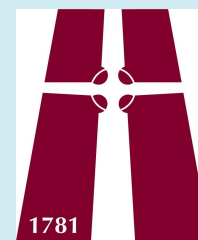


# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## January 13, 2022



**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*

*~~Latrobe Presbyterian Church, Ron Durika, Interim Pastor*

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

### *District 3 Churches*

*~~Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church, Farmington, Joshua Scully, Moderator*

*~~First Presbyterian Church, Fayette City, Aleda Menchyk, Moderator*

### *District 4 Churches*

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

*~~Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church, Ligonier, John McClure, Moderator*



#### **Knowing God in Hope, Riches and Power**

One of the hallmarks of living with a health care professional is that you receive the benefits of “free” advice on both prevention and healthy lifestyle. While sometimes in the midst of wanting to make lifestyle choices that may not match this longer-term goal, I recognize that the key to life and health is not merely in the cessation of bad habits (still working on that), but in the pursuit of good ones. In order to be joyful, vibrant, meaningful, it is about more than just “holding off” disease or despair, but

rather living into the renewed lives that God desires for us.

Not only is this true for us as individuals or families, but it can be equally true for us as congregations, gatherings of God’s people connected to one another. Even in the midst of the pandemic responsibility of maintaining necessary health and safety protocols, our intended focus is never only to prevent problems or dysfunction. Together, we seek to be a vital people of God in, before, and with Christ. Our goal is not merely sustenance as an organizational structure (congregation), but rather to be and to become the animated

expression and agency of God's grace-filled work in our communities and our neighborhoods.

If our mission, our purpose, is not merely survival, but vitality, what will it mean in our congregations through relationships, practices, and policies? What does it take to foster a church body that is alive to God's Spirit and agency among us and our world? What might it look like? Do we know it when we see it? Or, do we just know when we don't see it? How will we see the "hand" of the Lord in our midst? Where is our God guiding us, supporting us, and inviting us into participation in what God is doing in our places?

Almost everyone in every congregation expresses a desire for congregational revitalization. Within church bodies, who would not be in favor of that? Yet, for many, this is identified with proxy measures (worshippers, money, etc.) that reassure us or make us feel better about our congregation. While there is value in proxy measures, they are only as good as their correlation with what you are really trying to gauge. The real evidence will be made clear in our commitments and our actions. Do we seek just to preserve or survive? Or are we willing to be step out in faith wherever God might lead? How will we know?

One of the resources within our denomination identifies the "marks" of vital congregations. While I offer it to you as a resource, the next several eNews articles will walk us through those "marks" for the purpose of our own reflection and reconsideration. I invite you to join me in our own prayer reflection on your own church body even as we echo the prayer of the apostle concerning the church in Ephesians...

*"I pray that the God of Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power." (Ephesians 1:17-19)*

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## JANUARY PRESBYTERY GATHERING

Join us for the January 29 Presbytery meeting that will be held at the First Presbyterian Church (beginning at 1:00 p.m.). 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, January 18.



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!



Redstone Presbytery Leaders and Members are offering an Enrichment Day event - Saturday, February 12, 2022 - from 11:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. This will be held at the Westmont Presbyterian Church, 601 Luzerne Street, Johnstown, PA 15905. Clerks of Session will be able to have their 2021

Minute Book and Register reviewed prior to the beginning of the event. Four workshops will be offered - Mental Health Basics, Membership to Discipleship, Survive to Thrive, and Old-time vs. Present-time Presbyterianism. You don't have to be a Presbyterian to participate. A flyer is [attached](#) with more information and how to register.

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The Racial Justice and Reconciliation Network - a subcommittee of the Redstone Presbytery Council - meets the first Wednesday of every month via Zoom videoconferencing. Please contact Rev. Brenda Barnes ([bfb15235@gmail.com](mailto:bfb15235@gmail.com)) if you would be interested in participating in this group or for more information.



#### PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

The 2021 Session Minutes and Church Register review dates have been set. The first date will be on Saturday, February 12, 2022 at the Westmont Presbyterian Church, 601 Luzerne Street, Johnstown, beginning at 11:15 a.m. This is prior to the Enrichment Day event being held that day. If you are unable to make that date, the following are the other dates that have been scheduled.

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 - 5:00 p.m. - Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon. This is prior to the Presbytery meeting being held there that evening beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 - 5:00 p.m. - Uniontown Area (exact location TBD)

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 - 5:00 p.m. - Redstone Presbytery Center, 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 - 5:00 p.m. - Westmont Presbyterian Church, Johnstown. This will be prior to the Presbytery meeting being held that evening.

I am attaching the checklists for you to prepare for this review.

[Session Minutes Checklist](#)

[Church Register Checklist](#)

The dates and locations have been set for most of the Presbytery meetings 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 - 6:00 p.m. Westmont Presbyterian Church, Johnstown
- 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 September meeting, please contact Skip at the Presbytery office ([executive@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:executive@redstonepresbytery.org)) (724-837.6737) Thank you!!



**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](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org)). All 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).

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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. 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.



Free Workshop Presented by the IPLF Program

"Introduction to Pastoral Care" - February 5, 2022 - Gary Gibson, Presbyterian SeniorCare, Instructor

Although pastoral care is a shared responsibility, this workshop seeks to orient and train those assuming a pastoral role. Noting the grounding of pastoral care in the Church, this workshop explores practical issues and concerns surrounding ministries of visitation and presence framing competent and comfortable pastoral care for a variety of settings and audiences.

Other workshops in the series for the spring are:

- Congregational Leadership - March 5, 2022 - Rev. Jason Elliott, First West PC, Steubenville, Instructor
- Contemporary Spiritual Formation - April 2, 2022 - Rev. Jenn Frayer-Griggs, Peters Creek UPC, Instructor
- Ethics and Boundaries - May 7, 2022 - Michelle Snyder, Crows Feet Consulting, Instructor

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).

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The Redstone Presbytery Mission group is planning a trip to Summersville, WV, April 24th through the 30th. If you would be interested in being a part of this trip or need more information, please contact Phyllis Frye, [pfrye1234@windstream.net](mailto:pfrye1234@windstream.net).

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## Presbytery Staff

[Richard "Skip" Noftzger](#)

Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk

[blog address](#)

[twitter address](#)

[Bobbie Martin](#)

*Communicate the Word...*

*Carry on the Work...*

*Change the World...*

**Presbytery of Redstone**  
[www.redstonepresbytery.org](http://www.redstonepresbytery.org)