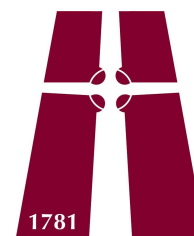


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

December 8, 2021



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

~~Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Doug Marshall, Interim Pastor

~~Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Brian Kilbert, Pastor

District 2 Churches

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

~~Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Steve LaSor, Pastor

District 3 Churches

~~Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Aleda Menchyk, Moderator

~~Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Louise Corbett, Moderator

District 4 Churches

~~Colver Presbyterian Church, Owar Ojulu, Pastor

~~First Presbyterian Church, Cresson, Alice Tondora, Moderator



ADVENT-PREPARE AND PRAY

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon^[b] us, ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:76-79)

PREPARE

There used to be an old commercial for an investment company where in the midst of a crowded room, suddenly there was silence when E.F. Hutton spoke. From the many months of his own silence caused by disbelief, Zechariah

(father and priest) once more began to speak and there must have been silent and rapt attention. For when he spoke now, he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

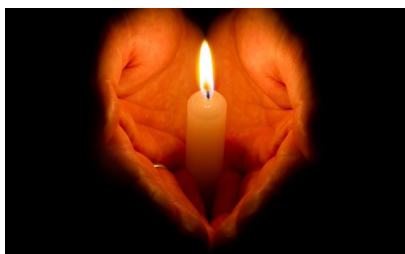
His words not only echoed the promises of their covenant God, begun with Abraham, but now speak of the child before him. No doubt, the special call and destiny of this child poured forth in words of pride as both priest and father. For his role in God's grand drama of redemption would be an important step in preparation for the One who was to come. This child would speak and preach of a salvation that was coming.

Just as the early rays of sunshine at dawn bring a slow anticipation of daylight, so the proclamation of John the Baptist would pave the way for the bright light to come of a Savior. To those who had waited in darkness of death through the long "hours" of night, the presence of the messenger began the long awaited arrival of a light that would be eternal, a peace that would be everlasting.

The excitement of Zechariah that day transcended more than the return of his voice, more than the birth of his child, even more than the special role that John would play, but rather the significance that as the one who would be preparer, the promises are about to be fulfilled in the birth and arrival of the Messiah.

PRAY

Lord God, in your providential goodness, you did not abandon your people. Even in anticipation of sending your Son, you prepared the way with your messenger who tilled the ground for the planting of your new covenantal garden in Jesus Christ. Even on this day, may we prepare anew as we both remember and celebrate your advent. Amen.



Peace Light of Bethlehem

The Peace Light will arrive this Sunday morning in Southwestern PA. You are invited to join us to share in the light at Pleasant View Presbyterian Church (533 Royal Road, Smock, PA, 15480) at 9 AM on Dec 12 when our friend Brian will arrive on his cross-country trip carrying the light.

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/BLUE 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

Presbytery of Redstone | 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg, PA 15601

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