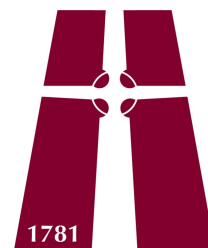


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews

April 8, 2020



Let's Pray For

----Pray for people infected (or possibly infected, but undetected) by Covid-19 and are facing hospitalization or quarantine.

--Pray for people at higher risk of developing the disease.

--Pray for health care workers (doctors, nurses, technicians) and care givers in nursing homes.

--Pray for researchers responsible for fighting the disease, whether it is in the diagnosis, treatment or development of vaccines.

--Pray for all that have to work with the public such as Police, Fire Fighters, EMS workers, Postal workers, delivery drivers, grocery store staff, Pharmacy employees, and all other companies that have to keep their doors open and for their staff that is exposed to the public everyday.

--Pray for civic leaders at all levels who are responsible for making decisions for the common good regarding our response to the coronavirus.

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

Redstone Presbytery Hours During

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). These are updated often when we receive new ones. Click [this link](#) to see all of the Live Streams, Recorded and Posted services, and others.

Reflections from the Executive Presbyter, Skip Noftzger

"Finding My (God's) Way"

I don't know about you, but I am still "finding my way" in this "new normal." While I have complied (for the most part) with all of the best guidance and direction for physical distancing, followed by elimination of social gatherings to now, "sheltering in place," it has complicated my "typical" ebb and flow (besides the "pain" that has resulted for we extroverts). The daily and weekly actions between work/play, task completion/interpersonal engagement, frantic activity/restful solitude are not so easily defined. Though everything is on "pause" in the forms by which we usually live, yet all of the demands of life, work and family continue in different ways. And, many of those things seem to all "blur" together.

Breaking the activities of both day and night into manageable segments requires my own commitment to develop and engage the rhythms for myself. Without the external structures defining the nature of my life, I am dependent upon my own conscious choices in how, where and what I am doing before God and with others (even from a distance).

My "rule" of life has needed to be adapted and shaped for this new environment. And, in so doing, I am learning to trust God as much for what the Lord is doing in me and upon me as through me. While I am still driven to accomplish what I believe God has called, it is far less evident when we are physically separated, and structures have become minimized. So, in these moments of "pause," I am seeking God and God's presence to be made known to me not just in the activity, but in the respite, not just in the task, but in the growth, not just in the extensive involvement with others, but the meaningful engagement in the moment.

So, for you as well as for me, I am praying and hopeful that this "pause" in which we seek a plateau in the spread of the virus also results (unplanned) not in a "plateau" or a regression, but rather an ascent into greater dependence upon our God as we actually do "live by faith."

Around Redstone and Beyond

Coronavirus Social Distancing

As of right now, the Presbytery staff will be available for phone calls (724.837.6737) and emails ([Bobbie/Skip](#)). Skip can also be reached on his cell phone (724.833.0340) until further notice.

RESOURCES FOR CONGREGATIONS

REDSTONE EMERGENCY GRANTS AND LOANS

As we continue this need to adapt to doing ministry and mission during this season of change, many congregations may be wrestling with not only rapid changes in worship services and ministry programs, but also in the mission initiatives of the congregation. In this Covid-19 pandemic, we are required **AND** have the opportunity to serve God in faithfulness in new ways. As a Presbytery, we recognize that some of these transitions to different ways of doing ministry are not without costs during this period of virtual worship and potential drop offs in regular support.

Consequently, the Presbytery of Redstone will offer the following short term grant and loan programs in order to aid congregations without sufficient reserves to make some of these transitions in ministry.

[Information Page-downloadable criteria/hard copy application Application--online](#)

CARES Act 2020 "Payroll Protection" SBA LOAN PROGRAM

(with possible loan forgiveness)

[Redstone Presbytery information page on SBA Loan program](#)

As part of the stimulus bill, non-profits were included as eligible under the Small Business Administration Disaster (Payroll Protection) program. You will need to contact your bank or one that is a SBA-approved lender for details about both eligibility and the program. Additional information from some of the resources listed below.

