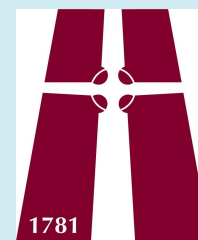


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

May 10, 2022



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

~~Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Sue Washburn, Interim Pastor

~~Community United Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria, Len Morgan, Commissioned Pastor

District 2 Churches

~~Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton, Karen Kifer, Commissioned Pastor

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

District 3 Churches

~~Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Don Glunt, Pastor

~~Calvin Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Kristen Emrick, Pastor

District 4 Churches

~~Colver Presbyterian Church, Owar Ojulu, Pastor

~~Cresson Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Pastor



Form and Function..

When our corporate worship became decentralized out of necessity through availability both in person and online, the temptation was there and remains to treat it as a neutral tool or a necessary (but less desirable) accommodation. Yet, we must ask ourselves, what makes this offering any different from any other YouTube video, Facebook posting, or even a Tik Tok video? Are we expecting it to be “consumed” the same way? If not, why not? And how might it be different?

If truth be told, this type of concern is not merely relegated to those who participate in worship through the mediation of technology. Even within our centralized in-person worship offerings, questions could (and should) be raised concerning its differentiation with any other event gathering. How has our engagement together as the people of God ascribed worth to our God beyond or differently than what occurs in a concert or lecture or poetry reading?

The “test” of our worship is not what we received out of it, though that may be a secondary result. Rather, the question is whether our expression as God’s people brings God glory. Whether we gathered either together in one physical space or across many locations through technological means, have God’s people offered their own praises and penitence,

reflections and renewal, gratitude and giving, wonder and worship? Has the Word of God been proclaimed and embedded in our lives that God's sanctifying grace empowers us to "offer our bodies as living sacrifices which is our spiritual service of worship." Has the Spirit been present that we have encountered the resurrected and living Lord Jesus Christ?

This is not to say that somehow Spirit-inspired worship is purely extemporaneous or non-liturgical. The Spirit's guidance is in both the preparation and the embodiment of our worship of our God. Whether "high church or low church," formal or informal, experimental or traditional, have the people of God been engaged to encounter the living God? So, while form matters, it still follows from function.

Perhaps, we would benefit from less focus (at least at first) upon the details of the order or style of our preferences in worship practices (the way we always do it). We might first consider whether our worship purpose is being fulfilled (whether in person or online). In the Vital Congregations toolkit, they identify their list of potential "outcomes" of "Spirit-Inspired worship." Whether it is this list or another, are we willing to consider how, not only our Sunday morning worship services but other worship practices as well, show evidence of a congregation that is "vital" not just because of our talents, or resources (although they are to be used), but because God's people meet there (wherever that is) the living God?

Potential Outcomes

- *Worship helps people deepen their relationship with God and nurtures faith.*
- *Worship strengthens our communal ties as stories are shared and we intimately experience God.*
- *Worship becomes an expression of relationships to God and to the household of God.*
- *Worship opens us to experience the wonder God longs to reveal and wonder transforms our lives and ministry, never leaving us the same, but leading us to deeper questions.*
- *Worship enlivens us, emboldens us to be a people of God in our communities and our world.*
- *Blessing of rich diversity as people share new rituals, traditions, ways of interpreting which challenge and enrich our wisdom in faith.*

So our questions for consideration may focus less on the tools (unless they either promote or inhibit) and asking ourselves not only for Sunday morning worship, but other expressions as well, do we see evidence of these outcomes?

Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo will be having their Soup for the Soul tomorrow (May 11th)! Soup du Jour is "Italian Wedding Soup". Doors open at 11:30am and Soup is served at noon. Come and bring a friend!



If you are having Vacation Bible School this summer, please send me (secretary@redstonepresbytery.org) your information so I can share it with others. Thank you!!

Matthew 25 Bible Study: The Gospel & Inclusivity

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

Wednesday 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



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.



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

The last two opportunities for the 2021 Session Minutes and Church Register reviews are:

- 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.

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

[Session Minutes Checklist](#)

[Church Register Checklist](#)

PINE SPRINGS CAMP CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, May 14, 2022 - 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pine Springs Camp needs help to get camp ready for the summer. They will have numerous work projects suitable for a variety of age groups.

Continental Breakfast will provided. Please bring a dish to share for lunch

[Click here](#) to read more and to register to help.



