

Lead Article: Greeting from our GA Commissioners:

To my Sisters and Brothers in Susquehanna Valley Presbytery -Greetings! We are somewhere around the midpoint now of on-line sessions and conducting the business of the 224th General Assembly. I am honored to be one of your Commissioners representing the Presbytery.

Among the highlights for me so far have been the opening greetings conveyed to the Assembly by several Native Americans who are also PCUSA Ruling or Teaching Elders - this was unexpected and thus doubly delightful!; the electing of our co-Moderators for this Assembly and for the next two years (Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart and Teaching Elder Gregory Bentley); and several Zoom chats during the week with my fellow Commissioners and our presbytery co-States Clerks sharing thoughts, asking questions, and enjoying one another's company -*Virtually!*

There have also been aspects I've found a bit frustrating and / or unfulfilling; but this is not a score-card, so I am not going into any of that here.

I hope you have been able to watch at least some of the Assembly live on PC-Biz or Facebook. If not, you are still in time, because there are sessions coming up on Friday, June 26th (11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Eastern) and Saturday, June 27th (11:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.). I believe a link is being provided elsewhere in this issue for those two options.

Please keep your commissioners, the Assembly, and the wider church in your prayers.

Blessings and Peace,

Mark Montfort
Teaching Elder Commissioner
Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley

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Presbytery friends, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a commissioned Ruling Elder at the 224th General Assembly along with Teaching Elder Mark Munford and YAAD Emma Kindig. This is my first time attending and what an experience so far. Especially with the pandemic and what had to be accomplished in the past two months to make this work.

Once it was decided that GA had to happen. It would not be that wonderful week in Baltimore, Maryland. Were you would be meeting up with old friends, being introduced to new and exciting people, finding the groups and points of interest that speak to you in special ways. I was told that you would actually be able to talk to someone that could give you that special information to make things clearer. Last but not least checking out the city and the food would be great as you set with friends discussing what happened in your day. Luckily our Stated Clerks are also attending and have set up debriefings for us so I am not wondering why and what just happened. Thank you Chris and Becky.

Garrattsville

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Prayers:

Pastor of First Presbyterian Union Church in Owego, continues to be very grateful for prayers as he recovers from leukemia. He is thankful for the loving care of the Owego congregation.

Please contact Committee on Ministry co-chairs, Lisa Heckman and Bob Heinle if you have a pastoral care concern or need.

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Other News:



Unbound: An Interactive Journal of Christian Social Justice is an online journal and community from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy that examines, expresses, and encourages commitments to social justice as inspired by the prophetic gospel of Jesus Christ. As both a journal and a forum for conversation, action and community building, Unbound is at once the inheritor of the print journal Church & Society (98 years running) and the innovator of an interactive approach to supporting social ministry.

[Visit Unbound](#)

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Since some of us are beginning to open our sanctuaries – or are in the planning stages to do so.

If you would like another set of eyes to review your reopening plans – the NYS Small Business Development Center based at Binghamton University is reviewing NYS Forward Safety plans for faith communities and small businesses for FREE.

Register at: <http://www.nyssbdc.org/selector/ReqForCons/formo.aspx>

Laura Knochen, a big fan of Pat Raube’s who reviewed our plan for the “Red Door” Church, says that you “can ask for a specific advisor... We have a great team!”

She also indicated that they provide assistance with funding resources. Of interest currently are the two main programs below for COVID-19 funding that have re-opened and are now accepting applications until the end of the month:

- 1) [EIDL Loan and Advance Program](#). For more information and an application go to: <https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>

2) As well as the [Payroll Protection Program](https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/PPP%20Borrower%20Application%20Form.pdf). Go to <https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/PPP%20Borrower%20Application%20Form.pdf>

Reminder: Each business or entity, including those that have been designated as essential under Empire State Development's Essential Business Guidance, must develop a written Safety Plan outlining how its workplace will prevent the spread of COVID-19. A business may fill out this template to fulfill the requirement, or may develop its own Safety Plan. **This plan does not need to be submitted to a state agency for approval** but must be retained on the premises of the business and must be made available to the New York State Department of Health (DOH) or local health or safety authorities in the event of an inspection.

Attached:

- 1) [NYS Religious and Funeral Services Summary Guidance](#)
- 2) [NYS Religious and Funeral Services Master Guidance](#)
- 3) [NYS Business Reopening Safety Plan Template – for faith communities to adapt](#)

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[Information and resources for members and employers of The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)

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Prepping for GA and more ...

[The 224th General Assembly \(2020\): From Lament to Hope](#)

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