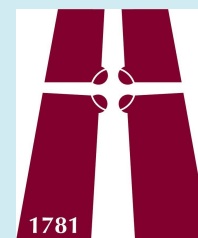


# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## April 21, 2022



---

### 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*

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

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

#### *District 3 Churches*

~~Palmer Community Presbyterian Church, Adah, Nicholas Beatty, Temporary Supply

~~First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Mary Kay Glunt, Pastor

#### *District 4 Churches*

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

~~Patton Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Pastor

---

### **CALLED TO SERVE (All of us)**

In the course of working with Pastor Nominating Committees, I often share a cartoon that depicts the expectations of potential pastors. In it, the candidate shows up with his resume (PIF) indicating that he would “like to be considered for the building contractor, janitor, personnel manager, counselor, project organizer, mediator, fund raiser, vision caster, peacekeeper, pastor position.” Of course, this can be true not just of electing a new pastor, but sometimes are practices that we can “fall” into with pastors who serve in all different size congregations. It becomes altogether too easy to rely on the person whose “job” is the church ministry.



The truth is that congregations that have vitality exhibit a shared calling by God not only to gather for worship, but to be the people of God in that place who serve the Lord and his mission. At one end of the continuum, congregants participate only as passive consumers. The ministry of the congregation becomes one in which they might engage through decision making, but leave the actual service to the pastor or other paid staff. Of course, there can be congregations where there are some at the other end of continuum. In those churches, particular members, while acting out of noble intent, end up

controlling various parts of the ministry and leave no room for others to engage or participate meaningfully. Churches, as communities of faith who are the body of Christ in a particular place, invite, encourage and value those who will lead and serve for God's glory and the mission to which they have been called.

In a few weeks at the end of this Eastertide, many congregations will gather to celebrate Pentecost. Often called the "birthday" of the Church, we acknowledge the coming of the Spirit upon the people of God that transcended language barriers. That same Spirit inhabited the lives and ministries of the Gospel even as it was preached across national, ethnic and social divisions. Yet, not only does the Spirit coming fulfill the anticipated vision of Joel, but also the day hoped for by Moses. When Moses needed help because he was "bearing the burden," the Lord promised that God's power was not limited and the spirit was given and rested on the elders evidence by their prophesying. Moses is asked to stop the two elders who had not been at the tent of meeting, but yet still received the spirit. Yet, Moses proclaims, "Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"

Today, Moses' "wish" is true. God's Spirit is upon all those who are claimed in union with Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One. We affirm the "priesthood of believers" not merely as a principle, but as a practice. We understand that "equipping the saints" includes developing gifts and empowering callings among all in our churches. In the end, the Spirit of God can and will bring good news through the active engagement and service of each one of God's people in order that God's mission might be fulfilled.

"Vital" congregations are not merely ones with charismatic pastors nor high-end programming, nor a committed core of faithful leaders, although all of those might be of value. No "Vital" congregations, empowered by the Spirit, are ones who not only understand and teach this from the Scriptures but embody and reflect it in who they are and how they are called to serve.



#### Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown Shares Mission Projects

Since 2013, Third Presbyterian Church has hosted six blood drives a year, collecting enough blood to potentially save 7,000 patients' lives. The success of these drives is due in great part to volunteer coordinator Marilyn Fitzsimmons, who says, "Saving lives is an important community initiative." Marilyn and her team take a creative approach to making their blood drives special. "We thank everyone who donates by serving a delicious homecooked meal at every blood drive. It keeps donors coming back!" The church even holds fundraising events like rummage sales to buy the ingredients for the meals. If your organization is interested in hosting a blood drive, you can learn more: [vit.ink/HostADrive](http://vit.ink/HostADrive).

Also, [click here](#) to read an article that appeared in a recent edition of the Synod of the Trinity newsletter.

---

Redstone Presbyterian SeniorCare is hosting a group trip to see the new show at Sight and Sound Theater: David.



The day trip will take place on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Here are the details: We will depart via deluxe motorcoach from Redstone North Huntingdon Clubhouse located at 12921 Redstone Drive, Irwin, PA at 7 am. Our first stop will be Kitchen Kettle Village. There we will have a couple of hours for shopping and lunch on your own. Then it is on to Sight and Sound for the 3 pm performance. We have floor seats in the very front of the theater this time! After the show, we will enjoy the Smorgasbord at Redstone's favorite Yoder's Family Restaurant, and then will depart for Redstone. We anticipate arriving back home around 11 pm. Cost for all described is \$210 per person. To make a reservation, please call 724-832-8401 X 3370.



Choir on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to the concert. There are no tickets for this concert but a Free-will offering will be accepted. See [attached](#) for more information.

### Matthew 25 Bible Study: The Gospel & Inclusivity

Join Pastor Curtis (Rev. Curtis Paul, Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville) to study the letter to the Galatians.

Wednesdays 4/27, 5/4 & 5/11 from 7-8PM.

Via zoom Meeting ID: 678 936 2797 Passcode: 316317

Anyone is welcome. Pastor Curtis is hosting this for Redstone Presbytery.

