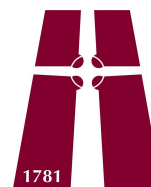


# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## April 8, 2021



### Please pray for...

#### District 1 Churches

>>Congruity Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria, Cliff Foster, Pastor

>>United Presbyterian Church, New Kensington, Wendy Keys, Pastor

#### District 2 Churches

>>First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Martin Ankrum, Pastor

>>Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Steve LaSor, Pastor

#### District 3 Churches

>>First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Mary Kay Glunt, Pastor

>>Harmony Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Glenn Hart, Commissioned Pastor

#### District 4 Churches

>>Second Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Art Moffat, Temporary Supply

>>Westmont Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Rene Whitaker, Interim Pastor

## Reflections from ... Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter



#### Resurrection Center

Even in a pandemic that continues to be among us where every day seems like the last, nonetheless the liturgical calendar provides structure to our lives and reflections. In the “busyness” of Lenten practice of repentance and preparation culminating in the Holy Week remembrance, we reach the destination of that journey. The cross defined God’s willing sacrifice for God’s people and the world and even becomes the symbol which defines the “how” we are also expected to live in a world that may reject God’s way. Yet, that Easter celebration becomes the foundation not merely of a vindication past, but the reality of a victory of a living Christ that we encounter and defines the “who” we are and may become.

Celebration of this resurrection makes clear that nothing is as it once was. We are not what we once were. Jesus resurrection as the “first fruits” is not just a promise of future certainty beyond the physical death of expiration, but the death in which we once lived. Knowing that resurrected and living in and with that Christ is what Eugene Peterson referred to as our “resurrection center.”

“We live the Christian life out of a rich tradition of formation-by-resurrection. Jesus resurrection provides the energy and the conditions by which we “walk before the Lord in the land of the living” – the great psalm phrase (116:9). The resurrection of Jesus creates and then makes available the reality in which we are formed as new creatures in Christ by the Holy Spirit.” (Peterson, Living the Resurrection; The Risen Christ in Everyday Life; p. 13)

The very purpose of that writing was to challenge us to “recover this resurrection center and embrace the formation traditions that develop out of it.” Like me, I suspect that many of you

may also need to “recover” the risen Christ in everyday life. Somehow, we also may lose at times that clear sense of Christ’s resurrection presence defining and empowering us by grace in, through and for the daily realities of living in a kingdom that has come and is coming to this world.

In that same work by Peterson, this is characterized by “resurrection wonder.” Not to be defined by some baptized form of self-help in spiritual formation, our lives should be defined by being aware of the presence and power of this resurrected Jesus continuing to make all things new. There, in that presence and power, our everyday lives at work and play, in families and in institutions, we are able to engage in what God, the resurrected and living One, is doing among us.

During this Easter season and beyond, may the wonder not just that first resurrection event but the presence of the living Christ appears now with us and among us that we might “recover that resurrection center.”

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:



- April 17, 2021 - Creative and Faithful Celebrations of the Sacraments - Rev. Laura Blank, Instructor

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 Wednesday, April 14th and let her know and she will forward you the login information.

The congregation of the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Boswell voted to close the church effective December 31, 2020. There will be a closing service at that church, 327 Allegheny Street, Boswell, PA, on Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Social distancing and CDC guidelines will be followed. Please keep this congregation in your prayers as they move forward.

# Welcome Visitors

Does your church have a visitor pamphlet? If so, would you mind sharing it with us? You can send it to the Presbytery office via snail mail at 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg, PA 15601 or via email at [secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org). Thank you!!

Rehoboth Presbyterian Church will be having a Spring Vendor Craft Show on Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Click [here](#) for more information.



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

- 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)

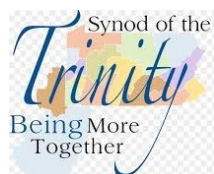


**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS... For Pastors, Leaders and Congregations.** Virtual gatherings for this time and the new day that is unfolding within and among us as we move beyond the Pandemic. The Synod of the Trinity is offering several spring opportunities for you to breathe, recalibrate, and revision, 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 available by clicking [here](#).



Read the Synod of the Trinity newsletter by clicking [here](#).

### 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](#).



### Redstone Pastor Information

#### Weekly Zoom Pastor Check-In

Wednesdays at NOON - virtual food and fellowship

#### Redstone Pastors Facebook Group

### 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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