

Report of the General Presbyter

It is finally spring! Winter seemed like it went on forever this year, and I have been enjoying the warmer weather, brighter skies, and many colors that come into our view during the spring season. The star magnolia tree in our front yard is having a particularly glorious flowering this spring, and is quite the show-off this year. I find that the turning of the seasons is always a reminder of God's goodness, bounty, and indescribable joy. This is the Eastertide Season, also sometimes known as the Season of Creation, and I have been thinking about that a great deal this year. I hope that this spring season is providing you with beauty, joy, warmth and renewal wherever and however you are finding yourself and your faith community these days!

I want to highlight two resources for the Presbytery:

We are a [Matthew 25 Presbytery](#). More of our congregations are joining as Matthew 25 congregations and I want to encourage each of you in that discernment. If you have not yet already, please [sign up](#) to receive the bi-monthly Matthew 25 eNewsletter and [join](#) the Matthew 25 Facebook group. Congratulations to First Hartford for being our newest Matthew 25 congregation.

Matthew 25 is an excellent resource for your ministry and its flourishing around areas of addressing issues around poverty, anti-racism, being a vital congregation, care of Creation, questions of war and militarism, and ways we can be striving for justice. This is the stuff of our everyday lives and the life of our faith communities. What better way to dig in as Presbyterians than alongside each other in the journey of growing our discipleship and faithfulness in such a time as this!

Take some time to look at the larger resource sheet in the Presbytery packet for great upcoming learning opportunities to connect to all areas of the Matthew 25 work and ministry and ways you and your ministry can plug in.

The other resource is our [Presbytery podcast](#). We've been recording lots of new conversations this late winter/early spring and take some time to check out the podcast, subscribe to it on your favorite podcast feed and be spiritually nourished and fed by ministry stories from around the Presbytery. Some of our latest conversations have been with folks from the Presbytery who went to the Association of Partners in Christian Education Conference (APCE), hearing about the co-three-pastor model of ministry at Wilton, learning about our moderators, and hearing from the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, former GA moderator. Upcoming podcasts this spring will be about what's headed to GA this summer, learning about disability ministries and hearing about a project with real live bees at one of our churches. We'd love to have you and what you are up to on the

podcast. Just reach out to Katie Grosh or myself to tell us if we don't already know, about what's going on and what you want to share!

Presbytery podcast: <https://psne.buzzsprout.com/> (or on your favorite podcast platform such as iTunes, Spotify, etc).

Finally, I'd like to say a special thank you to the Presbytery. Last week I successfully defended my Doctor of Ministry thesis which is entitled *A New Creation: Regenerating Personal And Communal Pastoral Discipleship For Resilient Theological Leadership To Face The Climate Crisis*. I'm headed to Memphis, TN for graduation Mother's Day Weekend at Memphis Theological Seminary which is in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, one of our sister denominations in the larger Presbyterian family. Thank you for allowing me the study leave time over the last few years which has been dedicated to this; and also study leave funds, which along with some personal ones, enabled this study to take place. I am grateful, and I look forward to finding time to share some of my learnings with you as we continue forward in ministry together.

Springtime blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shannan".