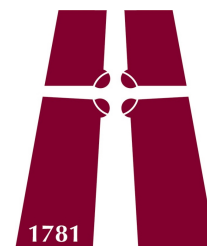


# Presbytery of Redstone

## eNews



March 19, 2020

### Let's Pray For

- >Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Skip Noftzger, Interim Pastor District 1
- >First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Ed Gray, Pastor District 1
- >Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Steve LaSor, Pastor District 2
- >Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Donna Havrisko, Pastor District 2
- >Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, Ronald Johnson, Pasator District 3
- >Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, James Gear, Pastor District 3
- >Covenant Presbyterian Church, Boswell, James Farrer, Moderator District 4
- >Colver Presbyterian Church, Owar Ojulo, 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...

- **PSC Skates** , Center Ice, Delmont; March 29; 3:00-5:00 (**CANCELLED**)
- **Women in the Woods Retreat**; Pine Springs; March 27-29 (**CANCELLED**)
- **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

### Reflections from Len Morgan, Commissioned Pastor, Calvin United Presbyterian Church, Scottdale and member of Presbytery Council

I began preparing for our Lenten study upon our return from our annual cruise. Aside from some rough seas and a missed port; it was a typical cruise. We sailed out of Tampa to Key West and the Cayman's. The Coronavirus was spreading throughout China as I picked up Max Lucado's, Jesus. My plan was to use the book as a basis for Calvin's Wednesday evening Lenten study. To introduce the human side of Jesus, as a friend, healer and teacher. However, as Lent progressed so did the news of the virus. The numerous cruise ships that were quarantined, denied port entry. The closure of Italy and the spread of the disease to America. The media frenzy, daily news conferences on both Federal and State level. The toilet paper panic and the empty shelves. I never thought I would see the abundance of the USA become shortages of essential items like, bread, eggs, cereal. The reaction of the stock market adding to the fear. Businesses closed. Services stopped.

My role as Pastor took on new meaning from preaching the word to care of the congregation. Reaching out to members who hunkered down, checking to see there were okay. Normally, this time of year it would be the weather that kept them away, but the unseasonal weather and early spring was not the reason. My congregation is in the at-risk group. Over 65+ with a variety of health issues. Many stay away to survive. How can I minister to them? For so many, the church is a major part of their life. To suspend services would leave a void. One writer said that we don't suspend worship, for we always worship. But corporate worship was too risky? The Catholics suspended mass and fish fries. Meetings were canceled. Each day brings new information and more restrictions that fuels the anxiety we face in these uncertain times. So I have to calm the fear and remind them that our God is in control. Jesus is our friend and his sacrifice affords us salvation. I pray daily for the congregation and offer words of encouragement as they struggle to get through the day, week. The decisions we make today, may change tomorrow. The constant in our life is that God loves us, we should love one another. Take care of our neighbors. To live as Jesus did. This too shall pass.

Stay safe and keep a social distance. God loves us, and so do I.

***Change the World...******Together*****Next 2020 Presbytery Meeting**

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

Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown

**THIS MEETING HAS BEEN  
CANCELLED**

**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](http://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 know

Len Morgan  
CP Calvin United, Scottdale

**Around Redstone (and beyond)**

>>Prior to the Coronavirus outbreak and government mandated shutdowns, the Synod's Sales Tax Exemption renewal which includes the churches and presbyteries under its umbrella was being processed by the Department of Revenue. They were due to be renewed and mailed out prior to expiration of the current exemption certificates which is March 31<sup>st</sup>. However, because of the mandated work shutdowns the Department of Revenue offices and call center are both closed. The Synod did hear back from the Department of Revenue that because of the closures, all existing sales tax exemption certificate expiration dates are being extended by four months meaning they will be valid through July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. At this time, we do not have an estimate as to when the new certificates will be sent out but once we know we will inform everyone else.

