

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

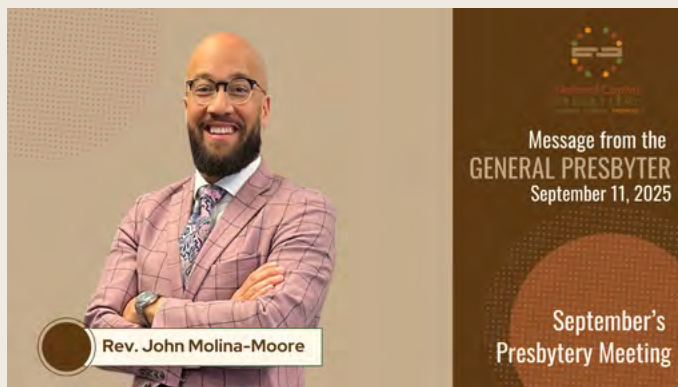
# THURSDAY MAIL

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](mailto: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

# 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

— For more information and to register –  
thespresbytery.org/events  
Questions?  
communications@thespresbytery.org

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

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

**National Capital Presbytery**

6700-A Rockledge Drive, Suite 250  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
240-514-5348  
[www.thepresbytery.org](http://www.thepresbytery.org)

[communications@thepresbytery.org](mailto:communications@thepresbytery.org)



September 11, 2025



Greetings **People of God**,

That was the sermon title (and the message of the sermon) at an Ordination service I recently attended. I deeply appreciated the reminder named out loud. **We are the people of God!** As people of God, we may find ourselves compelled to engage deeper in our faith, worship, and service. One might also find similar moments of contemplation and action to what was asked of the faithful in response to September 11<sup>th</sup> in 2001, what does the church do now?

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 3:30 PM (before the Presbytery meeting) at National Presbyterian Church, we are holding a Town Hall on **Ministry of Presence: Pastoral and Prophetic**. This will be a time of learning from and listening to the people of God in our Presbytery as they engage in pastoral and prophetic witnessing In Times Such as Now.

Topics to be covered but not exclusive to are:

- What is Ministry of Presence?
- Is there a difference in Protesting vs. Witnessing?
- What are we “allowed to do”?
- How can I engage my congregation in this?
- How can I engage my pastor in this?

In times such as now, clergy and laity in our Presbytery are finding unique ways to worship and express faithful responses throughout the DMV. Presbyteries across the country have contacted our office to learn about these creative approaches to being present and addressing the heightened harm experienced by God's people.

Please join us as we will share and learn from one another. When registering for the presbytery meeting, you have the opportunity to register for the Town Hall. This will not be recorded, and we will offer an online offering at a later date. Please note that emails concerning Times Such as Now for engagement opportunities come from the NCP communications email address ([communications@thepresbytery.org](mailto:communications@thepresbytery.org)). Please mark this email address so that it does not go into your spam. See you on Tuesday at National Presbyterian Church.

Peace and Courage,

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe



National Capital Presbytery

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Social Hour

→ For more information and to register –  
[thepresbytery.org/events](https://thepresbytery.org/events)

Questions?  
[communications@thepresbytery.org](mailto: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*).

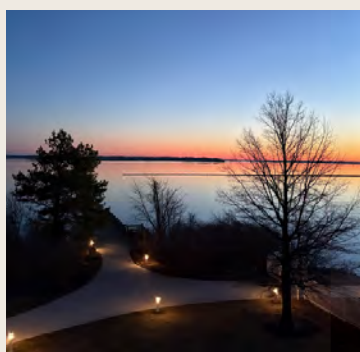




**Dr. Shawn P. Richmond**, a native of North Carolina and Washington, D.C., grew up in a loving Christian family and endeavors to carry many of their traditions forward. She is a published author of two Christian novels, three Bible Study workbooks, a book of sermons and short stories, and a recent biblical 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](https://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/](https://camphanover.org/about/mvp/).

