

Presbytery of Redstone eNews

May 12, 2021



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

>>Community United Presbyterian Church,
New Alexandria, Leonard Morgan,
Commissioned Pastor

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

District 2 Churches

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

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

District 3 Churches

>>Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church,
Farmington, Jim Gear, Moderator

>>First Presbyterian Church, Fayette City,
Aleda Menchy, Moderator

District 4 Churches

>>First Presbyterian Church, Ebensburg,
Owar Ojulu, Pastor

>>Bethany Presbyterian Church,
Johnstown, Denise Todero, Commissioned
Pastor

“When We Come Together”

Although we are still a long way away from overcoming this pandemic and its effects, many congregations have returned to some form of gathering together (even in hybrid forms). Not “out of the woods,” there remains a need for caution and appropriate attention to details of health and safety protocols. There has been much to appreciate about the gifts of technology and other tools that God provided for our use at just the right time, helping us to think differently about what we did and why we did it. Some of these new expressions will continue to be employed going forward. Yet, even with these necessary accommodations, I have found myself drawn to the renewed experience of meeting our God in collective worship.

It is not just about a longing to experience life in “normalcy” by being able to repeat (in modified form) the patterns that preceded this disruption. Neither is it merely the desirable return of even the most casual interpersonal interaction and friendships, although these are important as well (“weak ties”). Nor is it just the opportunity to engage God and each other with more of the senses than the two-dimension world of computer screens (sight and sound). Certainly, inclusive of each of these feelings, yet there is something far more important that occurs when we come together. For when we gather together to worship our God, through praise and thanksgiving, prayer and petition, receiving the Word and the Sacrament, our God who is “present and active among us” is glorified.

Certainly, God can and is worshipped in many ways and through many forms both individually and collectively. Yet, in our worship of our God who is both Creator and Redeemer, we acknowledge that time, space and matter (BOO; W-1.02) are important. There are necessary accommodations in worship methods and patterns (sometimes resulting from a pandemic, sometimes the result of a number of other concerns). Nevertheless, these accommodations are concessions actually supporting the norms of worship as unique when we come together in a particular place to celebrate God’s incomprehensible grace to us. Though seen only in part or “through a glass darkly,” nonetheless they signify each week,



when we come together, our own reminder and anticipation of that day to come when by God's transformative grace, "all things" will be made new.

NOTE: While affirming the distinctiveness of our gathered worship experience, please do not take this to be an endorsement of somehow abandoning appropriate health/safety protocols or responsible management of risk on behalf of the congregation. Our stewardship of congregations not only warrants these accommodations in particular seasons, but it is our calling of leadership to make wise decisions and further confirms that these are essential allowances.



The May 25, 2021 Presbytery meeting will be held in the same way as the previous meeting with most participants primarily through Zoom and the option for any platform participants or those without internet access to be "in-person" at the First Presbyterian Church in Greensburg. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. If you have an announcement for the announcements

loop for this meeting please send that information directly to

redstonestories@gmail.com by Tuesday, May 18. **Please also let the Presbytery office know of the commissioners from your church that will be attending so the packet and Zoom login information can be sent to everyone that will be attending prior to the meeting.**

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

- Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 5:00 p.m. - First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg (pre-Presbytery meeting)



Pine Springs "Encourage a Staff Member" With moving forward with plans to host summer camp in 2021, an important role for many churches is to both pray for and encourage a summer staff member. Your church can "adopt" one of these staff members by contacting Greg Davis (greg@pinesprings.org) and noting the congregation and the contact person's information.

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

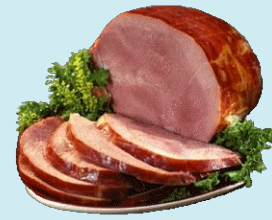
These workshops are FREE and will be offered from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing. If you want to attend this workshop, please RSVP to [Bobbie](#) at Redstone Presbytery by noon on Thursday, May 13, 2021 and let her know and she will forward you the login information.



