmer Seminary, and the Prison Education Program. After 20+ years of church work, he shifted to writing books, supporting pastors behind the scenes, and hosting seminars. He has written What's Another Word for Parable?, Echoes in the Desert, The Wonderstanding of Father Simeon, Breadcrumbs, and (coming soon) The Way of Holy Foolishness. He emphasizes the Patristics, developmental theories, and emotionally healthy spirituality in his work. He also does a free weekly newsletter, the 5 on Friday, at www.johnchaffee.com.

The retreat planning team is excited to see you soon!

Cynthia Betz-Bogoly, Matthew Pooley, Jason Tucker, and Robbie Ytterberg

Email us: office@fellowship.community



A candlelit trail winds through the woods, transporting you back in time. Along your journey, meet other travelers, shepherds, kings, and angels. Immerse yourself in the greatest story ever told...

More than "just another live nativity," you'll experience musical performances, dramatic re-enactments, and fellowship with others while leisurely strolling a candlelit wooded path. After your journey, warm up in Wise Lodge with festive music and hearty refreshments.

#### **LEARN MORE AT**

camphanover.org/hanover-christmas



Friday, Dec. 13 and Saturday, Dec. 14

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

3163 Parsleys Mill Rd Mechanicsville, VA

A donation of \$10 per person to the Annual Fund for Camp Hanover is appreciated

This event is suitable for all ages and physical abilities. Visitors with mobility issues can request transportation around the event via golf cart.



Winter Camp

December 28-30





**Bonfires** 



Time with friends



Open to campers in grades 5-12



Archery High ropes

Cookouts





Crafts



#### **LEARN MORE AT**

camphanover.org/ winter-camp

