

Presbytery of Redstone

eNews

July 15, 2020



Let's Pray For

>>Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church,
Murrysville, Curtis Paul, Pastor
District 1

>>Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville,
Sue Washburn, Interim Pastor
District 1

>>First Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Ron
Wakeman, Pastor
District 2

>>West Hempfield Presbyterian Church,
Irwin, Andrew Wirt, Pastor
District 2

>>East Liberty Presbyterian Church,
Vanderbilt, David McElroy, Commissioned
Pastor
District 3

>>Palmer Community Presbyterian Church,
Adah, Laura Blank, Moderator
District 3

>>First Presbyterian Church, Cresson, David
McCabe, Pastor
District 4

>>First Presbyterian Church, Ebensburg,
Owar Ojulu, Pastor
District 4

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

Reflections from Joshua Scully, Commissioner to the 224th General Assembly

I greatly appreciated the opportunity to serve the Presbytery of Redstone as a commissioner to the 224th General Assembly. The experience was incredibly unique, and I was glad that we were able to achieve so much despite the circumstances. Training's were offered to prepare commissioners to properly utilize the necessary tools, and I suspect the associated learning was invaluable to many.

Although many of our local congregations were successful in creating an online presence earlier this year, this General Assembly demonstrated that the technological possibilities are truly endless for us. Of course, commissioners were blessed to experience tremendous production and technology support. I was amazed at the ease of reaching help whenever I had a need or problem. New communication and education tools occasionally present a challenge regardless of your background. However, along with sharing the decisions and progress realized in this G.A., many commissioners will surely return to their congregations with a greater background and confidence in the programs and online tools that may prove irreplaceable in the future.

The 224th General Assembly allowed us to glimpse the future in another way as well. Although both business and commissioners were limited in some ways, those participating were able to glimpse the challenges, issues, and questions that our denomination must prepare to resolve in the near future. The conversations and reflections generated following this G.A. should allow for greater appreciation, awareness, and responsiveness moving forward.

Serving as a commissioner also encouraged me to revisit Presbyterian history in America, and I found myself seeing historical individuals such as Francis Makemie, Gilbert Tennent, and John Witherspoon in a new context. We are the heirs of so many institutions in our nation, and we so often find ourselves (especially in the last few months) in a period of living history. Our individual and collective decisions are potential precedents for the next generation. Our influence is greater than we may care to realize. The 224th General Assembly certainly suggested as much to me as the week unfolded.

I look forward to serving the Presbytery of Redstone however I am called, and I will pray for those blessed to serve as commissioners for the 225th General Assembly in Columbus. I'm sure we must carefully

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>

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](#).

Church Cemetery

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

Redstone Pastor Information

[Weekly Zoom Pastor Check-In](#) Wednesdays at NOON - virtual food and fellowship

[Redstone Pastors Facebook Group](#)

Matthew 25 Initiative

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](#).

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](#)

consider all of the precedents we may create between today and the beginning of that gathering on July 2, 2022.

Joshua Scully

Pine Springs Camp Weekends

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...](#)

**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.

**PTS World Mission Initiative Conference**

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

>>[Six Strategies](#) for Shepherding the Flock While 'Socially Distanced'

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.

2020 Wee Kirk Retreat Postponed

THE WEE KIRK planning team has voted to postpone the 2020 Wee Kirk retreat. Dates and speakers are set for 2021 at Laurelville. There will be a letter that will be sent to their contact list with some additional information and plans for connecting regular Wee Kirk attendees (and even those who aren't so regular) through a digital platform. Please stay tuned.

Anti-Racism Resources

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



Dividing Wall': Race and God's Mission. See all of the upcoming events by [clicking here](#).

>>Week of 7/20

RECOGNIZING RACISM - "Jesus Christ and the Dividing Wall: Race and God's Mission" is this year's World Mission Initiative Conference.

For 2020 the conference will move on-line. Please consider joining in, wherever you might log in! <https://www.pts.edu/wmi-conference>

>>Week of 8/3

STAY AT HOME AND ATTEND A CONFERENCE - Noted authors and educators Brenda Salter McNeil and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove will headline this fall's World Mission Initiative Conference, an online series October 7, 14, 21, and 28. Lectures, Q & A, and facilitated discussions for your small group FREE! <https://www.pts.edu/wmi-conference>

>>Week of 8/24

DISCUSSION AMONG FRIENDS: RACE & RACISM - Start now, planning your 'watch parties' so that your group can log in to "Jesus Christ and the Dividing Wall: Race and God's Mission." This online conference will be four Wednesday evenings in October and will offer rich resources and 'jumping off' points for Christian discussions of racial prejudices and privileges. <https://www.pts.edu/wmi-conference>

>>Week of 9/7

FREE HELP FOR TOUGH TOPICS - Does your Session, Deacons, Sunday Class, or Bible Study Group need help stepping into discussions about race and racism? Are you realizing "Black Lives Matter" but not sure what to do next? Experts will help us ease into those tough topics during a free, online conference every Wednesday evening next month. Get registered to participate at <https://www.pts.edu/wmi-conference>

>>Week of 9/21

JESUS CHRIST AND THE DIVIDING WALL: RACE AND GOD'S MISSION - Each Wednesday evening next month 7-8:30 PM, free and online. Presentations, Q & A opportunities, plus discussion time for your selected and connected group. <https://www.pts.edu/wmi-conference>

>>Week of 10/5

THERE'S STILL TIME to register yourself and your discussion group for JESUS CHRIST AND THE DIVIDING WALL: RACE AND GOD'S MISSION. Excellent help to get started (or make progress) discussing inter-racial tensions, justice, and Christian responsibility. <https://www.pts.edu/wmi-conference>



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