With the end of this month, we will have completed another academic year of the Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation Program. Consequently, we are beginning the identification and recruitment process for Ruling Elders who are interested in growing in their faith, knowledge and practice to serve either in commissioned roles or in their own local congregation. As a program that operates across presbyteries

(Washington, Pittsburgh, UOV, Kiski), those who participate not only have a great opportunity through courses, workshops and supervised practicum experiences, but they also engage with other Ruling Elders from congregations around the region. We will be enrolling new participants to begin with the Reformed Theology course offered in August-December. If you have a Ruling Elder who God might be calling to do more to serve your congregation or the larger Church, please consider both speaking with them about participation and referring them to [Skip Noftzger](#) for more information.

The Derry Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of 108 Presby Way and North Chestnut Street, Derry, PA (724-694-5710) will be hosting a TAKEOUT ONLY Ham Dinner, Saturday, May 15th beginning at 2:00 p.m. The menu includes ham, mac & cheese, green beans, applesauce, roll and butter and dessert. The cost is \$10.00 per meal. This is TAKEOUT ONLY. PICK UP will be at the entrance of Fellowship Hall near garage and kitchen entrance. We appreciate your support!



Redd Up Camp Workday is Saturday, May 15! They need your help! Come help get camp ready for hosting hundreds of campers this summer. Each year this day blesses the PSC ministry and this year it will be a special blessing since it will be almost 2 years since summer campers were there! The main course for lunch will be provided and we ask that each group bring a Pot-luck item, snacks, dessert, or salad. There will be jobs for the skilled and unskilled from raking leaves, to cleaning buildings, to helping build things! If you have questions or would like to register to help please call the

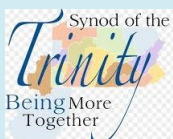
office at 814.629.9834 or email Greg Davis, Executive Director at greg@pinesprings.org so they know how many people to plan for!

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](#).

Redstone@Home just opened up a part-time Spiritual Care Coordinator (Chaplain) position within the Fayette County division. This position would be responsible for the spiritual well-being for 10 to 20 hospice residents at any given time, mostly in facilities but also in their individual homes. The role is part-time, and the days will vary, based on client caseload. It will be guaranteed 20 hours per week and will likely be a non-exempt or hourly position. The interdisciplinary team (IDT) meets on Wednesdays currently, under the direction of Dr. Sean Conley, and attendance for that meeting on a bi-weekly basis would be required. Benefits would include paid-time off and IRS mileage reimbursement for mileage. If you are interested in this position, [click here](#) to apply.



SYNOD OF THE TRINITY SPRING REGIONAL 2021 GATHERING

Synod commissioned, and other presbytery leaders (up to 6 total), are invited to gather with Rev. Jihyun Oh, Director of Mid Council Ministries, Office of the General Assembly, for the 2021 Synod Spring Regional

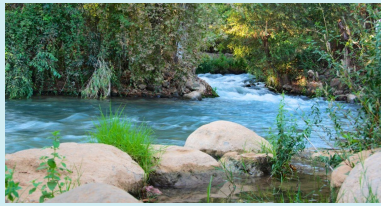
gathering as we think critically and consider how our understanding of the image of God informs us, even transforms us, here and now. These will be zoom gatherings. Below are the dates for your region (feel free to shift if need be.)

Wednesday, May 26th - 9 a.m. to NOON, Eastern and Central Regions

Thursday, May 27th - 9 a.m. to NOON, Northwest and Southwest Regions

[REGISTER 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.



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There are some openings for the October (13-25) pilgrimage which travels to both sides of the Jordan river. If you are ready to travel and wanting to go, please contact either Jim Farrer (814.659.8151) or Norma Murphy (412.427.7456) for more information.

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](#).



A NEW DEVOTIONAL – *Psobriety: A Journey of Recovery through the Psalms*, by Jeff Dafler, features the comforting words of all 150 Psalms, paired with devotions and prayers, to support those in recovery from alcohol and substance abuse. For more information, [click here](#).

2021 HENDERSON SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND THE J. HUBERT HENDERSON LECTURE ON CHURCH AND MINISTRY at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



Samaritan's Counseling is continuing to offer weekly online worship service designed specifically for clergy as part of their Caring for Clergy and Congregations program. They have received a lot of good feedback over the past seven months from pastors who've found it helpful in their lives and ministries, and that providentially they have touched on issues they were in the midst of struggling with. That's how the Spirit works sometimes. Here is the link for this week's service: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uf7IR8kmDE>

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