**MVP**

# Faithful Investing

*in UNCERTAIN TIMES*

**Monday, September 29, 2025  
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM via Zoom**

2025 has been marked by significant market swings and global uncertainty. Many investors are asking how to respond wisely. While markets may be unpredictable, we know that your mission is steadfast.

This webinar offers practical guidance and spiritual framing for investing during volatility- helping your institutions remain faithful stewards of your financial resources through both calm and stormy markets.

Join us for an investment workshop led by the  
[New Covenant Trust Company](#).

Click [HERE](#) to register

Questions? Contact Heather Deacon at [hdeacon@thepresbytery.org](mailto:hdeacon@thepresbytery.org)



National Capital  
PRESBYTERY  
MISSIONAL • PASTORAL • PROPHETIC



A Subsidiary of the  
Presbyterian Foundation



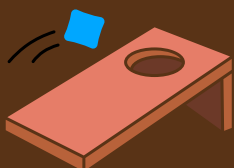
*Pastors'*

*Firepit, yard games &  
a good time!*

# Hangout

**Sunday,  
October 5, 2025  
7:00 PM**

**Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church**  
2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria VA 22300



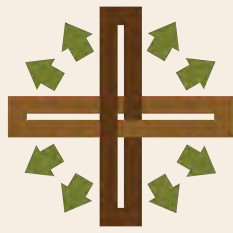
**BRING A SNACK TO SHARE & A YARD CHAIR**



Register [HERE](#)

Questions? - Contact John Molina-Moore - [jmolinamoore@thepresbytery.org](mailto:jmolinamoore@thepresbytery.org)





# Upcoming MISSIONAL INCUBATOR EVENTS 2025 - 2026

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

*All events have a suggested donation of \$10 to offset food costs unless otherwise noted.*

## **18** **2025** | **WHO, WHAT, AND WHY?** **SEPT**

Thursday, September 18, 6:00 -8:00 PM  
Ridgetop Coffee and Tea, Sterling, VA

The future of your church will be shaped by how you answer three simple questions:

- “Who are you here to engage and serve?”
- “What are you doing to engage your who?”
- “Why are you doing what you do?”

This evening event is designed to help you and possibly a few others from your church wrestle with the implementation of your mission as it relates to your “who”, “what”, and “why”. This will also be an opportunity to evaluate your mission plans considering your answers to the three key mission questions. For churches who are in the second round of the cohort and who bring a team, a coach will be provided to guide your table discussion at this event making this time a deeper dive into your concept as it relates to the mission. Dinner included. To reserve your spot, register [HERE](#).

## **18** **2025** | **IT'S NOT WEIRD: START A COMPELLING** **OCT** **MISSIONAL BUSINESS**

Saturday, October 18, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Ridgetop Coffee and Tea, Sterling, VA

A church starting a compelling missional business or a social enterprise, is that weird? Would Jesus turn over the tables or would Jesus be the one who greets the strangers at the door of your gym, grocery store, coffee café, bookshop, learning center, music store...? Many churches do not find the amount of giving in offering able to sustain the mission and few churches have visitors flocking into their doors. Maybe a compelling business is a path to a viable future. Lunch included. To reserve your spot, register [HERE](#).

## **16** **2025** | **IMPLEMENTATION** **NOV**

Sunday, November 16, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Ridgetop Coffee and Tea, Sterling, VA

How do you go from “discernment” to “implementation”? How do you take an idea and make it a reality? Join us early at 1:30 PM for an ideation lab that will explore how to discern which idea to implement. Dinner included. To reserve your spot, register [HERE](#).

# It's not **WEIRD** : Start a Compelling Missional Business



**Saturday, October 18**  
**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
**Ridgetop Coffee and Tea**  
**21631 Ridgetop Cir, Sterling, VA 20166**

Are you passionate about making a difference in your community?  
Discover how to start a missional business that impacts lives at our upcoming workshop led by the NCP staff.

