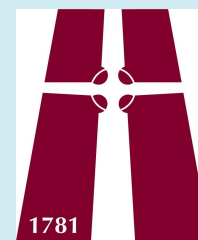


# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## July 14, 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*

*~~Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford, Geoff Rach, Pastor*

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

### *District 3 Churches*

*~~McClellandtown Presbyterian Church, Skip Noftzger, Interim Pastor*

*~~Dunlap's Creek Presbyterian Church, Merrittstown, Aleda Menchyk,  
Moderator*

### *District 4 Churches*

*~~Cresson Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Pastor*

*~~Ebensburg Presbyterian Church, Owar Ojulu, Pastor*

---



#### **CAN I GET A WITNESS (Today)?**

In our world, it appears that there is even more polarization and divisiveness than ever before. Whether that is true or whether we are much more aware of it because of our connectedness may be no longer grounded in our neighborhoods, but in our viewing habits or online communities. Valuable as these ways of connecting are for the pursuit of interests or hobbies or passions, yet in the context of difference, they can become instruments of reinforcement of our point of view and promote demonization of not only different perspectives, but the people who hold them. In my observation, this may be as true in the church as it is in the larger society.

And, I wonder where is the witness to Jesus Christ? So, in this particular context, I have come to believe that maybe one of the greatest testimonies to God's reign might be in our collective testimony that Jesus has bound us together inseparably. Our union in Christ also unites us together across boundaries and distinctions of our world. Whether, as in the Scriptures, it brings the body of Christ together across differences of ethnicity and religious history or in our current context to bring us together across perspectives of cultural values or governmental policies or political affiliations.

Not a unity born out of a naivete seeking to dismiss the differences as merely illusory or imagined, nor a unity based in tactics of avoidance at all costs where if we never engage one another, it will all be okay. Rather our unity neither demands uniformity nor ignoring, BUT it

is built upon the prerequisite foundation of the good news in Jesus Christ that redeems us and this world. That renewed image of identity in Jesus Christ defines who we are individually and collectively above all and at our core. Because of who we are together in Christ, we can connect with one another not for the sake of our own agendas (*convinced as we are that it is God-given*), but in order that together we might seek faithfulness as the people of God for the sake of God's world. Whether in details of worship practices, financial decisions or the social, cultural and political issues of our day, people of faith and pursuing faithfulness may not always agree. Yet our genuine commitment to Christ and one another requires a willingness to consider that God can and just might be speaking through others, even those with whom we have the greatest differences.

Regardless of whether we become of one "mind," (somehow this side of the culmination of God's reign when we see clearly, I suspect we will not), the clearest witness of our commitment to Jesus Christ just may be the demonstration of unity within community (of and by faith) that in the midst of differences of whatever type reflects the real transformative power of the gospel. In the midst of the Last Supper, upon taking the role of a servant and washing the feet of the disciples, Jesus offered insight into his impending sacrifice and their remaining time together with these words....

*"I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another." (John 13:34)*

It was true in the evening of that upper room. It was true in the days and weeks to follow. It was true in the generations over the year. It is true today. The power of our witness is not merely in bold proclamation nor just in good deeds of service (though both are important), but in our union in Christ signified by our love for one another. And I can't help wondering whether Jesus is asking, "can I get a witness?" May the answer be yes and may it be so.

---

## REDSTONE CHURCHES UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Third Tuesday each month - Food and Fellowship](#) - First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon **(THEY WILL NOT BE MEETING IN JULY OR AUGUST)**
- [Blood Drives](#) - Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown
- [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](#)



## 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.

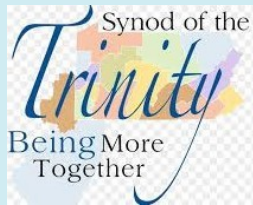
---

Latrobe United Presbyterian Church is searching for an organist/pianist starting this August, 2022. The applicant must be available for the 11am, Sunday service and the 6pm, Wednesday choir practice (no practice June, July, and August). The pay is \$100 per week. If interested please call the church office at 724-539-8881 and leave a message with

*Join Our Team*

name and phone number stating their interest in this position.

---



### 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.

---

### 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.



### Praying Jesus' Way

On Saturday, August 13, 2022, beginning at 9:29 a.m., the First Presbyterian Church of Johnstown will be offering a succinct exploration of Jesus' surprising practices and teachings with the Rev. Jim Farrer. To find out more, [click here](#).

---

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, Pittsburgh, Upper Ohio Valley, and Beaver-Butler) 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](#).



### WEE KIRK IS COMING! October 10-12, 2022

The Northeast Pennsylvania region covers the lower Northeast states including Pennsylvania, Upstate New York, West Virginia, and Maryland. Established in 1991, the Northeast Pennsylvania Conference meets over

three days in October. Community and radical hospitality are hallmarks of this conference, as well as an outstanding bookstore.

We partner with **Hearts and Minds Bookstore** to provide access to the writings of many of our speakers. Unfortunately, they will not have a full bookstore presence

at our conference this year, but Byron will be available for Zoom conversations on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

To learn more or to register, [click here](#).

---

### 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.

---

### 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).



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)

---

### FREE TO GOOD HOME

The Presbytery has a set of reversible Paraments with all four colors - green, purple, white, and red; along with several communion ware items. If you would be interested in any of these, please call (724.837.6737) or stop by the Presbytery office to take what you need. The office is open from 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Thursday.



## 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)