

Presbytery of Redstone eNews October 21, 2020



Let's Pray For

>>United Presbyterian Church, New Kensington, Wendy Keys, Pastor
District 1

>>Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo, Pete Goetschius, Pastor
District 1

>>United Presbyterian Church, West Newton, John Manon, Pastor
District 2

>>Derry Presbyterian Church, Marnie Russell, Covenant Pastor
District 2

>>Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, Ronald Johnson, Pastor
District 3

>>Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, James Gear, Pastor
District 3

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

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

Contact Us

Reflections from Rev. Martin Ankrum, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg

And [Jesus] was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Nothing can replace the significance and importance of preaching in the life of faith. It is by the preaching of God's Word that we are reminded of what is at the very heart of human existence. Without this, there is no maturation of our faith.

Herbert Butterfield, British theologian of the last century, wrote of the power that preaching has had upon the community, at least in the Western world.:

...thousands and thousands of priests and ministers were preaching the Gospel week in and week out, constantly reminding the farmer and the shopkeeper of charity and humility, persuading them to think for a moment about the great issues of life, and inducing them to confess their sins. ... It is impossible to measure the vast difference that ordinary Christian piety has made to the last two thousand years of Christian history.

Though the act of preaching did not originate with Jesus of Nazareth, it is obvious from the Lukan passage quoted above, that he found preaching to be at the center of his own self-identification and work. Jesus felt compelled by the Spirit of God to 'preach the good news of the kingdom of God' and because he did, the Church, ever since, has busied itself with this very task.

There is more to preaching than sermonizing, to be sure. Honest and authentic preaching draws the attention of the hearing congregation not to the preacher or to his or her style or eloquence, but rather to the Word of God itself. Preaching that is rooted in the good news speaks to us all about what God has done and is doing in this world rather than providing entertainment, therapy, or political critique ... the heart of good preaching is

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

doing as Jesus has done: delivering good news to the people. And that is indeed something we all need to hear again and again and again.

-Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum
 Greensburg, First

PTS Offers "Hope and Healing: Mental Health First Aid Training"

Interested Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors will need to register if you are interested in joining this training. Registration information is listed below.



Oct. 30 and Nov. 13, 2020, 9:00 - 11:45 a.m.
 Nov. 13, 2020, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where is the training?

The meetings will all be online via Zoom. Our office will send links before each session.

Who is the training for?

Christian leaders of rural congregations from Southwest PA, Southeast Ohio, and West Virginia.

What is it?

It is a three-part online series intended to empower rural faith leaders with the knowledge, practices, and grounding they need to respond with grace and effectiveness to mental health concerns and to build viable, strong support systems to advance this work in their churches.

What is the structure of the program?

One day/week for three weeks. Social workers with expertise in faith-based mental therapy will lead the two short sessions; certified professionals will lead the full-day session.

What will the program do?

- >The program's presenters will instruct participants on:
- >How to differentiate spiritual care from mental health and clarify what faith leaders are equipped to provide;
- >The theological rationale for why the church's mission includes understanding care for those with mental illness;
- >Becoming familiar and developing relationships with local mental health resources; and

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](#)
- >>Helpful links & resources from the [PCUSA Church Store](#)
- >>From the [Board of Pensions](#)

>Learning the triage basics offered through Mental Health First Aid, a skills-based course that teaches participants about mental health and substance-use issues.

Why should I take part in the training?

- >To obtain a better understanding of providing spiritual care and referring those with mental illness to other resources.
- >To help end the stigma often associated with mental illness in faith communities, thereby helping your church to extend hospitality to those who are ill and their loved ones.

After the training is completed, what next?

Short term: We plan to have a follow-up celebration with all participants in May 2021 - Mental Health Awareness Month - to share our stories of success, projects, and best practices.

Long term: This program is supported by a PC(USA) grant and is a pilot project for extending mental health training to faith leaders throughout the denomination.

How do I register?

Visit www.pts.edu/hope-and-healing-2021 for the link to the registration form. After we review your submitted form, we will email you regarding your participation in the program.

Who can I talk to if I have questions?

Call the Office of Continuing Education at 412-924-1345 or email ConEd@pts.edu.

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:

Ethics and Boundaries - Michelle Snyder, Crow's Feet Consulting, 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,

>>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](#).

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.

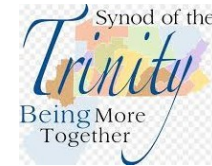
If you were unable to attend the 9/27 session (or would like to review it), below is a link to the recording that has been posted on the Synod's YouTube channel. Also, you are welcome and urged to share this link with

and/or via Zoom videoconferencing

. Please RSVP to [Bobbie](#) at Redstone Presbytery and let her know the workshop(s) you are interested in attending.

Synod of the Trinity Offers Grant

The past few months have presented new needs, new missional opportunities and new relationships. Have you been challenged in new ways to partner with other denominations to live out the love of Christ in your community? Has a local ministry need emerged or been pondered during these COVID impacted times? There may be grant support available to you to carry out this important work. The Ecumenical Grant is a one-time grant of up to \$2,000 and the application deadline is November 1. For more information [click here](#).



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 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.

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.



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!

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.

PTS Offering Online Classes and Events



Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is offering a schedule of continuing education classes and events this fall and winter. Offerings include: *Claiming Pentecost: New Beginnings in a Post-Pandemic Church*; *Wise Women and Spirituality*; and *Spiritual Writing*. For more information go to <https://www.pts.edu/chronological-schedule>

Advent Sunday School Options

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY - to ask yourself how you'll present Advent Sunday School lessons if the authorities send us into COVID shut-down again. Or perhaps you are already planning to offer an online alternative as part of your CE programming. The Presbyterian Outlook now has Advent devotions ready for pre-order, with adult education resources - for virtual learning - coming available soon too! Find helps at pres-outlook.org. IN ADDITION - You can access the PC(USA) Advent Resource Guide [here](#).



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