

# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## September 29, 2021



### Please pray for...

#### District 1 Churches

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

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

#### District 2 Churches

~~Derry Presbyterian Church, Marnie  
Russell, Covenant Pastor

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

#### District 3 Churches

~~McClellandtown Presbyterian  
Church, Skip Noftzger, Moderator

~~Dunlap's Creek Presbyterian  
Church, Merrittstown, Aleda Menchyk,  
Moderator

#### District 4 Churches

~~Patton Presbyterian Church, Alice  
Tondora, Moderator

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



#### Thinking Horizontally: The Renewed Normal

Within the expression of the Church that is our local community of faith, we understand who we are as the people of God engaged in God's mission in our specific location and context. We know and believe that this is lived out through our gathering and our witness. Reflecting the desire to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in both word and deed, we have organized our responsiveness to God's call on the basis of such activities as worship, fellowship (community life together), formation, ministry, mission, and other expressions. Each reflects our faithful response of discipleship and has purpose in our intention to follow Jesus together in this new covenant community.

Yet, for many of us, we fall into the tendency to think of them vertically in relationship to one another. We make the Sunday worship gathering the only foundation to all the other expressions of our faith. As the only time when we all come together (at least in theory), it becomes the fountain from which everything else flows. Typically, the other activities engage in decreasing numbers the number of disciples within our congregations. From worship to fellowship to Christian education to ministry to mission, at each stage it appears to be a smaller subset from the original source.

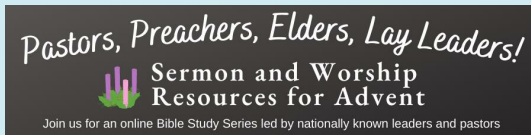
Yet, if we have learned anything in this "renewed normal," maybe everything is not always as have become comfortable. Early on, we learned again that the church is not the building. We learned that those who gather in worship may be in person or across the world. We learned that our connections to one another and support in relationship and prayer may not need to be confined to passing

the peace or greetings over coffee hour. We learned that while there may be many who do not come to us, yet they are open to the gospel when it comes to them.

Perhaps, what we are learning most of all is that our God is not content to follow the patterns that we might have established for evangelism and discipleship. The anticipated flow where people come to our church building to worship, where they hear the Word, become connected to others in faith, and become more engaged in following Christ in ministry and mission may not always be the pattern. In fact, the flow by which people hear, respond and embody that transformative good news of Jesus the Christ may come in reverse or a different order or concurrently through a variety of means.

Of course, this is not “new” anymore than the ways the gospel has been proclaimed and received through the generations and in countless locations. Yet, for old patterns to be reconsidered, it just may be the “renewed normal.” What might this mean for the way we think of faithfulness together when it is not so easily measured by in person Sunday worship participants or some other means to confirm who we are and what we are about. How might we consider the multiple ways that our church engages its own people and the world in the mission of God? How do these various expressions “feed” one another horizontally? These are the questions by which God might just be at work upon us, among us, and through us in this “renewed normal.”

Blessings,  
Skip



Sermons and Worship Resources for Advent

To assist pastors and preachers, Holmes Camp and Retreat Center will be hosting an online Bible study of the Gospel lectionary

texts for Advent led by nationally known leaders and pastors. Each Bible study will be a 45-minute Zoom session.

Program Cost: \$50 (Registration required. Use link below.)

#### **DATES, TEXT, AND LEADERSHIP**

Advent 1 - Luke 21: 25-36

September 29 @ 2:00pm (Eastern)

Rev. Dr. John Buchanan, Pastor Emeritus Fourth Church Chicago

Advent 2 - Luke 3:1-6

October 6 @ 2:00pm (Eastern)

Rev. Dr. J. Barrie Shepherd, Pastor Emeritus First Church NYC

Advent 3 - Luke 3: 7-18

October 13 @ 2:00pm (Eastern)

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk PCUSA

Advent 4 - Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55)

October 20 @ 2:00pm (Eastern)

Rev. Cynthia Jarvis, Retired Pastor Chestnut Hill Philadelphia

Advent & Christmas In-Person Worship Planning Session (with Lunch)

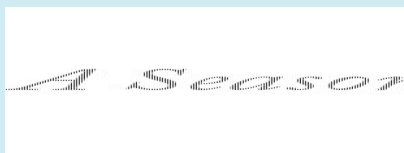
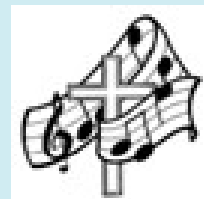
November 3 from 10:00am -2:00pm

Facilitated Rev. Dr. Paul Alcorn, Holmes Camp and Retreat Center

**REGISTER NOW!**

Sessions start  
September 29th

This summer's Presbyterian Association of Musicians annual conference at Montreat Conference Center was held in person and online. If you missed it, a recordings package of the 2021 Worship and Music Conference, "Gather in My Name," which includes 56 videos, with worship services, evening events, and livestreamed classes, is available on the PAM website.