Dive into essential topics like  
**Community Exegesis, Non-profit Making Profit, and Case Studies.**



We'll provide a solid framework and practical tools to help you succeed.  
Learn what you can and can't do, along with actionable steps to move forward.

Don't miss this opportunity to turn your vision into reality.

**Register HERE**  
and take the first step towards creating a compelling missional business!

Lunch included  
(suggested \$10 donation to offset food costs)



NCP Youth Ministry Gathering for all NCP Congregations and NCP Communities

# *praying with our* **FEET** *with Zy Bryant*



**Sunday,  
October 19**

**1:00 -3:30 PM**

***Hope Presbyterian Church***

1100 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville, MD 20721

**with NCP leadership**

**labyrinth walking**

**food drinks games**



**National Capital**  
**PRESBYTERY**  
MISSIONAL • PASTORAL • PROPHETIC

**Please RSVP for a headcount for activities and food**



THE DISMANTLING RACISM TEAM OF  
NCP INVITE YOU TO

# ALLYSHIP TRAINING 2025

led by Service Never Sleeps



UNITY · RECONCILIATION · JUSTICE  
**Dismantling Racism**

an **IN-PERSON TRAINING OPPORTUNITY**

**Saturday, October 25**

**9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**at National Presbyterian Church**

Honors the Minister Member mandate and an opportunity for all employees and members of NCP churches, congregations, and partners.

## **Lunch**

(\$10 suggested donation to offset food costs)

Led by Whitney Parnell, CEO and Founder of *Service Never Sleeps*, these sessions will provide helpful definitions, invitations to self-mirroring, and active ally education involving the **CLAIM** acronym: **C**are, **L**earn, **A**ct, **I**nfluence, and **M**aintain. The workshops teach individuals about the causes of social injustice, how to be effective allies for marginalized communities, and how to actively influence and educate others. Our **IN-PERSON** time together will involve breakouts for practice together in pairs and small groups intermittently throughout our time of learning, so come ready to "try on" the Ally Training strategies of *Service Never Sleeps*.

**[Register HERE](#)**



**SAVE THE DATE**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**  
**NATIONAL CAPITAL PRESBYTERY**  
**2025 FALL GATHERING**

**Hybrid Gathering**

**Saturday, October 18, 2025, 10am to 12pm**

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church**

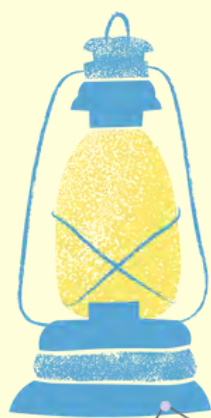
**610 S. Frederick Ave. Gaithersburg, MD 20877**

**Theme: PW IN THE WORLD**

**Speaker : Nina Khoury**

**"Her experience as a PW Delegate to the  
UN Commission on the Status of Women"**

**MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW!**



KEEP  
AWAKE!



## November 21 - 23, 2025

### Massanetta Springs

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

#### IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 10/6/25: group holds expire

Monday 11/10/25: final day to register

Register your church group [HERE](#)

#### **Questions? Contact Colleen Earp**

540-434-3829 - [colleen@massanettasprings.org](mailto:colleen@massanettasprings.org)

#### **Contact NCP's Tara Spuhler McCabe -**

[tspuhlermccabe@thepresbytery.org](mailto:tspuhlermccabe@thepresbytery.org)

**AFTER your church has registered.**



# Two Congregational Forums

## Doing Justice Today

Join faith communities from around the DMV for two evening in-person forums about how congregations are working for racial justice today with a live demo of the **Interwoven Congregations Network** – a new online community for racial justice and healing! Learn about how this Network & tools can undergird the antiracism work of your congregation!

**SEPT. 9<sup>TH</sup> - 7 P.M.**

**Rock Spring United Church of Christ**

5010 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA

**SEPT. 11<sup>TH</sup> - 7 P.M.**

**Northminster Presbyterian Church**

7720 Alaska Avenue NW, Washington, DC



## For Information & to RSVP

**RSVP** for one (or both!) of the forums!

For more information about the forums or the new Interwoven Congregations Network, contact Interwoven Executive Director Rev. Pat Jackson or visit the Interwoven website.

