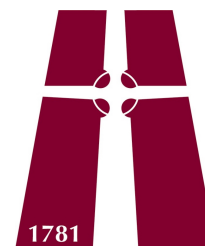


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



December 18, 2019

Let's Pray For:

>First Presbyterian Church, Avonmore, Larry Armstrong, Covenant Pastor
District 1

>Delmont Presbyterian Church, Caroline Vickery, Pastor
District 1

>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Donna Havrisko, Pastor
District 2

>First Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Ronald Wakeman, Pastor
District 2

>First Presbyterian Church, Fairchance, James Gear, Moderator
District 3

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

>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Boswell, James Farrer, Moderator
District 4

>Colver Presbyterian Church, Owar Ojulu, Pastor
District 4

Contact Us

Upcoming Events...

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

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

"Look Up"

In an Advent sermon preached by Bonhoeffer in a London church, he called upon them to "look up" during this season. The challenge of the coming of Christ is one that calls us to look beyond our particular circumstances or even our own feeble efforts at remembrance or anticipation. To "look up" is to acknowledge and to become aware that our redemption is "drawing near."

"Advent creates people, new people. We are supposed to become new people in Advent. Look up, you whose gaze is fixed on this earth, who are spellbound by the little events and changes on the face of the earth. Look up to these words, you have turned away from heaven disappointed. Look up, you whose eyes are heavy with tears and who are crying over the fact that the earth has gracelessly torn us away. Look up, you who, burdened with guilt, cannot lift your eyes. Look up, your redemption is drawing near. Something different from what you see daily will happen. Just be aware, be watchful, wait just another moment. Wait and something quite new will break over you: God will come." (Bonhoeffer's Advent sermon in a London church, December 3, 1933, from [God is in the Manger](#))

In that same sermon, Bonhoeffer uses the image of miners trapped underground for whom deliverance is known by the tapping on the rocks of the rescuers. While their situation seems dire, yet the promise of liberation is made known in those sounds. Advent reminds us with those tapping sounds not only a redemption that has begun in that first coming, but of its completion still to come.

May we during this season be (re)newed as people whose gazes are not fixed in the world as we know it, but in the promise of God's coming and the renewal and reconciliation of all things. This Advent let's look up for our redemption draws near. Amen.

Rev. Skip Noftzger

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

Bobbie Martin

Administrative
 Assistant/
 Bookkeeper

Advent Activities Throughout Redstone

>>"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 20 - Michelle Cardos

Around Redstone

>>Merry Christmas from the Synod Staff. [Check it out.](#)

>>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
- ~~~ 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.

>>Many of our congregations lack the resources to send their staff and volunteers would work with children and youth to training events. Last year, Pittsburgh Presbytery did a pilot training program "Better Than Average Training" for just those people. It was a big success so they decided to do it again this year. This year's training will be on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at the Sewickley Presbyterian Church beginning at 4:00 p.m. REGISTRATION IS DUE BY JANUARY 9, 2020!! You can find all of the details at www.pghpresnextgen.org but [here is a schedule for the day.](#)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

**The Presbytery Staff would like to wish
 you all a very merry and blessed
 Christmas and a joyous New Year!**

*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**

Tuesday, January 14,
 2020

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



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