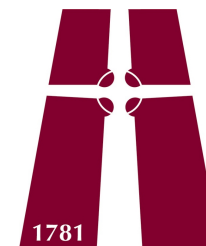


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews

September 16, 2020



Let's Pray For

- >>Delmont Presbyterian Church, Cliff Foster, Moderator
District 1
- >>Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Ken Foust, Pastor
District 1
- >>Latrobe Presbyterian Church, Ron Durika, Interim Pastor
District 2
- >>United Presbyterian Church, Latrobe, John Simpson, Interim Pastor
District 2
- >>First Presbyterian Church, Masontown, Lee McDermott, Moderator
District 3
- >>McClellandtown Presbyterian Church, Lee McDermott, Pastor
District 3
- >>Second Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Art Moffat, Temporary Supply, Carole Isley Corey, Moderator
District 4
- >>Westmont Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Rene' Whitaker, Interim Pastor
District 4

Reflections from Rev. Donna Havrisko, Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg

Dear Friends,

This year has been a year of many changes for our churches in Redstone Presbytery: the COVID-19 virus and its attendant heartaches; a re-awakening to our prophetic call for racial justice; and a year of rapid catching up with technology to help our churches continue in worship and mission. (I can remember asking back in March, "What's a Zoom?")

Another significant change has been the retirement of long-time pastors like Rev. Marnie Silbert, Rev. Clark Kerr, and Rev. Don Graff - familiar faces and colleagues for many years. The Sudan/South Sudan Mission network received the news that Rev. Debbie Braaksma, Coordinator of the PCUSA World Mission Africa Office, is retiring this month; and I will be retiring next January after 27 years serving churches in Redstone Presbytery.

On hearing this news, one of the elders at Westminster asked, "What is going on?" The answer: *Church is*. This is the nature of what it is to be people of God: we pursue our calls from God in the midst of change in the world around us, as followers of Jesus have always done. God, who "makes all things new", (Revelation 21:5) has designed *change* to be characteristic of the continued unfolding of God's purposes for a new heaven and a new earth.

I am part of a lectionary group that meets weekly, and it is always a treat to see the synergy between ideas that the "older" and "newer" pastors toss out. Looking at some of the gifts of our younger pastors, and getting to know these folks as friends, I am grateful that older pastors once retired to make room for them. Their energy and imagination; their computer and communication skills; and their devotion to the work and witness of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. is (to use their word) *awesome!*

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

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?

Finally, growing older is a gift. Yes, we suffer from aches and pains; some of us lose hair and others color hair to hide the gray. But I was reminded the other day that the life expectancy in South Sudan is only 58 years. This makes our partnership with the Presbyterian Evangelical Church of Sudan and of South Sudan even more relevant and urgent. There is room for new folks in Redstone Presbytery to become active in this ministry, especially as others retire. I pray that the Holy Spirit will move your hearts to answer the call.

Synod Sunday

A lot has happened in the last several months, and it is possible even more changes could be coming. But through it all, as we have sought to be faithful, your Synod has stood with you as you, your congregation and your presbytery have experienced a world most of us have never seen before.



As part of Synod Sunday (September 20), we have created bulletin inserts for your congregation to share on this special day. Also, this year, Transitional Executive Susan Faye Wonderland brings greetings from the Synod through a short video that can be shown during your online or in-person worship service this Sunday (or any future Sunday).

What is Synod Sunday? On this day, we invite the congregations and presbyteries in the Synod of the Trinity region to celebrate the gifts and blessings that take place throughout the year in our bounds.

Video [Access it here](#) Bulletin Inserts [Color](#) [Black & White](#)

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. Information on the Meeting ID and Password will be distributed under separate cover.



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.

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](#)

PTS World Mission Initiative Conference

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>



Seeking the Beloved Community - Synod Online Offering

Beginning on September 27; 7:00 p.m., the Synod will be offering a series of presentations of how we might consider our present issues and concerns in light of the "Beloved Community" promoted by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In the first session (9/27), Rev. Dr. James Calvin Davis, professor at Middlebury College, author of several books including most recently, *Forbearance* (and formerly of Redstone Presbytery) will help us to consider the characteristics of the "Beloved Community." For more information - [click here](#). Presentation will be by Zoom and will be recorded for later viewing as well.

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:

***Transforming Congregational Mission* - Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, PTS World Mission Initiative, Instructor - October 10, 2020**

***Ethics and Boundaries* - Michelle Snyder, Crow's Feet Consulting, Instructor - November 14, 2020**

>>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

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!!



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.

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.



Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2020

Currents of Faith - The Stewardship of change in community, technology, and across generations. The 2020 conference will be virtual with three (3) Tuesday sessions beginning September 22. Hear from leading thinkers exploring the opportunities for growth in stewardship even in the midst of profound social change - registration is now open. For further information and to register [click here](#).

