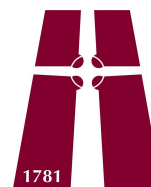


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

July 29, 2021



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

~~Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church,
Murrysville - Curtis Paul, Pastor;
Travis Webster, Associate Pastor

~~Union Presbyterian Church,
Murrysville - Sue Washburn, Interim
Pastor

District 2 Churches

~~First Presbyterian Church,
Greensburg - Martin Ankrum, Pastor

~~Maplewood Presbyterian Church,
Greensburg - Steve LaSor, Pastor

District 3 Churches

~~Rehoboth Presbyterian Church,
Belle Vernon - Donald Glunt, Pastor

~~Calvin Presbyterian Church,
Brownsville

District 4 Churches

~~Trinity Presbyterian Church, New
Florence - Rick Sweeney, Covenant
Pastor

~~Patton Presbyterian Church -
Alice Tondora, Moderator



Participating in Christ's Mission - A Matter of Integrity

Often when I encounter people in various congregations, I will inquire how long they have been a member of that particular congregation. The answer is usually accompanied by a number of stories about their own experiences or their family history within that congregation. Each of them reflecting on the value that they have placed on their participation with that particular church. Yet, these tangible stories are only small pieces of a bigger picture, not only of what God has done and is doing in that specific congregation, but in the world.

Being a member of a congregation in the Church of Jesus Christ means more than merely joining an organization or social group or having our names in the Register. By God's grace, we have been invited into participation in Christ's mission in the world. It is a calling for each and everyone of us. Though differing in gifts and particular stations assigned, nonetheless in our common calling together, we seek to be faithful disciples both personally and collectively.

Many of those responsibilities share the common feature of being privileged to participate in something bigger, Christ's mission of renewal and transformation in the world. The good news is not merely "good" for us individually, but for others, for relationships and for the world that we live. So, whatever form it takes, we are privileged that our God, who could even make the stones cry out, has chosen us to bring forth his kingdom through the faithful actions of God's people empowered by God's presence.

Although not a comprehensive list, I am struck by the responsibilities enumerated in our own documents attempting to provide guidance on the shared practical expressions of our discipleship (see *Book of Order, G-1.0304; "Ministry of Members"*). While many of the items listed may be expected and some we may be more "drawn" to than others, yet their significance lies in not being able to "pick and choose" among them, but rather in our grace-empowered faithful efforts to live out each of them. Not a checklist of obligations. No, this is a series of invitations offering to us the opportunity to consider, pray and act not merely for the benefit of our local congregation as organization, but to be part of what God is doing in our neighborhoods, in our communities and in our world.

Yet, out of this entire group (and there are other possible expressions of faithfulness), the list culminates with a call to self-reflection. Each one of us assumes responsibility for regularly "reviewing and evaluating" the integrity of our membership. Taking stock of our integrity as a disciple of Jesus Christ must mean more than being able to cross off the list that I did my part in serving on session or providing financial support or even "volunteering" once in awhile for specific projects that might need to be completed. Evaluating the "integrity" of one's membership might lead us even beyond an assessment, that though honest, yet permits us to rationalize. It might challenge us to consider in what ways our lives are defined by the One we call Lord, how the way we live has responded to the challenge to "take up the cross and follow me" and whether our words and actions embody God's mission to which we have been invited to participate as a member. As the summer begins to wind down (sorry for the bad news), I believe it just may be a good time for all of us to review and evaluate our integrity as members, as disciples and as mission participants.

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!



PRESBYTERIANS FOR EARTH CARE - Record-breaking heat waves, supersized fires, massive flooding all seem point to global climate change. You are urged to consider participating in the online Conference for Creation Care & Countering Climate Change on the evenings of August 1, 8, and 15. Please find more information [here](#).

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.

