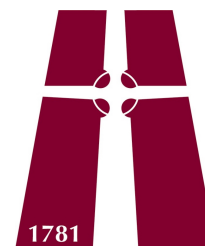


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



October 30, 2018

In This Issue Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

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

>Latrobe Presbyterian Church, Clark Kerr, Pastor
District 2

>Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church, Farmington, James Gear, Moderator
District 3

>Cresson Presbyterian Church, David McCabe, Pastor
District 4

Contact Us

Rev. Skip Noftzger
Executive
Presbyter/Stated Clerk
blog address
twitter address

Bobbie Martin
Office Administrator/
Bookkeeper

**Communicate the
Word...**

**Carry on the
Work...**

Upcoming Events...

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

"Let the Tears Flow..."

I confess that it is not often that I let emotions go and let my tears flow (not that this desirable). If truth be told, you are more likely to find me crying during a movie rather than in real life. I suspect that it probably reflects my natural response to be part of the solution, to act, to provide stability during whatever the "crisis" may be. Yet, as an observer, whether in film or play or book, I am "permitted" to feel the narrative and its impact as I experience it.

On Saturday, like many of you, I sat powerless as events unfolded and news came out about another act of violence in our midst. Although we may have become almost "immune" to the ongoing reality of violence in our world, this instance was different. Early on, it became clear that this action was the result of targeting a particular group of people because of who they are, what they believe, and their connection with assisting others perceived as "threatening." Even more disturbing, this proactive and purposeful terroristic action came not from some far away place or from some people that we could label as "other," but from within our own communities, even in Pittsburgh.

Witnessing the news coverage, I understood and felt the same range of emotions that can overwhelm each of us; anger, fear, despair, sadness.

- Anger that vacillates between righteous indignation and vengeful lashing out.
- Despair over not just the actions of one, but the climate where language of hate and condemnation are rationalized by some social policy.
- Fear, not for myself, but for those who are vulnerable in a climate where strength is exercised by power over others rather than self-sacrificing compassion and service.
- Finally, tears of sadness and communal lament in recognition of the world in which we have come to live.

I cried and still weep, for we are living in a time when the expressions of our sin may not only find form in institutions that might perpetuate injustice, but where people feel emboldened in their self-selected communities within social media to find justification for violence in both words and deeds. And, so it is right that we *let the tears flow*.

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

Remaining 2018 Presbytery Meeting Dates

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

Remaining 2018 Presbytery Council Meeting Dates

November 27

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

Upcoming Events at PTS

Allies in Faith: Encouraging Hospitality to Immigrants - with Christian Associates and PTS Faculty and Staff, November 28-29 and March 14

For more information:

www.pts.edu/continuing-education

It is important to identify the problems societally and begin to act to address it in denouncements and calls to specific actions. Such pronouncements and action can and must take place, but that is not enough. For the issue is not merely external to me. I am, and we are, part of the problem. When we think that our language is not harmful, or we tolerate a climate that becomes fertile ground for the seeds of hate to sprout and grow among us, we also have participated. When we demonize one another not as people with whom we might differ, but merely as ideological pawns, then we have contributed. So, we must look in the mirror and *the tears must flow.*

There is, and there will be time, for further self-examination, for consideration of what we have become as a Church, as a community, as a society. We will need to stand and walk in the ways of Jesus, not only in what he did, but what Jesus wants us to do and be now. Meanwhile, like Jesus, let us stand together as one with those who are suffering in the Jewish community and in Pittsburgh. And, with the love and compassion of Jesus, *let the tears flow.*

Around Redstone

>>As we stand together with those affected by this mass shooting in Pittsburgh, we hear from other voices, as well, near and far:

~ [Presbyterian Outlook Prayer](#)

~ Synod of the Trinity Moderator John A. Bolt - "[We must hold ourselves accountable. We must hold each other accountable.](#)"

~ Synod of the Trinity Transitional Executive Susan Faye Wonderland - "[In wake of Pittsburgh tragedy, 'the call is now'.](#)"

~ Pittsburgh Presbytery colleague - [Rev. Sheldon Sorge](#)

>>Employee Registration in the Board of Pensions - annual enrollment for benefits effective January 1, 2019 began yesterday and will continue through Friday, November 16. Go to pensions.org and click on Benefits Connect to enroll.

>>SAVE THE DATE!! Confirmation Retreat 2019, Friday, April 12 through Saturday, April 13, 2019 at Pine Springs Camp. More information will follow.

>>Pine Springs Camp Friends Dinner - Sunday, November 18, 2018 from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. This annual event is the major fundraising event for the camp. It is a great way to encourage enthusiasm for the mission of camp and celebrate how it contributes to your congregational life. It is a great way for current camper families to share their experiences and a great way to connect new families to the Pine Springs Camp ministry. Contact the camp at 814.629.9834 for more information.

>>Is God calling you? If you are a Ruling Elder who God might be calling to preach or become more involved in pastoral service, Redstone Presbytery (along with Washington, Kiski, and Upper Ohio Valley) will be continuing our training program for the preparation of possible "Commissioned Pastors" for the future. New students may begin in January of 2019. The program is designed to be both classroom and hands-on experiences and you will receive training and mentorship that will help you grow as a leader in Christ's Church. If interested, please contact either Skip Noftzger (Executive Presbyter) or Cheryl Rhea (Chair - AP/CRE subcommittee) or go to <http://www.redstone.org/equipping-leadership2/ap-cre-committee>



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