

Presbytery of Redstone eNews

March 17, 2021



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

>>First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville,
Ed Gray, Pastor

>>Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church,
Murrysville, Curtis Paul, Pastor; Travis
Webster, Associate Pastor

District 2 Churches

>>Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West
Newton, Ed Gray, Moderator

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

District 3 Churches

>>Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown,
Ronald Johnson, Pastor

>>Trinity United Presbyterian Church,
Uniontown, James Gear, Pastor

District 4 Churches

>>Cresson Presbyterian Church, Alice
Tondora, Moderator

>>Ebensburg Presbyterian Church, Owar
Ojulu, Pastor

Reflections from ... Len Morgan, Commissioned Pastor, New Alexandria, Community United

What a difference a year makes...

This time last year, in person worship was shut down and we became overnight experts in Facebook Live, Zoom meetings and YouTube. It was a scramble with the rules often changing daily. Capacity was limited and social distancing was in. Singing was out, choirs disappeared...Sunday school ceased to exist.

Hospital visitations became a challenge, basically everyone became a shut in. Sessions developed mask policies, pews were roped off and struggled to keep a budget as giving plummeted. Fund raising events were canceled and in the midst of all this I changed churches. I had been at Calvin for seven years and quickly moved to Zoom worship when we were shut down. Once we returned to in person worship I gave my notice and moved to Community (New Alexandria). I started a YouTube channel and continued to publish the worship, including virtual communion. In person Communion changed from being handled by Session to individual cups and bread. I became a technology guru teaching the congregation how to use the various platforms. When the numbers for Westmoreland County spiked we shut down again. During this time we improved our website and newsletter to maintain communication with the congregation. A yearend stewardship push allowed us to meet our budget. Through all this the congregation continued to support our ministry. Attendance has been hit and miss.

Lent was interrupted last year and it was a Different Easter. Buy the time Advent and Christmas rolled around worship looked different; we learned to elbow bump. We had two baptisms this year, life goes on even in the midst of a pandemic. Sadly, life also ceases and we had two funerals. Through it all I remind the congregation that God is with us. We celebrate the Lord's Supper to remember that he died for our sins, that we are forgiven through his grace and mercy AND that He will come again and we must prepare for that.

Last year we knew little and there was much fear. Earlier this year they released the vaccines. I eventually got my shots (Moderna) along with others. Fear has turned to anxiety as many worry if they will get the shot in time. Local business has opened with some restrictions and people are getting out of isolation. Through it all Pastor Check In (a weekly zoom meeting of pastors in the presbytery) helped with insight into how other congregations were dealing with common issues. A constant reminder to take it to the Lord in prayer. Through it all we have prayed as a congregation. We will soon face Holy Week and Easter. Celebrating the resurrection. We are an Easter people. Yes this Easter will be different from last Easter. For this year has shown that our God is alive. He is risen...yes indeed he has.

Pastor Len Morgan, CP
Community United – New Alexandria

The 2020 Session Minutes and Church Register review dates have been set as follows:

- Tuesday, March 30, 2021 - 5:00 p.m. - Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown
- Tuesday, April 13, 2021 - Time TBD - First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown
- Tuesday, May 11, 2021 - 5:00 p.m. - Redstone Presbytery Center
- Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 5:00 p.m. - First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg (pre-Presbytery meeting)



Following up the initiative of the Council this past year, a new network has been formed to connect, share and promote ministries focused on racial justice and reconciliation. The next meeting by Zoom will take place on March 24; 4:00 p.m. If you would like to join in with this group, please contact the office for Zoom meeting info.

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.



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.

--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.

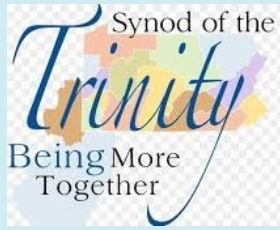
Feel free to use these on April 11 or any other Sunday.

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 workshops in the series are:



- March 20, 2021 - Vitality in All Sizes; Small Congregations - Rev. Lee McDermott, Instructor
- April 17, 2021 - Creative and Faithful Celebrations of the Sacraments - Rev. Laura Blank, Instructor

These workshops are 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... For Pastors, Leaders and Congregations. Virtual gatherings for this time and the new day that is unfolding within and among us as we move beyond the Pandemic. The Synod of the Trinity is offering several spring opportunities for you to breathe, recalibrate, and revision, moving ahead over what has been, and may still be, a long road. The vaccines offer a promising future even while continuing with masks and distancing. A way forward - the promise of new wholeness - now and not yet. As Christians, we understand that reality. It takes practice and attention to remain nimble and open to the Spirit as we go. We trust that you will find encouragement and tools to aid your walk and leadership in these offerings. Explore one or all three...the choice is yours.

- Tuesday, April 6, 2021 - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. - The Next Right Thing: Grace-Filled Ministry in a Turbulent World (Through Improvisation) - Rev. Mary Ann McKibben Dana
- Friday, April 16, 2021 - 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. - Moving Through to the Other Side - Rev. Dr. Graham Standish
- Monday, April 19, 2021 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - From Surviving to Thriving: Designing Toward Post-Covid Ministry - Rev. Mary Ann McKibben Dana

More information and registration [available 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](#).



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Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

Presbytery of Redstone

www.redstonepresbytery.org