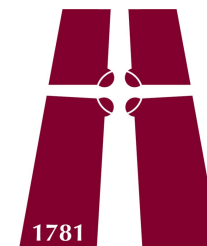


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews

August 5, 2020



Let's Pray For

>> **First Presbyterian Church, Avonmore,
Caroline Vickery, Moderator
District 1**

>> **Delmont Presbyterian Church, Cliff
Foster, Moderator
District 1**

>> **New Hope Presbyterian Church, North
Huntingdon, Brenda Barnes, Pastor
District 2**

>> **Level Green Presbyterian Church,
Trafford, Geoff Rach, Pastor
District 2**

>> **Calvin Presbyterian Church, Brownsville,
Jane Johnson, Covenant Pastor
District 3**

>> **Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church,
Brownsville, Jane Johnson, Covenant Pastor
District 3**

>> **Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church,
Ligonier, John McClure, Moderator
District 4**

>> **Bethel Presbyterian Church, New
Florence, James Sunseri, Commissioned
Pastor
District 4**

Contact Us

[Rev. Skip Noftzger](#)

Reflections from the Executive Presbyter



"Good Trouble"

Last week, John Lewis died. Perhaps, you only knew of him as a congressman from Georgia, but the significance of his service was built upon the foundation of a life of faith that found expression in a commitment to love and justice. Inspired by the faith and activism of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, he joined his voice and even his body to the civil rights movement. Part of organizing the March on Washington and that "Bloody Sunday" in Selma, his engagement in being willing to speak up and to act established a civil rights legacy that continues its struggle to the present day. Yet, as many have acknowledged about him, though his life and accomplishments on behalf of others in opposing injustices, he believed and acted as one convinced this is the responsibility of an ordinary person and citizen.

His faith found expression not only in his active conviction to speak and to act for what is "right," but in his humility. He acknowledged that when we make mistakes (and we will), we need to be willing to ask for forgiveness, to make it right. His faith led him as well to not become cynical nor despairing, but to be hopeful; hopeful even in the midst of the struggle and conflict where pain and injustice still exists.

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](#)

<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](#).

Redstone Pastor Information

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

[Redstone Pastors Facebook Group](#)

Redstone Emergency Grants and Loans

IS YOUR CHURCH SUPPORTING A MINISTRY TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE THAT IS JEOPARDY OF NOT BEING SUSTAINED DURING THIS SEASON?

In that hometown "coming out," our Jesus initiated his own "good trouble." Reading from the scrolls of Isaiah, he proclaimed the year of the Lord's favor with its good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight for the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. And on that day, he declared to them, "the Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." But that was not the "good trouble." No, their initial reaction of amazement and curiosity would not be accepted by Jesus as he moved its application further beyond the boundaries of Israel to the foreigners. This healing and teaching, love and justice would come to those outside the old covenant. And, like all "good trouble," the reaction (then and now) shifted from amazement to anger at the disruption.

For the "good trouble" of which John Lewis often spoke did not begin with him. Rather, he continued a legacy where a willingness to speak and to act, to suffer and to be beaten, to forgive and to bring hope lives on not just as a cause, but the expression of countless people who Jesus has called by grace to love and serve in that same mission of the year of the Lord's favor.

As the tributes poured in upon the death of Representative John Lewis, I was reminded of the inspiration and "power" of even a sole individual when s/he is committed to getting in "good trouble, necessary trouble." I hope and pray for myself and for each of you that because of the grace of Jesus Christ, we might seek out the "good trouble" of a kingdom that has come and is coming where everything is made "right."

"Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise

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.

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'

Anti-Racism Resources

and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." - A tweet from Rep. John Lewis in June 2018

IPLF Fall Workshops

The Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation, a joint ministry of Redstone, Washington, Upper Ohio Valley, Kiskiminetas, and Pittsburgh Presbyteries, will be offering the following workshops this fall:



Proclaiming the Word - Rev. Ken Foust, Pastor, Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Instructor - August 22, 2020

Polity - John Rodgers, Stated Clerk, Washington Presbytery, Instructor - September 12, 2020

Ethics and Boundaries - Michelle Snyder, Crow's Feet Consulting, Instructor - October 10, 2020

Transforming Congregational Mission - Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, PTS World Mission Initiative, Instructor - November 14, 2020

Pastoral Care - Rev. Marnie Silbert, HR Redstone Presbytery, Instructor - December 12, 2020

All workshops are FREE and will be offered from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Redstone Presbytery office, 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg, PA 15601, and/or via Zoom videoconferencing. Please RSVP to [Bobbie](#) at Redstone Presbytery and let her know the workshop(s) you are interested in attending.

PTS World Mission Initiative Conference



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>

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

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!!

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!



Peace and Global Witness Offering



Congregation leaders will find a packet of information in your church's mail. It includes a step-by-step Leader's Guide for the 2020 *Peace & Global Witness Offering* of our PC(USA), plus a poster, informational brochure, artwork, and sample bulletin & offering envelope.

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.



PTS Responds/A Conversation on Race



You're invited to join weekly webinars, [PTS Responds/A Conversation on Race](#), Wednesdays at noon through September 2.

This is the latest in the inclusion of regional judicatory leaders, and it is well worth hearing how leadership understand the work of anti-racism ecclesiastically, theologically, and socially. A recent [book](#) by a Black Lutheran pastor takes its title from the notion that the ELCA is the "Whitest Denomination in the US." As we commit to the work of anti-racism in the context of faith communities, it's crucial to keep awareness of the systemic manifestations of racism and White privilege front and center and avoid excessive focus on personal behaviors and choices. These conversations have helped explore those systemic realities. And as a community committed to the education, formation, and equipping of people for the sake of the church in the world, learning about the commitments of leadership in those same churches helps us do our work more faithfully and mindfully.

Tax Exemption Certificates Update

The Synod of the Trinity is beginning to receive renewed tax exempt certificates for the churches and presbyteries in our region. It is estimated that it will take another 2-4 weeks before we have all of the renewed certificates from the Department of Revenue. Once they have been received, we will email them to our presbyteries, which will be in charge of forwarding them to their congregations. Reminder: the tax exempt certificates have been extended to September 30.



Many congregations around the USA receive this special offering on Worldwide Communion Sunday, October 4 .

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.](#)



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