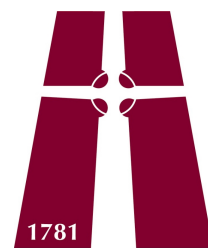


Presbytery of Redstone eNews April 29, 2020



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...

Reflections from the Executive Presbyter

Early this week, after the Governor announced possible phased-in openings beginning May 8, I wrote to our pastoral leadership urging a cautious approach that prepares prior to any decision making regarding church in-person activities that may be permissible (whether or not they are advisable remains a decision to be made. You can find that letter posted [here](#).

Even as we consider the possible reinstatement of some in-person activities (not necessarily even or just worship, but committees, Bible studies, session meetings, etc.) which will probably still need to be limited (<25), I want to make sure that all of us are considering at least the following (if not more):

Practices---How will the room, fellowship hall, or worship area be structured in order to facilitate physical distancing? How will traditional practices of greeting, ushering, bulletins, passing of the peace, offerings, sacraments, etc. be altered to ensure physical distance is maintained and paper/trays/etc. are not "passed around?" How will distances at entrances/exits both at the beginning and the end of any activity be maintained? How will choir (or other groups) practice or be seated during any worship experiences?

Participation---Will only a smaller subset (musicians, etc.) gather to participate while others participate online? Will those who choose to participate be expected to come with masks? If they do not, will masks be provided or will they be denied? Will they be screened for temperatures or other symptoms? How will seating be structured to ensure physical distancing? How will those who choose not to be in-person still be able to participate without being treated as "second-class?" How will you seek to make sure the most vulnerable are cared for? Will they feel left out if you sponsor an activity that they are discouraged from participating?

Cleaning/Sanitizing--- Is the church building adequately stocked with cleaning supplies and hand sanitizers? How frequently will the facilities that are used need to be cleaned thoroughly? Will it be cleaned both before and after? Will the usage (which might be at different times than Sunday morning) necessitate cleaning before/after?

These are only a few of the prerequisite issues that will need to be addressed not only when/if "staying safer at home" guidance is lifted, but going much beyond even after there are no gathering limitations

Change the World...

Together

Redstone Presbytery Hours During 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

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 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](#).

(Green phase) in order to be safe and to be wise. You might find the following articles helpful in your consideration.

[Wisconsin Council of Churches guidance](#) (based upon Wisconsin phased-in standards (different gathering size), but still helpful).

[24 Questions your Church Should Answer Before You Return](#) (geared for bigger churches, but still helpful)

[Reopening your Church Office](#) (Insurance Board, your insurance carrier may have something similar)

These decisions are made by the Session of the church and should be approached with care for not only the desires of congregants (individual/groups), but the health and safety of all.

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.

Redstone Emergency Grants and Loans

IS YOUR CHURCH SUPPORTING A MINISTRY TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE THAT IS JEOPARDY OF NOT BEING SUSTAINED DURING THIS SEASON?

IS YOUR CHURCH DEVELOPING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY (BEYOND JUST MOVING YOUR NORMAL MINISTRIES ONLINE) THAT YOU COULD USE SEED MONEY FOR ASSISTANCE?

IS YOUR CHURCH STRUGGLING WITH CASH FLOW DIRECTLY RESULTING FROM ABSTAINING FROM IN-PERSON WORSHIP?

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.

Click these links for more information or to apply.

[Information Page - Downloadable Criteria/Hard Copy Application Online Application](#)

Redstone Pastor Information

[Weekly Zoom Pastor Check-In](#)
Wednesdays at NOON - virtual food and fellowship

[Redstone Pastors Facebook Group](#)

COVID-19 RESOURCES AND HELPFUL LINKS

>>[PCUSA Resources](#) for churches and individuals
>>From our Synod of the Trinity a variety of [helpful resources](#)
>>Helpful links & resources from the [PCUSA 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'

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from receiving the Synod of the Trinity's e-newsletter, simply send that person's email address to Synod Communications Coordinator [Mike Givler](#) and he'll get you signed up!

Thinking about the Future

10 Ways the Church will Changed by Covid-19

<https://convergenceus.org/2020/04/02/ten-ways-the-church-will-be-changed-by-covid-19/>

Church's response to the Coronavirus (summary of Tony Morgan webinar "Unstuck Group")

<https://chriseller.net/2020/the-church-after-coronavirus>

Leading Beyond the Blizzard

<https://journal.praxislabs.org/leading-beyond-the-blizzard-why-every-organization-is-now-a-startup-b7f32fb278ff>

Staying Healthy During Pandemic Pastor Fatigue

OVERCOMING VIRTUAL MEETING FATIGUE

<https://factsandtrends.net/2020/04/15/6-tips-for-overcoming-virtual-meeting-fatigue/?ecid=PDM210048&bid=845578753>

Steps to include in your Routine

<https://factsandtrends.net/2020/04/15/4-steps-to-include-in-your-quarantine-routine/>

Around Redstone and Beyond

>>**THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR FIRST (LAST?) DRIVE IN PRESBYTERY MEETING.** Revisions in the Presbytery manual permitting greater flexibility regarding meeting conduct and quorums were approved.

>>**PCUSA's General Assembly will be held online.** For the first time in the history of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the denomination's General Assembly will be held online only. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) voted unanimously Tuesday to approve a plan for a reduced assembly gathering that will require everyone involved - commissioners, advisory delegates, corresponding members, and staff - to participate in a digital assembly. The assembly will take place over three days: Friday, June 19; and Friday and Saturday, June 26 and 27.

>>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. The Department of Revenue, which is currently closed, said all existing sales tax exemption certificate expiration dates are being extended by six months, meaning they will be valid through Sept. 30.

In the meantime, the state has issued an extension letter that can be used until new certificates are received. [It can be downloaded 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.



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