

Presbytery of Redstone eNews

December 2, 2020



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

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

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

District 2 Churches

>>Latrobe Presbyterian Church, Ronald
Durika, Interim Pastor

>>United Presbyterian Church, Latrobe,
John Simpson, Interim Pastor

District 3 Churches

>>Calvin United Presbyterian Church,
Brownsville, Jane Johnson, Covenant
Pastor

>>Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church,
Brownsville, Jane Johnson, Covenant
Pastor

District 4 Churches

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

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

Reflections from ... Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter



"A Good and Safe Home"

In my lifetime, there have been vast periods where my residence was primarily a place to sleep (rest) before rising and "getting back at it the next day." No doubt, some of this has been obedient, but some has probably reflected my own need to "manage" all of life. In so doing, it may characterize more of my failure to trust in God rather than purely faithful service.

Throughout this pandemic season, you and I have probably spent more times in our "home" than ever before. As a result, why I may not be working less (probably more), I have grown to appreciate and understand the power of "home." A "good and safe home" provides the security and the foundation for living in trust, for connections in family, and for identity. During this Advent season, I have returned to reflecting upon the daily lectionary readings. Particularly, I am reading *The Message* as a way of hearing "familiar" passages in a new way. In today's reading from Micah, the promise of Advent (promise to Bethlehem), is that of a child who will become the "shepherd-ruler." This "peacemaker" will bring the scattered children from foster residences to the family of the "people of God." And, they will be "home," in a "good and safe home." Micah 5:2-4 (*The Message*)

*But you, Bethlehem, David's country,
the runt of the litter—
From you will come the leader
who will shepherd-rule Israel.
He'll be no upstart, no pretender.
His family tree is ancient and distinguished.
Meanwhile, Israel will be in foster homes*

*until the birth pangs are over and the child is born,
And the scattered brothers come back
home to the family of Israel.
He will stand tall in his shepherd-rule by God's strength,
centered in the majesty of God-Revealed.
And the people will have a good and safe home,
for the whole world will hold him in respect—
Peacemaker of the world!*

In this Advent season, may we remember, but may we also anticipate this Shepherd-Ruler who has, is, and will make a “good and safe home” for all of us.

Advent Coloring Calendar

[Click here](#) to download your copy of an Advent Coloring Calendar. You should print this document front to back, flipping on the short edge, and then fold into a booklet. All pictures are for free use from the internet.



The Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation, a joint ministry of Redstone, Washington, Upper Ohio Valley, Kiskiminetas, and Pittsburgh Presbyteries, will continue offering workshops this fall:

Pastoral Care - Rev. Marnie Silbert, HR Redstone Presbytery, Instructor - December 12, 2020

This workshop is FREE and will be offered from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. via ZOOM videoconferencing. Please RSVP to [Bobbie](#) at Redstone Presbytery and let her know if you are interested in attending this workshop so we may get the ZOOM login information to you early next week.

Redstone Pastor Information

Weekly Zoom Pastor Check-In

Wednesdays at NOON - virtual food and fellowship

Redstone Pastors Facebook Group

Anti-Racism Resources

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



January Presbytery Meeting Date Moved

Because the January 2021 Presbytery gathering will now be conducted by ZOOM, the Council has moved the meeting date from Saturday, January 23 to Tuesday, January 26 @ 6:00 p.m. Further meeting information, including the ZOOM details will be forthcoming with the distribution of the packet.

End of Year Financial Need

As we come to the end of 2020 (a year like no other), the Presbytery has fallen significantly behind projected contributions for the year. While we have reduced expenses wherever possible, there remains a

need for year-contributions from both churches and individuals to address this need. The closing date for the 2020 financial year will be January 7, 2021. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration and generosity.



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 you church too can join our Matthew 25 Initiative. See the worship and ministry resources by [clicking here](#).

Christmas Vacation

As a result of vacation schedules, there will be minimum or no staff in the office location during the weeks of December 14 and 21. The Executive Presbyter remains available to contact throughout this period by cell phone or email.



Terms of Call 2021 / Commissioned Pastor Contract

The Committee on Ministry requires that each church submit a yearly Terms of Call form for the Pastor serving that church. If you have not already done so, please submit the 2021 Terms of Call form for your pastor as soon as it has been approved by your Session. You may download a copy of the form by [clicking here](#).

Also, if a Commissioned Pastor is currently serving your church, and their current contract is expiring this year, a renewal contract will need to be submitted as well. You may download a copy of that form by [clicking here](#). If you are unsure if the contract for your Commissioned Pastor is due to expire, you may call the Presbytery office.

LEADERFEST – will move online for two Saturday mornings, February 6 (*Racism and the Church* keynote presentation and discussions) and February 13 (Basic Elder training and Basic Deacon training, plus Advanced electives). *Leaderfest* is an annual leadership enrichment event, jointly sponsored by Washington Presbytery and Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery and open to participation by Redstone Presbytery church leaders. Watch for details!



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
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.



Presbytery Staff

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Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk

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Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

*Communicate the
Word...*

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

Presbytery of Redstone

www.redstonepresbytery.org