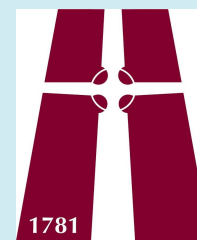


# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## March 3, 2022



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**Please pray for...**

### *District 1 Churches*

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

~~First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Ed Gray, Pastor

### *District 2 Churches*

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

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

### *District 3 Churches*

~~McClellandtown Presbyterian Church, Skip Noftzger, Moderator

~~Dunlap's Creek Presbyterian Church, Merrittstown, Aleda Menchyk, Moderator

### *District 4 Churches*

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

~~Colver Presbyterian Church, Owar Ojulu, Pastor

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### **A Timely Invitation**

In the midst of all that surrounds us, whether wars and conflicts resulting from aggression around the world or in our own neighborhood, you and I find ourselves once more invited into a different space. It is a place where we are not removed from the world, but rather one where once more we find our bearings in a journey to Jerusalem, remembered and renewed.

Lent is a time to prepare for the celebration of our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have begun this journey with the sign of ashes. That ancient sign speaks both of the frailty and uncertainty of human life and marks us as penitent sinners in need of God's grace.

So, this Lenten season, even in the midst (and maybe because) of changing coronavirus numbers, Russian aggression, polarizing political expressions, to

contemplate the person and mission of our sacrificial Savior, Jesus Christ, I invite you to observe a holy Lent, characterized by reflection, renewal and repentance. May you seek the Lord's grace and mercy anew through prayer and fasting, meditating on God's Word and expressed in works of love. Let us bow before our God, our creator and redeemer, and confess our sins, again and again even as we echo the words of the Psalmist.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right<sup>[b]</sup> spirit within me.*

*11 Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.*

*12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing<sup>[c]</sup> spirit.*

*(Psalm 51:10-12)*



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Our response to the situation in Ukraine will include both financial and technical assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

GIVE: Gifts can be made [online](#), by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAUKR to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. with "DR000156-Ukraine" on the memo line. OR mail to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). P.O. Box 743700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264

ACT: [Download](#) the bulletin insert

PRAY: God of mercy, justice and peace, Our spirits are heavy with sorrow, our souls shocked At the sudden and breathtaking violence, the invasion of Ukraine by their neighbor, Russia. We pray for lives caught in the grip of war, who hear the bombs in the night, the ominous movement of troops on the road into town, the whistle of incoming shells, for a cry from a desperate neighbor or a shout of warning. For those who huddle in subways and basements or flee for the borders, clutching their children's hands. We pray for families separated from fathers, brothers and sons who must remain to fight and protect their homeland. We pray for neighbors in Eastern and Central Europe As their hearts and doors open to these refugees That strained resources will become an abundance of hope. That fears and struggles with racism will yield to a generosity of profound welcome. That communities of faith within Ukraine will be protected from harm and sustained in their efforts to feed and shelter their neighbors. That peacemakers and protesters in Russia will be heard and their lives preserved. May we undergird our prayers with tangible resources to help. May we reach deeply, give generously, and welcome extravagantly. May we lift our voices in a strong and unified advocacy. May we all, even as we breathe in lament, breathe out mercy, hope and peace. And in this Lenten season, when we walk the way toward death and resurrection, repent our complicity in cultures of violence and renew our efforts toward justice and peace.

--Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

## Women in the Woods Retreat April 1-2, 2022

It's back - the retreat you have been "pining" for at Pine Springs Camp! Join us as we gather for a weekend retreat and celebrate God's faithfulness during the past two years. We will explore some of the ways that we experienced God's presence and provision through our COVID journey through new activities, disciplines, hobbies and practices. You will be able to choose to participate in a variety of seminars: creative, active, or contemplative. You can share your expertise or try something new! We will discuss how these things can be both good gifts and distractions for our faith journey.



*Weekend Offerings:*  
Active: Yoga, Hiking, Target Shooting

Contemplative: Writing/Journaling, Books or Prayer Workshop  
Creative: Baking, Crafting, Gardening, Painting  
TRENDS: Puzzles, Board Games, Dalgona Coffee, Bingo Challenge

What a great way to meet new women, enjoy good food and fellowship and foster joy and gratitude to God for something new in our lives.

Bring a friend, your sister, your Bible Study or Book Club or come solo- we have plenty of room for old and new faces. Optional Saturday night sleepover: The retreat ends at 7 p.m. on Saturday evening. You can choose to stay over an additional night for \$25 and depart Sunday morning. [Click here](#) for more information and to register. Registration deadline is March 28, 2022.

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#### PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

The 2021 Session Minutes and Church Register review dates have been set.

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. - Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown

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](#)

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#### DAY OF LEARNING PLANNED GIVING

Join the Presbyterian Foundation for a free, online Day of Learning with presentations and conversations about planned giving programs and best practices for your congregation. This learning opportunity will take place on March 29 and will feature the following presentations:



Good, Better, Best: Right-sized Planned Giving Program with Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley, Ministry Relations Officer of the Allegheny and Chesapeake Region, and Karl Mattison, Vice President for Planned Giving Resources

Having the Talk and Making the Ask with Olanda Carr, Senior Ministry Relations Officer of the East Region, and Rev. Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters of Reed Memorial Presbyterian Church in Augusta, Georgia.

TIME: Tuesday, March 29

10:00am PT/1:00pm ET - Good, Better, Best: Right-sized Planned Giving Program

1:00pm PT/4:00pm ET - Having the Talk and Making the Ask

TO REGISTER: Visit [presbyterianfoundation.org/dolregistration](https://presbyterianfoundation.org/dolregistration)

If you can't attend live, please register and we will send you the recordings for both sessions afterwards.

For more information, please email [serving@presbyterianfoundation.org](mailto:serving@presbyterianfoundation.org).

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From Congregational Resistance to Resourcefulness  
Samaritan Clergy Workshops



Two Thursday Workshops: March 31st and April 7th

Churches have always resisted change, but it's become worse due to the pandemic and polarization, leading churches into steeper decline. Frustrated pastors are changing churches and leaving ministry. Some churches are being held hostage by dysfunctional lay leaders. Yet churches have to change if we're to stave off deep decline and congregational death.

Rooted in insights from individual, group, and family systems therapy, organizational psychology, spiritual formation, and 34 years of experience in turning around and growing churches and organizations, the Rev. Dr. Graham Standish will offer pragmatic guidance for church leaders on transforming resistance into resourceful change. [Click here](#) for more information and registration.

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).



CALLING ALL WOMEN - you are invited to the Presbyterian Women's Regional Gathering. Please find more information by [clicking here](#).

### Presbytery Staff

[Richard "Skip" Noftzger](#)

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[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](http://www.redstonepresbytery.org)