For a glance at the study [https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/M25\\_Bible-Study-FINAL-8.31.20.pdf](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/M25_Bible-Study-FINAL-8.31.20.pdf)



Purpose of this Study: The *Matthew 25 Vision* calls the Presbyterian Church (USA) to engage our world, so our faith comes alive and we are awakened to new possibilities. The 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and confront systems and principalities that oppress and prey on the vulnerable: the hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

We live into the Matthew 25 vision by engaging together in the three works of vitalizing our congregations, dismantling structural racism and eradicating poverty. These three works, of course, are inseparable. This study focuses on the fundamental connection between the vitality of our congregations and the work of dismantling racism.

A congregation cannot be vital without confronting racism; for what is at stake —when racism directs our congregational and community life — is our faithfulness to the gospel. I (Samuel Son) start this study by sharing my journey of this discovery — that the gospel is about how we do church life that is inclusive. Then I will invite you to study some of the scriptures that made the scales of discrimination begin to fall off my eyes.



Registration is open now for “Flourishing in Ministry — Cultivating Well-Being in Clergy and Caregivers,” ...the 22nd annual

Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference on Friday, May 6, 2022. This year’s event will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at a new South Hills location: Christ United Methodist Church, 44 Highland Road, Bethel Park, 15102.

The conference features keynote speaker Matt Bloom, Ph.D., professor emeritus at the University of Notre Dame and author of *Flourishing in Ministry* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019). Dr. Bloom’s sociological research offers practical approaches for clergy, social workers, and other caregivers who want to develop lasting well-being in their ministry.

Conference participants will also choose from among ten diverse hands-on workshops, including:

- counseling those facing COVID-era grief and loss
- facilitating interventions for those experiencing addiction
- communicating effectively across political differences
- welcoming new immigrants to our communities.
- overcoming division in the church

The day will conclude with an interactive Bible study on themes of healing, led by Bishop David Zubik, Bishop Ketlen Solak, the Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, and Elder Ralph Lowe. The \$50

#### 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](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org).

---



First Presbyterian Church Belle Vernon is holding a Spring Tea, Saturday, May 7, 2022, 4 p.m., at Rostraver Ice Garden, 511 Gallitin Avenue, Rostraver Township! Featuring "Shepherd's Voice" Trio. Bring your mother, your daughter, or your best friends as we celebrate spring and Mother's Day, enjoy finger sandwiches, salads, and cookies, as well as live entertainment and door prizes. Dress is casual to elegant; you may want to wear a fancy hat! Shop at our ticket/basket auction. Tickets are \$10 per person, and can be purchased at the church office, 511 Fayette Street, Rostraver Township, or by calling the office at 724-929-7616. All funds raised support ministries and outreach of First Presbyterian.

---

#### Redstone Presbyterian Women Spring Retreat

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at Pine Springs Camp. "Hymns of our Faith and What They Teach" with Patricia Hart, Organist and Bell Choir Director, New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon.

[Click here](#) for more information or to register.



#### PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

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

- 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](#)

---

employees of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in new and creative ways. If you have other ideas about how we can help, please let me know. I am happy to meet with presbytery and church committees to discuss your thoughts and hopes of how we can strengthen the benefits for your congregation. The Board of Pensions is a national agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), offering a broad range of benefits to PC(USA) churches, agencies, and mid councils, as well as affiliated employers. Member/Employer Services: 800-773-7752, M-F 8:30-7:00pm EST. Read more from the Board of Pensions by [clicking here](#).



Doug Portz Church Consultant, m: 267-788-4962 [dportz@pensions.org](mailto:dportz@pensions.org)



**NEW! A CONFIRMATION CURRICULUM** for the Matthew 25 Church - How do we stem the tide of young people leaving the church, not for the sake of improved numbers and full worship services but for the sake of the world that God loves?

[Commissioned to Change the World: Confirmation for the Matthew 25 Congregation](#), written by Mark D. Hinds, marries adolescent confirmation with the theological focus of "serving the least of these." The curriculum affirms teenagers as God's beloved children, anointed for ministry in the context of a covenant community of mutual

encouragement and accountability.

#### RELIGIOUS DIMENSIONS TO CRISIS IN UKRAINE -

Every other week, Lee Hinson-Hasty hosts a new episode of the series Leading Theologically via Facebook Live where he has a conversation with a different leader in ministry across the PC(USA). [Watch the video](#) conversation with Lee and Rev. Dr. John Burgess about Ukraine. You can also see what our Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is doing in Ukraine [here](#).



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.

**DEPLOYMENT BAGS** - On behalf of Washington Presbytery's Mission and Outreach Committee has adopted the 171<sup>st</sup> 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 15-28 (note it is now 14 days!); 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 faith and life changing experience! Click here for more [information](#) and [itinerary](#). (Pastors: Grant money may be available to you to help subsidize the cost of this from the Board of Pensions by taking it as half of a 4-week Sabbath-Sabbatical).

---

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