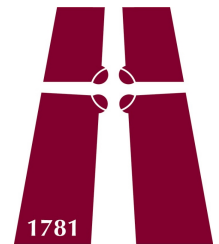


Presbytery of Redstone eNews May 28, 2020



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

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Bobbie Martin

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Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

RESOURCES FOR CONGREGATIONS

Reflections from the Executive Presbyter

"ZERO to SIXTY"

"Zero to Sixty" was our shorthand measurement of how fast a car could go. While there may be other ways to measure the car's performance besides acceleration, this phrase captures our way to signifying our desire for power and speed (having seen a few vehicles that some of you drive, I realize the importance of this for some of you). Although, truth be told, ever since my sons were first born even to today, the sensible influence of my spouse has mandated that we have cars that were practical for our "needs." Somehow, my "need" for speed did not seem to count for much.

As most of you probably know, my desire to go fast is not merely limited to cars and driving. Whether it is work or life, I usually want to operate at a rapid pace. There are times when speed is important, even critical. Some of these times might include when opportunities are available, and the "window" is closing or agile innovation on the front end of a new development. Yet, as we make our way through the effects (health/safety and economic) of this pandemic, this is NOT one of those times. You may feel the "need" for speed. Resist it. Whether as individuals or as leadership, we are making decisions for our congregation. Any potential benefits in acting quickly are outweighed by the potential costs (health/safety).

As we anticipate moving to the "Green Phase," in the next couple weeks, it will be tempting to see just how quickly we can go from "zero to sixty." After sitting at a very "long light," we are wanting to "give it the gas" and get out of here (back to what we had before), but the trouble is we will be going through a reduced speed zone. The reality of being able to move forward (or backward) to our "new normal," requires decisions be planned carefully. We must be able to know that we have done our part in protecting and governing the flock in ways to minimize risk for the faithful and collective "good," and particularly the most vulnerable. There are never any guarantees in life or with this virus, but it is incumbent upon us as leaders to make wise decisions upon behalf of our congregations not just about abstaining or initiating in-person ministries, but in what ways and under what conditions.

So, when the "light" turns green, take your time, discern God's leading (not just our desires), use the best knowledge available to us from health and science, and prepare for our next steps to be able to embody our love for God and our neighbor.

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

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](#)

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](#)

Around Redstone and Beyond

>>The Presbytery office is open during normal business hours - Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We ask that you call ahead (724.837.6737) before stopping by the office to avoid too many people being in the building at one time. Also, please wear a mask if you do need to stop by. Thank you! Take care and stay safe!

>>Rev. Donna Havrisko and Rev. Marnie Silbert had shared some resources with the Pastors group this week that we would like to share with you:

~~[99 Ways to Raise Spiritually Healthy Children](#), by Kathleen Long Bostrom. C 2010 By Westminster John Knox Press. This is a really nice way for parents to affirm things they are doing that they may not realize are shaping their child's spiritual life and relationship with God.

~~[Teach us to Pray; Spiritual-centered family worship through the year.](#) Lora A. Copley and Elizabeth Vander Haagen. C 2016 Calvin Press

>>[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/>

>>A message from the Synod of the Trinity on the response to the call to reopen. "Indeed - yes, truly communities of faith ARE essential. Christian communities of faith engage the world with a message of life and hope and grace; we walk the walk of Jesus as the Spirit leads. *But what today's challenge gets wrong, is that we do not need to be reopened - we have never closed.*" Read the full message [here](#).

>>Kathy Riley, PDA national staff and Team Lead for Emotional and Spiritual Care, hosts several webinars on resilience for leaders for leadership and general audiences. [Click here](#) to view the list of webinars.

>>Please keep the General Assembly Commissioners from Redstone Presbytery in your prayers as they plan for the upcoming General Assembly meeting. The commissioners from Redstone Presbytery are: Rev. Laura Blank, Rev. Susan Blank, Elder Bobbi Jo Huebner, and Elder Joshua Scully.

>>Is God calling you? If you are a Ruling Elder who God might be calling to preach or become more involved in pastoral service, Redstone Presbytery (along with Washington, Kiski, Pittsburgh, and Upper Ohio Valley) will be continuing our training program for the preparation of possible "Commissioned Ruling Elders" for the future. New students may begin in the fall of 2020. The program is designed to be both classroom and hands-on experiences and you will receive training and mentorship that will help you grow as a leader in Christ's Church. If interested, please contact Skip Noftzger (Executive Presbyter) at 724.837.6737.

>>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](#).



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