We are delighted to announce that the 2021 International Peacemaker Symposium page is ready and available to view for the PC(USA)'s Season of Peace. The interviews are being released on our Facebook page as well, but this is the place you can go to see all of them.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/2021-international-peacemaker-virtual-symposium/>

One of the people on this is Lucy Awate from RECONCILE in South Sudan and some of you may have met her in 2019.

Contribute to:  
Disaster Relief-US Hurricane  
Response (DR000169)



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

This designated account supplements the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering to enable a significant, ongoing response to hurricanes that affect the United States. Your faithful giving is deeply appreciated.

To give by phone, call 800-872-3283. To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700



Spaghetti Dinner

New Hope Presbyterian Church in North Huntingdon will be having a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, October 2, 2021 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Take out will be available. [Click here for more](#)

[information.](#)

Free Workshops Presented by the IPLF Program

- "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



These workshops begin at 12:30 p.m. and will be a hybrid offering by ZOOM and at the Redstone Presbytery Center. To register, contact Bobbie at Redstone Presbytery at



New Hope Presbyterian Church in North Huntingdon will be offering Flu shots for humans and a Blessing of the Pets on Sunday, October 10, 2021 from Noon to 2:00 p.m. Call the church at 724.863.7702 for more information.

The Day of Learning is back on October 12, 2021, for three online workshops focused on church property ...



**8:30 PT/11:30 ET Maggie Harmon will present The Value of Vision**  
How do you get where you're going if you don't know where it is that you want to go? And how do you make sure you have the resources you need to get there? Making sure you have a clear vision for your congregation provides the structure you need to assess and align your resources for the most effective ministry.

This workshop will help you define your vision as a core purpose, distinguish that from mission and goals so you can focus your ministry in the areas you are called to serve, and give you tools to take back to your congregation to help in understanding what resources you need to ensure continued viability.

**At 11:00 PT/2:00 ET Olanda Carr and Robert Hay will share Options for Repurposing Church Property**

In this workshop, we will review various options to consider when repurposing your church property. An overview of church partnerships, rental opportunities to consider, conversion/reinvention, and parcel sales will be provided, with careful attention being placed on the amount of time, energy, and resources required for each. Additional time will be allocated to discernment processes, including beginning steps and resources.

The day will close at 2:30 PT/5:30 ET with Understanding Financial Implications for Property Transition from Paul Grier.

During this presentation, attendees will learn about various types of property-specific information that must be gathered, recommendations for the sequence of work, and how a careful analysis can be undertaken to maximize the financial or missional benefit to the church when considering repurposing options.

We will consider the impact of potential changes in property taxation, together with realistic assessments of the marketability of the property and required market exposure time, as well as compliance and impacts from civil and PC(USA) requirements.

**Register Today**



Get Your Church Ready for  
Giving Tuesday

Held on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and "Cyber Monday," Giving Tuesday reaffirms the joy of giving during a season of

celebration. This year, Giving Tuesday is set for November 30, 2021.

Some congregations receive extra gifts on Giving Tuesday from members who want to

express their appreciation for their church – and yours can be one of those!

Attend the Presbyterian Foundation's Giving Tuesday webinar on Wednesday, September 22, to learn how your church can participate. You'll hear from Rev. Philip Beck, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Tarentum, Pa., who will share how his church has encouraged generosity from its members on Giving Tuesday. First Presbyterian has raised as much as \$15,000 annually from Giving Tuesday.

You can earmark the funds you raise for your own church budget, help fund a special project, contribute to a community cause or collect funds for Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Special Offerings – or all of the above. It is a day that invites extra generosity – in a season in which it is needed.

This FREE webinar is set for 2 p.m. Eastern, 11 a.m. Pacific, on Wednesday, September 22. We'll keep it short with plenty of time for questions!

If you join us for this webinar, we'll also provide you with a checklist to help you plan and graphics to use for Giving Tuesday in your social media campaign.

**Sign Up Now**

As the world enters its second Advent season with the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic still looming over our shoulders, Christians are searching for devotional resources that offer space to connect with God through prayer and reflection. Westminster John Knox Press is publishing two offerings ahead of Advent season to guide Christians in group and individual study as they draw closer to God. [Click here for more information.](#)



**Welcome to our Advent 2021 resource guide!** You'll find everything you need for preaching, teaching, devotion, and experiencing the season. If you are viewing this on your computer or device, you can click on any title or cover to be taken to the product

page on PC(USA) Store. Look for the dark blue blocks to download resource samples.

### Follow Me Curriculum

The Presbytery has ordered small scale packages of the first three of the 36 session of the Follow Me Curriculum. These will be made available through the Resource Center. Please contact the Presbytery office if you would like to borrow these.



### 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*

