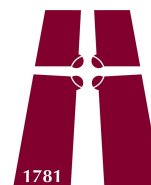


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

February 3, 2021



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

- >>Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Curtis Paul, Pastor
- >>Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Sue Washburn, Interim Pastor

District 2 Churches

- >>Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Steve LaSor, Pastor
- >>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, William Youmans, Interim Pastor

District 3 Churches

- >>Springhill Furnace Presbyterian Church, Lake Lynn, Molly Hall, Covenant Pastor
- >>Leisenring Presbyterian Church, Aleda Menchyk, Moderator

District 4 Churches

- >>First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Alice Tondora, Pastor
- >>Second Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Art Moffat, Temporary Supply

Reflections from ... Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter



"The Waters of Baptism: Jesus and Ours"

In the midst of all that is transpiring in our world, I was struck by the contrasts of our liturgical and civic seasons. Many of us gathered (in person or remotely) several Sundays back to once more hear the story of the ritualistic beginning of Jesus' ministry. As the servant who would no longer claim his glory, he insists upon receiving John's baptism to "fulfill all righteousness" being beyond reproach in fulfilling his calling. Calvin noted that *"the general reason why Christ received baptism was, that he might render full obedience to the Father; and the special reason was, that he might consecrate baptism in his own body, that we might have it in common with him."*

So, this pivotal event serves the dual purpose of reminding us of the voluntary servanthood of the one who we had celebrated previously with the coming of those from afar to offer worship and homage to the "little, big king" who came among them as an infant. And now, when we entered into the defining moments anticipating his upcoming ministry, he submitted in baptism and resisted temptation.

In the midst of a world where all too often change is only sought through the acquisition and claiming of power (which in turn, becomes its own end), we are challenged to consider the initiation of this public mission of the One who, in humility, would be both Savior and Lord of the world. And in that willingness to submit, Jesus' identity becomes clear through both heavenly dove and voice, Spirit and word.

Yet, this baptism becomes for many of us an opportunity to remember our own baptismal covenant. In that cleansing water the sign and seal of God's promises of being united with Christ in death and resurrection. In Christ, we are claimed for a kingdom not of this "world," but yet breaking

forth in this created world; not of our own making, but one whose origin and authority is from God's very throne. May God's covenantal grace signified in baptism remind us our identity as well as servants in God's name and cover us in God's presence renewing us for God's world.

REST, RENEWAL, RESILIENCE

The Synod of the Trinity is offering a Lenten Space for you. This three hour virtual retreat is designed to give faith leaders a chance to take a breath and a break in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. A time of rest, refocus, and recharge. Two opportunities are being offered - March 9 at 9:00 a.m. and March 10 at 1:30 p.m. Space limited - so be sure to sign up soon if you want to participate. [Click here](#) for more information or to register.



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS... Addressing racism and the church. A confession and call to action in the Presbytery of Redstone that was adopted by Presbytery Council in August of 2020. If you would like to use these resources for discussion in your churches please do so. The [statement](#) and [video](#) are also available from the Presbytery website.



Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2021

Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2021 will be in Cincinnati, OH, September 13-15, as well as offering a virtual experience. This annual conference offers education, worship, and amazing opportunities for

growth in stewardship and generosity.

This year we are excited to announce that Tod Bolsinger of Fuller Theological Seminary and author of *Canoeing the Mountains and Tempered Resilience* will join us for two plenary sessions, with the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA), leading us in worship. There will have more than two dozen workshops for in-person attendees that address topics from the spirituality of stewardship to practical tools for managing pledge campaigns.

Stewardship Kaleidoscope draws leaders from across the Presbyterian Church (USA) and other ecumenical partners with content designed to help participants explore stewardship that has a real impact on ministry.

Look for more speaker announcements and news about registration coming soon! Find additional information about the 2021 and past conferences at StewardshipKaleidoscope.org.

