

# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## November 4, 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

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

~~Reunion Presbyterian Church, Mt.  
Pleasant, Russ Baird, Commissioned  
Pastor

#### District 3 Churches

~~Trinity United Presbyterian Church,  
Uniontown, James Gear, Pastor

~~East Liberty Presbyterian Church,  
Vanderbilt, David McElroy,  
Commissioned Pastor

#### District 4 Churches

~~Second Presbyterian Church,  
Johnstown, Art Moffat, Temporary  
Supply

~~Westmont Presbyterian Church,  
Johnstown, Ben Nti, Pastor

### Regaining Sight

Jesus' first disciples had a difficult time overcoming their fear. We have a hard time overcoming our fear. Fear limits us. Fear narrows our vision. Instead of seeing the future with hope, fear has us believe the future is a threat.

How do we get out of a cycle of fear and regain sight? How do we transition from fear to faith? We next hear one man's encounter with the Lord Jesus in Mark 10:46-52.

Mark's Gospel reminds us, the future has always been scary, and it always will be unless we have faith in Jesus Christ. Even if we do trust and follow Jesus, we may fall back into fear. Jesus knows this and understands this. God's Word tells us Jesus was afraid in the Garden of Gethsemane when He prayed to His Father in Heaven. Jesus understands your fear and is praying for you this very moment. How does Jesus overcome His fear and what does He teach us?

On a boat a storm kicks up and they fear they are going to die but Jesus teaches to invest in faith (Mark 4:35-41). They see 5000 people (Mark 6:30-44) and then at another time 4000 people (Mark 8:1-10) and they fear they cannot feed them. Jesus teaches to invest in the people. They fear not being the greatest disciple, Jesus teaches to invest in the most vulnerable among us (Mark 9:33-37). The rich young man fears he does not have purpose, that he does not have meaning, that he does not have abundant life. Jesus teaches to invest your life for the sake of others. For God, all things are possible (Mark 10:17-27)!

If you want to overcome fear, how are you investing your life for the future? If you want to overcome fear, how are you joyfully responding to Christ's love? If you want to overcome fear, what are you giving to invest in faith development? If you want to overcome fear, what are you giving so that others will see the meaning of life?

Love,



### NOVEMBER PRESBYTERY GATHERING

Join us for the November 20 Presbytery meeting that will be held at the Colver Presbyterian Church (10:00-1:00). This will be an in person meeting and also via zoom.

If you have an announcement for the announcements loop for this meeting please send that information directly to [redstonestories@gmail.com](mailto:redstonestories@gmail.com) by Tuesday, November 9.

All social distancing protocols will be followed for the in person meeting so we ask that you *please bring a mask and that you let us know in the Presbytery office if you plan to attend in person so we may plan accordingly.* Also, if you are planning to attend via zoom, *please provide your email address to us as well so we are able to get the login information to you prior to the meeting.*

Please call the Presbytery office at 724.837.6737 or respond via email at [secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org) to confirm which way you will be attending. Thank you!

---

### 2021 Financial Records

The Bookkeeper will be closing the books for 2021 on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. All contributions will need to be received in the Presbytery office prior to that date to be included in the 2021 records. Any monies received after that date will be credited toward the 2022 financial records. If you have any questions you can contact Bobbie at the Presbytery office at 724.837.6737.



### New Hope Presbyterian Church Annual Craft & Vendor Show

Saturday, November 6, 2021 - 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Click [here](#) for more information.

---

### New Hope Church Thanksgiving 2021 Baked Goods Sale

Orders are now being taken for delicious home-made baked goods. Place your Thanksgiving orders with payment on or before Sunday, November 7 (12727 Lincoln Way North Huntingdon PA 15642). Orders placed after that date can not be filled by the baker. Orders will be available on Sunday, November 21.



Nut Roll (\$10); Apricot Roll (\$10); Poppyseed Roll (\$10). Call the church (724.863.7702) to place your order with payment.

---



Introduction to the 2021-2022 Horizons Bible Study - What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus by Merryl Blair with the Rev. Donna Havrisko, Honorably Retired.

