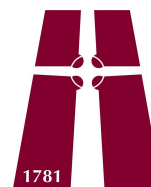


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

August 11, 2021



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

~~United Presbyterian Church, New Kensington, Wendy Keys, Pastor

~~Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo, Pete Goetschius, Pastor

District 2 Churches

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

~~First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette, Dawn Sherwood, Pastor

District 3 Churches

~~Tyrone Presbyterian Church, Dawson, Anthony Marciano, Commissioned Pastor

~~First Presbyterian Church, Dunbar, Aleda Menchyk, Moderator

District 4 Churches

~~Colver Presbyterian Church, Owar Ojulu, Pastor

~~Cresson Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Moderator



Membership in Christ's Mission; The Other Seven

Who is a member in the ministry of Christ's Church? How is it known? Is it measured merely by regular(?) participation in Sunday worship, offering financial support out of our abundance, "taking our turn" as elder/deacon or even engagement in a committee when absolutely necessary? Each gives us reassurance that we have "done our part" for the church (at least as organization), yet is that the extent of God's grace? Is that what Jesus meant in his call to "follow me?"

The tangible expressions of membership (discipleship) can and should be those commitments, but it is so much more. Being satisfied with superficial "proxies" as our organizational responsibility within the local congregation cannot express sufficiently our response to our new identity in Jesus Christ. In belonging to Jesus Christ and to one another, our lives signify in gratitude and responsibilities that our lives are no longer our "own." By God's grace, we have the joy and privilege of living out God's redemptive mission for the world as stewards and co-laborers in the power and presence of the Spirit.

In the list (although not comprehensive) of the "Ministry of Members" identified in the Book of Order (G-1.0304), only a few of these are connected to our "default" metrics for membership (worship engagement, financial support, participation in governing responsibilities). While these are connected to God's mission, yet the life of discipleship (membership) is so much more. For in the "other seven," we move beyond a reduced version of membership. We both challenge and encourage one another in our baptism to live out our witness to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. On this list of the "ministry of members," allow me to highlight "the other seven" that signify our identity in Christ and participation in the ministry of Christ's Church in public and personal ways.

- Proclaiming the good news in word and deed

- Lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern and active support
- Studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life
- Demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church
- Living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural and social relationships of life
- Working in the world for peace, justice, freedom and human fulfillment
- Caring for God's creation

When I review the "other seven," I find myself convicted of the shallowness of my discipleship. Too easily my words of faith have become relegated to tangible expressions that are more about giving me reassurance than bearing witness to God's love and grace in my life and the world. These "other seven" are certainly aspirational for all of us, but just maybe, they give visible manifestation to Jesus' words....

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels." (Luke 9:23-26)



New Salem Presbyterian Church, 27 S. Mill Street, New Salem will be having a "Lap the Church 5K Run" on Saturday, August 28, 2021. There will be a bake sale and beverage stand as well. For more information [click 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



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.

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.



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 and the EP and Moderator will be monitoring the community transmission and will make any decisions about adjustment of location/time by September 7. More information will be forwarded as it becomes available.



CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES OF SWPA offer [these opportunities](#) to you.

A Unifying Voice in the Name of Jesus Christ for the Mission of the Gospel and the Wholeness of Communities.

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Presbytery of Redstone

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