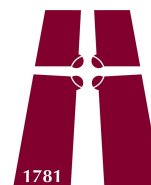


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

June 9, 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

- >>Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Steve LaSor, Pastor
- >>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Bill Youmans, Interim Pastor

District 3 Churches

- >>McClellandtown Presbyterian Church, Lee McDermott, Pastor
- >>Dunlap's Creek Presbyterian Church, Merrittstown, Aleda Menchyk, Moderator

District 4 Churches

- >>Bethel Presbyterian Church, New Florence, James Sunseri, Commissioned Pastor
- >>Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence, Rick Sweeney, Covenant Pastor



Pandemic "Flourishing"—Just a Few Lessons Learned

During this season of pandemic, where many of those supports were removed or shifted to new forms, we have had to once more rely solely upon our God and connect to others in the church in new ways. Hence, our own sense of identity, our own understanding of what it means to live our lives in Christ, has taken on new tangible expressions. Being renewed as the image of God in righteousness looks differently. God's wholeness and flourishing, desired and designed for us, begins to be a "new" kind. Perhaps, it may be altogether new or it might be a renewed acknowledgement of what we had once known, but lost in the seduction of other forms of "progress."

This has been true for me in many ways. I have become far more conscious of my surroundings and God's creation in nature and in its God-inspired development. Progress and accomplishment has been measured far more by conversations that nurture and challenge life-giving renewal. Although limited by the media, nonetheless the ubiquity of cell phones and Zoom made my connections more consistent and regular than they ever had been not only in my work, but in my family. Limitations of travel permitted me to participate in normal meal times and even once in awhile an opportunity to just sit on the deck (even without my computer or phone 😊)

Adaptations and renewal have also been true among countless congregations, including our own in Redstone. Despite (*maybe even because of*) our "loss" of our traditional forms of "doing church," we became creative in finding the opportunities to both love our God and love our neighbor anew. Beyond just putting "technological clothing" on the old, we began to recognize that access to our gatherings of worship may be something we cannot take for granted. And perhaps, we might know ourselves the experiences and isolation from Christ's

body of those who are home bound or traveling or working schedules they don't control. In churches, near and far, the priority of caring for one another in the congregation and in the community became more than just another intermittent program. Genuine care and shepherding was initiated by elders and deacons and countless others in the church through reaching out in conversations and personal gestures. Responses to needs of health or food security or shelter became not merely acts of charity, but personal interventions as the hands and feet of Jesus grounded in our commitment to our God and to each other, especially the "least of these." Perhaps, in real tangible ways, we became the embodiment of the name we claim as the Body of Christ.

With restrictions being lifted, it is and will continue to be tempting to believe everything is done. Yet, this period of pandemic is far from over not only in our own country, but certainly among our neighbors around the world. The temptation to return to what is most comfortable and demands less energy of us will beckon us to life that is easier. Yet, let us not forget the lessons of faithfulness and God' blessing that have been learned during a season that we would not have chosen. Let us not retreat and abandon the renewal that has come by God's grace during these times, where we witnessed flourishing among us and through us in God's design and desires for us both individually and as communities. For though it may have not always been easy, God's grace was present in new and powerful ways where we flourished and our God was glorified in us, in our congregations, and in our communities.

There will be a special called meeting of the Presbytery on July 20, 2021 to examine and approve the call of a candidate as Pastor of Westmont Presbyterian Church in Johnstown. This 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.



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 Presbytery will be doing a bulk order for the 2021/2022 Planning Calendars. Calendars begin in September again this year. The bulk order rate per calendar will be \$10.50 this year. If you would like to get in on the bulk rate deal please complete [the order form](#) and email it or mail it with your payment to the Presbytery office. The deadline for orders will be August 2, 2021 in order to have them for distribution at the September meeting. Thank you!



At the May Presbytery meeting, Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley offered a presentation on the various resources available to pastors and congregations by the Presbyterian Foundation. In case you missed it, or could not keep up on the screen, you will be able to access the slide deck of that presentation by [clicking here](#). You can also reach her at ellie.johns-kelley@presbyterianfoundation.org

We 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 225th General Assembly will be a hybrid event held in person in Louisville, KY for committee meetings and online plenary sessions in June and July of 2022. The Session of each church has the opportunity to nominate a young person to attend the General Assembly as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YADD). The person you nominate should be at least 17 years of age, but no older than 23 years of age, on June 20, 2022. Please return the [attached nomination form/application](#) to the Presbytery office by August 15, 2021. Thank you.

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 your 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

Presbytery of Redstone | 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg, PA 15601

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by secretary@redstonepresbytery.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!