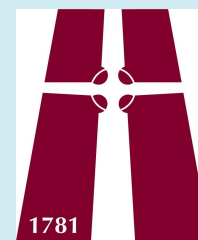


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

March 30, 2022



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

~~United Presbyterian Church, New Kensington, Wendy Keys, Pastor

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

District 2 Churches

~~First Presbyterian Church, Irwin

~~West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Andrew Wirt, Pastor

District 3 Churches

~~Tent Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, Jeff Smith, Commissioned Pastor

~~Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, Molly Hall, Moderator

District 4 Churches

~~Second Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Art Moffat, Temporary Supply

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



The "E" Word.....

Throughout my lifetime of seeking to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, my own commitment with others to share the "Good News" in word and deed has fluctuated with my own faithful living, seasons of boldness (or not) as well as opportunities available. Acknowledging these oscillations is much more a confession of my own shortcomings. Sometimes, I begin to take for granted that the living, resurrected Christ desires to call people to faith that transforms their lives and our world. Other times, my own

unwillingness keeps me from believing that the Lord God might actually want and expect me to be the messenger of this "Good News."

After all, aren't there plenty of other people who God could use? Maybe some even more gifted in this area than I? The reality is that while we are not all gifted as evangelists, but as disciples of Christ, we are called to be those who proclaim and share that gospel message. I am reminded of the apostle's explanation when he identifies his "debt" to Greeks and barbarians, the wise and the foolish.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17)

As congregations of people gathered in a particular location by virtue of the grace we have

received in Jesus Christ, we would think that we would want to share that same grace with others. For many, it is not a question of desire, but rather the result of either fear, not wanting to be hypocritical nor employing the methods that we have witnessed by others. Yet, it is unfortunate if we permit what we are “against” in particular evangelistic methods to deter us from purposeful and deliberate outreach in the name of Jesus the Christ. Equally true not just for individuals, but for congregations as well. I am reminded of what one person told me years ago, “you may be critical of the evangelism that others are doing, but how does that excuse the evangelism you are not doing.”

Signs of congregational vitality also include the awareness, education and preparation of all people of faith to be able and ready to testify to the Good News in Jesus Christ. Too often, we avoid this responsibility for fear of appearing like others or reducing the sharing of the gospel to just being hospitable or generous or nice (all qualities associated with faithful proclamation) or just relegating it to a church committee who comes up with a few events. In the “Toolkit for Vital Congregations,” the second of those “7 marks” asks us to consider the ways we might engage in evangelism that is both authentic and intentional. Just as the earliest disciples seized the opportunities of their time and place we should do the same. Connected to our own lifelong walk with Christ in faith, evangelism authentically represents the “Good News” that has, is and will bring salvation. Another reflection of this evangelistic “mark” is that we share this news with “intentionality and with people with whom we have relationships.” Prerequisite to having a vital congregation that is engaged in evangelism is that both individually and collectively we know others and are known by them, particularly among those who do not know Christ or share our faith. Without those relationships, efforts to share the gospel may always feel artificial or awkward.

As we consider together this “mark” of the “Vital Congregation,” may the privilege and responsibility no longer be the “E” word that is never said nor practiced. Rather may we also seek to go in the name of Jesus to all that by grace through faith disciples may be called and formed along with us.

Reflection questions for us as faith communities (selected from the “7 Marks of Vital Congregations”; PCUSA).

- When did the news of Christ become Good News in your life?
- Does your church authentically allow individuals to come as they are, with their particular stories, and hear the Good News? Why or why not?
- In your church, how do people share their stories and connect it to the Story of God’s redeeming love?
- How is your congregation equipped, empowered, and encouraged to intentionally share the Good News in daily life?
- Do you have an evangelism committee? If so, what are they tasked to do? How do you practice sharing the good news vs. growing membership?
- What keeps us from sharing the Good News in our daily relationships?
- Can we call it “Good News” if we do not share it in our authentic relationships?
- Name a time when sharing the Good News was good for someone who needed to hear it.

