

Presbytery of Redstone

eNews

August 26, 2020



Let's Pray For

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

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

>>First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg,
Martin Ankrum, Pastor
District 2

>>Maplewood Presbyterian Church,
Greensburg, Steve LaSor, Pastor
District 2

>>First Presbyterian Church, Fairchance,
Jim Gear, Moderator
District 3

>>Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church,
Farmington, Jim Gear, Moderator
District 3

>>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Boswell,
James Farrer, Moderator
District 4

>>Colver Presbyterian Church, Owar Ojulu,
Pastor
District 4

Contact Us

Reflections from the Executive Presbyter



The Right Questions?

As life continues in this season of heightened concerns of health and safety, I suspect all of us are, or have become, tempted to raise all sorts of questions. Perhaps, they are questions directed to those in authority, whether in our governments, our schools, or our congregations. Yet, I suspect that many of those more tactical questions about the "how" to move forward are already grounded in both some of our own personal feelings and the underlying "when" and "why" questions about our lives that "plague" us in this period. Maybe, the questions focus on our impatience based upon the ways we have come to believe and expect that life should be.

Questions like; How long will we have to endure these safety protocols (masks in public, social distancing)? When will they be able to develop a vaccine and how will we know it's safe? When will life return to "normal?" Or Why should I sacrifice my freedom? Why is God allowing all of this to take place?

We know from the Psalms that our God is capable of handling our questions even as expressions of our hearts when they are motivated by less than pure and faithful desires. Yet, as the people of God, what might be the questions the Lord would desire us to ask? How do those questions both reflect and form our responses to the situations in which we live?

In Tom Wright's recent book (how can that guy write books so fast?) God and the Pandemic, he notes that in Acts 11 traveling prophets (including Agabus) came from Jerusalem to the diverse and growing

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](#)<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 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

Church in Antioch. Agabus, by the power of the Spirit, revealed that there would be a great famine over the whole world. Wright applies this passage to our present context by noting their responses were neither blaming nor opportunist I service of an agenda. Rather in his words, *"they ask three simple questions:"*

"Who is going to be at special risk when this happens? What can we do to help? And who shall we send?"

Those questions are the ways the Church began to think and respond faithfully not merely in reacting to the present predicament or questioning its causality, but rather within the context of a hope-filled, kingdom perspective where God's redemptive/restorative can and will come to be (and often through God's people), they asked the "right" questions.

In asking those questions, they were moved beyond the boundaries of their own nationalities, cultures and geography took up their calling to become part of kingdom God's work in the world. Driven not just by the dire prediction, but by that inquiring perspective, their particular response was to express care and tangible support for their siblings (who were distant and not even like them or "one" of them) in Christ in Judea. Perhaps, our response will be similar. Perhaps, it will look different in our contemporary world. Yet, I know that our faithful responses will always be grounded in asking the "right" questions.

September 22 Presbytery Meeting

The September 22, 2020 Presbytery Meeting again will be conducted through the platform of Zoom videoconferencing beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please plan on electing a commissioner knowing that is the case and let us know the name and email address of that person as soon as you know it. We will reach out to the commissioner with instructions about using the platform. Meanwhile, information on the Meeting ID and Password will be distributed on the date of the packet being posted.

**IPLF Fall Workshops**

The Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation, a joint ministry of Redstone, Washington, Upper Ohio Valley, Kiskiminetas, and

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.

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'



Pittsburgh Presbyteries, will be offering the following workshops this fall:

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

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

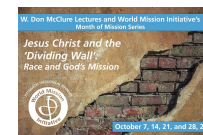
Transforming Congregational Mission - Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, PTS World Mission Initiative, Instructor - November 14, 2020

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***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>

**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

Anti-Racism Resources

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](#).

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!!



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.

Pine Springs Camp Annual Golf Outing

Pine Springs Camp is pleased to announce that they have rescheduled their 20th annual Pine Springs Camp Golf Outing for Monday, September 14, 2020. Once again, the outing will be held at the historic Arnold Palmer's Latrobe Country Club. Golf is one of the few activities that can be done safely and responsibly in the midst of the current situation.



Attached you will find [information](#) and [brochure](#) for this year's golf outing. I hope you will be able to participate in or sponsor this great event to help sustain the camp at this difficult time.

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.