



First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of Waynesboro, Virginia

# The Columns *Online*

September 21, 2022 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*

## [Pandemic pastoring: lessons learned in the crucible of crisis](#)

*A new survey of church leaders details what the pandemic was like and how it changed church leaders.*

By Leslie Scanlon. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a “new era of ministry” — affecting both pastoral leaders and congregations in profound and enduring ways, a just-released study has found. Many pastors report feeling exhausted from dealing with stress, conflict and grief — grief both from their own personal losses and those in their communities. Juggling responsibilities has been particularly difficult for parents. Some pastors have done the hard work of pushing their White congregations to deal more deeply and honestly with systemic racial and economic injustice — sometimes encountering pushback.



Campbell-Reed.

Those are some of the conclusions of “#Pandemic Pastoring,” a report released Sept. 1 which contains findings from researcher Eileen Campbell-Reed, a visiting associate professor of pastoral theology and care at Union Theological Seminary in New York, and founder and host of *Three Minute Ministry Mentor*, a podcast and video blog. *Continued.*

## Pandemic pastoring: lessons learned in the crucible of crisis *Continued.*

Between June 2020 and April 2022, Campbell-Reed surveyed more than 100 pastors, chaplains, campus ministers and lay leaders about the impact of the pandemic on their ministry.

As has been reported anecdotally by mid council leaders, some pastors resigned due to the stresses of the pandemic. “Some ministers needed to walk away in the season,” Campbell-Reed wrote in a pastoral letter accompanying the report. “Others were remarkably resilient as they stayed. For some, it was their resilience that gave them the courage and determination to step away from church for a season or longer.”

She also wrote that nearly every church leader she spoke with “understands that our expectations for church, and ministry broadly understood, need to be reimagined, and our expectations reset.” And: “I heard some things that clergywomen want their churches to know: the constant drip of sexism is exhausting and once again women bore the brunt of change and loss.”

Campbell-Reed presented some details of what the research revealed. The financial impact of the pandemic hit congregations unevenly. “The rich got richer, or at least more stable,” and some of those who struggle financially pre-pandemic now have it even harder.

During her first round of interviews, in 2020, church leaders talked a lot about responding to racial injustice. By 2022, she heard far less about that.

Conflict in churches that got delayed in the early days of the pandemic “has come back like a roaring freight train” in discussions about in-person worship, masking and vaccinations. Conflict is part of the life cycle of churches – often, it goes deeper than presenting issues of the day, Campbell-Reed said.

While the pandemic presented real challenges, some church leaders found the positive in it as well. They spoke of resilience, adaptability to new ways of gathering, deepened faith, a delight in “a church without walls,” as one leader put it.

Churches need “embodied rituals for acknowledging and honoring our grief” for what’s been lost.

What did the pandemic teach? “All the usual challenges of life together in a faith community were amplified and made more complex by COVID-19 measures and the multiple pandemics that were revealed in this season,” Campbell-Reed wrote. “We need healing and new future stories.”

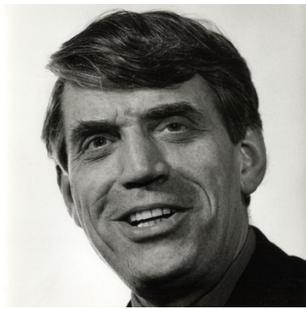
## Our Worship Channels

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# Worship Info for September 18

