

# *Presbytery of Redstone*

## *eNews*

### *July 22, 2020*



#### Let's Pray For

>>Community United Presbyterian Church,  
New Alexandria, Leonard Morgan,  
Commissioned Pastor  
District 1

>>Congruity Presbyterian Church, New  
Alexandria, Cliff Foster, Pastor  
District 1

>>First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette,  
Tony Catullo, Temporary Supply  
District 2

>>Latrobe Presbyterian Church, Ron  
Durika, Interim Pastor  
District 2

>>First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon,  
Mary Kay Glunt, Pastor  
District 3

>>Harmony Presbyterian Church, Belle  
Vernon, Glenn Hart, Commissioned Pastor  
District 3

>>Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown,  
Denise Todero, Commissioned Pastor  
District 4

>>First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown,  
Alice Tondora, 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 Bobbi Jo Huebner, Commissioner to the 224th General Assembly

This was to be my first and probably only General Assembly. I had heard so much about GA. Some people said I was crazy for wanting to go and other encouraged me for the wonderful opportunity it would be. I understood that there would be a lot to read and comprehend but it would also be a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow PCUSA delegates. We would agree to disagree at times but ultimately, we would make the right decisions for our church.

As COVID-19 continued to infect our nation and world it became very clear that we would not be gathering in Baltimore as a group. Instead of gathering together we were all separated in our homes or offices. I sat in my living room alone in front of a computer screen. Not the experience I was hoping for since there were no opportunities to meet new people. We were all just a small screen on the screen with over 700 participates in a ZOOM meeting.

There was work that could be done but also there were Committee reports that were left to the General Assembly in 2022. There was not the energy that I had anticipated. We did have the ability to ask questions, make motions, speak for or against an item but it was all through the computer. The only people that could see who actually was wanting recognition were the Co-Moderators and the staff supporting the online General Assembly. We saw the numbers but not the individuals - something that I was told was part of the energy at the in person General Assembly.

So, what did we get done...We elected Co-Moderators after listening to the questions that were posed to all 3 sets vying for the office. Elona and Gregory presented the best platform for moving forward in our mission as the PCUSA. We elected, to another term, our Stated Clerk, J. Herbert who will continue to guide the PCUSA in a positive direction. We recognized that we need to respond to the sins of racism not only through the PCUSA but through our congregations and presbyteries. We were encouraged to reach out to our Native American siblings to develop partnerships to address their needs.

The theme was "Lament to Hope" and we were encouraged to voice how we felt. My Lament as a GA commissioner is that we were not able to meet in person in Baltimore and to complete all the work that we should have done. My Hope is that in this next 2 years we all work with the belief that we are all siblings in Christ and that we will continue to do what needs to be done to end the racism in the world.

**RESOURCES FOR CONGREGATIONS**

[PCUSA list of resources](https://www.pcusa.org/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](#)

Bobbi Jo Huebner

**POP UP VIRTUAL NETWORKING**

"Stewardship During the Pandemic Season"- A Conversation with Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley (Presbyterian Foundation); Wednesday, July 29; 12:00; Contact [Skip Noftzger](#) for Zoom meeting # and password.

**Book of Common Worship**

The PC(USA) Church Store is offering an electronic edition of the new *Book of Common Worship* and it is on sale - \$10 off.

[Click here](#) to see the electronic version and other options for the

*Book of Common Worship*.

**Communion Linens**

Behemoth linen/cotton damask tablecloths available for cut down to communion linens (as large as 120"x72"). If any church would be interested in "new" tablecloth(s) for communion please contact Marnie Silbert at [marnie\\_silbert@comcast.net](mailto:marnie_silbert@comcast.net) (underscore between names) and if anyone is interested in doing the cutting and sewing in order to help churches have these please also respond with your interest. Some napkins also available.

**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

>>[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.

### Anti-Racism Resources

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



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. **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>

### 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.



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