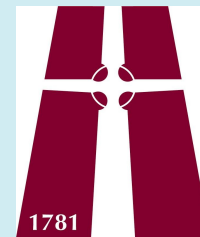


# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## June 22, 2022



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### Please pray for...

#### *District 1 Churches*

~~Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Curtis Paul, Pastor;  
Travis Webster, Associate Pastor

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

#### *District 2 Churches*

~~Latrobe Presbyterian Church, Derek Campbell, Pastor

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

#### *District 3 Churches*

~~Little Redstone Presbyterian Church, Fayette City, Josh Scully,  
Commissioned Pastor

~~Springhill Furnace Presbyterian Church, Lake Lynn, Molly Hall,  
Covenant Pastor

#### *District 4 Churches*

~~Patton Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Pastor

~~Revloc Presbyterian Church, David O'Hara, Commissioned Pastor



#### SUMMERTIME: CHECKING IN; ASKING THE QUESTIONS

In these summer months (officially), many of us will have the opportunity to step back from the activities and programming of our lives. Whether it is the demands of work or the patterns of family life or the responsibilities of our churches, we can find ourselves in need of some rest and renewal. It is my hope that each of us will discover (at least for a short period) some relief from the pressures that characterize much of our lives.

While there is a need for relaxation, sometimes these renewal occasions may also be opportunities for reconsideration. Are we as healthy as we should be? Are we invested in what we believe God has called us to be and to do? Are the values that we profess being lived out in the tangible expressions of everyday living? The ability to ask such hard questions and the willingness to consider what should remain and what should change in our lives reflects the commitment to continue to learn, to grow, to develop, and mature as a person.

Similarly, in our corporate lives as communities of faith, this may be an opportune time to check in and ask ourselves harder questions. Not merely questions such as what are the

ways that we can keep doing what we are doing with minor revisions. In fact, this “slower” period may just be the time to ask ourselves in conversations together (formal or informal; structured or spontaneous) regarding those most basic matters. Questions like “why do we gather as a church community?” Once more, orienting ourselves to what is primary in our motivation and in our purpose may validate, renew, or revise our identity as a congregation. Following such foundational questions, other questions about how we live that out might be considered. Are we saying and doing who we say we are? Are we being who God has called us to be (at this time/place)? Are we doing what God has called us to do (at this time/place)? How is it reflected in our activities, in our commitments, in our building use, in our budgets?

No doubt, in stepping back, we will discover and discern some that is good and faithful and some that is not perfect or does not represent who we are and seeking to be. For like each of us, our churches signify varying levels of authenticity to our professed mission. Or, in the words attributed to that great theologian, Yogi Berra, *“In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice there is.”*

Such shared questions and reflections are less a sign of weakness or trouble, but rather a prayerful and dependent awareness and discernment of God’s work which is not complete. Whether it is what God is doing in us, upon us, or through us, it is always a sanctifying process by which we (together) are continuing to learn, to grow, and to live by faith. So, this summer, take time for your health as individuals and as congregations. May that rest and renewal come with opportunities for honest and prayerful discernment. And may the “why” you are a people of God in this place and the “how” you practice being that people together become even more clear for the glory of our God.

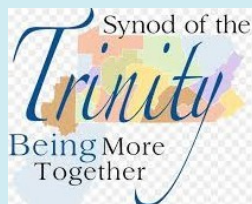
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## REDSTONE CHURCHES UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Third Tuesday each month - Food and Fellowship](#) - First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon
- [Blood Drives](#) - Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown
- [6/23/2022 - Drive Thru Chicken Dinner](#) - Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville
- [7/28/2022 - Beo String Quartet](#) - Latrobe Presbyterian Church
- [7/30/2022 - Christmas in July Craft and Vendor Show](#) - First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon
- [8/11/2022 - Chatham Baroque](#) - Latrobe Presbyterian Church



[Click on each link listed above for more information on these events](#)



### Synod of the Trinity Begins Search for the Next Stated Clerk

With the retirement of Rev. Wayne Yost at the end of the year from the position of Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Trinity, we have begun the search for the next person who might serve in this way. Although a part time position, we know that the person fulfilling this role is important in ecclesiastical matters and in support of the ministry and mission of the Synod.

Below is a link to the position description.

<https://tinyurl.com/synodoftrinitystatedclerk>

Please consider who you might encourage to apply.

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Third Presbyterian Church in Uniontown has dropped a Session Minute book at the Presbytery office. They are no longer in need of it and would like to donate it to any church that may have that need. The book includes about 100 pages of the minute book paper as well. This book and paper will be given to the first church that inquires about it. So if your church has a need for these very generous gifts please contact Bobbie at the Presbytery office at 724.837.6737 or [secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org).



### IRS INCREASES MILEAGE RATE FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2022

The Internal Revenue Service today announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rate for the final 6 months of 2022. Taxpayers may use the optional standard mileage rates to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business and certain other purposes.

