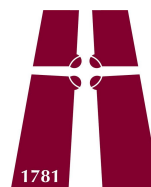


# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## June 16, 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

>>First Presbyterian Church, Irwin,  
Ron Wakeman, Pastor

>>West Hempfield Presbyterian  
Church, Irwin, Andrew Wirt, Pastor

#### District 3 Churches

>>New Salem Presbyterian Church,  
Bill Wiegand, Commissioned Pastor

>>Calvin United Presbyterian Church,  
Scottdale, Doug Yauger,  
Commissioned Pastor

#### District 4 Churches

>>Patton Presbyterian Church, Alice  
Tondora, Moderator

>>Revloc Presbyterian Church, David  
O'Hara, Commissioned Pastor



**Together.... Claimed, Covenanted, Called**  
Growing up in a Lutheran church, my participation was nominal at best. The question of faith and membership seemed distant not only in the particular congregation, but the universal Church (capital C), Body of Christ. So, while my children wrestled with the “need” for membership in a local church (*that was their anti-institutional perspective*), my issues were much more fundamental regarding faith, membership and its meaning.

Confirmation class (which my mother committed me to joining) expected of young Lutheran teens in those days was three years in length. As you might imagine, my enrollment did not go well. I might have made it through most of year one before “dropping out.” A pattern of several other “stops and starts” continued, along with moving to another state thrown into the mix. You might think that I was not willing to make that commitment of time as an adolescent. Yet, that was not really the case. What was true was that I was not going to make that type of commitment with a destination of “membership,” unless I was sure that it was what I believed (being strong-minded did not just occur in my later years 😊). In fact, when questions or doubts of faith in God threatened to make any possible membership declaration hypocritical on my part or compromise my own sense of integrity, I would drop out (*much to my mother’s consternation*).

You see, although God’s love signified in the waters of baptism may have been claiming my life, nonetheless, God’s grace had not yet called forth a response of recognition, much less faithfulness. In God’s providence, only later, did I find my heart “strangely warmed” in encountering God in Jesus the Christ as creator and redeemer. And recognize God’s renewing grace to be true, not only of the world, but for one headstrong teenage boy.

I wish I could say that my confirmation dropout days were done, but it took another year or so, before I reached out to the pastor to inquire about how my newfound faith could connect

with others through this covenant of membership. Now, being significantly older than any other "normal" confirmands, he offered me an alternative to the three-year cycle (*life experience credit?*). IF I wrote my own statement of faith, he would read and consider it as a means to becoming a member of that congregation. The rest is history.

By God's grace, people are claimed to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. God's new covenant brings us together as God's people. God's call to faithful discipleship and sanctifying work is and always has been a shared pursuit. Today, with our hybrid worship services and interconnectedness with those near and far, we are wrestling with the forms that are and will be taking. Yet, the core of it will remain God's claim upon us, God's covenantal promises to us and God's call for us all expressed and lived out in what we call church.

## Nominations

The Nominating committee of Redstone Presbytery is seeking Ruling Elders who would be willing to share their gifts, talents, and perspectives in service of the larger church. Perhaps, you or someone you know, would be good. Please pass their names on to [executive@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:executive@redstonepresbytery.org) or [aamrlm@aol.com](mailto:aamrlm@aol.com).

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 begin at 6:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Greensburg, and will be held in the same way as the previous meeting with most participants primarily through Zoom and with the option for "in-person" for anyone who desires to be there, if you are vaccinated or will be masked.



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!

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 225<sup>th</sup> 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.

Learn all about a new curriculum, Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living, with this free on demand webinar.

What you'll learn:

- What Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living is
- How this curriculum is different from other curricula
- How this curriculum uses the Bible
- What ages use this curriculum
- What the different components are and how they work together
- A look at the inside of the curriculum
- Pricing and ordering information



### 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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