November 6, 2021, First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

---

## Rev. Forrest Claassen elected as next Synod executive



The Rev. Forrest Claassen, co-executive and stated clerk of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos, has been elected the next executive of the Synod of the Trinity, a multi-state mid council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), effective Jan. 1, 2022. Claassen was unanimously elected during the Synod's recent Assembly, held virtually. He succeeds the Rev. Susan Faye Wonderland, whose contract is expiring after 13 years with the Synod, including the last seven-plus years as transitional executive.

"When I think about what Trinity has called me to do, I see a convergence," Claassen said. "All sorts of ministry experiences over the last 25-plus years have led to this." Claassen is a graduate of Stanford University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in psychology, and Princeton Theological Seminary, where he earned a Master of Divinity. Prior to his service in Los Ranchos, Claassen served as stated clerk of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest from 2009 to 2013, pastor at Clarkston (WA) Presbyterian Church from 2005 to 2013, co-pastor to a tri-cultural congregation in Southeast Alaska, stated supply minister for a Haida village church in the Presbytery of Alaska for five years, moderator and then chair of General Council of the Presbytery of Alaska, and commissioner to the 212<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Long Beach, CA.

"We are grateful for the leadership of Rev. Susan Wonderland, who has been pivotal in helping our presbyteries address current issues facing modern churches," Synod Co-Moderators Martha Jordan and Charles Best said in a joint statement. "We are looking forward to working with Rev. Forrest Claassen as we continue to explore how to be innovative as the Body of Christ."

Claassen's wife, Karen, is also a pastor in the PC(USA), currently serving the First Presbyterian Church in Downey, CA. Their daughter Margaret, her husband Dalton, and their 1-year-old baby, Miles, live in Portland, OR.

"I look forward to watching the Synod of the Trinity from afar as Forrest steps in to continue the work that has been underway here and to add his own special flair to that ministry," Wonderland said. "It has been an honor to serve amidst such a committed and faith-filled group of colleagues in this region, and to do so with the support of a creative and kingdom facing staff team."

The Synod of the Trinity, created in 1717 and the oldest synod in the PC(USA), comprises 16 presbyteries in Pennsylvania, most of West Virginia and part of Ohio. Those presbyteries include 1,046 churches and 132,348 members, making it one of the largest in the denomination.



Soup for the Soul – Second Wednesday of each month (October through May). Next time will be Wednesday, November 10.

Poke Run Presbyterian Church  
1091 Poke Run Church Road, Apollo, PA 15613  
724.327.5563

As in the past, the doors will open at 11:30 AM and the meal will be served at noon. Things will look a little different than the last time we met together but food and Christian fellowship will still be the most important thing of the day. If you are unvaccinated, we ask that you wear a mask unless you are eating and that you socially distance from those that are not in your household.

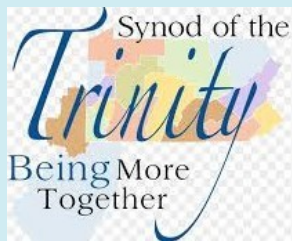
---

### Free Workshops Presented by the IPLF Program

- "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 724.837.6737 or [secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org).



**Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, November 13th!**  
***a zoom gathering with Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson,***  
***PCUSA***

**Called out to Serve: Living Out our Missional Identity in Christ – YES, Even During Covid.**

**9:30 am-11:30 am** *Matthew 25 and Self-Development of People challenge us to see the world and be in relationships right where we are, and not just far away. Using examples from Black Presbyterian missional trailblazers such as Thelma Adair, Gayraud Wilmore and Edler Hawkins, this interactive workshop will equip participants with missional strategies centered around identity, discipleship, relationship building and asset mapping to create and leverage congregational/communal power in engaging issues in the local church!*

**11:45 am-12:15 pm** Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson and Margaret Mwale from SDOP will talk briefly about the **ministry of SDOP** and how you and your Presbyteries can be engaged.

Click [HERE](#) to Read More and Register

---

### Presbytery Staff

[Richard "Skip" Noftzger](#)

Executive Presbyterian/Stated Clerk

[blog address](#)

[twitter address](#)

[Bobbie Martin](#)

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

*Communicate the Word...*

*Carry on the Work...*

*Change the World...*

*Together*