The Rev. Derek Campbell will be installed as the Pastor of the Latrobe Presbyterian Church on Sunday, May 15, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the church. There will be a reception following the service. Please join the Presbytery in welcoming Rev. Campbell.

**Anger, Love, and Power - Kelso Lecture on Race and Faith
(5/20/2022 : 5/20/2022)**

Anger, Love, and Power
Kelso Lecture on Race and Faith
May 20, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Dennis Edwards

Some Bible readers dismiss or demonize anger, but anger can provoke positive change when rightly understood. Similarly, understanding and appreciating that love is not sentimentality but actively redresses injustice will fuel our imaginations for how Jesus-followers can help reshape our neighborhoods. Learn more: <https://www.pts.edu/Kelso-Race-Faith-2122>



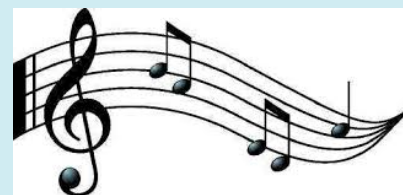
**Gospel Concert - Featuring Elvis Tribute
Artist Eddie Steen.**

Harmony Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon.

Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Seats are limited - order early. [Click here](#) for more information on how to get your tickets today!

Community United Presbyterian Church in New Alexandria will be hosting the Irwin Men's Chorus on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. [Click here](#) for more information.



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.

Healthy Congregations, Inc. will once again be hosting an annual May Leadership Event. This event will be offered via Zoom on Monday, May 23 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Eastern for "Stepping Back: Engaging New Horizons".



Join us for "Stepping Back: Engaging New Horizons"
Monday, May 23, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Eastern via Zoom

Dr. Walter H. Smith, Jr. will be serving as our keynote speaker. Dr. Smith is well known as a powerful interpreter of family dynamics and maturity in leadership.

With a primary interest in applying Bowen theory to family violence, child abuse and organizational functioning, Dr. Smith is a licensed psychologist and a graduate of the Georgetown Family Center's Post Graduate Program in Family Theory and Family Psychotherapy. He will be speaking about "The Role of Social Adaptation on Human Functioning" and "Leadership, Vision and Managing Relationship Polarization."

With a wide perspective, wisdom and experience, his work is valued by those in many leadership and service areas including Health Care, Education Administration, Finance and Human Services.

Workshops will be offered by:

- Ronald W. Richardson
- Fulgence Nyengele
- Dana Runestad
- and Executive Director Emlyn Ott

There has never been a more important time to consider the dynamics, places and principles in organizations and communities.

[Click here](#) to read flyer and [click here](#) for more information on the event.



The Pneuma Institute and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary are offering the following event June 3 and 4 on Soul Trauma. Its goal is to help clergy, religious, Social Workers, Educators, nurses, and those of us in the helping professions, deal with trauma and folks who come to us for Spiritual Direction, pastoral care, counseling, and the like. [Click here](#) for page 1 of flyer and [click here](#) for page 2.

Presbyterian Women of the Synod of the Trinity Southwest Regional Gathering

Sunday, June 26, 2022 through Monday, June 27, 2022 - Bridgeport, WV

Using chocolate as a metaphor (and sometimes to eat), we will take a deep dive into Jesus' miracles to explore God's extravagant grace...
...through our mistakes and blunders
...for others
...in the midst of disappointment
...with the ultimate gift of Jesus' resurrection



[Click here](#) for more information and [click here](#) for registration form.



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.

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).



Region's support generates nearly \$300k for Ukraine efforts

In early March, the Synod of the Trinity invited the presbyteries, congregations and individuals in our region to donate money to assist Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in its humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine. We agreed to donate \$1,000 ourselves and also match incoming dollars to support those affected by the war.

Because your enthusiasm was so powerful, the Synod increased our matching figure twice. To date, we have received just shy of \$200,000 in donations and have matched \$100,000 of those funds, bringing the total donation figure to almost \$300,000!

While we are no longer matching contributions, PDA continues to work with ecumenical partners that are dealing with the humanitarian crisis in countries bordering Ukraine. Any additional funds we receive that are earmarked for "Ukraine" will still be forwarded to PDA.

PDA has sent support to several of the PCUSA's reformed and orthodox partners who are working with national and local churches. They are:

- Community of St. Egidio in Ukraine – working in western Ukraine
- Hungarian Reformed Church Aid – western Ukraine & Hungary
- Hungarian Interchurch Aid – Ukraine & Hungary
- Lutheran World Federation – Poland
- International Orthodox Christian Charities – Romania

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.

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