>>As you know, we are currently in a unique situation as the coronavirus continues to spread. This pandemic has caused congregations to rethink what it means "to be the church." What do worship services look like now that our doors are closed? How do our committees meet to discuss these changes while we are practicing "social distancing?"

The Synod has created several valuable resource pages on its website to help churches answer these questions:

- [How your congregation can cope](#)
- [Best practices for preventing the spread of the disease](#)
- [Bulletin inserts outlining good health practices inside and outside of church \(color and black and white\)](#)

>>A message from the Synod of the Trinity:  
Colleagues.....

We have met as your Synod Staff team and are going forward with the following plans:

**First and foremost:** We are here for you and with you. How might we be helpful? Let us know. We will continue with ongoing work as much as possible over zoom and other virtual platforms because that work, however changed, is still there. But we also recognize that there is a new call in this time of crises and together we have new challenges to serve Christ in the world with our congregations. We hope to navigate the ride together and invite you to deepen your relationships with those sharing in this work.

**Secondly:** For the foreseeable future, the Synod staff will be working together and with you virtually. The best way to find us is NOT by calling the office number. We cannot stress that loudly enough! Staff will be checking email regularly and email addresses are on the website. Please use them and feel free to call Sue and Wayne's cell phones. If one of us becomes ill, we will cover for that person and let you know.

**Thirdly and perhaps most immediately important to you:** All three of our April events, including the COM/CPM gathering April 23 and 24, the Stated Clerk, Executive and Staff gathering April 29 and 30, and GA Commissioner training April 25, will not be held face-to-face but held on ZOOM. Please hold

as the Colportage scholarship, supports up to twenty-eight students 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.

### **Redstone Presbytery Hours During Coronavirus Social Distancing**

As of right now, the Presbytery office will remain open during their normal business hours (M-F 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) for phone calls (724.837.6737) and emails ([Bobbie/Skip](#)). Skip will be working remotely and can be reached by email or on his cell phone (724.833.0340) until further notice.

**the dates and allow us some time to reframe the gatherings. We have been mentally preparing for this possibility but want to get planning teams together.**

**Decisions about the spring Regional Gatherings will be made by mid-April. For now, please hold the dates.**

**Like you, we are in prayer and being vigilant as the situation in the world and our area changes.**

**The early blooming daffodils are a gift are they not?**

**Blessings!**

**Sue, Wayne, Gwenn, Mike, Elizabeth and Frank**

### **United in Worship**

Physical Distance, But United in Worship (if your congregation does not have an online worship experience, why not join some of your fellow Presbyterians in Redstone, this list is not exhaustive)

~~Reunion Presbyterian Church - 1:00 p.m.; Reunion Presbyterian Church Facebook live (<https://www.facebook.com/reunionyoungadultministry/>)

~~First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg - 10:00 a.m.; First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg Facebook live (<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyteriangreensburg/>)

~~Pleasant View Presbyterian Church - 11:00 a.m.; Drive-in Parking lot or Facebook live (<https://www.facebook.com/pleasantviewpc/>)

~~Latrobe Presbyterian Church - 11:00 a.m.; Radio - WCNS AM 1480 and 97.3 LITE FM or Facebook live (<https://www.facebook.com/latrobepc.org/>)

~~Delmont Presbyterian Church - 9:30 a.m.; Delmont Presbyterian Facebook live ([https://www.facebook.com/Delmont-Presbyterian-Church-125026030876099/?hc\\_location=ufi](https://www.facebook.com/Delmont-Presbyterian-Church-125026030876099/?hc_location=ufi))

~~Trinity United Presbyterian Church - 11:00 a.m.; Radio - WMBS - 590 AM/101.1 FM and Facebook live (<https://www.facebook.com/trinityupc/>)

~~Puckety Presbyterian Church - 10:00 a.m.; Puckety Presbyterian Church Facebook live (<https://facebook.com/PucketyChurch/>) or Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/101971455>)



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