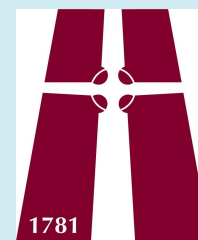


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

December 2, 2021



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

~~First Presbyterian Church, Avonmore, Wendy Keys, Moderator

~~Delmont Presbyterian Church, Anthony Catullo, Interim Pastor

District 2 Churches

~~United Presbyterian Church, West Newton, John Manon, Pastor

~~Derry Presbyterian Church, Marnie Russell, Covenant Pastor

District 3 Churches

~~Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Donald Glunt, Pastor

~~Calvin Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Joshua Scully, Moderator

District 4 Churches

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

~~Bolivar United Presbyterian Church, James Sunseri, Commissioned Pastor

ADVENT - PREPARE AND PRAY



At some point in our lives, we all know what it is like to experience a sense of loss. Sometimes, nothing seems right, and we are plagued by a nagging “pain” that leaves us wondering and wandering through life. Yet, no matter how dismal life might seem, the reality is that the same God offers us solace through a sure and certain hope.

In those days, “comfort” may come to us through the immediate care of our God or by his intervention through his servants. Whether in a “still, small voice” or a booming proclamation in word and deed, our comfort comes in the reassurance that we are still God’s; that our God has not abandoned us.

“Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,

*for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
(Isaiah 40:5)*

In Isaiah, the prophet brings forth a “word” to those who knew the “pain” of the loss of their homes, their homeland, and their promises. Not ignoring their judgment, nevertheless, the Lord offers the people “comfort” that “her penalty is paid.” These tender and reassuring words are founded upon not a dismissal of their past, but a dealing with it.

Confirming the words of “things to come” the voice of the forerunner cries out. In the midst of the “wilderness,” the time has come; “prepare the way of the Lord.” For it is the Lord, himself, who comes to reveal his glory to bring abiding comfort. The terrain of the earth welcomes his coming. In that day, his glory is known and is inescapable for “all people shall see it together.”

PRAYER

Gracious God; come now and be our comfort in the midst of our loss. Renew us in preparation for your coming that has been and once more will be a revelation to the world. May we see your glory as we kneel in faith. Amen.



The First Presbyterian Church in Johnstown is pleased to once again welcome visitors to its Festival of the Nativity in the evenings of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 3, 4, and 5. With the exception of last year, the congregation has sponsored this annual celebration of the Incarnation of the Christ Child since 1983.

In the early 1980s member Lois Siehl became disillusioned with the secularism and commercialism surrounding Christmas. She encouraged her brother, the Rev. Jim Cuppett, then pastor of the church, and other church leaders to host an event that would emphasize the true meaning of the Christmas season—the free gift of Jesus Christ to the world.

During the first year the church displayed about 100 nativity scenes throughout the building. In 2019 the number of creche scenes had more than quadrupled. Through the decades the event has grown with more community involvement with local choirs and school choruses, soloists and instrumental groups from Cambria and Somerset counties.

The Festival involves all members of the congregation to welcome and greet, to schedule performers, to audio and videotape, to decorate, to provide refreshments, to perform, to provide security, and most importantly, to undergird it in prayer.

The event has been described as a free spirit gift to the community. Throughout the years many visitors have returned and commented that this meaningful Christmas event is how they like to begin the season. [Click here](#) for a schedule of this year's performers.

GRIEVING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS WORKSHOP. The holidays can be an extremely difficult and emotional time when walking through grief. “Grieving Through the Holidays” offers help for holiday grief and hope. This special seminar is filled with workable helps, ideas, and plans to help navigate

through grief through the holidays. Invite your friends and neighbors to this special seminar at First Presbyterian Belle Vernon that offers help and hope for enduring the holidays after loss and suffering through holiday grief. Grieving



Through the Holidays will be held Saturday, December 4, 2021, from 2-4 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to attend. Please preregister by contacting the office (724-929-7616) so we are prepared with handouts.



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 - Skip Noftzger, Instructor

We joke much about Presbyterians and our orderliness. In fact, our polity is about more than just a 'rule book.' We seek to live a faith that honors God and treats each other fairly when we discuss issues and make decisions. Skip will lead us through several principles and practices designed to keep us faithful and fair-minded in our churches' decision-making, and the biblical, theological foundations that leaders need to know in order to 'do polity well.'

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.

