

# Presbytery of Redstone eNews April 22, 2021



Please pray for...

<p><b>District 1 Churches</b></p> <p>&gt;&gt;Delmont Presbyterian Church, Anthony Catullo, Interim Pastor</p> <p>&gt;&gt;Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Ken Foust, Pastor</p>	<p><b>District 2 Churches</b></p> <p>&gt;&gt;West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Andrew Wirt, Pastor</p> <p>&gt;&gt;First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette, Dawn Sherwood, Pastor</p>
<p><b>District 3 Churches</b></p> <p>&gt;&gt;Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Jane Johnson, Covenant Pastor</p> <p>&gt;&gt;Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Louise Corbett, Moderator</p>	<p><b>District 4 Churches</b></p> <p>&gt;&gt;Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence, Richard Sweeney, Covenant Pastor</p> <p>&gt;&gt;Patton Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Moderator</p>



### Living Faith in a Living Savior

In the midst of the many ordinary ways we live our lives, we can easily fall into patterns where the “de facto” expression of our faith seems more just like another component. Rather than a defining and permeating presence of our lives, it becomes a set of detailed doctrines or moral codes or even just personal experiences of forgiveness and reassurances. While the nature of living faith may involve each of these, it is never defined by them. They can become a faith of our own doing, a trust in our own constructions. Yet, the Good News of Jesus the Christ, the Gospel that transforms not just us, but the world, is a trust in one who lives even now.

The difference, while subtle and not always externally apparent, nonetheless is foundational to our identity and its expression in our living. Peterson rightly captured the contrast in his words, “resurrection life, as defined by Jesus’ resurrection, is totally different from what we are used to, as different as death is from life.” The difference is marked by resurrection where death is overcome by a living God in Jesus Christ and one who is the “first fruits” of those who would also be “buried with him in baptism” and “raised with him through faith in the working of God.”

The very nature of understanding and embodying this living faith in a living Jesus the Christ redefines the connections between heaven and earth, between the dwelling place of authority of our God and God’s created world. Our faith in this living Christ anticipates with hope a world, renewed and restored, where “all things” are made right even through the transformative power of suffering and death and yet, resurrection. Tom Wright wrote that “Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming forward from the future into the present.”

That “hope in person” is not about merely surviving a “deathly” present in order to be rescued on the other side. It is about trusting a living Savior now who leads, guides and walks alongside us together as a collective body discerning, claiming and laboring for God’s kingdom, acknowledging Jesus’ Lordship and the Spirit’s presence. At times, the world of death may seem so dark and the overcoming light seems so dim. In those days, if our faith is in any construction of our own (even with Christian representations), despair can threaten to overwhelm us. But to live the resurrection faith is to live with a living savior who claims you in love and calls you to a new reality that may not always be visible or obvious but has come and is coming. So, in the company of all those who live by faith in a living savior, let us proclaim not only for their benefit, but for the good of the world, “He is risen!!”

**EARTH DAY – EARTH MONTH** - How can your congregation celebrate Earth Day? While it is not a faith-based occasion, it is fair to argue that Earth Day should be a natural observance for Christians. In the first pages of Scripture, God calls us to care for Creation. Whether Earth Day, April 22, and Earth Month are annual celebrations in your faith community or new to you, the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) has a variety of resources of its own and from ecumenical partners to enrich your observance. [Click here](#) to read more.



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

- 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)

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:



- May 15, 2021 - Shared Leadership in Ordered Ministries: Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders, and How We Lead Together

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 and let her know and she will forward you the login information.



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.

Presbyterian Women of Redstone Presbytery will be having a Spring Retreat at Pine Springs Camp on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. For more information [click here](#).



Pine Springs Camp’s Annual Golf Outing will be held on Monday, May 24. Don’t miss a great day on Arnie’s ‘home’ course in Latrobe. Call



814-629-9843 for more information. \$225 per golfer; discount if you bring your foursome.

Coming in July 2021 - Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living is a thirty-six-unit curriculum based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. Written for people of all ages who wish to live out their faith, this new curriculum will examine where these practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used in Christian faith then and now. Click [here](#) for more information.



Is your congregation working to alleviate food insecurity in your community? This might be through a food pantry or other food providing service developed by your congregation. Perhaps you are partnering with another denomination or community organization to help the hungry?

If so, the FEMA Emergency Food & Shelter Grant may support your work. [CLICK HERE](#) for further details.

Additionally, should you decided to apply for the grant and are seeking a contact person in your county who can help you access it, you can find that information [HERE](#). Should you have further questions after exploring, please reach out to Elizabeth Connelly, [econnelly@syntrinity.org](mailto:econnelly@syntrinity.org)

### 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

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