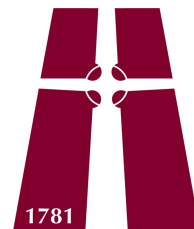


Presbytery of Redstone eNews May 6, 2020



MAY PRESBYTERY MEETING

May 19, 2020
VIA ZOOM

FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE IN THE PRESBYTERY PACKET (a practice "run" will be conducted for new users on Monday, May 18@6:00 p.m.)

ZOOM INFORMATION BELOW

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 931 8925 0697
Password: 009421

One tap mobile
+13126266799,,93189250697#,,1#,009421#
US (Chicago)
+19292056099,,93189250697#,,1#,009421#
US (New York)

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 Coronavirus Social Distancing

As of right now, the Presbytery staff will be available for phone calls (724.837.6737) and emails

Reflections from the Executive Presbyter



As we continue to move forward with "Being the Church," we do so under the current conditions. For some, there might have been the desire to just wait for the "blizzard" to be over, but it is our responsibility as leaders to prepare and act based not only upon the present, but the future. With the Governor's announcement on Friday, none of the counties in southwestern Pennsylvania were targeted to move to the "Yellow" phase on May 8. So, while this could change in the near future (there is no timetable), it is imperative that we continue to both function in a sustainable manner during this "Red phase as we plan for the "Yellow" and "Green" phases. ([planning assistance document](#)).

In order to try to assist and resource you in this process, I have attached a document that I have prepared that includes information based upon the PA Department of Health, a Checklist of only some of the Questions/Issues that need to be addressed, some recommendations from me as the Executive Presbyter and a bibliography of some resources. This document ([HERE](#)) is intended to serve you in your own discernment and decision making as a Session for the faithful and collective good of your congregation that you shepherd.

I want to encourage you that the grace of our God is sufficient in all circumstances and that we seek to glorify God in all the creative ways we minister in God's name in our congregations and in our communities. Perhaps, now, more than ever, the implications of that ordination vow to which we all affirmed...."Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?" So, let us look to the Lord for guidance through prayer and seek to serve God's people and God's world not just in the ways we always have, but in this "new normal."

I am always available to consult with you as pastor or session about the ways that we might be faithful going forward. Please do not hesitate to call or email. I will also be reaching out to you.

Please keep checking the Presbytery website and Facebook pages for resources among us about worship practices, ministry engagement, and decision making factors.

Blessings.

Rev. Richard "Skip" Noftzger; Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear."

(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](#).

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'

RESOURCES

[PCUSA COVID19 Resources for Individuals and Congregations](#)

[Board of Pensions Announcements and Resources](#)

[Presbyterian Foundation Stewardship \(in a Pandemic\) and Online Giving Resources](#)

[Five Ways to be the Church when church is Cancelled](#)

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

[Tip Sheet for Using Zoom](#)

[Covid-19; Ideas for Ministers and Ministry Leaders](#)

ALSO CHECK REGULARLY ON PCUSA "related" Facebook pages for crowdsourcing questions and information.

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](#)

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 be 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

>>Upcoming Presbytery meeting will be held VIRTUALLY! Because the restrictions have not yet been lifted on gatherings of over 10 people, the May 19 Presbytery meeting will be held via Zoom teleconferencing. Instructions for joining this meeting will be included in the packet.

>>**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.

>>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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