BELLE VERNON AREA MINISTERIUM
LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE: This
year's community Lessons and Carols
service will be held at First United

Methodist Church, 200 State Street, Belle Vernon, on Sunday, December 12,
2021, at 6 pm. All are welcome. The service will be broadcast live, as
well. Contact First UMC for more information, 724-929-4696.





LONGEST NIGHT/BLEUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Join us and invite your friends and family for First Presbyterian Belle Vernon's Longest Night/ Blue Christmas service on Saturday, December 18th at 4 pm, a time of healing and peace. The holidays, with all of their hype and noise, are sometimes too much to handle when we are grieving. Coinciding with

the winter solstice, the longest night service is a time to rest, worship, and find hope even in the midst of the craziness of the holidays. All are welcome to attend.

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.



REMINDER!! Annual Year-End Report forms for the year 2021 have been distributed to Clerks of Session. Most of these reports are submitted to the Presbytery office. All of these reports may not be applicable in all cases. If you desire, you may submit the

reports to the Presbytery of Redstone through the forms on the web page (<http://redstonepresbytery.org/clerk-of-session-annual-report>). Otherwise, the hard copies may be mailed by the appropriate date to the Presbytery office. You may also scan them and email them (secretary@redstonepresbytery.org). The *Necrology report* should be submitted by January 10, 2022 so that the departed saints may be honored at the Service of Remembrance at the January 29, 2022 Presbytery meeting. All other Presbytery reports are to be returned no later than *March 1, 2022*. The *Annual Statistical Report to General Assembly* is filed electronically using the instructions that were sent to you. Please submit your electronic report to General Assembly no later than February 18, 2022. [*The system will close at midnight; please don't wait until the last minute or site "traffic" may lock you out.*] If you have questions about filing this report electronically, or need assistance in completing it, please call either Bobbie or Skip as soon as possible at the Presbytery office (724-837-6737). Please make sure your rolls have been "cleaned" and fill in this report with complete 2021 data as soon as possible. With the report already completed, you will be able to hit "submit" upon approval of the Session (prior to February 18, 2022).

The Presbytery meeting dates and locations have been set for three of the five Presbytery meeting in 2022. The dates are:

- January 29, 2022 - 1:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg



- March 22, 2022 - 6:00 p.m. Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon
- May 24, 2022 - LOCATION AND TIME TO BE DETERMINED
- September 27, 2022 - LOCATION AND TIME TO BE DETERMINED
- November 19, 2022 - 9:00 a.m. Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville

All of these meetings will be hybrid meetings with both in-person and Zoom options. If any church would be willing to host the in-person portion of the May or September meeting, please contact Skip at the Presbytery office (executive@redstonepresbytery.org) (724.837.6737) Thank you!!



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.](#)

FIRST FRUIT PLEDGES FOR 2022 REMINDER

It may be appropriate to think of your commitment as a tithe (10%) of your expenditures in ministry. Or, if you want to share in costs proportionally based upon membership, it would mean that each congregation should support at least at a level of \$43/member. Many congregations can and do exceed that amount. We ask that you prayerfully consider your investment of the Lord's resources in this partnership by increasing your pledge from previous years in order that our shared ministry and mission might be enhanced as we pursue God's vision for our region. A 2022 "commitment form" for sending in your "First Fruits" and "extra commitment" pledges for special offerings [is attached](#). After prayerful consideration, please return the form to the Presbytery office in order that we might plan effectively.



We are, once again, beginning the identification and recruitment process for Ruling Elders who are interested in growing in their faith, knowledge and practice to serve either in commissioned roles or in their own local congregation. As a program that operates across presbyteries (Washington, Pittsburgh, UOV, Kiski), those who participate not only have a great opportunity through courses, workshops and supervised practicum experiences, but they also engage with other Ruling Elders

from congregations around the region. We will be enrolling new participants to begin with the Reformed Theology course offered in August-December. If you have a Ruling Elder who God might be calling to do more to serve your congregation or the larger Church, please consider both speaking with them about participation and referring them to [Skip Noftzger](#) for more information.

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM is set for July 2022. [Begin now to organize your church's young people for this fun-filled and faith stretching event!](#) Keep up with information as it is available

at <https://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org>.

Big changes are happening with this Triennium! All participants will be staying in a PYT hotel and all will have air conditioned rooms along with much shorter outdoor walking distances! Registration and housing opens February 1, 2022. Contact the Presbytery office for more information.



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2022
July 24-27 • Indianapolis, IN

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

Presbytery of Redstone

www.redstonepresbytery.org