

Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



September 27, 2018

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Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

>Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Doug Marshall, Interim Pastor
District 1

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

>United Presbyterian Church, West Newton, John Manon, Pastor
District 2

>Derry Presbyterian Church, Marnie Russell, Covenant Pastor
District 2

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

>Calvin Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Aleda Menchyk, Covenant Pastor
District 3

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

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

Upcoming Events...

October 13, 2018 - PW Fall Gathering - Irwin, First
 October 13, 2018 - Turkey Dinner - New Alexandria, Congruity 4-7 p.m.
 October 16, 2018 - District III Grief Event - New Salem
 October 20, 2018 - PW Rise Against Hunger - New Alexandria, Community
 October 26, 2018 - Open Mic Gospel Event - Delmont
 October 28, 2018 - Chicken Paprikash Dinner - Brownsville, Calvin 11 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 November 3, 2018 - Annual Craft and Vendor Show - New Hope
 November 11, 2018 - A Patriotic Thanksgiving - Murrysville, First

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

A Community of _____ in Christ

Unfortunately, with the death of my father-in-law, I missed a reunion of a group of friends from a Christian fellowship group in college who have begun to gather together every five years. It has become a special celebration of God's faithfulness along the many different paths that the Lord has directed over the past forty-some years. Although some might think it is based upon nostalgic reflection upon youth (a disease of getting old), I believe there is more to it than that. During those formative years over a span of a decade, God did something very special at that place and time at Lewis and Clark and among those involved. It was and is a genuine experience of "community"..in Christ.

Although Dietrich Bonhoeffer is often cited by many different "sides" as justification for their particular viewpoint of resistance (see the recently released [The Battle for Bonhoeffer](#)), among his earlier works is the short book entitled, [Life Together](#) which he wrote based upon his preparation and living with the "confessing church" movement. While that work was important in my own life during those college years where I joined together with others in efforts to form and participate in active, intentional community. One section I return to time and again as I reflect upon our ministries together as local congregations and even as a larger geographic community as a presbytery is the following quote.

"Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this. Whether it be a brief, single encounter or the daily fellowship of years, Christian community is only this. We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ.

What does this mean? It means, first, that a Christian needs others because of Jesus Christ. It means, second, that a Christian comes to

District 4

Contact Us
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 Presbyter/Stated Clerk
[blog address](#)
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Bobbie Martin
 Office Administrator/
 Bookkeeper

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

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

2018 Presbytery Council Meeting Dates

 October 23
 November 27

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

others only through Jesus Christ. It means, third, that in Jesus Christ we have been chosen from eternity; accepted in time, and united for eternity."

So, we find the bond that binds us together is not our common interests or collective experiences, but principally and centrally our shared identity in Jesus Christ. Too often, in our focus upon the "stuff" of our own congregations, we rely upon foundations other than our unity in Christ. Inevitably, such foundations will and do erode under the pressures of life and organizations. Only in Christ can we find and retain not only a commitment to unity with each other, but it is also in Christ that we find purpose together as that community expression called Church.

In the busyness of a "ramped" up season of fall activities and increased church programming, let us remember that in Christ, we are called to both be and fulfill the expressions as a:

- *The Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.*
- *The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation.*
- *The Church is to be a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.*
- *The Church is to be a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord.*

Around Redstone

>>First Presbyterian Church in Murrysville will be hosting a Patriotic Thanksgiving Concert on Sunday, November 11 at 4:00 p.m. Interested singers are invited to participate in this community Cantata Choir. If interested in singing or if you have any questions, contact Ruth Poscich, Director of Music, at ruthposcich@juno.com or 724.205.0770.

>>Our churches are in an era of decline. Pastors and lay leaders know they have to change, but how do they do this in the face of such stubborn resistance? Leading congregations through transformation feels dangerous because of the anxiety and conflict it evokes. "Leading a Church through Transformation", an event being led by the Rev. Dr. Graham Standish on October 24, 31, and November 7 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. at the Sewickley Presbyterian Church, 414 Grant Street, Sewickely, PA 15143. The cost is \$60.00 and covers all three sessions. Based on his 25 years of experiences and research on leading declining churches through healthy revitalization and growth, Dr. Standish will explore ways of identifying a church's DNA, reducing congregational resistance, cultivating creativity, and promoting congregational acceptance. To register, please call Beth at 412.741.7430, x1001.

>>PTS will be launching three exciting Doctor of Ministry cohorts, scheduled for June 2019. If you have been attempting to discern where, and when, God would have you to take this extraordinary step, consider doing it with PTS. The summer 2019 launch will be inclusive of our Christian Spirituality, Missional Leadership, and Parish focuses. For more information contact Rev. Brian Wells, Director, Doctor of Ministry Program at 1.800.451.4194.



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