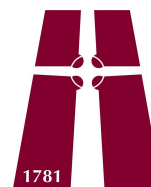


# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## August 4, 2021



### Please pray for...

#### District 1 Churches

~~Community United Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria, Len Morgan, Commissioned Pastor

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

#### District 2 Churches

~~Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Bill Youmans, Interim Pastor

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

#### District 3 Churches

~~Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville

~~Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Louise Corbett, Moderator

#### District 4 Churches

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

~~Bolivar United Presbyterian Church, James Sunseri, Commissioned Pastor



#### Pandemic Updates and Church Decision Making "It's Not Over Until It's Over"

**"It's not over until it's over." This familiar idiom communicates that while an outcome may appear certain, it is never complete until the contest is finished. Even when one believes or even assumes that "victory is in hand," it may not be so until it is all said and done.**

**For too many of us, the good news of vaccine availability, declining numbers of deaths, hospitalizations and positive cases may have lulled us into believing that the end of this eighteen month pandemic was a certainty that was a matter of time. Yet, "it is not over until it's over." Plateauing of the numbers of vaccinated persons, relaxation of mitigation measures and general complacency may have permitted an environment where the virus might not only continue, but new variants emerge as well. As we have observed in news reports, the community transmission of the "Delta" variant of the Covid 19 virus is either high or substantial in many regions of the country. In some areas, hospitals are once more reaching capacity and positive case numbers are surging to their higher levels once more.**

So, while much of the region of southwestern Pennsylvania has remained in the “moderate” range of cases in the per 100,000 and positivity percentage of test in the last seven days, Westmoreland County has moved to “substantial” range of community transmission (*In areas of substantial or high transmission, CDC recommends community leaders encourage vaccination and universal masking in indoor public spaces in addition to other layered prevention strategies to prevent further spread*). Even though the other counties remain in the moderate range, it is not too early to be proactive in anticipating our need to stem the tide of transmission whether in promoting vaccinations, redeploying mitigation measures or reducing possible exposure. For further information on CDC guidelines for implementing Covid-19 prevention strategies, please see: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7030e2.htm>

As always, as leaders of congregations we seek to not only be making personal decisions regarding the health of us, our family and neighbors, but on behalf of the congregations that we have been called to shepherd. So, rather than waiting until the situation demands a response in our church worship and programming, planning for various scenarios now may prove helpful. Basing our options and plans based upon possible data or CDC levels, we need to be educating our congregations now concerning our anticipated plans for action if needed.

The advisory insights of the Proverbs reinforce that our faithful dependence upon our God does not preclude the need to prepare and plan in exercising the wisdom of the Lord. Let us seek the Lord in faith and as steward of our responsibilities, by planning and preparing not out of anxiety, but with the wisdom that our God provides. And let us remember, “it is not over, until it’s over.”

As always, I am available to consult with you as you seek to serve the Lord our God and your people faithfully during this ongoing season. Let us continue to discern God's leading as we care for one another and our communities. Ultimately, in our actions together, we will exhibit not just for each other, but for the world the grace, love and justice of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Blessings.**

**Rev. Richard "Skip" Noftzger  
Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of Redstone**

For further information please consult any of the following resources provided by the CDC or the PA Dept. of Health.

There will be **NO** Healing Prayer Ministry Network gathering this week (Thursday, August 5, 2021). We will resume the first Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at the Presbytery office beginning in September.



**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 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.

*Nominations*



**Part Time Church Secretary - Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, PA**  
Wednesday & Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Skills Needed:**

Pleasant office presence and people skills

Working knowledge of all office equipment, including computers on the premises

Working knowledge of MS office software

Ability to learn calendar and membership database software

Basic internet navigation skills and data entry

If interested apply to: [personnel@wpcgreensburg.org](mailto:personnel@wpcgreensburg.org)



**Church Secretary Needed - Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, PA, has an opening for a church secretary. This is a part-time position in a great working environment that requires basic computer skills - including Microsoft Word – general office skills and good people skills. If you are interested in this position please forward your resume or interest to [brady2810@comcast.net](mailto:brady2810@comcast.net).**

**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](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org).



**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.



### Presbytery Staff

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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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