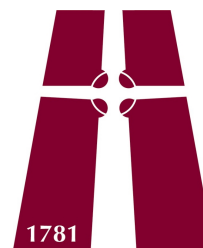


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



July 24, 2019

Let's Pray For:

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

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

>Leisenring Presbyterian Church, Richard Watson, Commissioned Pastor
District 3

>Second Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Carole Isley Corey, Moderator
District 4

Upcoming Events...

- July 25, 2019 - [Chamber Music Concert - Latrobe \(Unity Chapel\)](#)
- August 22, 2019 - [Chamber Music Concert - Latrobe \(Unity Chapel\)](#)
- August 24, 2019 - [Peach Fest - New Salem](#)
- August 25, 2019 - [Family Fun and Friendship Cruise - Irwin, West Hempfield](#)
- October 7-9, 2019 - [Wee Kirk - Laurelville Mennonite Church Center](#)

Click on the links above for more information on any of the upcoming events

Reflections from Rev. Nicole Atkinson, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg



I wasn't present during biblical times, specifically when Jesus walked the earth, but I'm going to go out on a limb here. I think Jesus facepalmed a lot. You know, when you just can't believe what someone else has done or said, you put your hand over your face and shake your head in disbelief? That. I think Jesus did that a lot. Don't get me wrong, Jesus had to be one of the most patient individuals to have ever lived. Preaching to huge crowds who kept pressing closer to him, constantly peppered with questions by lawyers and religious leaders and even his own followers, curious onlookers begging to be healed of a malady or disease, all had to be exhausting for him. I'm convinced the reason we are told throughout the Gospels of times when Jesus "went by himself and prayed" is because it was such a rarity for him, so it was worth sharing about the moment with those reading the Gospel.

In the daily lectionary for today, the passage from Mark's gospel tells the story of when Jesus was out on a boat with some of his followers. A great storm came out of nowhere and started beating against the boat. It was swamped with so much water and wind, that the people on the boat were convinced of their impending doom. In all of this commotion, there is Jesus, asleep on a cushion in the stern of the boat. He's awoken by others on the boat, who ask if he even cares that they're all going to die in this. Jesus wakes up, tells the wind and sea to be still, and facepalms in front of the group. (Okay, I added that, but maybe it was omitted from the original text?) Jesus asks the group "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" And we're

Contact Us

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Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

told the group is just in awe of this man who can even command the winds and sea.

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

I used to think that perhaps Jesus was a bit persnickety to ask the group such a question. If I were on a boat in the middle of a storm like that, I'd probably be freaking out too. However, when you sit and read the gospel of Mark as a whole, consider what the followers of Jesus have seen so far: healing of lepers and paralytics, the expulsion of demons taking over the minds of individuals, giving others the authority to heal and cast out demons, incredible teaching about the kingdom of God, and that's just what is written in the first few chapters of Mark! Imagine what Jesus may have done or said that we don't know about!

What are we afraid of? What is causing us to scream at Jesus to wake up and save us? What do we keep tripping over (literally or figuratively) that makes Jesus facepalm? What is God in the midst of doing that we are completely ignoring?

As summer winds down and we get ready to re-enter the busy-ness of the church program year, let us be brave and open to exploring what God is doing in our midst...even the things that may scare us!

Around Redstone

>>The Presbytery office will be doing a bulk order for the 2019/2021 Book of Order. The cost for each book will be \$9.00. This cost does include shipping. If you would like to order the new Book of Order please complete the form that is on the homepage of our website at www.redstonepresbytery.org and mail it to Bobbie at the Presbytery office. You may also email her with the number you would like to order if that would be easier for you. The email address is secretary@redstonepresbytery.org. This Book of Order is also available as a downloadable copy free of charge from the PCUSA store. If you have questions about that please let Bobbie know. The deadline for orders will be Thursday, August 29, 2019.

>>One of our churches asked that we also do a bulk order for the Book of Confessions. That can be done if there is enough folks that want them. The cost will be between \$8.50 and \$9.50/book depending on how many orders are received. If you are interested in ordering the Book of Confessions as well as the new Book of Order, please email Bobbie at the Presbytery office at secretary@redstonepresbytery.org. Once we know how many are interested, the price will be able to be determined.

>>The 224th General Assembly (2020) will meet in Baltimore, Maryland from Saturday to Saturday, June 20-27, 2020. The Session of your church may nominate a young person to attend the General Assembly as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD). Nominations are due September 1! Contact the Presbytery office for more information.

>>MISSION FAIR AT NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING - At our joint presbytery meeting (Washington/Redstone) on September 24 at Pine Springs Camp, we would like to know more about what your congregation is doing in missions. Consider bringing a small display of information to tell others about a mission project your congregation really loves!

Next 2019 Presbytery Meeting Date

**Tuesday, September 24,
2019**

**Pine Springs Camp
(joint meeting with
Washington Presbytery)
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Next Presbytery Council Meeting Date

August 27

**Council meetings begin
at 6:30 p.m. at the
Presbytery Center**

Skip's Sabbatical

While Skip is on Sabbatical (June 10-August 5) others have agreed to serve as the "first-line" and will respond by personal intervention or referral to an appropriate person within the Presbytery.

Contact Bobbie Martin, Administrative Assistant, at the Presbytery office (724.837.6737) and she will guide you to the appropriate person to assist you with your issues and concerns.



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