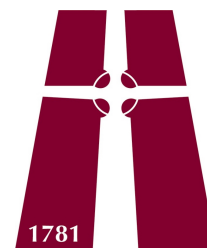


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews



March 5, 2020

Let's Pray For

>Delmont Presbyterian Church, Caroline Vickery, Pastor
District 1

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

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

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

>Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock, Laura Blank, Pastor
District 3

>Tent Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, Lee McDermott, Moderator
District 3

>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...

Upcoming Events...

- **Lenten Series--every Friday; Faith and Arts Series**, First Presbyterian, Greensburg
- **PSC Skates**, Center Ice, Delmont; March 29; 3:00-5:00
- **Women in the Woods Retreat**; Pine Springs; March 27-29
- **Scholarship Golf Outing**; Latrobe Country Club; May 18
- **"A Retreat Morning on Thomas Merton's Life and Influence"**; May 30; 9:00-12:00
- 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

EP Reflections



"Faithful, Gracious and Wise"

A number of years ago, Rodney Stark published a book on the sociological factors in the "rise of Christianity." Among other factors, one of them was the role by Christians within the movement during social crises. Whether the crisis was a natural disaster like tornadoes (Nashville) or epidemics (Coronavirus), Christians were able to deal with them by faith. They offered to friends and neighbors both a responsiveness to needs and a hope that was built not upon present circumstances. Then and now, the gospel, with its message of redemption, brings a different perspective than one limited by life's tragedies and circumstances.

With any disaster in our media-saturated and connected world, we are more keenly aware of its impact both far and near. As Christians, we also may find ourselves needing to exercise a perspective that is "faithful, gracious and wise." We also may find that God is still at work in our world, in our neighborhoods and in our congregations opening opportunities that we may be God's hands and feet in loving God and loving our neighbors.

Beyond the various practical advice offered everywhere (including some that I have distributed), I have found helpful reminders in the following opening paragraph from the PCUSA "Pastoral Statement" and in the "Call to Prayer" by the Stated Clerk. I hope that you find them helpful reminders as well.

A Pastoral Statement on the Coronavirus/COVID-19

At a time of high anxiety - such as the global outbreak of coronavirus/COVID-19 - pastors and other congregational leaders have an important role in setting an appropriate tone for the church's response. Leaders can demonstrate that they are taking seriously the facts of the situation and

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

Next 2020 Presbytery Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2020
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown

Next Presbytery Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

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

Some Scholarship Information

>>Thanks to a generous grant from the Central Mission Endowment Fund of St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston, PAM is delighted to offer more scholarships for our 2020 Worship and Music Conferences at Montreat. These St. Philip/CMEF Scholarships are available to large groups, small groups, and individuals too! In addition to the conference registration fee, these scholarships can cover lodging, meals, and - for large groups - even travel costs! If you would like more information or would like to apply, please visit www.presbysmusic.org/montreat-registration and click on Scholarships.

>>The Presbyterian Scholarship Fund offers financial assistance to students from PCUSA congregations attending Davis and Elkins College, Grove City College, Muskingum University, Washington & Jefferson, Waynesburg University, Westminster College, or The College of Wooster. Each year one new student at each school is eligible for a \$1,200 renewable scholarship. The fund, formerly known as the Colportage scholarship, supports up to twenty-eight students

keeping the best interests of the community in mind. At the same time, they can model a response that is faithful, gracious and wise - trusting God in all things, remaining calm in a time of distress, extending compassion to those who are suffering, and praying for the healing of the world.

Around Redstone (and beyond)

Inter-Presbytery Leadership Workshops--

3/14---Pastoral Care for Loved Ones of the Addicted; Rev. Lee McDermott
4/18--- Polity; John Rodgers, Washington Presbytery Stated Clerk
5/16---Preaching; Rev. Ken Foust

Session Minutes Review sessions---

3/24--Pre-Presbytery; 4/18---during Polity workshop; 5/19--Pre-Presbytery

Chili Dinner -

The Derry Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of Presby Way and North Chestnut Street in Derry, will be hosting a Chili Dinner, Saturday, March 28, 2020 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to enjoy a bowl of chili, cornbread or dinner roll, beverage and dessert. The cost is \$6.50 for adults; \$4.50 for children 5-12; and children under 5 are free. Take out is available. Handicap parking and accessibility at rear entrance to Fellowship Hall near garage and kitchen entrance.

Spaghetti Dinner -

The West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, 8 W. Hempfield Drive, Irwin, will be hosting a spaghetti dinner to benefit their mission trip to Haiti on March 28, 2020 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$8.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children 3-12. A Chinese auction will also be taking place.

Pastors Retreat --"Coming to our Senses"--- Derek and Erin Davenport, Miller Summer Youth Institute

April 19-20, Pine Springs Camp; Registration--Redstone Presbytery office

Flourishing in Ministry: Cultivating Trustworthy Relationships--sponsored by the Center for Courage and Renewal (Parker Palmer founder)---new cohort being opened in Maryland at Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center. Participation involves three retreats (1-4 day; 2-3day). Scholarships are available. For more

information: <http://www.couragere renewal.org/flourishing-in-ministry/>

Call to Prayer

As the novel coronavirus has captured the headlines in recent weeks, misinformation, conspiracy theories, and fear of the unknown have raised anxiety and caused widespread apprehension. Financial markets have wobbled and people of Asian descent in this country and around the world have been unfairly targeted. This virus has exposed the vulnerability and fragility of the global community.

As we struggle with the horrific impact of the deadly virus that has infected so many people in China and now in a number of other countries, we cannot but call upon our God for help and healing.

Please join me in crying out for relief from this plague.

We pray for healing for those who are infected, in China and in all the places where the virus has spread.

We pray for all who already have lost loved ones to the illness and those who will yet suffer such loss.

each year. Students must be a member of a Presbyterian congregation in one of the following Presbyteries: Beaver-Butler, Kiskiminetas, Lake Erie, Pittsburgh, Redstone, Shenango, Upper Ohio Valley, or Washington. Applicants should seek information from their respective school's financial aid office.

We pray for doctors, nurses and aides providing medical care, for insight in their caring, and for their health and well-being.

We pray for wisdom for the medical and scientific experts who are desperately seeking ways to control the spread of the virus.

We pray for public officials who must make the hard decisions about the quarantining of those who may have been exposed to the virus; and we pray for all those for whom those decisions feel like unjust imprisonment.

We lift up the Christian church in China and our partners throughout the region as they seek to bring Christ's healing presence and peace.

We pray for God to keep us alert to the threats posed by such a worldwide crisis, remembering the millions of God's children who live in places where the availability of medical care is meager or nonexistent.

May God open our hearts, our financial resources, and our political will, so that the vision of a better future can become a reality for all of God's children.

In the Providence of the God who created us, in the Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ who redeems us, and in the Power of the Holy Spirit through whom God's will is done. AMEN.

In Faith and Hope, J. Herbert Nelson, II. Stated Clerk of the General Assembly - Presbyterian Church (USA)



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