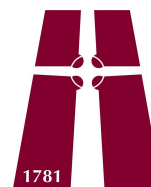


# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## March 10, 2021



Please pray for...

### District 1 Churches

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

>>Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower  
Burrell, Brian Kilbert, Pastor

### District 2 Churches

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

>>Level Green Presbyterian Church,  
Trafford, Geoff Rach, Pastor

### District 3 Churches

>>Pleasant View Presbyterian Church,  
Smock, Laura Blank, Pastor

>>Tent Presbyterian Church, Uniontown,  
Jeff Smith, Commissioned Pastor

### District 4 Churches

>>Bolivar United Presbyterian Church,  
James Sunseri, Commissioned Pastor

>>Colver Presbyterian Church, Owar Ojulu,  
Pastor

## Reflections from ... Donna Havrisko, Honorably Retired

### *An Ongoing Lenten Reflection: Sacred Dirt*

Did you know that in one heaping tablespoon of dirt there are over 5 billion living creatures? That's right billion – with a “B”. This includes not only the visible creatures like insects and worms, but also an infinite variety of fungi, microbes, and the like. God has created them all.

Lent is unfolding. The days are lengthening; Spring is on the horizon. God's earth is waking up after a long winter – and God's people the world over are waking up to see a hopeful end in sight of a long pandemic. Every year Christians observe the Lenten season. But this year's Lent is different. Lent is different this year because the *past year itself* has been a hard year due to the devastation of the Corona virus. We are a world in mourning.

The introductory Lenten liturgy traditionally focuses on ashes and dirt as a sign of our mortality. A sign of repentance, of humility; of introspection. But perhaps we've had too much of that focus this year, Rev. Diana Butler Bass suggests in an essay titled, “Just Another Ashy Day”. She explores how God may be speaking to us *anew* in this 2021 season of Lent. Opening the Bible, Bass calls us to return to the setting of God creating all creatures “from the dust” of the earth in Genesis 2:6-7; 19. She writes, “Dust may be our ending, but it was also our beginning. Dust and ash are the stuff of

Creation..... From dust and ash come flowers and trees and fruitful fields.... Dust and ash are necessary for life.”

Perhaps during Lent 2021 we might spend time reflecting on and *responding to God's* graceful gift in creating animals and people from seemingly lifeless dust: indeed to congregations that are world-weary, such reflection will be a wellspring of hope! This biblical hope, coupled with the Springtime resurrection in the earth around us may be like a drink of water to thirsty people. It's good news, indeed!

As Christians we have a mandate to honor God's gift of Creation through faithful stewardship of the environment and care for the world around us. We're called to confront the harm we bring to the earth, and use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to work towards restoring the earth. Greenfaith International is inviting people to participate in a program, "Sacred People, Sacred Earth" on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The goal of that day is to encourage people in congregations to each do something to promote the sacredness of Creation. It could be something small like walking instead of driving your car for one day; or using recycled materials; or planting trees and pollinator plants; or using renewable materials like bamboo instead of plastic utensils that contribute to landfill waste. It might be writing to your legislators to advocate for good stewardship of the land, water, and air in the laws that we pass.

These kinds of activities are intergenerational and have the potential to get new members, as well as old, involved. They sound like good "Lenten practices" to me. We have had enough of death this past year. Let's walk together towards Life.

- Rev. Donna Havrisko



## DECENNIAL FILINGS

For important information from the Synod of the Trinity regarding the requirements of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for Decennial Filings [click here](#)

## 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. [Click here](#) for more information.



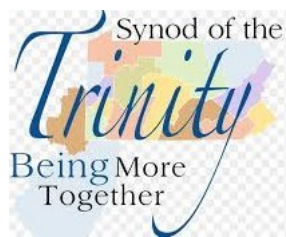
## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY EASTER SERVICE (and possibly others)

Looking for a break after Lent and Easter Sunday? Redstone Presbytery will have pre-recorded services available for your use in your congregation.

--For Easter Season Service - John 20, [click here](#) for the bulletin and [click here](#) for the video.

--For Easter Season Service - Acts 4, [click here](#) for the bulletin and [click here](#) for the video.

Feel free to use these on April 11 or any other Sunday.



## UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Is your congregation working to bring about social change for Christ in your community? Serving in ways that enhance accessibility, eradicate poverty, address hunger and/or racial justice, and strengthen your community? Do you ever collaborate or engage with other organizations to serve these kinds of needs?

If so, there are funding opportunities outside of our denomination that may be a great match for your needs, depending on your location and programming. To access these opportunities, and explore the available opportunities that may be a match for your needs [Click Here](#). Should you have further questions after exploring, please reach out to Elizabeth Connelly, [econnelly@syntrinity.org](mailto:econnelly@syntrinity.org)

### Is your church a historic facility? Do you need support for capital improvements?

The National Fund for Sacred Places, a program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historical Preservation, provides support to community-serving congregations to aid in the stewardship of their historic facilities. This is an exciting and rare funding opportunity. [Click Here](#) to learn more.

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:



- March 20, 2021 - Vitality in All Sizes; Small Congregations - Rev. Lee McDermott, Facilitator

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.

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](http://StewardshipKaleidoscope.org).

**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

[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*

Presbytery of Redstone

[www.redstonepresbytery.org](http://www.redstonepresbytery.org)

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