**Pick up Tools & Build Community!**





# JOIN US AT SARGENT FOR AN ALL-IN REVIVAL! ALL HYBRID SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:30 AM

**S  
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**THURS  
4**

**WINE & THE WORD BIBLE STUDY  
W/REV. BRIAN**

**7 PM VIA SARGENT'S ZOOM**

**SAT  
6**

**FAITH & FITNESS W/ REV BRIAN  
JOIN US FOR A WORKOUT THAT WILL EXERCISE OUR BODIES AND  
OUR FAITH!**

**10 AM IN-PERSON**

**SUN  
7**

**ALL IN! REVIVAL OPENING SUNDAY SERVICE & COMMUNION**

**WORD BY REV. BRIAN K. MCCOLLUM, PASTOR  
MUSIC BY SARGENT'S MALE CHORUS**

**SUN  
14**

**ALL IN! REVIVAL SUNDAY SERVICE 2**

**WORD BY REV. DR. SHAWN P. RICHMOND OF PGCC  
MUSIC BY THE SOLOISTS OF SARGENT**

**SUN  
21**

**ALL IN! REVIVAL SUNDAY SERVICE 3**

**WORD BY REV. ELIJAH FEREBEE, FROSTBURG STATE  
MUSIC BY SARGENT'S PRAISE TEAM**

**SUN  
28**

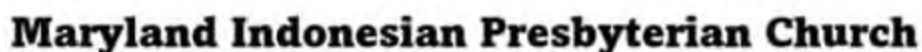
**ALL IN! REVIVAL CLOSING SUNDAY SERVICE**

**WORD BY REV. JOHN MOLINA-MOORE, NCP MODERATOR  
MUSIC BY SARGENT'S WINGS ORCHESTRA**

**JOIN US AFTER SERVICE FOR "POPSICLES & PRAISE" AS WE CLOSE OUT  
REVIVAL & THE SUMMER AND FELLOWSHIP!**

**SARGENT MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
5109 NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS AVE, NE DC 20019  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [SARGENT-MEMORIAL-PC.ORG](http://SARGENT-MEMORIAL-PC.ORG) AND CLICK [WATCH ONLINE](#) TO  
JOIN OUR SERVICES AND BIBLE STUDY**





## Invitation to Join MIPC OUTREACH program

## Serve Our Neighbor-support MOCO County

**We combine Walking for Health and cleaning the Road  
Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> 25 at 9.30 am-10.30 am**



**Road Cleaning: Crabb Branch Way-Redland Rd**  
**Meeting point McDonald, 16701 Crabb Branch Way**  
**Derwood MD at 9 am**





RESONANCE & RENEWAL CONCERT SERIES  
POTOMAC PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Tickets

# THE WILDWOODS

Friday, 9/19/2025 @ 7pm

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Tickets  
\$25

10301 RIVER ROAD  
POTOMAC, MD

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[potopres.org](https://potopres.org)



**Potomac**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Manassas Presbyterian Church  
8201 Ashton Avenue, Manassas VA 20109



# Community CÉILIDH

Music: Irish Breakfast Band  
Caller: Janine Smith

No partner, No experience required!  
Open and FREE to the public!