REMINDER!! The Annual Statistical Report for 2020 will be due online at <https://oga.pcusa.org/stats> by February 14, 2021. You will need a user name and password to file this report and it will need to be approved by your session prior to submitting it. If you are unsure of what your user name and password is please call me and I can provide it to you.

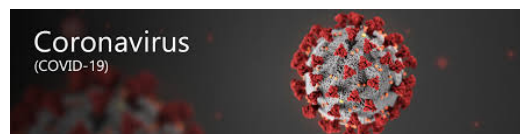
You will also need to have the various annual reports, (2021 Terms of Call, Manse Inspection Report, and List of Session Members by Class) required by the Presbytery, submitted by March 31, 2021. You may file most of these reports online at <http://redstonepresbytery.org/clerk-of-session-annual-report> if that is easier for you. This does not require any type of login information.

Although you can submit your membership numbers with the Presbytery form, that does not fulfill the requirement of the complete annual statistical report at the General

Assembly. You will still need to file the complete annual report to the Office of the General Assembly at the web address listed above.

If you have any questions or need assistance with any of these filings, please do not hesitate to contact Skip or me. We would be more than happy to help you.

Update on COVID-19
Vaccines, Variants, and Various Other Items
Tuesday, February 9, 7-8:30 pm
Zoom



New Castle Presbytery welcomes Ruling Elder Lisa Allgood, Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Cincinnati and immunocytochemist by trade. Lisa's experience in the pharmaceutical industry has been an invaluable gift to her colleagues across the PC(USA), and she has been generous with her time in providing information and updates as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc.

For this gathering, Lisa will discuss the vaccines that are currently available and what those vaccines do and don't do. *(Spoiler alert: you still have to wear a mask after being vaccinated!)* She will also provide information on the new variants of the virus that are beginning to appear and what that might mean for group gatherings, especially for congregations.

We will have a time to explore questions and concerns, and think a little bit about how we are best able to show love of God and love of neighbor given what we know about the virus. This conversation will be streamed to the Presbytery's Facebook page, technology permitting, and recorded and available on the Presbytery's YouTube channel a day or two after the event.

To participate on Zoom, please register in advance using the link below:
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEgcOctrzoqG9Cy9lyM84hg2Jb9ByzUzwAN>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Cindy at ckohlmann@ncpresbytery.org.



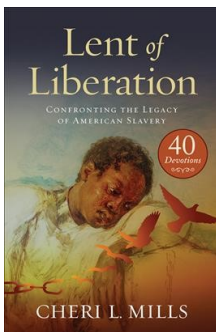
The Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation, a joint ministry of Redstone, Washington, Upper Ohio Valley, Kiskiminetas, and Pittsburgh Presbyteries, are again offering workshops this spring. Workshops include:

- 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 - Meg Steele and Rev. Jason Hefner, Instructors

These workshops are FREE and will be offered from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. They are offered via Zoom video conferencing and may be available as in-person workshops as well. Please RSVP to [Bobbie](#) at Redstone Presbytery and let her know if you are interested in attending any or all of these workshops.

Presbyterian Foundation Stewardship
Ministry News February 2021

Click [here](#) to read various articles from this newsletter



NEW LENTEN DEVOTIONAL AVAILABLE AT THE PC(USA) STORE

Reflecting on Lenten themes of exodus, redemption, discipline, and repentance, this Lenten devotional confronts the legacy of American slavery and empowers readers for the work of racial justice. The publisher has also created free digital resources, which include a group study guide, sermon series guide, and images for use during worship or study.

INTERACTIVE STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION

The Presbyterian Foundation is generously offering a day of online stewardship training on Tuesday March 2. Topics include: Church Mission and Sustainability, Virtual Campaigns and Online Giving, and Practical Tips for Congregational Budgeting. Find more information [here](#).



Redstone Pastor Information

[Weekly Zoom Pastor Check-In](#)

Wednesdays at NOON - virtual food and fellowship

[Redstone Pastors Facebook Group](#)



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](#).

Presbytery Staff

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Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

Presbytery of Redstone
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