



**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**  
of Waynesboro, Virginia

# The Columns - *Online.*

January 27, 2020 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement.*

**BREAKING NEWS • BREAKING NEWS • BREAKING NEWS • BREAKING NEWS**

*The Annual Congregational meeting  
has been postponed indefinitely.*

*In its place., look forward to an online  
'State of the Congregation' presentation  
coming to our website and YouTube channel  
very soon.*

*The 2020 Annual Report  
will be sent to you in the next few days.*

**BREAKING NEWS • BREAKING NEWS • BREAKING NEWS • BREAKING NEWS**

**COVID average Incidence Rate per 100,000**  
*from the Virginia Dept of Health.*

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Augusta County:     | 50        |
| Harrisonburg        | 27        |
| Staunton            | 65        |
| Rockingham          | 46        |
| Waynesboro          | 83        |
| <b>Average/100K</b> | <b>54</b> |

*Session will schedule in person worship when the  
average incidence rate reaches 10 or less. For  
more information about incidence rates and their  
significance, click this link:*

*Click here to lean more about incidence:*

**Covid  
ActNow**

## Music Notes for January 31.



Mönsterås, Kalmar county, Sweden.

The music for *How Great Thou Art* originated in a song by one of the Naga tribes of the Assam province in Northeast India. Mennonite missionaries transcribed the music, which caught the attention of Baptist minister James Edwin Orr. He then attached the English translation to the tune, introduced at the Forest Home Christian Conference Center in the San Bernardino Mountains in California. Soon afterward, Billy Graham heard the hymn. In the 1950s, the hymn became the signature song of his crusades.

When the publication *Christianity Today* polled its readers for their favorite hymn back in 2001, *How Great Thou Art* came in second, only behind *Amazing Grace*.

**Virtual Worship.**  
*click on the pic*



The closing hymn this week is one of the most beloved in Christendom, *How Great Thou Art*. What some may consider a quintessentially American hymn was written by Swedish poet and statesman, Carl Gustav Boberg. The inspiration for the hymn came after walking home from church. While listening to the church bells from nearby Kronobäck, a storm arose and dissipated as quickly as it appeared. When Boberg returned home, he gazed upon the bay of Mönsterås. As the bells continued to peal, he wrote "O Store Gud," which was published in March of 1886. Boberg's poem was originally set to a Swedish folk tune. Twenty years later, the poem was translated into German and into Russian in 1912. The first English translation came in 1925, and in 1949, British Methodist missionary Stuart Wesley Keene Hine created the text that is associated with the hymn today.



Naga people of India.



In the midst of an uncertain time, the session is working hard to discern the direction and scope of our ministry. These are challenging days for the church, but even as we are forced to curtail many of our usual activities, the work goes on - in the preschool, in the office, on the phone and across the internet.

Please return your pledge card as a reminder to yourself and a planning aid for the session; if you have not received one, give us a call! Mail your pledges and contributions to:

P.O. Box 877  
Waynesboro, VA 2298



## A Message from our General Presbyter

### A Point of Personal Privilege

It goes without saying that we are living in unprecedented times. The pandemic has forced us to think creatively in our worship and ministry. And I applaud you all as you have worked to meet and exceed the challenge. But the events of January 6<sup>th</sup> disturbed me deeply. I was born in Washington D.C.; I was part of the crowd that lined the streets when President Kennedy's caisson went from the White House to the Capitol to lie in state. I stood in the long line at the Capitol to go into the rotunda to pay my respects to the unknown soldier from Vietnam. I visited my congressman in the capitol on a Girl Scout field trip.



All of this is to say that never would I have thought that American citizens would willfully come to the Nation's Capitol for the purpose of destruction and harm. But it happened, and for those who say "this is not us", I have to differ and say "this is not who we want to be, but it is us". Unfortunately, we have allowed rhetoric to fuel division in our nation, but I believe, as I always have, that there is far more that unites us than divides us. As Presbyterians we are taught that "people of good characters and principles may differ" but that we exercise mutual forbearance toward each other. (Book of Order, F-3.0105)

As people of faith, we say that we believe we are all made in the image of God. That includes everyone, no exceptions, and so we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. My prayer is that the congregations of this presbytery will share and show the love of God to their communities and to one another, that the members of our congregations will work to live out the great commandment of Christ in their daily lives, that we can be a part of the Lord's light that shines in the darkness and work for the wholeness of all people. This is still the beginning of the new year – let us work to make it a good one.

*Blessings, Bronwen*

*You can find this month's Shenandoah Press [HERE](#).*

### Sources of Information

*click on the links*

[PC\(USA\) News](#)

[Virginia Department of Health updates](#)

### Sources of Inspiration

*click on the links*

[Daily Readings from the Lectionary](#)

[Jan Edmiston's Blog](#)

[The Upper Room Devotional](#)

### Sources of Fun

*click on the links*

[Today's Holiday](#)

[Mr. Boffo](#)

## When can I get Vaccinated?



*Click on the syringe to find out!*



Three of the six Pettit cats.  
from left: Wally, Cleo and Winston.