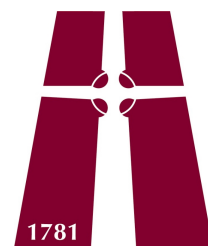


Presbytery of Redstone eNews July 8, 2020



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 Rev. Susan Blank, Commissioner to the 224th General Assembly

I had looked forward to General Assembly. I appreciate the opportunity to serve the church in this way because it always broadens my knowledge and experiences in worship styles, issues of social justice and the ways in which Presbyterians all around the world live out the call to ministry and mission. There is normally so much to absorb through the colorful and varied worship, through the informative exhibit hall and through the special gatherings and meals. So I regret that we missed celebrating the depth and the breadth and the heart and the soul of the PC(USA.)

This year, because of the pandemic, commissioners had an on-line assembly with an abbreviated agenda. The agenda included the most critical business for consideration, with a great number of issues being referred to the next assembly, two years from now. I believe what most hampered our work was the absence of committee work. Many issues could not be addressed without the long days spent deliberating, combining, refining and then recommending to the whole assembly.

Commissioners did make some adjustments to the agenda, lifting up other items believed to be critical for the church in this time. In last week's eNews, Laura Blank detailed some of the discussions around the ways the church is called to respond to racism within the church and within society. Another item of business concerning this particular moment in time had to do with the PC(USA)'s response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We were reminded that doing the ministry and mission of Christ is what the church is already about. But the church must respond now to the suffering of the world that is compounded by the pandemic. We are called to prayer. We are called to seek compassion and justice for the most vulnerable. We are called to advocate for safety for those who cannot avoid risk; to mourn with those who mourn; and to invite congregations to imagine creative ways to celebrate our life together with God, which is not dependent on physical buildings or human timetables. The limits of this on-line Assembly did not allow for much discussion of action steps. However, I know that our congregations are resourceful, generous and creative. The Assembly agreed to set aside Sunday, October 25, 2020, Reformation Sunday, as a day of prayer for responding to those challenges.

<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!

[Click here](#) to read this week's featured news articles

With the sure and certain hope that God will never forsake us, I pray that the Presbytery of Redstone and all congregations continue to use our varied gifts to respond to the burdens of others brought on by the pandemic, and to do the important work of confronting and eliminating racism.

Rev. Susan A. Blank

Around Redstone and Beyond

>>Does your church have a cemetery? If so, are you part of a cemetery association or is your session/board of trustees responsible for it? Please let me know about these two things, by [clicking here](#), so I can update my records. Thank you!!

>>Fort Burd United Presbyterian Church in Brownsville, PA is seeking a part-time worship leader for a contemporary service to be held once or twice a month on Saturday evenings. Ideally, we are looking for an individual with a dynamic personality and some experience in leading contemporary worship under the direction of the pastor in a reformed congregation. For more details about the position, please email our Clerk of Session at kphaluska@gmail.com or send a summary of your interest and qualifications to Clerk of Session, Fort Burd United Presbyterian Church, 200 Thornton Road, Brownsville, PA 15417.

>>This October, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's World Mission Initiative Conference is joining hands with the seminary's McClure Lectures for a month of free, online, Wednesday evening presentations. The theme is Jesus Christ and 'the Dividing Wall': Race and God's Mission. See all of the upcoming events by [clicking here](#).

>>Nothing takes the place of a full summer camp season, but Pine Springs Camp is giving families an opportunity to spend a weekend at PSC by offering four July & August weekends when families can rent out one of the Camp's Creekside Cabins. [Read more...](#)

>>For the first time in its 115-year history, the New Wilmington Mission Conference will meet online, July 17-19. Programming will be provided for all ages, and there will be no charge to participate in NWMC 2020. "Because we are an international conference bringing people together from around the globe, and because we do not want to put any of our participants at risk, we have made the decision to move to a virtual platform for 2020," said the Rev. Ginny Teitt, director of NWMC and organizing pastor of Concord Presbyterian Church near Columbus, Ohio. "We hope to capture the fun and joy that is often a part of the morning meeting, and we hope to provide opportunities for the meaningful interaction that has made the NWMC dear to so many for so long." Additional information will be available on the NWMC website as it becomes available, nwmcmision.org

*>>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

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/?eclid=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 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.

understandings and efforts, is now active. 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.

>>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](#).

>>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.

>>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.



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