Nominations

First Presbyterian Church Annual Peach Festival

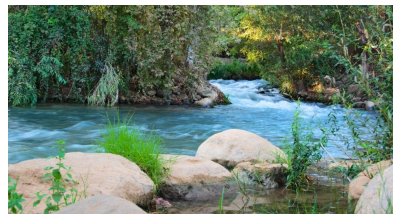
The Peach Festival, including a classic car show, lunch, and a bake sale will be held Saturday, August 14, 2021, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at First



Presbyterian Belle Vernon, 501 Fayette Street, Rostraver Township. No admission charge for the music and car show. Luncheon items include peach cobbler a la mode, hot dogs, kielbasa, and other luncheon items and, of course, bake sale items. A limited number of peach pies will be available for \$11 each, and can be ordered at the festival or by calling the church office, 724-929-7616, to be picked

up the following week. All proceeds support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church.

The custom-designed Redstone trip to Israel: "Walking Where Jesus Walked" October 14-26, 2021 has two unexpected openings. You must act NOW. Call Rev. Jim Farrer 814.629.5211 or Rev. Norma Murphy 412.427.7456 if you are interested in joining.



Upcoming Events at Christian Associates

Monday, August 16 at 7 p.m.: Families and Politics, an interactive workshop from Braver Angels, in partnership with Christian Associates and many other community organizations. Today's toxic partisan environment can make political conversations with the ones we love most a real challenge! This workshop will help you gain the skills you need to preserve important family bonds while still being true to your own values and political beliefs, no matter which side of the aisle you call your own. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/familiesaugust16>.

Tuesday, August 24 at 1 p.m.: We Have to Talk About Reparations. Join interfaith spiritual leaders from across Southwest Pennsylvania to explore the ways our faith inspires us to mend what has been broken -- and how contemporary movements for reparations can offer healing and hope. The Zoom event features stories from local and national faith leaders as well as opportunities for small group conversation and connection. Sign up at casp.org/reparations.

Pastor and Elder Training Workshops Fall 2021 - Presented by IPLF have been set. Workshops include:



- Seasonal Lections from Hebrews - August 21, 2021
- Sermons From the Ground Up - September 11, 2021
- American Holy Days: How to Think Theologically About Secular Culture - October 9, 2021
- Diseases of Despair - November 13, 2021
- Faith Foundations Beneath our Presbyterian Polity - December 11, 2021

All workshops will be hybrid offerings by ZOOM and at the Redstone Presbytery Center. [Click here](#) for a more detailed description of each workshop. To register, contact Bobbie at Redstone Presbytery at 724.837.6737 or secretary@redstonepresbytery.org.



Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, has a Communion Table that they do not use and would love to find a home for it. If any church would be interested in this communion table, please contact Sharon Elkettani at 412.582.4120.

25 IN WORSHIP AND 250 WATCHING ONLINE? - In a rapidly changing world, how are our congregations preparing to change? Here's a short read from Presbyterian Media Mission and an introduction to their newest "Missionary in Media".



THE PC(USA) MIGRATION ROUNDTABLE is presenting a new series of webinars to address various issues related to forced displacement and U.S. Policy. As the PC(USA) statement from 1999 reminds us, love of neighbor requires Christians to seek justice for refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants. What does justice look like in US policy to address root causes? What does justice look like in the reception of asylum seekers and resettled refugees?

CALLING ALL CHURCHES! The Mission Network of Redstone Presbytery is sponsoring a Mission Fair at the September 21, 2021 Presbytery meeting being held at Pine Springs Camp. Bring a poster board of your church's mission projects and activities to share with the Presbytery. See the attached flyer for more information.



September Presbytery Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of Redstone Presbytery will be on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. This meeting is being held in person at Pine Springs Camp from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with all current CDC guidelines in place. We are still determining if it will also be available by ZOOM. More information will be forwarded as it becomes available.

REVANGELISM CONFERENCE, November 1-3, 2021, is designed to take you on a deeper journey into faith: into the lives of others, into justice, hope, and the wonder of God. To practice habits of Evangelism that will engage us in the gospel of good news — God's justice and reconciliation for the world. At REvangelism you will interact with the wise, diverse voices in the church who contributed to the 8-Habits of Evangelism resource. As you work through each habit together, you will experience the goodness and richness of Christ's body and the Holy Spirit transforming you, and the world around you.



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*Communicate the
Word...
Carry on the Work...
Change the World...
Together*

Presbytery of Redstone
www.redstonepresbytery.org

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