

Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



August 16, 2018

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Let's Pray For:

>Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo, Pete Goetschius, Pastor
District 1

>First Presbyterian Church, Avonmore, Larry Armstrong, Stated Supply
District 1

>New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon, John Simpson, Interim Pastor
District 2

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

>Palmer Community Presbyterian Church, Adah, Michael Shepard, Moderator
District 3

>First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Suzanne Currie, Pastor
District 3

>Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Denise Todero, Commissioned Pastor
District 4

>First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown,

Upcoming Events...

August 18, 2018 - Peach Festival - Delmont

August 23, 2018 - Beo String Quartet - Latrobe

August 23, 2018 - District III Gathering - Eat 'n Park, Uniontown

August 25, 2018 - Peach Festival - New Salem

October 16, 2018 - District III Grief Event - New Salem

October 20, 2018 - PW Rise Against Hunger - New Alexandria, Community

Please go to the website at www.redstonepresbytery.org and click on the "events" tab for more information on any of the upcoming events.

Reflections from the Executive Presbyter, Skip Noftzger

Faith and Rest

Much of what living the life of a Christ-follower comes down to the "big three." From the apostle, you know his summary of expectations of our lives while we only "see in a mirror dimly." In the midst of his admonition to those who were often in conflict with one another, he calls forth from the people of Corinth (and us), "and now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

While among the trio, he elevates love as the culmination, that is for another day, another enews. Faith, the first in the list, seems so foundational to all that we are and all that we do in the name of Jesus. As Protestants, take great note of an anniversary that for us signified a recovery of that core tenet that the "just shall live by faith." Yet, even in so doing then and each day, the temptation remains within our churches as organizational structures or our communities of members to somehow constitute our understanding of faith as primarily assent to specific doctrines or adherence to particular groups.

At the heart of faith, is a radical trusting in our God in Jesus Christ; creator, redeemer, sustainer. Such faith should characterize who we and our desires for who we want to become. It defines not only what we understand and reflect about God and consequently, how we respond and treat other people. The irony of faith as a virtue is that is not further developed or made "greater," by our own efforts or discipline, but rather in our letting go, in our dependence upon the One who is worthy of our trust.

We remember those saints who are acknowledged for living by faith (Hebrews), but they were lived based upon a promise that we know has come in Jesus Christ. Growing in faith in Christ testifies not to our own character qualities, but to our increased reliance upon our God, not only at the crossroads of life or in critical moments, in the everyday affairs of life. For it is there, that we are tempted to offer a nod to Jesus and let him know, "we have got this."

Alice Tondora, Pastor
District 4

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger

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

Bobbie Martin

Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

For many of us, one of the key reminders that not only are we not in "control," but that we are not our own may come in the form of Sabbath rest. More than just a command intended for ancient Israel that would seem so out of touch in our connected, 7x24 world. Even more than just recuperation and relaxation from the rigors or stresses from work. Sabbath is both the tangible expression and the regular reminder of faith. In rest, we recognize both our dependence and our deliverance through our relinquishment of control and our offerings of worship. We acknowledge that God is God, and we are not. In the sabbath of our rest and worship, our faith in our great God comes to visible fruition and God is glorified. May it be so not only in the upcoming celebration of the resurrection day, but each day as we live by faith. Amen.

Around Redstone

>> Everyone is invited to the Presbytery of Redstone installation service of Rev. Ronald Johnson (Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown) on Sunday, August 28, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at the Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown. Please plan on attending and welcoming Rev. Johnson to our Presbytery.

>>The **registration deadline** for the PDA disaster response training in our area is next **Friday, Aug. 31**. Training will be held:

- Sept. 5 at First Presbyterian Church of Milton, PA
- Sept. 6 at Providence Presbyterian Church in Altoona, PA

There is a flyer on the [Presbytery website](#) for your review also. Registration information is available on the Synod of the Trinity website here: <http://www.syntrinity.org/pda/>

>>The Presbytery of Redstone will again be offering workshops for Pastors and Ruling Elders through the IPLF program. These workshops will be on Saturday, September 22, 2018 at the Maplewood Presbyterian Church in Greensburg. Workshops include "Evangelism" led by the Rev. Ed Gray, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Murrysville, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; and "Proclaiming the Word" led by the Rev. Donna Havrisko, Pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensburg, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be offered from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at a cost of \$10.00. Please RSVP to Bobbie at the Presbytery office at secretary@redstonepresbytery.org.

>>BOP Employer Agreements Available July 16 - Employers can review, update, and submit their 2019 Employer Agreements beginning July 16 on Benefits Connect. Consider other key dates:

- October 12: Last day to submit your final 2019 Employer Agreement on Benefits Connect
- October 29-November 16: Annual enrollment is open for employees to elect their 2019 benefits

Remember to review your benefit groups in the Employer Agreement to make sure you have selected the benefits you intended for all employees. During annual enrollment, employees will only be able to elect benefits from the selections you choose. Check pensions.org/selectingbenefits for details about the Benefits Plan changes. If you have any questions about the Benefits Plan or the benefits selection process, call the Board at 800.773.7752.

>>The Synod of the Trinity celebrated its 300th anniversary one year ago in mid-September. During the Synod's birthday week this year they are

*Communicate the
Word...*

*Carry on the
Work...*

*Change the
World...*

Together

Office Hours

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

2018 Presbytery Meeting Dates

Tuesday, Sept. 18th
Redstone Highlands,
Greensburg Campus
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 17th
Dunbar, Laurel Hill
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

2018 Presbytery Council Meeting

Dates

August 28
September 25
October 23
November 27

All Council meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held at the Presbytery office

continuing to rejoice for all of the blessings they have received by again celebrating on this special "Synod Sunday", Sunday, September 16, 2018.

>>The stress of being targets in our societal clashing is a pastoral concern for our transgender and gender non-conforming church members. Prepare yourself for giving good pastoral care by attending *A Pastors Retreat: Transgender 101* at Crestfield (Pittsburgh Presbytery) on Wednesday evening, September 19, the night before the presbytery meeting. This retreat is free to all participants. [Click here](#) to read more about this and other events being offered through Pittsburgh Presbytery.

>>Rev. Betty Voigt and Rev. Dr. Clarejean Haury (Washington Presbytery) are among a team of Gestalt Pastoral Care practitioners initiating research that will mark a significant step forward for spiritual formation and psychotherapy. Their research project won a highly competitive Templeton Foundation Award, and includes opportunities for public participation through personal counseling and group retreats. Congratulations to Rev. Voigt and Rev. Haury.



Presbytery of Redstone | 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road | Greensburg | PA | 15601