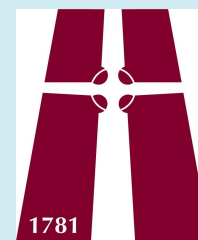


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

June 2, 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

~~First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Martin Ankrum, Pastor

~~Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Steve LaSor, Pastor

District 3 Churches

*~~Tyrone Presbyterian Church, Dawson, Anthony Marciano,
Commissioned Pastor*

~~First Presbyterian Church, Dunbar, Aleda Menchyk, Moderator

District 4 Churches

*~~First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Chuck MacPherson,
Moderator*

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



Where We “Belong”

Have you ever been part of an organization that despite all of your best efforts, you never had a genuine sense that you belonged there. Your own intuitive recognition discerns that while you may be accepted or even included, yet underlying barriers remain that keep you from ever really belonging. Those obstacles may be historic or familial or even cultural, but they result in connections that never reach a level of caring and trust for which we long.

Precisely because of the model of Jesus’ willingness to serve and sacrifice, we also connect with one another in ways that embody that same calling one with another. Though counter-intuitive to many of the other organizations and institutions in which we participate, as a community in union with Christ represents an alternative expression of caring and commitment. It is not merely a willingness to be kind for the sake of being nice or a commitment that is sustained as long as you agree with me or there is no conflict. Rather, in the security of the grace of our God, we are expected to love one another not as some type of transaction, but because God has loved us and others and calls us to do the same.

Often, we need to be reminded of the instructions in word and deed of Jesus with his disciples at that Passover meal. Both in visible act signified in foot washing and in his query to them about their understanding of it, Jesus makes clear his example of the humility of the

commitment required of those first disciples and us. We are “blessed” if we recognize that the servants are not greater than the master AND if we act accordingly.

Further, our Lord offers a “new commandment” that the disciples are expected to love one another. In the same way that Jesus has loved them (and us), the disciples (then and now) should also love one another. Of course, we know this in our minds. We know it in our hearts. Yet, temptation arises again and again for us to only love those who we consider to be lovable. It can creep in such that we only are willing to act upon that love if they are like us or meet certain expectations or have particular standing. Yet, Jesus’ love knows no limitations. Jesus challenges us to love in the same way that Jesus did.

Beyond this responsibility and obligation, we should be further challenged by the reality of its relationship to our collective testimony. “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” The sign, the foundation, the credibility of our witness of Jesus is the reality (or not) of how we love one another. As we used to sing, “they will know we are Christians by our love.” In communities of faith, this is not a sappy sentimentality, this is the lived expression of God’s compassion, grace, and love. Evidence in that space and in that community because of Jesus Christ and Christ’s disciples, makes it a place where all invited by Christ can and do belong.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be coming soon!

View the [list of schedules](#) for the churches in Redstone Presbytery



If you are planning a VBS for this summer, send your information to the [Presbytery office](#) to be included in this list.



2022/2023 Presbyterian Planning Calendars

The Presbytery office will be doing a bulk order again this year for the 2022/2023 Presbyterian Planning Calendars. [Click here](#) to download the order form. The deadline for getting your orders in will be Thursday, August 4, 2022.

MALE COUNSELORS NEEDED - Pine Springs Camp is in need of a few more men to serve as camp counselors this summer. Applicants must be at least 17 years old and have a strong desire to share the love of Jesus with campers! Please help us to spread the word. [Click here](#) to learn more.

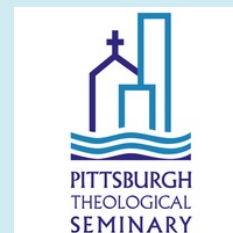


Alzheimer's and Dementia Family and Friends Support Group

Does your loved one have Alzheimer's or other dementia? Do you feel like others don't understand what you are going through? Would you like someone to talk to who is having a similar experience?

We are here to listen and support. Meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each month from 1:00 to 2:15 p.m. [Click here](#) for more information or to register.

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.



New Hope Presbyterian Church in North Huntingdon will be having a Strawberry Festival, scheduled for Saturday, June 11, from 4:00-7:00pm. [Click here](#) for more information.

20th CELEBRATION TUNCH & WOLF'S WALK FOR THE HOMELESS - June 18th at 9:45 a.m. The walk supports the transformation of lives for women, children, men, and families experiencing homelessness, poverty, and addiction. This family-friendly event begins with a 5k/10k walk along the beautiful North Shore trail of Pittsburgh and ends with a free cook out. [Register as an individual or create/join a team.](#)



2022 WORSHIP AND MUSIC CONFERENCE - The Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) will be having their 2022 Worship and Music Conference June 19 - 24, and June 26 - July 1 at the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, NC. The event is titled "In the Stranger's Guise," and will be offered both in-person and online. The Worship and Music Conference is an inter-generational conference for children, youth, adults, pastors, directors, organists, pianists, instrumentalists, dancers, ringers, worship leaders, choir members, and anyone who loves and takes part in the worship and music of the church. [Register today.](#)

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...

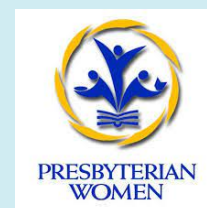
...through our mistakes and blunders

...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.



DIGITAL MINISTRY SUMMIT June 27-July 1 - As we enter the third year of a worldwide pandemic we continue to realize that digital ministry is real ministry and it is essential for the future of the church in our world. As faith leaders we can naively hope to return to "the way

Pittsburgh Prays---On July 10; 1:00-4:00 at Heinz Field, Christians around the city will gather to worship and pray for reconciliation and unity. To find out more and to register, go to pittsburghprays.com



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).

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.



Amen TO ACTION

Amen to Action – Since 2017, “Amen to Action” has been packing meals for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. In 2021, the event was moved to ten different churches in the Pittsburgh region. Amen to Action will take place again this November (2022). To volunteer and participate, got to AmentoAction.org

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*Communicate the
Word...*

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

