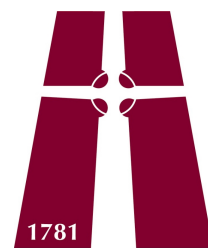


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

June 24, 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

Administrative Assistant/
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Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

RESOURCES FOR CONGREGATIONS

[PCUSA list of resources](#)

Reflections from the Executive Presbyter

"When We Speak"

As Presbyterians, we are committed to a way of living faithfully with each other that we believe is grounded in the Scriptures. Consequently, we elect those who serve in ordered ministries within our congregations. Unlike our more siblings who are in more hierarchical governing traditions, we do not have a "bishop" who speaks for us. In other words, authority resides in our groups (councils) rather than in an individual. So, while I might speak or write either as an individual or based upon prior council actions or with some degree of symbolic power, actual decision making resides in the council (in this case, the presbytery). Similarly, this is the case for sessions and their pastors/moderators.

When councils choose to make decisions or statements, they do so on behalf of the congregation, the presbytery, the synod or the denomination. As those elected commissioners, they seek to serve God and be responsive in discernment as a collective group. Entrusted with the responsibility of leadership on behalf of the whole unit, it is not their responsibility to merely represent the views of the larger constituencies (as if they were ever homogenous?), Rather, by grace and with wisdom they seek to follow God's leading in that place and at that point in time. We believe that God can and does work through our deliberations, discussions, even debates to render the movement of God's Spirit among us even when it takes the form of a majority vote. Yet, we do not affirm that councils are infallible. Their decisions may be subject to review for failing to follow their own constitution/process/procedures or their particular decisions may be reversed or added unto by subsequent councils.

Because of the informality in which we operate among sessions, it can be tempting to miss the importance of this collective responsibility. Sometimes, we think of what is being done is largely the result of just responding to individual or congregational concerns. Yet, the reality is that when the council (session) speaks or decides, they do so with authority resulting from God's calling and the congregation's election (validation). Of course, it does not mean that everyone in the session or the congregation has agreed previously with the position. Yet, because they have been rightfully called, we agree that they do speak on behalf of the congregation at that point in time.

Similarly, this occurs each time a presbytery convenes, or a synod is gathered. And, when the General Assembly comes together every two

<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!

years, they have been commissioned to seek God's will and to lead us at this point in time as Presbyterians. The Stated Clerk or Moderators only affirm with authority those positions (overtures) or procedures (Book of Order) have been already adopted by the council. It is the General Assembly (in session) who speak and decide on behalf of our denomination. Whether this is resolving an internal dispute or adopting a policy or advocating for a cause within our larger society, this body has been commissioned to speak on our behalf. Just like the session, the presbytery, the synod, this council is made up of leaders from our congregations and presbyteries, yet they are called not to represent or replicate particular perspectives, but rather to pray, to seek, to decide and to speak on behalf of our denomination. And, when they speak, the PCUSA as a church, has spoken.

So, in our connection with one another, it is all the more important that we hold up in prayer our leaders....whether it is the elders/pastor of your session, the presbyters of Redstone, the commissioners of the Synod of the Trinity or our current commissioners to the 224th General Assembly which is meeting this week. May their actions and decisions glorify God and lead us forward in loving and serving God faithfully as a united church.

Around Redstone and Beyond

>>2019 Minutes and Register Reviews ~ with the Pandemic situation and the inability to schedule in person meetings for the 2019 minutes reviews, Clerks of Session can do one of two things to have the 2019 Minutes and Register reviewed for the church. You can either drop off your session minutes book and register at the Presbytery office and Skip will review them; or you can get in touch with your COM liaison to have them meet with you personally to do them for you. If you drop them off at the office it will take longer to have them reviewed and returned. If you need to know who your liaison is, please call the Presbytery office at 724.837.6737.

>>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

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/>

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

participating for some or all of it, please contact [Sue Washburn](#) or [Skip Noftzger](#) for Zoom details.

>>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.

>>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.

>>NEARLY 500 PC(USA) CONGREGATIONS have accepted the exciting and bold invitation to become "a Matthew 25 church." Look for ideas and opportunities that your church too can join our Matthew 25 Initiative. See the worship and ministry resources by [clicking here](#).

>>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

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.

"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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