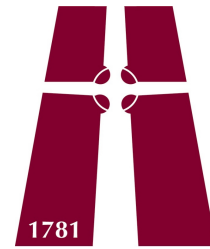


# Presbytery of Redstone

## eNews



December 5, 2019

### Let's Pray For:

>Congruity Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria, Cliff Foster, Pastor  
District 1

>United Presbyterian Church, New Kensington, Wendy Keys, Pastor  
District 1

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

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

>First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Martin Ankrum, Pastor  
District 2

>Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Steve LaSor, Pastor  
District 2

>Tyrone Presbyterian Church, Dawson, Anthony Marciano, Commissioned Pastor  
District 3

>First Presbyterian Church, Dunbar, Aleda Menchyk, Moderator  
District 3

### Upcoming Events...

October 2019 through May 2020 - [Soup for the Soul Community Luncheon](#) - Apollo, Poke Run

December 10, 2019 - [Redstone Presbyterian Senior Care Trip to Sight and Sound Christmas Show](#)

December 13, 2019 - [Community Christmas Carol Sing/Live Nativity](#) - Trafford, Level Green

December 14-15, 2019 - [Living Nativity](#) - Smock, Pleasant View

December 19, 2019 - [Blue Christmas Service](#) - Johnstown, First

July 9-11, 2020 - [PW Summer Synod Gathering](#)

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

### Reflections from the Executive Presbyter

"Reliving the Story"

I do not often think of myself as a "curmudgeon," but I have to confess that each year I get more and more annoyed by the way holiday seasons are move up. While I acknowledge that retailers and merchants want to extend the buying season(six days shorter this year), it does not mean that I have to like it. Additionally, this year, I noticed some "light up" nights being held even before Thanksgiving. Yet, in order for any type of season or celebration to retain its intended significance, it must be distinct.

With Advent, we enter a distinctive season of anticipation. The journey of the "church year" begins anew. This sequencing of the year draws into the story of Jesus and the Good News that we might both tell it and live it again. In Advent, we are not merely reminded of past events, but we experience God's presence as the power of that story moves us forward by God's grace in the redemptive journey toward a consummation in that Second Advent. The Advent season calls us into God's redemptive story. In the words of N.T. Wright,

"We are signing on as part of God's larger project, God's forward purposes, his plans for the whole creation to be renewed, so that (as the prophets said) the earth will be full of the knowledge and glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. In Jesus, God brought heaven and earth together; in his second coming, that joining together will be complete. That is the Advent hope."

So, in this Advent journey, we travel down the road knowing that God's reconciling of "all things" in heaven and on earth has begun. Though we may

>Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Dunbar, Aleda Menchyk, Moderator  
District 3

>Patton Presbyterian Church, David McCabe, Pastor  
District 4

>Revloc Presbyterian Church, David O'Hara, Commissioned Pastor  
District 4

>Bolivar United Presbyterian Church, James Sunseri, Commissioned Pastor  
District 4

### Contact Us

#### Rev. Skip Noftzger

Executive  
Presbyter/Stated Clerk  
[blog address](#)  
[twitter address](#)

#### Bobbie Martin

Administrative  
Assistant/  
Bookkeeper

*Communicate the  
Word...*

*Carry on the Work...*

*Change the World...*

*Together*

### First 2020 Presbytery Meeting

Saturday, January 25,  
2020

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Maplewood  
Presbyterian Church,  
Greensburg

### First 2020 Presbytery Council Meeting

not always believe it or recognize the signs, this Advent we come into the story again and see Emmanuel.

## Advent Activities Throughout Redstone

>>Festival of Nativities - First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown - December 6-8 - 6:00 p.m.

>>Dickens Christmas Organ Recital - Ebensburg Presbyterian Church - December 7 - 3:30 p.m.

>>The Peace Light from Bethlehem, lit from the eternal flame that burns in the grotto in the Church of the Nativity, began its journey last week from the West Bank to Tel Aviv to Austria. It will arrive at JFK International Airport this Friday and will then be taken across the US. A man from Massachusetts will carry the light from New York all the way to Colorado and then back to the east coast. We will receive the light here in Redstone this weekend and share it on Sunday, December 8th at 3PM at Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, 533 Royal Road, Smock, PA. Can't make it on Sunday but would like to receive the Peace Light for your home or congregation? Please feel free to get in touch with Laura Blank, pastor of the Pleasant View church, to make arrangements to go to Pleasant View at another time or to meet up at a convenient location. Email Laura at [laurabblank@gmail.com](mailto:laurabblank@gmail.com) or call or text her at 412.601.1865. Hints for safe transportation: a bucket with sand is great for keeping a candle or lantern steady. We have used "seven day sanctuary candles" to keep the light burning through the season, and those candles also tend to travel well. It is also recommended to travel with TWO candles or lanterns, just in case!

>>"A Cold Winter's Night" - organ recitals at NOON each Friday of Advent - First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg. A quilt show will follow each recital and a take out lunch will be available for \$10.00. The organists are:

December 6 - John Salvenson  
December 13 - Aaron Sproul  
December 20 - Michelle Cardos

>>Community Christmas Carol Sing/Live Nativity - Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford - 7:00 p.m.

>>Living Nativity - Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

>>Blue Christmas Service - First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown - 7:00 p.m.

## Around Redstone

>>The final Fall 2019 IPLF Workshop will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2019. The FREE workshop "Preaching Beyond the Lectionary" will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Presbytery office. To register call Bobbie at 724.837.6737 or email her at [secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org)

>>The 2020 IPLF Workshops will begin January 11, 2020. Each workshop is held from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Redstone Presbytery Office. The dates for the workshops will be January 11, 2020; February 8, 2020; March 14, 2020; April 18, 2020 and May 16, 2020. The workshops (in order of date) include:  
~~~ Nurturing and Forming Elders - Rev. Jane Johnson  
~~~ Re-Thinking Atonement - Rev. Dr. Edwin Chr. van Driel, PTS  
~~~ Pastoral Care: Help for Those Affected by Addiction - Rev. Lee McDermott

**Tuesday, January 14,  
2020**

**This meeting will begin  
at 6:30 p.m. at the  
Presbytery office**

**~~~ Polity - Elder John Rodgers, Stated Clerk, Washington Presbytery  
~~~ Proclaiming the Word - Rev. Ken Foust  
For more information or to register for any of these workshops, contact  
Bobbie at the Redstone Presbytery office at 724.837.6737 or via email at  
secretary@redstonepresbytery.org.**



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