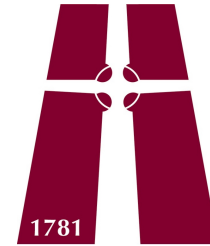


Presbytery of Redstone

eNews

September 30, 2020



Let's Pray For

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

>>First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville,
Edward Gray, Pastor
District 1

>>Reunion Presbyterian Church, Mt.
Pleasant, Chuck MacPherson, Moderator
District 2

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

>>Dunlap's Creek Presbyterian Church,
Merrittstown, Aleda Menchyk, Moderator
District 3

>>New Salem Presbyterian Church, Bill
Wiegand, Commissioned Pastor
District 3

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

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

Reflections from Rev. Lori Bass-Riley, Member at Large and Member of Presbytery Council

The headlines are disturbing. Our country is in a multitude of crisis. Fires, economic insecurity, floods, disease, riots, and so much "fake news" we've come to doubt almost any report to be true. Last night, my husband and I held one of our teenagers who cried in our arms because the end of the world in her lifetime was weighing as an all too real possibility. It is tough out there. No, it's not only tough, it is as scary as . . . well you know the word.

So how in the midst of this do we proclaim Christ? How do we proclaim new birth and reconciliation in a time of chaos? How do we without shame, call people to join in the very imperfect community of Christ, the community that is itself divided on how to be faithful? More than that, do we even want to keep going?

I am sure that the disciples were asking similar questions as Jesus spoke to them of the future Jesus mentioned in Matthew 24. How were they to remain faithful through the horrors that Jesus described? How were they to follow the way if they were going to be divided and forced into the hills, or manage knowing there would be a deluge of false prophets, or that the community would hemorrhage believers? These were new believers - babes in the faith and Jesus told them to keep going even though this would be imminent. This would happen in their generation.

Had I been sitting at the feet of Jesus at that moment, I might have gotten up and walked away. It was too much. Too much fear, too much uncertainty, too much risk.

When Jesus was arrested, they initially did run away. But they came back. They came back after he rose and went in full force to tell people about Jesus' love and sacrifice. In the midst of an uncertain future, and possibly the end of the world as they knew it, they went forward.

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?

I wonder if what Jesus said in this passage was part of their inspiration. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

Jesus' words will never pass away. "Love your neighbor as you yourself would be loved. Love the Lord your God with all your heart." Steady - no nonsense. No matter what happens, his teachings guide us and give us hope. We worry about our future, but Jesus gives us the Good News that despite the awfulness of the world right now, whatever changes, God will not. Jesus' words will still be relevant.

This is not a time for timidity and fear, but for embracing Jesus' words with gusto and acting upon them because they are the news we can trust and hold onto while the world's words of horrors come whipping around us. Our assurance is that the Lord is completely cognizant of what is going on in our world right now and is confident that our way is solid when it is in Christ.

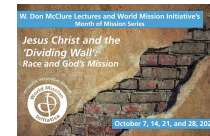
PRAY IT NOW...THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.....
PROCLAIM IT NOW... THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN....
ENACT IT NOW.... THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN....
EXPECT IT NOW.....THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

PTS World Mission Initiative Conference

JESUS CHRIST AND THE DIVIDING WALL:

RACE AND GOD'S MISSION - Each Wednesday evening next month 7-8:30 PM, free and online. Presentations, Q & A opportunities, plus discussion time for your selected and connected group.

<https://www.pts.edu/wmi-conference>



Seeking the Beloved Community - Synod Online Offering

Beginning on September 27; 7:00 p.m., the Synod began 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.

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](#)

If you were unable to attend the 9/27 session (or would like to review it), below is a link to the recording that has been posted on the Synod's YouTube channel. Also, you are welcome and urged to share this link with anyone who you think might benefit from this conversation.

Link: <https://youtu.be/jT1K3jFLC6Y>

Reminder that this series will continue into October and November, with details and registration available on the Synod's website here:

<https://www.syntrinity.org/synod/beloved-community-conversations/>

- Oct. 18: Pandemic (Laurie Kraus)
- Oct. 25: Hyperpartisanship (John Welch)
- Nov. 8: Technology (Bruce Reyes-Chow)
- Nov. 15: Racism and White Privilege (tentative)

Thank you again for your interest in this conversation and we hope to see you again soon!

Free Chairs

West Hempfield Presbyterian Church in Irwin, has chairs that they would like to see go to a good home. There are approximately 12 chairs and are free to anyone that would like to have them. If you are interested please contact the church at 724.863.1260.



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!!



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

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.

Tax Exemption Certificates Update

The State is well behind in getting all the certificates renewed. The State extended the deadline of existing certificates until December 31st. [Attached is a document](#) that churches can use until the certificate is received.

The State has been sending the Synod some of the certificates which they are then forwarding to the churches. You may contact the [Business Administrator](#) at the Synod office directly to see if your certificate came in.

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.



New Online Resource for Pastors



Samaritan Counseling is offering a new resource for pastors, online Worship for Pastors (www.congregationforclergy.org).

Beginning this week, they are offering weekly, 35-40 minute worship services designed specifically for the challenges pastors face in a changing world. Pastors rarely have the opportunity worship in services focusing entirely on their issues. The services offer themes, scripture, prayer, music, and sermons formed with pastors in mind, with the hope that pastors will use

stewardship even in the midst of profound social change - registration is now open. For further information and to register [click here](#).

these services as part of a weekly discipline helping them lead churches in really difficult times.

The services can be found at www.congregationforclergy.org. The worship is led by an expanding team of pastors and church leaders from different denominations who's vocations are devoted to helping pastors and churches engage in healthy ministry and mission.



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