

The next Thursday Mail deadline is
Monday, September 29 with
distribution on Thursday, October 2.

THURSDAY MAIL

September 11, 2025



MISSIONAL, PASTORAL, PROPHETIC

MESSAGE FROM GENERAL PRESBYTER SEPTEMBER'S PRESBYTERY MEETING



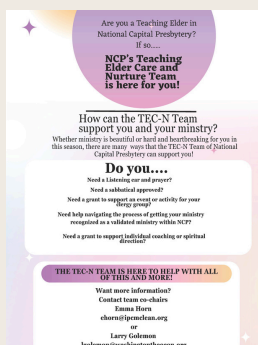
CHANGING SEASONS, CHANGING CLERKS?



Has your congregation elected a new Clerk of Session or updated its church office email? Have you changed your personal email address?

Let us know! Send contact information updates to communications@thepresbytery.org

NCP'S TEC&N TEAM IS HERE FOR YOU!



Are you a **Teaching Elder in National Capital Presbytery?**
If so, the Committee on Ministry's Teaching Elder Care & Nurture Team (TEC-N) is here for you!
Click the image for more details.

National Capital
PRESBYTERY
Reformed Presbyterian Church in America

Upcoming Events

2025/26

AUG 23	Church Comms & Marketing Workshop	OCT 18	It's Not Weird Start a Compelling Missional Business
SEPT 2	Ministry of Presence Prayers at DC Metro Stations	OCT 19	Youth Event Presbytery-Wide Praying with Our Feet
SEP 8	Antiracism - Laity Six sessions via Zoom	OCT 25	Allyship Training In-person
SEP 9	Antiracism - Clergy Six sessions via Zoom	NOV 16	Missional Incubator Implementation
SEP 18	Missional Incubator Who, What, Why	NOV 18	Presbytery Meeting Zoom, Budget
SEP 22	Action Item Dialogue No items for action	NOV 21-23	Keep Awake Registration open
SEP 23	Presbytery Meeting New Commissioner Training & Business Mtg	FEB 3-5	Missional Incubator Immersion
SEP 29	NCTC Investment Workshop Zoom	MAR 2-4	Continuing Ed. Gathering & Retreat
OCT 5	Pastors' Hangout Social Hour	<p>→ For more information and to register – the-presbytery.org/events</p> <p>Questions? communications@the-presbytery.org</p>	

For more information and to register -
[the presbytery.org/events](mailto:communications@thepresbytery.org)
Questions?
communications@thepresbytery.org

More detailed information
about each event, flyers and
registration may be found on
the [Events page](#) of the website

National Capital Presbytery

6700-A Rockledge Drive, Suite 250
Bethesda, MD 20817
240-514-5348
www.thepresbytery.org

communications@thepresbytery.org



WELCOME TO THE PRESBYTERY!

Rev. Caitlin Culp was ordained on September 6 at **Church of the Covenant in Arlington, VA**, and began her call as Pastor at Church of the Covenant on September 1. Caitlin graduated from Union Presbyterian Seminary's (UPSem) Master of Divinity program in Richmond, VA in May. As a seminarian, her work focused on feminist and womanist Biblical interpretation, ministry with older adults, worship, and preaching. During her time in seminary, Caitlin served as the Parish Intern at Ginter Park Presbyterian, a Clinical Pastoral Education Intern and PRN Chaplain at VCU Health, and a Spiritual Care Intern at a Continuing Care Retirement Community where she also preached monthly. She's a lifelong Presbyterian, an oldest sister, an aunt, and the daughter of a mom who's a dentist and a dad who's a PC(USA) minister. Caitlin has a variety of ecumenical experiences including involvement with an Alliance of Baptist Church in Washington DC and with a United Methodist Church church plant in Arlington, VA. Caitlin, her husband, Charles, and their new daughter, Charlie, live in McLean. Caitlin and her family are thrilled to be back in the Washington DC area because Charles is a DC native and Northern Virginia is where they met.



Rev. Samantha Gonzalez-Block's faith journey is shaped by her interfaith, intercultural upbringing as the child of a Presbyterian Puerto Rican mother and a Reformed Jewish father. Her diverse background inspired a lifelong spiritual curiosity and ultimately led her to ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She studied religion at Barnard College and earned her M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary, where she engaged deeply in interfaith and social justice work. Her ministry has included roles in New York, Chile, and North Carolina, where she served as Associate Pastor at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church and actively supported youth, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, and international partnerships. Currently, she serves as a **specialized minister as the Reverend and Christian Spiritual Leader at the Interfaith Families Project of Greater Washington**, ministering to Jewish-Christian families in the D.C. area. She looks forward to becoming more involved in National Capital Presbytery and continuing her work as a bridge-builder in faith communities.



Born as the unexpected twin, **Rev. Lisa Wilson Martin** grew up in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley as a proud farm girl and cradle Presbyterian. From an early age, she felt called to serve the church, which led her to Berea College, and Lexington Theological Seminary where she initially pursued Christian education. Encouraged by mentors and her preaching experiences, she discerned a call to parish ministry and earned her M.Div. at Union Theological Seminary, later serving congregations across Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia, and Florida. In the past 31 years, Lisa has had the honor of being the first ordained and installed female Minister of Word and Sacrament in these congregations. Married to Roy Martin since 2017, she cherishes her blended family of children, grandchildren, and beloved pets. Alongside ministry, she enjoys antiques, Sunday drives, good coffee, and the close bond she shares with her twin sister. Lisa will serve as **pastor at Heritage Presbyterian Church beginning in October**.



