

Presbytery of Redstone eNews

November 17, 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

~~Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton, Karen Kifer,
Commissioned Pastor

~~Sewickley United Presbyterian Church, West Newton, Glenn Hart,
Commissioned Pastor

District 3 Churches

~~Harmony Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Glenn Hart, Commissioned
Pastor

~~Marion Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Robert Prinkey,
Commissioned Pastor

District 4 Churches

~~Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence, Rick Sweeney, Covenant
Pastor

~~Patton Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Moderator

Becoming a Matthew 25 Church...Why it made sense...

Greetings from your outgoing moderator...

I've been able to do a lot of reflection over the past year. My church at Colver became one of the first Matthew 25 churches in the Presbytery. Why? It just made sense. I just wanted to take a minute to share why I think we became a Matthew 25 church, right, wrong or indifferent.

In a nutshell, Matthew 25 is when the Jesus returns and asks what have you done for Him? He goes on to say that He came as the poor, destitute, the broken...whatever we did for the least of these we do for Him? Remember when Jesus asked Peter do you love me? Feed my sheep. It's a theme of Christ's

throughout the New Testament. That's why participating in the Matthew 25 project just made sense. It's what we should be doing and are doing anyway. I look at it as a way for us to stay focused in a hurting chaotic world.

The idea of trying to rejuvenate our congregations. We've been talking about that for years! Can becoming a Matthew 25 church do that for us? Maybe – maybe not, but it can remind us that we are all in this together, we are all trying to stay relevant in today's non church going society. It gives us an opportunity to join the Facebook group to see what others are trying. It's connecting us to other congregations across the Presbyterian Church USA to see what is being tried and to be given encouragement, maybe courage to take a risk and try something new.

The idea of trying to alleviate the issues around systemic poverty just made sense. Again, it's not anything that we don't already work toward. Our church has a mini food pantry where we keep food in case someone calls in need. We have a mini free library outside our church that hopefully encourages children to come and take a book to read. We can refer people to a special fund that can help pay bills. In the past we've collected food, layette items, clothing, went a participated in a Midnight Run mission project. Sometimes the stuff that we always do just becomes habit. We stop thinking about why we are doing it, we just do it. I think by participating in the Matthew 25 project, it helps us to remember our why and focus on what else can we try?

Promoting Social Justice made sense too. There might not be a lot we can do as a small town, small church, but when the opportunity arises, we can take it. If you think about it, it's about all people being treated with the respect that Jesus would have shown. We have people in our communities who being marginalized and discriminated against just like the Samaritan woman. Jesus set the example and reached out to her. Why would we not reach out and empower someone or people's to make their life better and to have them feel like they all matter regardless of race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, political affiliations, sexual preference and gender identity. Jesus loves everyone! God loves everyone! Why shouldn't we? He didn't tell us not to. For me at least, The Matthew 25 project reminds us of that. It puts it in our focus so that we don't forget in these times of hatred, chaos, pandemic...

Every time I see the Matthew 25 logo (which is every time I walk into the church because we have the window cling on the door), I am reminded of what we are representing and what we are to do, and it makes me smile. More importantly, what I represent and what I am to do. I am to share the love of Christ to all. I am to feed His sheep. I am to serve Him by serving others.

Belinda Lambie, Moderator of Presbytery 2021



On December 4th (Saturday), Puckety Presbyterian Church (1009 Puckety Church Rd Lower Burrell PA) will once again be hosting a Blue Christmas Service (4:00 PM) - this service is offered particularly for those who find the holidays hard to celebrate, whether because of a loved one who has passed or other hardship. Bring someone along

and come and receive God's peace for whatever valley you are walking in.

Soup for the Soul – Second Wednesday of each month (October through May).

Next time will be Wednesday, December 8.

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

"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.

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.



Presbytery Staff

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Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk

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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