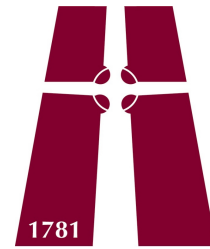


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



January 16, 2020

Let's Pray For:

>Grace Community
Presbyterian Church,
Lower Burrell, Ken
Foust, Pastor
District 1

>Puckety Presbyterian
Church, Lower Burrell,
Skip Noftzger, Interim
Pastor
District 1

>West Hempfield
Presbyterian Church,
Irwin, Andrew Wirt,
Pastor
District 2

>First Presbyterian
Church, Jeannette,
William King, Interim
Pastor
District 2

>First Presbyterian
Church, Fayette City,
Aleda Menchyk,
Moderator
District 3

>Little Redstone
Presbyterian Church,
Fayette City, Joshua
Scully, Commissioned
Pastor
District 3

>First Presbyterian
Church, Cresson, David
McCabe, Pastor
District 4

>First Presbyterian
Church, Ebensburg,

Upcoming Events...

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

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 Rev. Steve LaSor, Pastor of the Maplewood Presbyterian Church

Just this last Sunday we celebrated "Baptism of the Lord" Sunday. Not coincidentally it is also the Sunday when many of our churches ordain and/or install their new officers for the year. The day of our Lord's baptism marks the beginning of his 3 year ministry. Likewise elders and deacons begin their 3 year term in ministry as leaders in Christ's church.

The liturgical calendar moves quickly! Only two Sundays have passed since Christmas. We have jumped from the celebration of our Lord's incarnation to now his baptism, about a 30 year span of time in Jesus' life. The significance of his baptism can be obscured or diminished by all those weeks of Advent preparation. Now the celebration is over, the decorations are put away, and the mad rush of the Christmas season is done. Alas, when we arrive on this particular Sunday, the baptism of our Lord comes almost like a flash in the pan, a brief interlude, and then we're off to Lent.

Give pause and consider the words of Isaiah, who looks upon God's people of his day and sees their diminished status. After years of captivity, living as broken people amidst a broken world, Isaiah cries out, "Oh that you would tear open the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble....and cause the nations to quake before you." (Isa 64)

Isaiah was recalling the time when God's presence came down to meet his people. The moment was powerful, just after the exodus from Egypt. It was a stunning moment; fire, thick smoke and a trembling mountain. Remembering the moment, Isaiah inasmuch calls on God to "do it again!" only this time in a way that all the nations of the earth would see and tremble.

We all long for God to put things right in our world, to show forth God's power and bring God's righteousness/justice...to "tear open the heavens and come down!" But remember our Lord's baptism, and yours too!

Then came Jesus of Nazareth! *"And rising up out of the water he saw the heavens torn open, and the Spirit like a dove coming down upon him. And a voice from heaven, 'This is my beloved Son; with him I am well pleased.'"*

**Owar Ojulu, 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
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Maplewood
Presbyterian Church,
Greensburg

Next Presbytery Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 25,
2020

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

As we have celebrated his incarnation, let's not forget that the meek Christ child also comes to us in the power of the Holy Spirit, to make the lame walk, the blind see, and set captives free...to bring God's Kingdom. He gives us his Spirit, empowering us to do same. So as we begin a new year, remember your baptism! Be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, in Jesus' name!

Around Redstone

>>The Rev. Brenda Barnes will be installed as the Pastor of the New Hope Presbyterian Church, 12727 Lincoln Way, North Huntingdon on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Please plan to attend to welcome Brenda back to Redstone!

>>The next 2020 IPLF Workshop will be held from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Redstone Presbytery Office on February 8, 2020. "Re-Thinking Atonement" with the Rev. Dr. Edwin Chr. van Driel, PTS instructing, will help us preach and teach afresh the ways the Scriptures speak about the difference that the cross makes. The New Testament draws mainly on two elements of the Old Testament to interpret Jesus' death: the sacrifices of Israel's cult (as described in Leviticus) and the figure of the suffering servant (as described in Isaiah during the time of exile). But how did first century Jews understand the sacrifices and the figure of the suffering servant? And what did they mean when they drew on these to talk about Jesus' death? And what does all of this do to our take on atonement? This workshop will help us think about these questions.

>>District 4 Enrichment Day - Saturday, February 8, 2020 at the Westmont Presbyterian Church in Johnstown. The afternoon begins at 11:15 with the Clerks of Session Review of 2019 Session minutes and registers. The afternoon sessions with your choice of two of the four: Creating Kids' Ministry in the Smaller Church Today (Cheryl Croushore, Leader), Finding Direction in Life via Discernment and Prayer (Carole Isley Corey, Leader), Differences Between the Church in Africa and the USA (Owar Ojulu, Leader), and Surprising, Sacred, Shocking: Biblical Worship and Prayer (Jim Farrer, Leader). There is no cost for the day. To register or for more information please [click here](#).

>>2020 Mission Trips

~~~Members of the Trinity Presbyterian Church in New Florence and the Third Presbyterian Church in Uniontown are planning a mission trip to Swansboro, NC March 7-14, 2020 to work on homes damaged by Hurricane Florence in 2018. Anyone interested in participating in this trip please contact Marilyn Fitzsimmons at 724.366.4068.

~~~Redstone Mission Team has set March 21-28, 2020 for a spring trip to Hampdon, WV. The cost of this trip is \$100.00. The team has also set July 11-18, 2020 for a summer trip to St. Albans, WV which would include young people 14 years or older. If interested or for more information on either of these trips contact Phyllis Frye at 724.468.3740 or [pfrye1234@windstream.net](mailto:pfrye1234@windstream.net).