RESOURCES

[PCUSA list of resources](#)
<https://www.sba.gov>
<https://covid19.arcchurches.com/>
<https://www.vanderbloemen.com/blog/details-of-care-act>
<http://www.capincrouse.com>

BOARD OF PENSIONS

For congregations struggling to meet their Board of Pensions dues obligations, please contact the BOP directly concerning possible

>>On Sunday, April 12, 2020 the PCUSA will be offering a special Easter Worship service. Click [this link](#) to be a part of this special service.

>>The Polity Workshop originally scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2020 has been postponed. When the new date has been determined we will let you know. This was also one of the dates for review of 2019 Session Minutes and Registers. All Session Minute review dates have also been postponed. Dates will be rescheduled and will keep you posted on those as well.

>>YOU ARE INVITED to a Walk Thru the Bible *Step into the Story* FREE live stream! *Step into the Story* is storying through the Old Testament with teacher Phil Tuttle. Phil combines wit and wisdom as he walks you through the Old Testament and applications for today's time of crisis and isolation. The sessions will be interactive and engaging; you'll be up on your feet and you'll laugh. It's perfect for all ages; great for families; fun to do in community. There's no charge at all to watch it. And best of all, you will learn and experience the OT like never before! More information is available [here](#).

>>UPMC POLICY, PASTORAL CARE - The authorities of UPMC Healthcare have advised us that they consider ongoing access to spiritual and pastoral care as an essential part of patients' care. UPMC-employed chaplains continue to provide care on-site as usual, following standard precautions. Local church clergy and lay pastors are permitted on site to visit individuals from their churches. You are encouraged to exercise discretion on a case-by-case basis. All employees and visitors who enter UPMC facilities will be screened upon entry. If screening temporarily restricts you from entry, you are encouraged to identify an alternate person who may provide the needed pastoral visitation.

>>PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK is creating a weekly video devotion, worship liturgies that you and your church are welcome to use and share no matter what your worship looks like these weeks, *and* lessons and guides for child-friendly family worship and education. Presbyterian Outlook invites us to use their weekly lectionary reflections, [Looking Into The Lectionary](#) for weekly worship, Bible study or devotions. AND they will be posting information and resources frequently for as long as we are homebound. Please check [their website](#) for the most up-to-date materials..

>>COMMUNION GUIDANCE DURING PANDEMIC - Midweek last week, General Assembly level staff reviewed and discussed the Directory for Worship and other pertinent sections of our PC(USA) Book of Order. Then on Wednesday the Office of the General Assembly released an Advisory Opinion permitting a congregation to remotely celebrate the Communion sacrament, with Session approval. "In emergency circumstances there may be situations in which the pastoral needs of the moment require that the church take actions that run contrary to normal practice," the statement reads. "During an emergency or a pandemic in which the church is unable to gather or advised not to gather in person for reasons of public health, a congregation's session may determine that this includes observing communion online." The full text of the new G.A. Advisory Opinion is [attached here](#).

options in fulfilling the responsibilities. For emergency assistance proposals for pastors, please contact the presbytery. For those enrolled in the plans co-pays and deductibles related to testing of Coronavirus are waived (see BOP website for more information).

PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION--ONLINE GIVING

Handouts are available through the Presbytery [website pages](#). To enroll or find out additional information, please refer to the [Presbyterian Foundation website](#).

Redstone Pastor Information

Weekly Zoom Pastor Check-In Wednesdays at NOON - virtual food and fellowship - weekly reminders will be sent with information to login

[Redstone Pastors Facebook Group](#)

COVID-19 WEB RESOURCES AND HELPFUL LINKS

[PC\(USA\) Resources](#) for churches and individuals

From our Synod of the Trinity a variety of helpful [resources](#)

Helpful links & resources from the PC(USA) [Church Store](#)

From the [Board of Pensions](#)

COVID-19: [100 Ideas for Ministers and Ministries Leaders](#)

[Six Strategies](#) for Shepherding the Flock While 'Socially Distanced'

Holy Week [resources](#)



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