

Presbytery of Redstone eNews

August 26, 2021



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

~~First Presbyterian Church,
Avonmore

~~Delmont Presbyterian Church,
Anthony Cattullo, Interim Pastor

District 2 Churches

~~Latrobe Presbyterian Church, Ron
Durika, Interim Pastor

~~United Presbyterian Church,
Latrobe, John Simpson, Interim Pastor

District 3 Churches

~~Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church,
Dunbar, Bill Weightman,
Commissioned Pastor

~~First Presbyterian Church,
Fairchance, Jim Gear, Moderator

District 4 Churches

~~First Presbyterian Church,
Ebensburg, Owar Ojulu, Pastor

~~Bethany Presbyterian Church,
Johnstown, Denise Todero,
Commissioned Pastor



Checking In?

Recently, I went for my annual physical and went through the usual set of tests and questions. Of course, I did not discover anything too much that was new to me. The usual process of aging and the necessary need for weight reduction were not, and are not, a surprise. Yet, its purpose is not so much about revealing particularly new insights, but rather to both remind and motivate me to take responsibility for my own health.

In recent weeks, we have been considering the nature of what it means to follow Jesus Christ not merely as a solitary series of activities, but in our responsibilities together, in the Body, in actual congregations. Our discipleship is represented in those tangible activities we have mentioned in previous weeks, yet each is only an expression of our lives lived by faith in the power and presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Beyond measuring ourselves and “checking the boxes” of membership in our own congregations, we need and seek to have a “check in” on where we are before our God and with God’s people.

Our Book of Order calls for *“Reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one’s membership and considering ways in which one’s participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.”* (G-1.0304) Though there are some among us on our “rolls” who it might be important to recognize the need for “increased” participation, I suspect for many who receive this article, that is not the case. In fact, some may be so involved that it becomes more about works righteousness than as an expression of their faith commitment.

For all of us as members, the real purpose and the regular “need” to evaluate the congruence between what our membership signifies and how it is lived out. This opportunity to “check in” causes us to step back and see where we are before God and with each other. Those are the questions of “integrity.” What may become central to our own consideration may not be a question of quantity (more), it may be a consideration of “meaningful” engagement (quality). Our contributions support the structure and sustenance

of the organization church, but more than that, we desire that they represent our baptism and signify our desire to honor and glorify God.

The temptation is to “push on,” one day after another, maybe one Sunday after another, or even one liturgical year after another. Setting aside the time, energy and reflection for an honest assessment may seem burdensome. Yet, it is only those “check in” moments that we can be reminded and motivated in God’s presence and grace to live the resurrection anew. Maybe, for all of us, we need that annual evaluation of our spiritual health. And, maybe it will lead us beyond good intentions (like losing a few pounds 😊) to see God’s hand before us, hear God’s voice leading us and forming us into a deeper faith to walk with the Lord and a more meaningful embodiment of it as a person and as congregations.

International Overdose Awareness Day Memorial

On Friday, August 27 at noon, there will be an interfaith memorial service at Trinity Cathedral, 328 Sixth Avenue in Downtown Pittsburgh. The interfaith service includes prayers from faith leaders, testimonies from survivors, and blessings for first responders. Preceding the service, the cathedral bells will toll for each overdose death in Allegheny County.



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

- 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.

SEPTEMBER PRESBYTERY GATHERING

Join us for the September 21 Presbytery meeting that will be held at Pine Springs Camp (10:00-2:00). We will gather in the Sports Pavilion (if bad weather, then the Refuge). Please park up by the Refuge and if you are able walk down to the pavilion and enjoy the outdoors. There will also be shuttle service from the parking lot down to the Pavilion. Please bring a mask in case we need to convene for any indoor activities. Because lunch will be provided by Pine Springs Camp, we ask that you let us know in the Presbytery Office of your attendance so they may plan properly. Additionally, do not forget that we are wanting you to bring a display of your congregation’s engagement in God’s mission for the Mission Fair which will be part of the meeting.



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.

Director of Christian Education for 20 hours a week and a Church Secretary for 12 hours a week. For more information or if you would be interested in either of these positions, please contact Rev. Wendy Keys at 724.339.6618.



They also have 20 white cotton Choir Robes (adult sizes) and 30 blue with cream stoles Choir Robes (adult sizes) they are offering free to anyone who wants them. Contact Rev. Keys if interested.



The New Ken Community Health Clinic will have its Medical Van in the parking lot of Puckety Presbyterian Church (1009 Puckety Church Road, Lower Burrell) on Sunday, Sept. 12th from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM to give free COVID vaccinations. A photo ID is required, and a medical insurance card may be helpful. Spread the word and help us be part of the solution.

If you're looking for some great curriculum to use with the youth and adults in your congregation, we have options for your specific needs.

Big God Big Questions

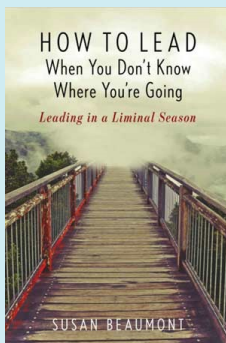
This confirmation curriculum guides confirmands through the process of taking that next step in their faith.

Based on research from The Confirmation Project, this curriculum meets youth where they are and helps them continue their faith journey. Use this curriculum for twelve 90-minute sessions or twenty-four 45-minute sessions. We provide a Teacher's Guide, Home/Mentor Guides, a journal for each Confirmand called The Big Journal, infographic posters, and videos to supplement the curriculum. Order the [class kit](#) and get everything you need for a class of 5 Confirmands. Or order the pieces you need [individually](#).



"Into the Light: Christian Responses to Addiction"

The Addictions Ministry of Redstone Presbytery has curriculum available for use in your churches available in the Presbytery Resource Center. There is a notebook which would be accompanied by either a flash drive or a DVD to use along with the notebook for workshops. One copy for each church is available. Stop by the Resource Center from 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday to get your copy.



Thriving Churches Event

How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Time

Susan Beaumont

Friday, September 24
9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Registration—8:30 a.m.

Calvin Presbyterian Church
415 East Grandview Avenue
Zelienople, PA 16063

How do you lead an organization stuck between an ending and a new beginning—when the old way of doing things no longer works but a way forward is not yet clear? Such in-between times are called liminal seasons—threshold times when the continuity of tradition disintegrates and uncertainty about the future fuels doubt and chaos. In a liminal season it

simply is not helpful to pretend we understand what needs to happen next. But leaders can still lead.

SUSAN BEAUMONT is a consultant, coach, author and spiritual director. She is known for engaging the best of business practice, filtered through the lens of careful theological reflection. She moves easily between discernment and decision making and nurtures the soul of the leader along with the soul of the institution.

\$35.00/person

Lunch is included.

Registration deadline: Thursday, September 16

Register by mail or online.

Online payment is not currently available.

Learn more and register

Presbytery Staff

[Richard "Skip" Noftzger](#)

Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk

[blog address](#)

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[Bobbie Martin](#)

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

*Communicate the
Word...*

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

Presbytery of Redstone

www.redstonepresbytery.org