Good Will Offering to Benefit  
MPC's Early Learning Ctr. Scholarships

**September 27, 2025 3-5:30 pm**





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

#### STUDY CONTACT

**Name:** Yolanda McKinney, R.N.  
**Phone Number:** 240.760.6095  
**Email:** ymckinney@mail.nih.gov



#### STUDY CONTACT BACKUP

**Name:** Ismail B. Turkbey, M.D.  
**Phone Number:** 240.760.6112  
**Email:** turkbey@mail.nih.gov

*NEPC is not officially affiliated with NIH*



# Can Your Congregation Help Support A Refugee Family?

**The Urgent Need:** In late January 2025 the U.S. government took two actions: It discontinued the entrance of almost all refugees into the U.S., and it ceased all funding for resettlement for newly arrived refugees. The nine non-profit resettlement agencies throughout the country no longer have federal funds to provide rent, living expenses, or assistance in job-search, connections to public benefits, or guidance in finding healthcare providers. There are hundreds of refugee families in the DMV area that have visas from the State Department and arrived in the U.S. between November and late January, but who are living in apartments with no way to pay rent, no money for food or basic necessities, and have only limited access to local, state, and private services. Many of these refugees do not speak English, and when they do their English is often very rudimentary.

**Lewinsville Presbyterian Church's Response:** Since 2022 Lewinsville's Refugee Resettlement Team (RRT) has partnered with Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA), one of the official refugee resettlement agencies. We have helped resettle four families (three Afghan, one El Salvadoran). Now we are helping a Ukrainian family with basic expenses after the federal government suspended the Temporary Protective Status Program that enabled Ukrainians to flee their war-torn country.

**Our Appeal:** We invite your congregation to help support a family for a few weeks or even with a one-time donation. Members of our RRT are willing to put you in touch with Lutheran Social Services and provide more information about how your congregation might help. For example:

- You may be able to pay the rent for a family until the parents find employment.
- You may be able to provide funds for groceries.
- You may be able to help furnish an apartment.

Feel free to contact Betty Douglass or Layne Brubaker for more information.

**CONTACT:**

Betty Douglass, RRT team lead  
ebdouglass22046@gmail.com

Rev. Layne B. Brubaker, Associate Pastor,  
Lbrubaker@lewinsville.org

For more information about the challenges of LSSNCA due to the pause to refugee resettlement program and its funding freeze, please refer to this article:

<https://apnews.com/article/afghan-refugees-eviction-trump-foreign-aid-cuts-ef1c6ceabdeca71a212e9b230c0c5fed>



Scan QR Code to read article



## Concerned about Gun Violence?

Learn Faith-Based Skills for  
Gun Violence Prevention at the  
**Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage**  
Harrisonburg, VA Sept. 24-27, 2025

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship invites you to the [Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage](#) at Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA, Sept. 24-27, 2025. The Institute offers continuing education for clergy and lay leaders on educational, pastoral and action steps for gun violence prevention mission with the local congregation.

**Who should come?** Lay leaders and teams, parents and grandparents, gun violence survivors, suicide prevention groups, gun owners, safety advocates, veterans, pastors, youth leaders—people of faith who are committed to saving lives. All denominations are welcome.



Photo: 2024 Atwood Institute Graduates at Ghost Ranch, NM. They returned to their churches with new skills, courage and friends in the ministry of gun violence prevention.

See a short video from last year's participants [HERE](#).

Find a story from Presbyterian News Service [HERE](#).

**2025 Atwood Institute Leaders Include:** Rev. Sharon Risher, author of *For Such a Time as This: Hope and Forgiveness after the Charleston Massacre*; distinguished faculty from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg Center for Gun Violence Solutions; Rev. Dr. Kathy Riley of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; hands-on training in Guns to Gardens by Quaker blacksmith Scotty Utz of RAWtools South; Rev. Rosalind Hughes, Episcopal Canon for Beloved Community, the Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio; and the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Gun Violence Prevention Ministry team.

Learn more at [www.presbypeacefellowship.org/james-atwood-institute](http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/james-atwood-institute)

**Thanks to generous sponsors, scholarships are available.**

Sponsors include the Wisconsin Council of Churches, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence, Trinity Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg, VA, the Riverside Church in New York City, First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe, NM, Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church, Cambridge, WI, **The Presbyterian Outlook**, and others. The Atwood Institute is an ecumenical project of the [Presbyterian Peace Fellowship](#). For questions, contact: [gvp@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:gvp@presbypeacefellowship.org)





# ***BEER + SINGING = FUN!***

NO REHEARSALS, NO PERFORMANCES - ALL ARE  
WELCOME TO SING OUT AND DRINK BEER!

