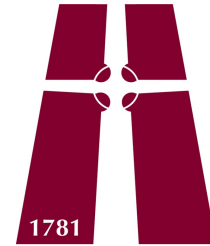


# *Presbytery of Redstone*

## *eNews*

### *August 12, 2020*



#### Let's Pray For

>>Grace Community Presbyterian Church,  
Lower Burrell, Ken Foust, Pastor  
District 1

>>Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower  
Burrell, Brian Kilbert, Pastor  
District 1

>>Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West  
Newton, Edward Gray, Moderator  
District 2

>>Sewickley United Presbyterian Church,  
West Newton, Glenn Hart, Commissioned  
Pastor  
District 2

>>Hopewell Presbyterian Church,  
Brownsville, Louise Corbett, Moderator  
District 3

>>Tyrone Presbyterian Church, Dawson,  
Anthony Marciano, Commissioned Pastor  
District 3

>>Trinity Presbyterian Church, New  
Florence, Carole Isley Corey, Moderator  
District 4

>>Patton Presbyterian Church, David  
McCabe, Pastor  
District 4

#### Contact Us

[Rev. Skip Noftzger](#)

#### Reflections from the Executive Presbyter



##### Not Merely Enduring

It was five months ago that I was in Florida taking in the sunshine and a few Spring Training baseball games (I got them in before they were cancelled). Of course, at that time, we were becoming increasingly aware of the possibility of the community spread of the virus and the pandemic that might result. While taking it all seriously (and washing my hands frequently), I think somewhere in the back of my mind, I thought it will not last that long. I believed that actions would be taken, each one of us would take responsibility. It seemed to me that though there would be a period of time that we would need to endure for the common good, then while not going away, at least we would begin to get everything under control.

Boy, was I wrong. Almost all of us have failed to do even the things that we could and so the spread continues. The pace of this spread may go up, then come down, then go up again. Much of it may be influenced by our own complacency in continuing good practices. If we picture a process that is merely to be endured for a short period, then at the first sign of good news, we are fooled into thinking it's all over and we can return to life as we knew it or at least as we want it. You see the focus on merely enduring lulls us into "putting up" with

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?**

something, but never really addressing changes that may need to be made. This can be equally true not only for individuals, but for institutions, not only in the crisis of a pandemic, but in other changes that we feel are "forced" upon us.

As pastors, leaders, and congregations who seek to love and serve Jesus the Christ, we acknowledge a living and resurrected Lord. This same One calls us to engage the world around us in that name, bringing the Good News of salvation (reconciliation/restoration) in our communities and in our neighborhoods. And sometimes, we can and will encounter changes in our lifestyles, in our ministries, in our service to Jesus, that seem to be "forced" upon us. Will we only seek to "endure" them in order to eventually return to what we did before or what we would prefer to do?

For many years, we have observed our own shifts away from Christendom in western society, where the Church is no longer the "norm," where power and favor are not automatically accorded to our faith. Of course, this was never the case for the Church of the New Testament and has not been the case for the Body of Christ in various parts of the world. If we believe that is just a period to "endure," then we will not move forward with understanding, discerning, and acting as the Church seeking to be faithful at this point in time, in this particular place. You see the "new normal" began long before this pandemic, but too often we sought merely to survive it. Yet, the crisis of a public health issue has exposed our over-reliance upon traditions and structures based in an "old normal." Let us not merely endure any longer in hopes of returning to the old, but let us look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, to lead us and guide us into a new normal where we testify to God's grace, love, and justice to a world that needs it now, more than ever.

**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

## 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>

### Week of Action

Friends,

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

### 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](#).

### 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.***



### 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



Communities of faith and people across the nation are joining the movement to confront the sins of racism and white supremacy. They are coming together to demand that Black lives of every age, gender, gender identity and sexuality are no longer ignored, dismissed or pushed to the margins of our society. They are protesting the unlawful and unjust killings of innocent Black individuals.

The [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#) affirms that all Black Lives Matter.

The [Presbyterian Week of Action, Aug. 24-30](#), is an endeavor to provide a public witness that facilitates education, visibility and action that reinforces our PC(USA) statements and policy that support eradicating racism and acknowledge that God loves all Black lives.

In "[Responding to the Sin of Racism and a Call to Action](#)," the 224th General Assembly (2020) declared, "Our country's most important institutions have been built to sustain white privilege, to protect white lives and white property at the expense of our siblings of color. The church through ignorance, denial, and in some cases deliberate action, has participated in this injustice. We have been slow to face the reality of systemic racism. We have been slow to acknowledge the pain of our fellow Presbyterians, of our fellow Christians, of our fellow citizens, and of those who have come to America for a better life, whose value has been judged by the color of their skin." The Assembly called the Church to "actively confront and dismantle systemic racism in our church and in society at large, and to work for a more just, merciful, and peaceful country that allows all of God's children to flourish."

By joining together as national staff and the greater Church, we hope to provide faithful leadership in the area of justice, love and equality within our denomination and communities.

Join with us, the national office and PC(USA) churches across the nation, the week of Aug. 24-30. Events will include a town hall, film screening, a rally and a day of service to our communities. Act now by planning to participate in the [daily schedule of events and share the news with our digital toolkit](#).

While we recognize and honor the good work toward justice that has been ongoing in our denomination, we also realize that in this time it is not enough. Though the Presbyterian Week of Action hopes to meet the immediacy of our current context, it will not be the culmination of our work as a denomination, for we have a long way to go to eradicate systemic racism and white supremacy. Nonetheless, this week will empower us, challenge us and enliven the faith we follow.

### 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



**know the answer to these two questions by [clicking here](#) so I can update my records. Thank you!!**

### 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.



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

### Board of Pensions Updates

DOUG PORTZ, Church Consultant with the Board of Pensions, has some key updates to alert you to. [Click here](#) to read more.



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.

### Christian Formation Resources Available



**The Office of Christian Formation has compiled children and youth ministry ideas. [Click here](#) to read more.**

**The Association of Presbyterian Church Educators has a resource page for remote ministries. [Click here](#) to read more.**

### 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 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!





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