Installation Service

The Rev. Alice Tondora will be installed as the Pastor of the Cresson and Patton churches on Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the Patton Presbyterian Church.

There will be a dinner following in the social room. Please join the Presbytery in joining the Cresson and Patton churches in welcoming Rev. Tondora to their families.



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.

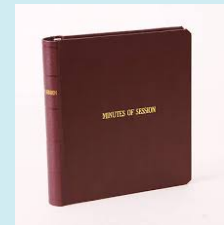
HE'S ALIVE! A Musical Passion Play is back. Palm Sunday weekend. April 8,9 & 10 at the Capitol Theatre in Wheeling, WV. Go to <https://heavenboundministriesinc.com/> for more details.



Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 79 W. Fayette Street, Uniontown will host the Beesontown Singers as they present "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Theodore Dubois. Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. [Click here](#) for more information.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

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



- 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. - First Presbyterian Church, Belle
- Vernon - This will be prior to the Presbytery meeting being held that evening beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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

[Session Minutes Checklist](#)

[Church Register Checklist](#)



Free Workshop Presented by the IPLF Program

- Ethics and Boundaries - May 7, 2022 - Michelle Snyder, Crows Feet Consulting, Instructor

Defining and practicing healthy boundaries in interpersonal relationships for the sake of both pastor and congregants will be explored. Professional ethics as applied to the pastoral relationships will be applied for various situations, both in person and online. Awareness of legal and ecclesiastical expectations for professional conduct will be covered.

This workshop will 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.

Pine Springs Camp will be hosting the 22nd annual Pine Springs Camp Scholarship Golf Outing on Monday, May 23, 2022. Once again we will enjoy the historic course and hospitality of Arnold Palmer's Latrobe Country Club.



The golf outing is another way to connect folks with the camp and help sustain the ministry. Here are three ways that your church can show your support at the outing:

- "Amen Corner" Church Sponsor
- Donate to the Silent Auction
- Bring a Foursome

[Click here](#) for more information on this event. Email Greg Davis or call the office if you would be interested in supporting this event. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Pine Springs.



Thank you!

Synod meets \$50,000 match for Ukraine

In a little more than three weeks, individuals, churches and presbyteries within the Synod of the Trinity region have contributed in excess of \$50,000 to help support the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine.

All of these funds are being matched by the Synod and forwarded to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which is working with ecumenical partners that are dealing with the humanitarian crisis in countries bordering Ukraine.

Thanks to you, we have met our matching total. While we will end up matching more than the \$50,000 figure, we will no longer be matching future contributions. Any additional funds we receive that are earmarked for "Ukraine" will still be forwarded to PDA.

We urge you to continue to support PDA's efforts with prayer and monetary contributions, which can be made through the PDA's website by [clicking here](#). (Note: Gifts can be designated for Ukraine in the comments/instructions box on the second page of the giving form.)

Again, we thank you for your overwhelming generosity during this time.

DEPLOYMENT BAGS - On behalf of Washington Presbytery's Mission and Outreach Committee has adopted the 171st Force Support Squadron's Airman & Family Readiness Program as our Spring Mission Partner. We are encouraging congregations/individuals to participate in the creation of "Deployment Bags". During their travels to deployed locations, airmen do not have access to their personal items. These "Deployment bags" provide them with needed items during their travel/layover period. It is a nice way to let them know we appreciate and support their





After 3 postponements IT IS HAPPENING!

The pilgrimage to the Holy Land is a 'go' for October 15-27; seats are reserved on particular flights, hotels are being reserved, and we are excited!

We also have some seats to spare if anyone is interested in joining Jim Farrer (814-629-5211) and Norma Prina Murphy (412-427-7456) in this opportunity to study scripture where it happened and to walk where Jesus walked. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to this life and faith changing experience! Click here for more [information](#) and [itinerary](#).

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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