

Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



December 13, 2018

In This Issue

Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

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

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

>First Presbyterian
Church, Masontown, Lee
McDermott, Moderator
District 3

>Westmont Presbyterian
Church, Johnstown,
Rene Whitaker, Interim
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...

December 14, 2018: Live Nativity - Trafford, Level Green

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

"Two-Sided Advent"

Often, the messages of this Advent season seem to overlap with those of merriment, goodwill, and cheer of that early celebration of Christmas that surrounds us. Certainly, driven both by retail necessity and wishful good feelings, the message is one that calls us to happiness and brightness. While I do not fancy myself a modern-day "grinch," nor do I eschew the traditions of holiday festivities (including giving and receiving presents), Advent draws us into a reality that is both hopeful and honest.

Within this Advent journey, we remember, and we anticipate. In our anticipation, we long for, pray for, and look for a Savior who will deliver us. Yet, the message of Advent is one where that deliverance comes through the means of judgment. For the deliverer is the king of peace and the king of righteousness. We want that One who has not abandoned the good, created world to come and set all things "right."

Unfortunately, it becomes altogether too easily to believe that the deliverer is "on our side" in some earthly game of power and righteousness. Our certainty on moral, social and even, political positions treats the "other" as wholly in need of verdict and purification. At the same time, it masks our own need for honest reflection upon the implications of a "coming" that we desire. Advent longing should also drive us to "look in the mirror" and to hear the call to repentance of the wilderness prophet, "prepare the way of the Lord." Such exhortations serve as "good news" to those who might hear and be challenged beyond a thin faith veneer covering innate selfish desires to a journey of Advent living by faith in words and deeds.

The Scriptures remind us that "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." Ironically, our hope, as well as our need for penitence are grounded in that judgment. So, in this "two-sided" Advent season, we have the opportunity to once more encounter the One "who is, and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." So, on this journey of hope, peace, joy and love, let us come before our God both with repentance and with faith that Christ only, in us and for us, will be our hope of glory.

Around Redstone

>>The Presbytery office will be closed beginning at NOON on Wednesday, December 19, 2018 through and including Tuesday, January 1, 2019. Regular

***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

**Next Presbytery
Meeting Date**

Saturday, January 26, 2019
New Hope Presbyterian
Church, North Huntingdon
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**2019 Presbytery
Council Meeting
Dates**

January 8
February 26
April 23
June 25
August 27
October 22
November 26

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

office hours of 9:00 to 4:00 Monday through Thursday will begin on
Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

>>The Bookkeeper will be closing the books for 2018 on Monday, January 7, 2019. If you want your monies included in the 2018 financial reports, they need to be in to the Presbytery Office prior to or no later than Monday, January 7, 2019. Any monies received after that date will be included in the books for 2019.

>>The Communications Team of Redstone Presbytery has created an Advent Devotional including reflections from our own colleagues and presbyters. Check out the Presbytery of Redstone Facebook page or blog (redstonetogether.blogspot.com) Please click the link below to download your copy. [link](#)

>>FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS WITH PASSION FOR HUNGER ISSUES: PC(USA)-related Monmouth College (Monmouth, IL) offers the Lux Summer Theological Institute for Youth, which gives high school students from around the country a chance - for free - to immerse themselves in big theological questions. The 2019 Lux Institute will be held June 16-30, 2019 on the theme The application deadline for students is January 1, 2019, which is quickly approaching. Please for information "[A Place at the Table: Thinking Theologically about Hunger and Poverty.](#)"[click here](#) that gives you and your young people a better look at this wonderful, two-week summer program for theologically thoughtful high school.

>>UPCOMING EVENTS AT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY:

>>Parables for the Future: Scenario and Strategic Planning (online class)
January 21 - February 15

>>Community Conversation on Race and Faith/Kelso Lecture - Herbert
Marbury - February 9

>>Writing as Practice and Revelation - February 23

>>Art of Transitional Ministry: Part 1 - February 25 - March 1

For more information on upcoming events [click here](#)

**THE PRESBYTERY STAFF WOULD LIKE TO WISH
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A VERY BLESSED
CHRISTMAS AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR!**



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