

# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## December 9, 2020



### Please pray for...

#### District 1 Churches

>>Congruity Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria, Cliff Foster, Pastor

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

#### District 2 Churches

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

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

#### District 3 Churches

>>Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Louise Corbett, Moderator

>>Tyrone Presbyterian Church, Dawson, Anthony Marciano, Commissioned Pastor

#### District 4 Churches

>>Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence, Carole Isley Corey, Moderator

>>Patton Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Moderator

## Reflections from ... Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter



### "First Things First"

When you know the ending, it is sometimes tempting to bypass reflecting upon all the steps that "paved the way." Wanting to focus on the finale, we miss the intricate weaving of people, places and events that herald this decisive chapter in the redemptive story in which we find our God and ourselves.

An anticipated Elijah figure in the prophet Malachi (which we have been reading) is now promised through the messenger to a childless priest (and his spouse) in the conception and bearing of a son. A son, one for whom they had given up hope. One for whom they longed but could no longer expect. So, the promise (despite his initial skepticism) fulfilled would not only bring Zechariah and Elizabeth great joy and delight to others, but the son as one of "great stature" with God, would be the messenger of God.

His purpose, through some distinctive attire and behavior, was to prepare the people for what (and who) was to come. He would "soften the hearts of parents to children, and kindle devout understanding among hardened skeptics." All of this was to get the people "ready."

In this Advent season, it remains enticing to "jump" to the end of this chapter with its candlelit remembrance of the birth of a child-king. Yet, we too must hear the word of repentance and preparation, to have our hearts softened and our understanding kindled. Remember, first things first.

Luke 1:5-17 (The Message)

*13-15 But the angel reassured him, "Don't fear, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Elizabeth, your wife, will bear a son by you. You are to name him John. You're going to leap like a gazelle for joy, and not only you—many will delight in his birth. He'll achieve great stature with God. 15-17 "He'll drink neither wine nor beer. He'll be filled with the Holy Spirit*

*from the moment he leaves his mother's womb. He will turn many sons and daughters of Israel back to their God. He will herald God's arrival in the style and strength of Elijah, soften the hearts of parents to children, and kindle devout understanding among hardened skeptics —he'll get the people ready for God."*

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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.

Also, coming in 2021 - more enrichment workshops for ruling elders and teaching elders: Pastor As Theologian, in Church and Community; Stewardship All Year 'Round; Shared Leadership in Ordered Ministries: Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders, and How We Lead Together; Vitality No Matter the Size: Small Church Health and Wellness; and Creative and Faithful Celebrations of the Sacraments. More information will be updated as it becomes available.

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## 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.



## 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.

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## 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.



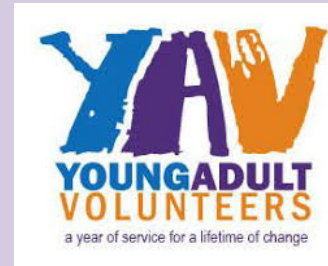
## January Presbytery Meeting Date Moved

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.

IT'S YAV APPLICATION SEASON! For more than 25 years, the Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) program of the PC(USA) has been instrumental in helping young adults – ages 19-30 – experience “a year of service for a lifetime of change” at sites within the U.S. and around the world. Learn more about the YAV program and apply at [pcusa.org/yav](http://pcusa.org/yav).



### Ruling Elder training resources

- “Coming Alive in Christ” - new training based upon constitutional questions ([equip.pcusa.org](http://equip.pcusa.org)) You will need to create a login to enroll.
- Preparation for Ordered Ministry -Theoacademy Videos (<http://www.theoacademy.com/lessons-for-ruling-elders-and-deacons>)

### 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.



### 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](#).

### Presbytery Staff

[Richard "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*