For the final 6 months of 2022, the standard mileage rate for business travel will be 62.5 cents per mile, up 4 cents from the rate effective at the start of the year. The new rate for deductible medical or moving expenses (available for active-duty members of the military) will be 22 cents for the remainder of 2022, up 4 cents from the rate effective at the start of 2022. These new rates become effective July 1, 2022. The IRS provided legal guidance on the new rates in [Announcement 2022-13PDF](#), issued today.

In recognition of recent gasoline price increases, the IRS made this special adjustment for the final months of 2022. The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a year in the fall for the next calendar year. For travel from January 1 through June 30, 2022, taxpayers should use the rates set forth in [Notice 2022-03PDF](#).

"The IRS is adjusting the standard mileage rates to better reflect the recent increase in fuel prices," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "We are aware a number of unusual factors have come into play involving fuel costs, and we are taking this special step to help taxpayers, businesses and others who use this rate."

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

View [schedule](#) 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.

Is God calling you? If you are a Ruling Elder who God might be calling to preach or become more involved in pastoral service, Redstone Presbytery (along with Washington, Kiski, Pittsburgh, and Upper Ohio Valley) will be continuing our training program for the preparation of possible

"Commissioned Ruling Elders" for the future. We are looking for elders interested in enrichment, education and training for possible preaching or commissioned pastoral service. New students may begin in the fall of 2022. The program is designed to be both classroom and hands-on experiences and you will receive training and mentorship that will help you grow as a leader in Christ's Church. If interested, please contact Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter.



**PINE SPRINGS CAMP NEEDS YOUR HELP** - Each Sunday, the PSC staff comes together for a time of fellowship, food, and encouragement as they gear up to welcome another group of enthusiastic campers for the week. Churches and individuals have graciously volunteered to provide the meals on Sundays to assist PSC in this rewarding ministry for camp staff. There are three Sundays still available to sponsor a meal - June 19, July 24, and August 7. There are about 55-60 people each Sunday. If your church or group might be interested in supporting the camp in this way, please email [pinesspringscamp@gmail.com](mailto:pinesspringscamp@gmail.com) or [greg@pinessprings.org](mailto:greg@pinessprings.org).

### 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.



### PRESBYTERY FINANCIAL SECRETARY POSITION

Washington Presbytery is seeking an experienced bookkeeper for a variety of tasks described in the attachment [here](#). The position primarily involves work-from-home duties.

**225th GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS BEGUN** - The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will make history this month with the denomination's first hybrid General Assembly to take place from Friday, June 17th through Sunday, July 9th. [View the full docket](#) for more information.



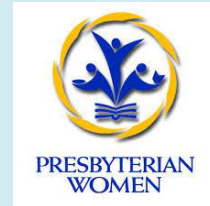
**2022 WORSHIP AND MUSIC CONFERENCE** - The Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) will be having their 2022 Worship and Music Conference June 19 - 24, and June 26 - July 1 at the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, NC. The event is titled "In the Stranger's Guise," and will be offered both 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](#).

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**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.

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**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 things used to be" or we can intentionally and strategically create digital ministries that engage our congregations and the world around us with the good news of love and justice. The Digital Ministry Summit provides an in depth look at hybrid worship, online church, virtual community, and more. [Learn more and register here.](#)

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**PEACE BREAKFAST FOR DINNER** - On July 3rd at 7:00 p.m., the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship welcomes you to bring your breakfast and join them online for a conversation featuring keynote speaker Dr. Svitlana Romanko, a Ukrainian environmental lawyer. There will be learning, celebration, fellowship, a "Peace Trivia" contest, General Assembly updates, and inspiration from the keynote speaker and Peaceseeker Award recipients. [View additional details and register.](#)



**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](http://pittsburghprays.com)

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**FINDING WHOLENESS: RESOURCES FOR BEATING BURNOUT** - July 14th from 2-3 p.m. Everyone feels pressure at work and the pandemic has been especially challenging for those serving in helping professions. However, if it seems like you're always stressed, exhausted, and low on motivation, it could be job-related burnout. This webinar, offered by the Board of Pensions, explores how burnout develops and factors that may be involved. In addition, participants will learn to recognize the signs of burnout, respond in productive ways, and make changes to head it off in the future. [Learn more and register.](#)



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**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND**

Not only is the pilgrimage to the Holy Land a "go" for October 15-28 (note it is now 14 days!), we are expecting to have a few seminarians from Jerusalem Seminary join us, AND it is



confirmed that Dr. Gerald McDermott, respected theologian and author of the book - "Why Israel Matters: Why Christians Must Think Differently about the People and the Land" - will definitely be joining us for a portion of the trip with his wife and granddaughter!

We still 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).

WEE KIRK IS COMING! Fall 2022  
More information will be available soon!



## *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, go to [AmentoAction.org](http://AmentoAction.org)

PRAYER RESOURCES FROM PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK - Kathleen Long Bostrom shares some lessons she's learned in her ministry on how to pray with others when they are sick, dying, or grieving. Bostrom writes, "The disciples asked Jesus, 'Lord, teach us to pray' (Luke 11:1), and we need to learn how to pray as well. It's not only those in church leadership who have opportunities to pray with people in time of need. The truth is, we learn to pray by praying." To read further words of counsel, [view the full article](#).



### 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)