

Presbytery of Redstone eNews June 18, 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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Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

RESOURCES FOR CONGREGATIONS

[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

Reflections from the Executive Presbyter

"When We Gather"

When we gather this year, it will be in a new way, but no less important. As with everything else, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will take place this summer through the "magic" of video conferencing technology. Although the plenary sessions of the gathered assembly of commissioners have been live streamed for several meetings in recent years, for the first time, commissioners themselves will be participating from their living rooms or conference rooms around the country. Consequently, the schedule and structure of this General Assembly will be different than any of its predecessors.

With the theme, "From Lament to Hope," will occur on Friday evening (6/19) and during the days of Friday (6/26) and Saturday (6/27). The focus will be on actions considered essential for both organizational issues and timely responses to speak on concerns in our country and world. There are also opportunities to participate in the "Poor People's Campaign Event"(6/20), the "Hands and Feet Youth Rising Event"(6/23) and Bible studies (6/24). The website for "all things" General Assembly can be viewed at: ga-pcusa.org. Go there to see the schedule and to watch from afar.

Our elected Redstone commissioners this year are: Rev. Laura Blank, Rev. Sue Blank, Bobbi Jo Huebner, Joshua Scully and Samantha Phillips (YAAD). In the weeks following this distributed meeting, each of them will be sharing in the weekly Enews some thoughts and reflections upon the experience of serving as a commissioner to the 224th General Assembly. Please keep them in your prayers this week and next as they participate and seek to respond to God's leading in the ways that we might act faithfully as a collective body and national church.

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?

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/>

Church's response to the Coronavirus

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 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.

Around Redstone and Beyond

>>The Rev. Brian Kilbert will be installed as the Pastor of the Puckety Presbyterian Church in Lower Burrell on Sunday, July 19, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Please plan to attend to welcome Brian to Redstone Presbytery.

>>The PC(USA) Store is offering a useful list of Anti-Racism Resources for our congregations. Please find them by [clicking here](#).

>>A new discussion group for pastors in order for them to talk openly and honestly about anti-racism understandings and efforts. The group will be meeting via Zoom for the next few Tuesdays (beginning 6/23) at 11:00 a.m. If you are interested in participating for some or all of it, please contact [Sue Washburn](#) or [Skip Noftzger](#) for Zoom details.

>>SOFA SPIRITUALITY PROJECT Come take a seat on the sofa, and join people of faith, hope, and curiosity in a new interfaith dialogue opportunity by [clicking here](#). Sofa Spirituality invites you to explore varied faith traditions, celebrate our diversity, and discover common ground.

>>There will be a virtual Sudan/ South Sudan Mission Network meeting June 29 and 30. Registration information will be forthcoming. The hours will be 10-11:30 and 1:30-3 on those two days and will feature our mission co-workers who are all stateside due to COVID-19.

**(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/>

>>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.



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