

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL NOMINEES

*The bios below will help you learn more about the current slate of nominees who are running for their second term on Congregation Council:*

### **KAREN THOMSEN**



My name is Karen Thomsen and I live in Bridgewater with my husband Tom. We have three grown daughters and 7 grandchildren. I retired in 2018 after 39 years in education as both a teacher and administrator but continue to work part time when needed. I have been a member of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church for over 20 years. I am a member of the Local and Global Mission Ministry and enjoy the Faith Lens Sunday morning class as well as Wednesday morning Bible Study.

Outside of church I enjoy volunteering with several organizations, gardening, reading, and keeping up with the activities of my grandkids. I am constantly amazed at how the Holy Spirit is at work in my life and in the life of the church. I believe Muhlenberg is called to share God's Good News with each other and with our neighbors near and far. It would be a privilege to serve again on the Church Council.

### **RUSSELL PRESNELL**

My name is Russell Presnell and I was born and raised in Orlando, Florida. I graduated from James Madison University and, except for two years spent abroad, have called Harrisonburg my home since 2003. I became a member of Muhlenberg in 2006, where I faithfully sit in the back of the sanctuary.



I currently serve as the Property Committee Council Liaison and part of Muhlenberg's mowing team. I am also Vice Chair of Second Home Learning Center and have served as the Council Liaison to Second Home for two years.

Previously I served as a congregational representative for Faith in Action and on its executive board. I have served on the Transportation Safety Board for the city of Harrisonburg and was the regional coordinator for the Virginia Industrial Hemp Coalition for three years. I am a small business owner and work in transportation and real estate.

Most proudly, I am the father of a wonderful five-year-old boy, Ansel. I enjoy college football and basketball (Go Gators), working in my garden, a sense of humor, reading, bbq and getting out into nature. I look forward to serving Muhlenberg on Council.