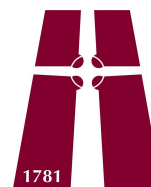


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

January 6, 2021



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

>>Delmont Presbyterian Church, Anthony Catullo, Interim Pastor

>>Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Ken Foust, Pastor

District 2 Churches

>>Sewickley United Presbyterian Church, West Newton, Glenn Hart, Commissioned Pastor

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

District 3 Churches

>>First Presbyterian Church, Fairchance, James Gear, Moderator

>>Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church, Farmington, James Gear, Moderator

District 4 Churches

>>Colver Presbyterian Church, Owar Ojulu, Pastor

>>First Presbyterian Church, Cresson, Alice Tondora, Moderator

Reflections from ... Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter



A "Happy New Year!"

Happy New Year! Her greeting that day picked up the familiar one we exchange at the beginning of a new calendar year. Yet, I wondered to myself, was it really (for her or for me) a proclamation of celebratory expectation or rather more of a declaration of relief?

With the end of 2020, more and more people began to focus on the possibility of a new year with new prospects. Surely, it could not get worse? Somehow, the idea of turning the page on the calendar might actually (or at least in our perceptions) move us beyond the enduring effects of the pandemic, the incivility of our civil discourse, or the social unrest over issues of justice, power and authority. Normally, we end the year with some nostalgic reflections upon the blessings of the past year and hopeful anticipation of the opportunities reflected in the future year. Yet, rather than reflecting the optimism of an expected future, on the lips of many it may have seemed to be so much more like a petition for respite.

In the rhythms of life, the new calendar year gives us an interval opportunity (symbolic as it may be) to begin again. In this first week of 2021, if you did not know already, you will soon come to know that the issues and problems of the past do not stop with the singing of Auld Lang Syne at midnight. We tend to think and act based upon transformative change that results from pivotal events or experiences. Yet, while these events are important (sometimes even defining), nonetheless, many of the substantive changes in our lives and in our world are often built upon the gradual persistence of lives of faith. Day in and day out, when we seek God not just when it is all going well, but when life is far from our desired wants, we will discover and discern our God is present with us and for us and is at work upon us and God's world.

So, even in this new year, may we find ours open to “where the wind blows.” May we (whether individuals, or churches or as a presbytery) have our hearts and lives shaped by seeking first the kingdom of God and its righteousness and everything else will be added unto it. Regardless of the circumstances we encounter, may we expect no less this year. May we testify in word and deed, in blessing and in trouble that we are God’s own. Happy New Year! (today, tomorrow and the day after).

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](#).



REMINDER!! The Annual Statistical Reports will be due to the General Assembly no later than February 14, 2021. [*The system will close at midnight; please don't wait until the last minute or site "traffic" may lock you out.*] If you have questions about filing this report electronically, or need assistance in completing it, please call either Bobbie or Skip as soon as possible at the Presbytery office (724-837-6737). Please make sure your rolls have been “cleaned” and fill in this report with complete 2020 data as soon as possible. With the report already completed, you will be able to hit “submit” upon approval of the Session (prior to February 14, 2021). The *Necrology report* should be submitted to the Presbytery office by *January 13, 2021*. Please submit this report (even if there are none) so we are able to honor all of those departed saints at the January 26, 2021 Presbytery meeting. You can do that by email if it's easier as well to Bobbie at secretary@redstonepresbytery.org. All other Presbytery reports are to be returned no later than March 1, 2021.



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.

If you have an announcement that you would like included in the announcement loop that will be presented that day please submit them directly to redstonestories@gmail.com by Tuesday, January 19. Thank you!

Redstone Pastor Information

Weekly Zoom Pastor Check-In These meetings will resume Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Wednesdays at NOON - virtual food and fellowship

Redstone Pastors Facebook Group



The Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation (IPLF) will be offering Pastor and Elder Training Workshops again for 2021. All workshops are **FREE** and will be held



either by ZOOM or at the Redstone Presbytery Center. For questions contact Nancy at Washington Presbytery at 724-222-1500 or via email at office@washingtonpresbytery.org. To register contact Bobbie at Redstone Presbytery at 724-837-6737 or via email at

secretary@redstonepresbytery.org. Workshops include:

- January 9, 2021 - Pastor as Theologian, In Church and Community - Rev. Dr. Seldon Sorge, Instructor
- February 20, 2021 - Stewardship All Year 'Round - Rev. Dr. Dan Hans, Instructor
- March 20, 2021 - Vitality No Matter the Size: Small Church Health and Wellness - Rev. Lee McDermott, Instructor
- April 17, 2021 - Creative and Faithful Celebrations of the Sacraments - Rev. Laura Blank, Instructor
- May 15, 2021 - Shared Leadership in Ordered Ministries: Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders, and How We Lead Together - RE Meg Steele and Rev. Jason Hefner, Instructors

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.

Presbytery Staff

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[Bobbie Martin](#)

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

*Communicate the
Word...*

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

Presbytery of Redstone

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