

Presbytery of Redstone eNews

February 17, 2021



Please pray for...

<p>District 1 Churches</p> <p>>>United Presbyterian Church, New Kensington, Wendy Keys, Pastor</p> <p>>>Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo, Pete Goetschius, Pastor</p>	<p>District 2 Churches</p> <p>>>First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette, Dawn Sherwood, Pastor</p> <p>>>Latrobe Presbyterian Church, Ron Durika, Interim Pastor</p>
<p>District 3 Churches</p> <p>>>Dunlap's Creek Presbyterian Church, Merrittstown, Aleda Menchyk, Moderator</p> <p>>>New Salem Presbyterian Church, Bill Wiegand, Commissioned Pastor</p>	<p>District 4 Churches</p> <p>>>Bethel Presbyterian Church, New Florence, James Sunseri, Commissioned Pastor</p> <p>>>Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence, Richard Sweeney, Covenant Pastor</p>

Reflections from ... Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter



The Waters of Baptism: "Turning (being turned) Around"-Q2

"The Christian life involves both a turning from sin and bondage to evil and a turning to Christ and the way of righteousness. It is to turn our backs on the kind of life that is destructive and to embrace the new life that is promised in the Gospel. Both renunciation and affirmation are aspects of the Christian life, and, therefore, they are important aspects of the baptismal liturgy. Both are equally dependent on God's grace active in our lives and in the community of faith." (Companion to the Book of Common Worship, Ed. Peter Bower, p. 159)

The two-sided currency of our new lives in Jesus Christ is characterized both by "turning from" and "turning to," by repentance and faith. Both actions, while often perceived discretely are interwoven and inseparable and both come only by the underserved grace of our God.

Sometimes, in the ordinariness of life, the temptation arises to think of God's redemptive work in our lives (our "salvation") purely in terms of security, whether in our current struggles or dilemmas or in the final, eschatological declaration. Rather, than animating our very living, it becomes a means of rescue assuring us when we think we are in "need." Otherwise, we have it under "control." In other words, our focus, when necessary, is upon what we are saved from rather than what we are saved for.

Yet, as affirmed by the apostle to the Colossians, you have been "rescued from the power of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." That forgiveness serves not as a security blanket, but a characterization of our new lives in Christ Jesus. It is not even condensed just in the moment we are baptized or are received into the church, but it extends throughout our lives.

More than just turning away/turning to as a singular act, you and I have been called to offer ourselves again and again in repentance and faith, turning away from sin and turning to Jesus Christ. In our baptismal vows, which we need affirmed, "do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?"

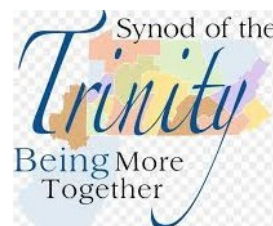
What better time can there be to revisit that inquiry and consider our response anew than during this Lenten season. By God's grace and God's Spirit, may our humble answers ring forth in our words and in our lives, "Yes!"



Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania Shares Article
The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has included clergy and other essential support personnel for houses of worship in Group 1B of its COVID-19 vaccination plan. However, with the expansion of Group 1A and the limited

supply of vaccines, it may be quite a while before Group 1B is invited to receive its first shots. [Click here](#) to read the entire article.

The Synod of the Trinity is pleased to be a part of the second annual Rich Heritage of African Americans in the Presbyterian Church celebration on Saturday, February 20th, at 1:00 p.m. We invite you to tune into this zoom celebration sponsored by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus. The keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Warren Lesane, Synod Exec and Stated Clerk, Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. Registration is required, [click here](#).



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.

PASTOR GETAWAY DAY

Join colleagues on April 5 (right after Easter) for a "getaway" day at Pine Springs Camp. Leave behind the Zoom meetings, cell phone calls, and pandemic isolation for some time outdoors, campfires, and relaxation. Arrive around 10:00 a.m. and stay as long as you want. Lunch will be provided.



2nd SUNDAY EASTER SERVICE (and possibly others)

Looking for a break after Lent and Easter Sunday? Redstone Presbytery will have pre-recorded services available for your use in your congregation. Look for it on the Presbytery YouTube channel and feel free to use on April 11 or any other Sunday.

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.



FREE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP, White Ally in the 21st Century - Later this month the acclaimed speaker and workplace personnel trainer, Dr. David Campt, will tackle how to use practical dialogue to dismantle unintended bias and racism. His work, "The White Ally Toolkit" helps us see how to create a compassionate and welcoming space where love is the driving force of belonging. [Registration](#) is open now for the White Ally in the 21st Century-Practices Toward the Beloved Community workshop, to be held online on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. We hope you will join!

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.



The Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation, a joint ministry of Redstone, Washington, Upper Ohio Valley, Kiskiminetas, and Pittsburgh Presbyteries, are again offering workshops this spring. The next workshop in the series is:

- February 20, 2021 - Stewardship All Year 'Round - Rev. Dr. Dan Hans, Instructor

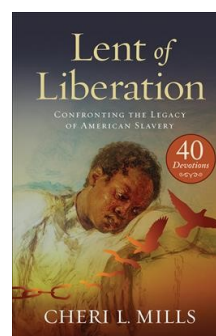
Christian Stewardship and resource management go well beyond a 'get up the budget' campaign each autumn. Participants will study Biblical Stewardship, review traditional stewardship practices, and address new understandings of congregational giving and finances.

This workshop is FREE and will be offered from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing. If you want to attend this workshop, please RSVP to [Bobbie](#) at Redstone Presbytery by Thursday, February 18th and let her know and she will forward you the login information.

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.

Other Lenten devotionals can be downloaded from [Pittsburgh Theological Seminary](#), [Presbyterian Outlook](#), and [Presbyterians Today](#) by clicking on each individual link.



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](#)

PCUSA JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The PCUSA has posted job opportunities at the national level. Click [here](#) to read the entire posting.



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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Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

[Bobbie Martin](#)
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

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