

Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



October 31, 2019

Let's Pray For:

>First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Ed Gray, Pastor
District 1

>Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Curtis Paul, Pastor; Marnie Silbert, Associate Pastor
District 1

>Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Derek Campbell, Pastor
District 1

>Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford, Geoff Rach, Pastor
District 2

>Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton, Eric Glisan, Commissioned Pastor
District 2

>Sewickley United Presbyterian Church, West Newton, Glenn Hart, Commissioned Pastor
District 2

>Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Donald Glunt, Pastor
District 3

>Calvin Presbyterian Church, Brownsville,

Upcoming Events...

October 2019 through May 2020 - [Soup for the Soul Community Luncheon](#) - Apollo, Poke Run

November 2, 2019 - [Annual Craft and Vendor Show](#) - North Huntingdon, New Hope

November 9, 2019 - [Spaghetti Dinner](#) - New Alexandria, Congruity

November 10, 2019 - [Patriotic Thanksgiving Concert](#) - Murrysville, First

November 28, 2019 - [Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner](#) - Delmont

December 10, 2019 - [Redstone Presbyterian Senior Care Trip to Sight and Sound Christmas Show](#)

July 9-11, 2020 - [PW Summer Synod Gathering](#)

Click on the links above for more information on any of the upcoming events

Reflections from the Executive Presbyter, Skip Noftzger

Leadership: Joining in Courageous Conversation

Although disappointed by not being called to become the next President of the Pittsburgh Pirates (I guess I can still hope for General Manager), nonetheless, I was interested to hear what the current owner and the new president would have to say. The task of rebuilding will be difficult. The system is stacked against them and the odds are not very good. Yet, if you were to hear their perspective, one might conclude that such renewal will come largely just the result of new leadership. Well, Yes and No.

Whether the Pirates, the Presbytery of Redstone, or your congregation, effective and good leadership is critical, but it is about more than just "good" leadership. In a changing and unknown environment leadership must be exercised that is more than competence, more than problem solving, BUT rather clear purpose and willingness to take risks. Such risk-taking moves us beyond organizational preservation or appealing to coalitions of interested people to a discernment that is willing to consider a future with boldness and courage (by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit);

Who is God calling us to be now in this context? What is God calling us to do now in our God-placed environment? What might be the next faithful, fruitful and courageous steps that we should take now?

Recently, we have gathered around such questions in conversations facilitated by our reading of the book, [Quietly Courageous: Leading the Church in a Changing World](#). Such conversations may not always be neat and tidy. In fact, they may prove frustrating for those desiring pre-packaged

Jane Johnson, Covenant
Pastor
District 3

>Ft. Burd Presbyterian
Church, Brownsville,
Jane Johnson, Covenant
Pastor
District 3

>Westmont Presbyterian
Church, Johnstown,
Rene Whitaker, Interim
Pastor
District 4

>Pleasant Grove
Presbyterian Church,
Ligonier, John McClure,
Moderator
District 4

>Bethel Presbyterian
Church, New Florence,
James Sunseri,
Commissioned Pastor
District 4

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger

Executive
Presbyter/Stated Clerk
[blog address](#)
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Bobbie Martin

Administrative
Assistant/
Bookkeeper

Communicate the Word...

*Carry on the
Work...*

*Change the
World...*

Together

Office Hours

answers that will "work." Yet, entering them with a willingness to engage each other and our God is foundational. In these types of discussions, potentially we can move beyond our natural impulse of seeking to protect our institutional heritage or common interests to explore the places where God may be desiring to call us into new ways of living and loving that are very much about God's faithful purposes for us and for the kingdom from heaven.

While the conversation is not its own "end" (whether in the Presbytery or your church), it cannot be short-circuited IF we are to engage God's call that will lead us forward. That "strategic intuition" will only result from a willingness of leaders to explore at the edges, to focus on our God-given purposes (sometimes maybe leading us away from organizational stability?) in our present time and place. Such "reformational" (vs. revolutionary) leadership is needed now more than ever. By God's power, it will take resolve and it will take courage. Are we willing to enter into prayer and those conversations together in our congregations, in our presbytery?

In the aforementioned book, Rendle cites "A Prayer for the Church in these Times" attributed to William Sloane Coffin. The beginning petitions are important and as relevant today as when they were penned.

O God, whose mercy is ever faithful and ever sure, who art our refuge and our strength in time of trouble, visit us, we beseech thee for we are a people in trouble. We need a hope that is made wise by experience and is undaunted by disappointment. We need an anxiety about the future that shows us new ways to look at new things but does not unnerve us. As a people, we need to remember that our influence was greatest when our power was weakest. Most of all, we need to turn to thee, O God, and our crucified Lord, for only his humility and his strength can heal and free us.

May it be so. Amen.

Around Redstone

>>The IPLF workshop "Nurturing and Forming Elders" scheduled for November 9, 2019 from 12:30 to 3:30 has been postponed until a later date. Information will be forwarded when the new date has been determined.

>>The Newlonsburg Presbyterian church has three TV carts (plastic, two-shelved, wheeled) that they are looking to get rid of. If a church is interested in one or more of these carts, please contact Ed Helm, the Youth Director at the church at 724.327.0061.

>>The Rev. Owar Ojulu will be installed as Pastor of the Ebensburg and Colver Presbyterian Churches on Sunday, November 17, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church. Please plan to attend to welcome Rev. Ojulu and his family to Redstone Presbytery.

>>SPIRITUALITY and SELF-CARE: This fall the Washington and Redstone Presbyteries will offer a pair of introductory workshops to familiarize elders with the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and Gestalt Pastoral Care. Rev. Dr. Clarejean Haurry will conduct these workshops, each designed to give an overview of the particular discipline, its practices, and the schools of thought from which they have come. The two will be offered on Saturday, November 23, one in the morning and another in the afternoon. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

The Presbytery Office**Hours are:**

Monday through
Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
CLOSED on Friday

The Resource Center**Hours are:**

Tuesday through
Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
CLOSED on Monday and
Friday

**Next 2019
Presbytery Meeting
Date**

**Saturday, November 23,
2019**

Pleasant View
Presbyterian Church,
Smock

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Next 2019
Presbytery Council
Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 26,
2019**

This meeting will begin
at 6:30 p.m. at the
Presbytery office

>>17th Annual Redstone Highlands Fling will be held on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at the Stratigos Banquet Center. [Click here](#) for more information.

>PINE SPRINGS CAMP FRIENDS DINNER is Sunday, November 24, 2019, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Fred Rogers Center at St. Vincent College in Latrobe. For details call the camp at 814.629.9834 or online at <https://www.pinesprings.org/annual-friends-dinner>

>>HELPING MISSION LEADERS LEAD: Pittsburgh Seminary has two new opportunities to help your church's mission trip leaders and to do so in experiential settings.

- **Mission Trip Leader Training:** Participants will gain skills by joining an intensive course that includes an intercultural mission travel experience.
- **Graduate Certificate in Missional Leadership** is a 1-2-year program involving coursework, cohort meetings for shared learning, and a congregational-centered mission project.

More information on these programs may be found at the seminary's website, on its World Mission Initiative pages <https://www.pts.edu/WMI> or by phoning the WMI offices at the seminary: 412-924-102. Spaces are limited.

>>Members of the Trinity Presbyterian Church in New Florence and the Third Presbyterian Church in Uniontown are planning a mission trip to Swansboro, NC from March 7-14, 2020 to work on homes damaged by Hurricane Florence in 2018. Anyone interested in participating in this trip please contact Marilyn Fitzsimmons at 724.366.4068.



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