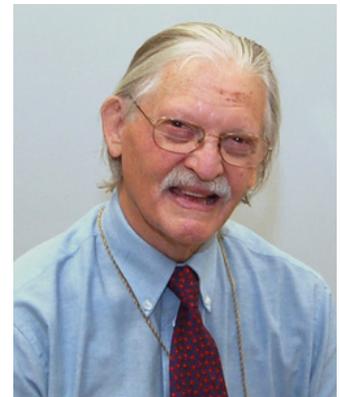
*Today We All Are Called to be Disciples*, the opening hymn for this Sunday, was written in 1985 by Rev. H. Kenn Carmichael for a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Stewardship campaign. Born in Martins Ferry, WV, in 1908, Carmichael led the theater department at Purdue University before World War 2. Following his service in the Navy, Carmichael was a filmmaker specializing in denominational stewardship videos. In 1962, he and his wife were commissioned by the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations of the United Presbyterian Church U.S.A. as consultants in communications to the Middle East and Africa. After ten years they returned to the United States, where Carmichael served as associate pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, IN (1972- 79). The tune, *KINGSFOLD*, may date as far back as the Middle Ages, but was first published in 1893 in the collection English Country Songs. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) adapted it for The English Hymnal, published in 1906, naming the hymn tune after the town in Sussex where he first heard it.



Gardner.

The anthem will be a setting of *Fight the Good Fight*, with text from I Timothy 6:12. Composed by John Gardner (1917-2011), it is the final piece in Gardner's *Five Hymns in Popular Style*, commissioned for the 1963 Farnam Festival. The setting is one of over a hundred choral compositions by Gardner, who also wrote symphonies, cantatas, operas, theatre music and scores of solo and ensemble pieces.

The closing hymn for the last Sunday of September will be Jeffrey W. Rowthorn's *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*. Rowthorn (b. Newport, Gwent, Wales, 1934). Ordained in the Church of England, Rowthorn served English congregations before becoming chaplain at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and a faculty member in liturgics at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, which he helped to establish; he was later elected Suffragan (assistant) Bishop of the Diocese of Connecticut. The tune, *ABBOT'S LEIGH*, was composed by Cyril V. Taylor in 1941, while working for the Religious Broadcasting Department of the BBC. During WWII, the BBC moved its headquarters to Bristol, England, and Taylor was working in a nearby village, from which he borrowed the name for the tune.



Rowthorn.

Guest Preacher this week:

**Terry Crickenberger**

Scripture lessons:

1 Timothy 6: 6-19, Luke 16: 19-31

Sermon:

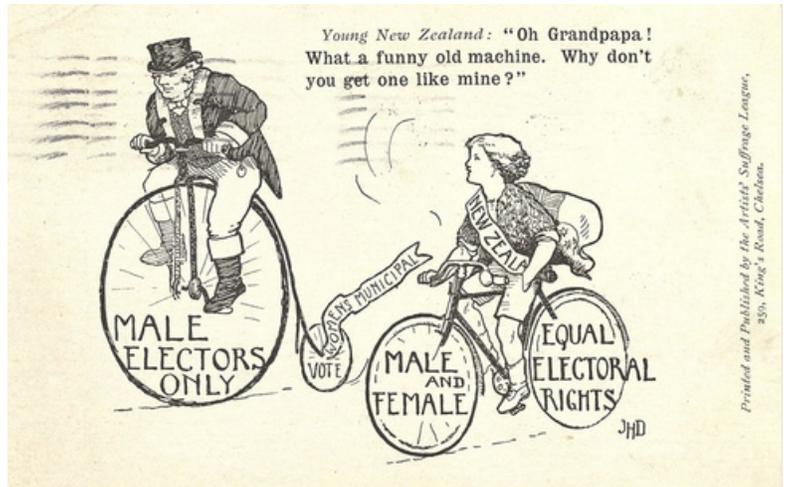
**Nice things.**



# This Week in History.



United States Air Force is established as a separate military branch  
September 18, 1947



New Zealand becomes the first country to grant women the vote.  
September 19, 1913



Women's tennis champion Billie Jean King defeats 'Male Chauvinist Pig' Bobby Riggs in straight sets at the Astrodome in Houston TX.  
September 20, 1973



Communist Party chair Mao Zedong opened the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, which would establish the People's Republic of China.  
September 21, 1949



Otto von Bismarck, *left*, becomes premier of Prussia. He would unite the German states into an empire under Kaiser Wilhelm I, *right*.  
September 22 1862



Vice-Presidential candidate Richard Nixon addresses accusations of financial misdeeds in what is known as the "Checkers Speech."  
September 23, 1952