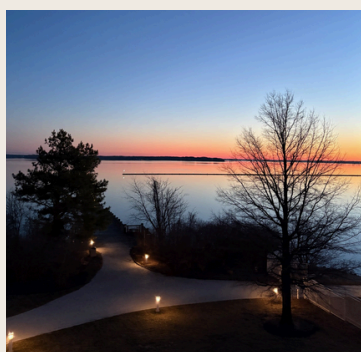
Rev. Mark Piedmonte-Silvoy is serving **Brambleton Presbyterian Church as their Gap Pastor**. He comes to us from New Castle Presbytery after serving as solo pastor for the Buckingham Presbyterian Church in Berlin, MD. He was an active member and co-chair of New Castle's Ignite Team, providing grants and support to churches for creative missional endeavors. In addition, he served as a Vital Congregation Initiative facilitator. Before moving to Maryland, Mark served congregations in upstate New York and was active in presbytery work, including CPM chair and Youth Ministries Mark holds degrees in Journalism, Divinity, and Patient Counseling, and completed a chaplain residency at VCU Health Systems. Originally from Allentown, PA, he began his career at a nonprofit human service agency advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities before entering ministry. He and his wife, Aimee (a middle/high school English teacher) have recently moved to Ashburn, VA and are excited to serve God together with the good people of Brambleton and colleagues in National Capitol Presbytery. They have two adult sons and two pets - Jersey, a Red Tick Coon/Australian Shepherd mix (*if you hear barking it's probably her*) and a tabby cat named Elvis Kenobi (*who ain't nuthin but a hound dog Jedi*).



Dr. Shawn P. Richmond, a native of North Carolina and Washington, D.C., grew up in a loving Christian family and endeavors to carry many of their traditions forward. She is a published author of two Christian novels, three Bible Study workbooks, a book of sermons and short stories, and a recent biblical research project. For that project, she completed a deep dive study of "100 Women of the Bible" where she led a social media campaign posting a description of a different woman each day for 100 consecutive days, while also publishing nearly 80 books through her publishing company, Goshen Publishers LLC. Saved since the age of 12, she has walked with the Lord for more than 40 years, deepening her faith through prayer, study, and theological education. Dr. Richmond holds a Ph.D. in Organization and Management, two master's degrees, and numerous post-doctoral certificates, and has served as faculty and curriculum developer at several universities. She is an elder at Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church, and will be **commissioned by National Capital Presbytery as a Commissioned Ruling Elder to serve Prince George's Community Church** at September's meeting. She lives in Virginia, where she enjoys family gatherings, painting, reading, and long walks on scenic trails.



2026 CONTINUING EDUCATION GATHERING & RETREAT



We are pleased to announce that our **2026 Continuing Education Gathering & Retreat** will be back at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge Maryland on **March 2-4, 2026**. We will offer **early bird pricing** with the fee increasing on December 1! We are excited for our speakers **Brennan Breed**, Associate Professor of Old Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary and **Lakisha Lockhart**, Associate Professor of Christian Education and Acting Director of the Center for Womanist Leadership at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Register [HERE](#).



EARTH CARE NETWORK

Visit **Earth Care Network's** page on the website to see information about the network and the many resources including information about [Heat Pumps](#), [Leave the Leaves](#), and more! To learn more and get involved attend the next meeting on September 27 (revised date) from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM via Zoom.

SONG WRITING RETREAT



THE
CENTER FOR
CONGREGATIONAL
SONG

The Center for Congregational Song is offering another one of its **song-writing retreats**. This year's retreat we're returning to Richmond, VA on October 22-25, 2025. It is an ecumenical gathering of song writers. Many are clergy or worship leaders in their local churches who would like to begin or would like to get better at writing hymns and songs of the church. Others are simply lay folks who feel called to write. The clinicians this year are renowned hymn writers Mary Louise Bringle (Brevard, NC) and Ben Brody (Spokane, WA).

You can learn all about the retreat here:

<https://congregationalsong.org/event/writing-the-church-song-2025/>



Jim Adams, retired
Marty Albershardt
Alice Bellis
Heather Bobbitt
Meghan Brown
Judy Chan, retired
Emily D'Andrea
Judith Fulp-Eickstedt
Rebekah Greniven
Samantha Gonzalez-Block
Campbell Hackett
Shelby Harasty
Minette Hope, retired
Mansfield "Kasey" Kaseman

Jeanne MacKenzie, retired
Catherine McCollough, retired
Sam McFerran
David Milam, retired
Roger Miller, retired
Bernice Parker-Jones, retired
Ken Rathje
Hallelujah Son, retired
Katherine Stanford
Rachel Vaagenes
Jose Velazco, retired
Caroline Wilson, retired
Eunice Yang
Chris Yim

CAMP HANOVER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Get away from the hustle and bustle of day-to-day life. Spend a night at Camp Hanover with someone else doing the planning and preparing.

The retreat consists of a planned program, quiet time, activities, and worship.



September 19-20, 2025

CAMP HANOVER

Learn more: CampHanover.org/womens-retreat

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY @ **CAMP HANOVER**



Interested in serving God and others through camp ministry?

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 2025-2026 year which begins in August. Learn more at camphanover.org/about/mvp/.

MVP