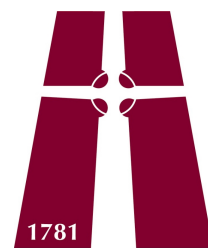


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

June 11, 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

RESOURCES FOR CONGREGATIONS

[PCUSA list of resources](#)

Reflections from the Executive Presbyter

Kyrie Eleison (Lord, have mercy)

"Lord, have mercy." Echoing the words of the psalmists and others in encountering Jesus the Christ, whether in person or in Spirit, countless people have cried out for God's mercy. As a petition, it assumes the endless grace of God who is willing to extend that mercy even through the greatest sacrifice possible. Weekly, we gather before our God. We pause and remember our own unworthiness to stand before God. Our prayer of confession is not merely an acknowledgement of personal "sins," but an admission of our shared and common need for repentance and forgiveness.

"Lord, have mercy." We must cry out, for as a people, we have sought to make God's new community mirror our own comfortable social constructions. "Lord, have mercy," for we have taken for granted our participation in a world where our every advantage just seems "normal." "Lord, have mercy." We can and must cry out. For too long and in our complicit ways, we have acted like the Pharisee knowing no real need of repentance and forgiveness (except for some minor vices which really aren't that bad after all?). Yet, we are the tax collector, who in his own personal and social responsibility, is driven to acknowledge his sin.

It is always too easy to dismiss our own responsibility. By comparison to those who appear far worse to us, our rationalizations permit us to cover over our own responsibility in perpetuating the problem. As a sinner, who lives among sinners, we are willing to benefit from the traditions, structures, and practices created by the sinners who preceded us. "Lord, have mercy." You see, I know that I am a sinner and you are as well. I know that by my very inclination I will either use or take for granted any power or privilege accorded to me whether rightfully earned or not. I know that this "original sin" of racism does exist and I have contributed actively or with complicity. I know that in a world where race becomes one of those distinctions, I have neither denied nor resisted all those things I take for granted even though I say I seek God's justice and I pray God's will enacted "on earth as it is in heaven."

<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'

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 the Synod Communications Coordinator, [Mike Givler](#) and he will 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/>

"Lord, have mercy." We cry out because we cannot be content to merely recognize the problem. While each week, we received the declaration of the good news of God's mercy, by God's grace we seek to "do better," "be better" in faithfulness. We know that God's grace serves not as "license" to continue in our sin. For we have become servants of the One who is redeeming the heavens and the earth. This discipleship of active faith and genuine repentance (two sides of the same coin) challenge us not merely as individuals, but as the new community in Jesus Christ into which we have been called. A community that is and will be a mosaic of races, nations, peoples, and languages.

By God's grace, I cry out **"Lord, have mercy,"** not to make us more comfortable, but to confess our sin, including racism, and to aspire by faith to act faithfully as an "anti-racist." That aspiration stems from the prayer and hope that God's work in me, upon me, and through me, would find embodiment in all the ways that Christ might be glorified in God's world. Because we are commissioned in Christ's mission, we are allies of Christ and those in our communities who endure the consequences of racism and for whom justice remains a distant hope. Our commission must be one of confession and humility. As in a video I re-posted earlier, let us "Lament, Listen, Learn, Look." And **"Lord, have mercy upon us."**

[Click here to read Skip's Pastoral Letters from this week and last week.](#)

Around Redstone and Beyond

>>*Christian Associates is sponsoring "WITNESS – Remembering All Victims of Racist Violence"– an event observing the 5th Anniversary of the massacre at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC. on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. This is a socially-distanced witness in which participants will gather in front of their own homes, listening on their mobile devices to a time of silence, reflection, name-reading, and re-commitment to anti-racist action. A Facebook event post is available here with more details:*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/636683056929582> along with [a flier](#).

>>**Mid council leaders from throughout the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) share this prayer of lament and solidarity for such a time as this. Susan Wonderland (Synod of the Trinity), Ruth Santana-Grace (Philadelphia) and Cheryl Galan (Carlisle) all took part in this moving video. To view the video, click [here](#).**

**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/>

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

>>Bruce Reyes-Chow to speak as part of three-part workshop series – The Synod of the Trinity has been invited to join with Lackawanna, Lehigh and Northumberland Presbyteries in hosting past GA Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow on Tuesday, June 16, at 1 p.m. to discuss *"Ideas for a Hybridized Worship Experience Between People on Zoom and People in Person."* All in the Synod are welcome for this important conversation and there are plenty of seats so DO join in!

- June 10: *"Generosity in Uncertain Times"* by Ellie Johns-Kelly, Ministry Relations Officer, Presbyterian Foundation
- *"Theological, Ecclesiastical and Practical Issues Related to Re-Opening Church Buildings"* by Cindy Kohlmann, PCUSA Co-Moderator (June 3 [recording](#) and [PowerPoint](#))

More information and registration are available [here](#).

>>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!

>>2020/2021 Presbyterian Planning Calendars – The Presbytery will be doing a bulk order for the 2020/2021 Planning Calendars. Calendars begin in September again this year. Due to a price increase, the bulk order rate per calendar will be \$10.50 this year. If you would like to get in on the bulk rate deal please complete [the form](#) and email it or mail it with your payment to the Presbytery office. The deadline for orders will be August 13, 2020 in order to have them for distribution at the September Presbytery meeting. Thank you!

>>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.

>>Synod of the Trinity planning to move from their historic home! Since the fall, the Governing Commission, the Budget and Finance Advisory Team, and your Synod staff have been engaged in

regular support.

Consequently, the Presbytery of Redstone will offer short term grant and loan programs in order to aid congregations without sufficient reserves to make some of these transitions in ministry. [Click here](#) for more information.

conversations about their building at 3040 Market Street in Camp Hill, PA! The ministry springing from this location has been a gift to the church, and there are memories of people and ministry dreamed and grown here since the 1960s. As they consider a big picture about current and future regional ministry, they believe the time has come to move from this building, sell it, and find a smaller office to serve their current needs without having to be landlords! It is a question of faithfulness and good stewardship.



Presbytery of Redstone | 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road | Greensburg | PA | 15601