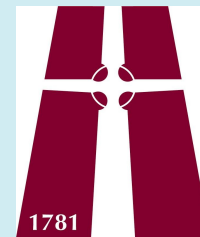


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

February 9, 2022



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

~~Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo, Pete Goetschius, Pastor

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

District 2 Churches

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

*~~New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon, Brenda Barnes,
Pastor*

District 3 Churches

*~~Little Redstone Presbyterian Church, Fayette City, Joshua Scully,
Commissioned Pastor*

*~~Springhill Furnace Presbyterian Church, Lake Lynn, Molly Hall,
Covenant Pastor*

District 4 Churches

*~~Bethel Presbyterian Church, New Florence, James Sunseri,
Commissioned Pastor*

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



Cycles of Life (Renewed)... Together

Beyond the biological and human development life cycles, many have also identified “cycles” that take place within organizations and structures. Whether applied to businesses or non-profit organizations, it follows a pattern (typically) of a single cycle with different stages that might include “startup, growth, maturity and decline”. While the same means of measurement of “growth” or “maturity” may not be the same in a local church (or regional/national), nevertheless, as congregations we are not immune to some form of a “life cycle.”

As not merely informal fellowships, but communities of faith organized to a greater or lesser degree we may be somewhere along that “life cycle.” Characterized by the four quadrants of

“growing, thriving, declining, struggling” (Vital congregations initiative, PCUSA). What may be different than biological cycles is that there may not be an inevitability in all of this. Certainly, there are external factors that have affected either the growth or the decline (particularly in numbers), but there may be ways to “break” the pattern through intentional efforts under God’s grace and direction.

Within the “toolkit” for the Vital Congregations initiative, these grace-filled purposeful efforts by churches to “circle” back on the cycle are categorized as redefining the vision, redeveloping the community of faith as needed and/or rebirthing a new community of faith if necessary. Such deliberate commitments reflect not merely a commitment to follow an existing organization (community of faith) to the end of its life as it has been know, but rather a willingness to renew and be recreated by God’s Spirit for who God wants us to be, what God wants us to do, and how God wants us act in this time and place.

Ironically, most of us have had to exercise these same type of attitudes and practices in our own individual lives. Whether we have redefined our own identity in terms of vocation or friendships or commitments, none of us have remained a “static” person no matter the thread that may be identified throughout our lives. Equally true, for those of us who have been in covenant partnership, we know that the person with whom we are married today is not the “same” person with whom we made vows years before. For ourselves and for others, we have needed to adapt, to change, to create and redefine within God’s providence. So, why would this not be equally true for who we are together as communities of faith gathered in particular places (congregations).

Ultimately, this is not about more “members” so we can survive just the way we are. It is not about reclaiming a past and vowing to repeat it by sheer will or effort. It is and will be about how will we discern God’s leading in our lives together. It is about nurturing the practices and “marks” of being a worshiping community that we might be faithful to our God and God’s mission/ministry in this moment and in this space.



Goodwill industries has issued a plea for warm winter clothing. The Redstone Presbytery Mission Committee is encouraging churches to donate coats, socks, and other warm winter clothing to their local Goodwill or other groups that serve their communities with clothing for the remaining weeks of winter.

<http://uniontownapps.ogdennews.com/2022/02/02/goodwill-issues-urgent-appeal-for-clothing-other-donations/>

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

[BookTalk - Out with the Old, In with the New: Negotiating Identity, Race, and Place \(2/11/2022 : 2/11/2022\)](#)

Out with the Old, In with the New: Negotiating Identity, Race, and Place
Jennifer Kaalund

Feb. 11, 2022, 4:00-5:00 p.m. ET

Online Event

Join us for an engaging presentation from one of our newest faculty, biblical scholar Dr. Jennifer Kaalund. Dr. Kaalund will discuss the African American Great Migration in the early

20th century and the formation of the New Negro, an identity that was associated with the Harlem Renaissance but also part of a larger cultural moment. In addition, Dr. Kaalund will place what we learn from this historical moment into conversation with the book of Hebrews, a text in which a new identity is being negotiated for the people of God.

[Faith-based Nonprofit Workshop Series \(2/14/2022 : 2/14/2022 \)](#)

Faith-based Nonprofit Workshop Series

Feb. 14, March 14, April 11, 2022

Online

Skills of non-profit management are needed in the church, but also in need of adaptation for faithful use in the church context rather than the market place. So, we are gathering nine leaders to lead a virtual three-part Faith-based Nonprofit Workshop Series for creative leaders. Covering topics like human resources for staff and volunteers, theologically grounded funds development, and responsible community engagement, we are hoping to get at the day to day skills that are informed by but not necessarily covered in theology courses, and are perhaps best learned alongside practice once you are in the midst of the work. Cost is \$100 for non-students.

[Wise Women Series: Love with Jacqui Lewis \(2/17/2022 : 2/17/2022 \)](#)

Wise Women Series: Love

Feb. 17, 2022, 7:30-9:00 p.m. ET

Online Event

Jacqui Lewis

Other dates in the series: March 17, April 28, 2022

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. - Location TBD - 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](#)



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). 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 (oga.pcusa.org/stats) 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).

FAITH AT HOME BOOK and WEBINAR - Are you looking for a Lenten resource for households with children? Have you seen author and pastor Traci Smith's newest book, Faithful Families for Lent, Easter, and Resurrection? The Office of Christian Formation has partnered with Chalice Press and Traci Smith so that PC(USA) formation leaders can receive a discount of 50% off 5 or 10 copies of the book to share with those you serve. There will also be a "Faith at Home" Lent Practices Webinar on February 24 at 3:00 p.m. EST with Traci Smith, who will talk about simple practices for at-home faith formation during Lent. Six short videos will be released for use by households, highlighting our five faith practices of storytelling, hospitality, service, prayer, and retreat.



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.

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