***SUNDAY NOV. 1 @ 7PM***



9812 FALLS RD #106,  
POTOMAC, MD 20854



Join us October 8-11, 2025 for

# SACRED CREATION:

## Justice Flows Down Like Water

## Earth Care Conference

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center in Little Rock, AR and online

**Keynote Speaker:** Rev. Andrew Black, EarthKeepers 360

**Worship Leaders:** Rev. Rebecca Barnes & Rev. Jocelyn Wildwright

**The Future of Water**

**Dr. Linda K. Smith**

**Dam Removal/Stream Restoration**

**Joel Gill**

**Spiritual Practices & Personal Renewal  
in a Threatened Creation**

**Dr. Rebecca Langer**

**Water: Essential Resource for Health  
Yet Vulnerable to Contamination**

**Dr. Marilyn Howarth**

**When the Earth Cries Out:  
Disasters & Creation Care**

**Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Castillo**

**Soil to Soul Awakening**

**Joyce & James Skeet**

**Applying the Precautionary Principle to  
Restoring God's Water**

**Dr. Thomas Pakurar**

**International Panel Discussion:**

**Rev. Jed Koball, Dr. Anne Hallum, Bishop Tom Ochuka  
moderated by Rev. Dr. Patricia Tull**



**REGISTRATION:**

[presbyearthcare.org/2025-earth-care-conference](https://presbyearthcare.org/2025-earth-care-conference)





NEXT CHURCH NATIONAL GATHERING

# ALREADY & NOT YET

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

NOVEMBER 11-14, 2025



**AUSTIN  
ALMAGUER**

COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZING



**KIM  
WAGNER**

COMMUNAL  
TRAUMA



**JESSICA  
VAZQUEZ TORRES**

CULTIVATING  
COMMUNITY



**JEN  
HARVEY**

CULTIVATING  
COMMUNITY



**JULIE  
DELEZENNE**

WORSHIP  
LEADER



**SHAWNA  
BOWMAN**

ART AS  
RESISTANCE



**JEN  
JAMES**

MISSION  
REALIGNMENT



**ROBERT  
RAGOONANAN**

WORSHIP  
LEADER



**REGISTER TODAY**

[www.nextchurch.net](http://www.nextchurch.net)



**November  
11-14, 2025**

Explore the issues facing the Church right now.

**A Gathering for Leaders Committed to Transformation**



# Font & Faith is coming to Richmond!

INTERGENERATIONAL FAMILY DAY

**November 8, 2025**

**Union Presbyterian Seminary**

**10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Is *worshiping* with your child a *joy*?  
Do you want *your child's prayer life* to be more  
than meals and bedtime?



Spend a day with us and your family

- children, parents, grandparents, caregivers
- however your family is configured ●

exploring new ways to

- \*nurture your child's faith through worship and prayer
- \*experience intergenerational learning

Let us partner with you on the journey of baptismal living.

## **What to do next...**

We have 50 spaces for families, including children up to 12 years old.

Use the QR Code to apply to participate.

All supplies, lunch, and snacks are provided.

More information is available on our website.

**Spaces will fill. Apply now!**



*an initiative of the* **Center for Excellence**  
in Christian Education



**MASSANETTA SPRINGS  
2026 PROGRAM DATES**

**Confirmation Retreat**

1/30-2/1

**Ringling at the Springs**

2/13-15

**Netta Day Camp: Spring at the Springs**

3/30-4/3

**Easter Respite**

4/6-10

**Netta Day Camps**

9 weeks starting 6/8

**Middle School Conferences**

6/18-21, 6/23-26, 7/9-12, 7/14-17

**Bible & Church Music Conference**

7/19-25

**Called Together**

7/27-30

**Keep Awake**

11/20-22



**Massanetta Springs**

