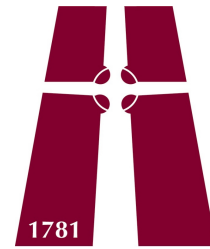


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



January 17, 2019

In This Issue Around Redstone

Let's Pray For:

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

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

>McClellandtown Presbyterian Church, Lee McDermott, Pastor District 3

>Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church, Ligonier, John McClure, Moderator 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...

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 Rev. Curtis Paul, Pastor of Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church and Nominating Committee Chairperson

Does forgiveness involve forgetting? If it does not, then eternity with God would be awful if every time we embraced the warm and loving arms of Jesus, He would say, "Curtis, my beloved child, remember that time you were driving too fast and wrecked that truck. Remember that time you hurt your mother's feelings. I forgive you but that was really bad." That does not sound like a good relationship. If forgiving does not involve forgetting, then at least forgiving is not men

tioning the offense over and over again.

We sometimes forget the only reason we forgive in the first place is to create a new relationship or to maintain a relationship. Jesus commands us to forgive: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful...Forgive, and you will be forgiven. (Luke 6:36-37) When Peter asks how many times we should forgive, Jesus responds, "Seven times seventy times." Matthew 18:22

On October 2nd 2006, Charles Roberts entered a one-room Amish school house creating an unimageable tragedy killing five young girls and injuring another five. The Amish forgave the gunman because Jesus commands us to forgive as our heavenly Father forgives us. Forgiving immediately is remarkable, especially considering the horrific and heinous crime that he committed. The good news of the Gospel is lived through these Christians. Forgiveness is the beginning of new relationships. The Amish knew they had lost five young girls, but the gunman was also the father of three children and those three children had lost their daddy. The schoolhouse was knocked down to get out of sight. And then new relationships were created. Money from around the world was pouring into the Christian community and they directed some of the money to the killer's family to help support them. These Christians reached out to Charles' mother and father and twelve years later continue to sustain their friendship. This is the story of Christmas.

We are called, the Amish are called to the ministry of reconciliation. "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross (Colossians 1:19-20). Forgiveness must happen daily to bring God's will into the world. The Amish parents of the five surviving children have to forgive each day as they continue twelve years later caring for the severely wounded. They may have knocked down the school building to forgive and forget, but they still have the living wounded among them. How do they persevere? How do we persevere?

Mary will learn that her baby Jesus will die forgiving the world in order to live in us. This is Christmas.

Begin this new year forgiving yourself as God has forgiven you in Jesus Christ! But not only the new year, begin each day forgiving yourself. Forgiveness

***Change the
World...***

Together

must happen daily to bring God's will into the world. Go and forgive as your Father has forgiven you!

If you desire Christ's power to live in you, first admit that you need help daily and second invite Christ into your heart to partner with God.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Curtis

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

Around Redstone

>>If you have a mission trip planned for the spring or summer of 2019 please let the Presbytery office know so we can share it with others in the Presbytery.

>>Freedom Rising Sunday - Pittsburgh Presbytery has designated the Sunday before the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to be an annual celebration of a time for congregations to unite in *Freedom Rising Sunday*, prayer, worship, witness, and support for Freedom Rising and our shared call to address the worsening plight of the African American male.

>>Better Than Average Training: An Event for Children and Youth Ministry Staff and Volunteers - You know that feeling when you're surrounded by people who get you? Who understand what you do and why you do it? On Thursday, February 28, we want to give you the chance to connect with others who share your passion and commitment to ministry with children and youth. Contact the Presbytery for more information.

>>Pastors' Retreat - Redstone Presbytery pastors are invited to participate with pastors in Washington and Kiskiminetas Presbyteries in this Pastors' Retreat. Click [here](#) for more information.

>>Click [here](#) to read the Synod of the Trinity eNews

>>On March 2, 2019, Redstone Presbytery will be conducting a Presbyterian Polity workshop. If you have ever wanted to understand better how and why we do things the way we do, along with interpreting the Book of Order, this is your opportunity. On that date at 9:00 a.m. (until noon), Rev. Cliff Foster, Associate Stated Clerk, will be leading this workshop available to clerks, pastors and others. *If you bring your 2018 Session minutes and Church Register, the review will be completed while you are in the workshop.*

>>Redstone Presbytery Enrichment Day - February 9, 2019. Click for more information. [here](#)



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