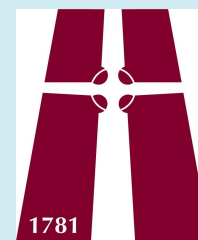


# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## August 11, 2022



**Please pray for...**

### *District 1 Churches*

~~Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Lynn Mance, Moderator

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

### *District 2 Churches*

~~First Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Doug Rehberg, Interim Pastor

~~West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Andrew Wirt, Pastor

### *District 3 Churches*

~~Trinity Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, Jim Gear, Pastor

~~East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Vanderbilt, David McElroy, Commissioned Pastor

### *District 4 Churches*

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

~~Patton Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Pastor



### **“From Lament to Hope”**

Early on in the first stages of the pandemic season, I found myself drawn to reading the Psalms again and again. In all their candor, they express honest thoughts and emotions before our God in the context of real-life circumstances that were sometimes joyous, sometimes life threatening, and sometimes reflective. Throughout these inspired expressions, we might find words to our own complaints, lamentations, but also our own confessions, petitions, and praises. Within the broader context of the Psalter, we discover that we experience (even during a pandemic, polarization, and economic uncertainty) and often move forward from lament to hope.

The biennial gathering of the General Assembly invoked this theme “from lament to hope.” While it has been a few weeks since the “dust has cleared,” I wanted to offer public thanksgiving for the commitment and effort of our commissioners who participated on our behalf. Rev. Dawn Sherwood, Judy Carl, and Audrey Cottle gave sacrificially of their time and energy to be part of the efforts of the larger church in which we identify as the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. In particular, this year required a substantial engagement through a combination of both in-person/online committee meetings and in online plenary sessions. They have, and will, serve as commissioners not only for that gathering, but through the next two years.

When most people think of the General Assembly, they focus on issues of advocacy or book of order revisions or denominational policies. Of course, with the differentiation of responsibilities and practical ministry opportunities of various councils (sessions, presbyteries, synods, GA), those become much more significant in that context. Yet, for each commissioner, specific decisions represent only part of the picture of the breadth of participation in the ministry and work of the larger connected church. I encourage you to engage your commissioners about their experiences.

You are always welcome to reach out individually or within your congregation to any or all of these commissioners for interpretation of the spirit and the actions of that council of the church. Yet, more publicly, we will be affording each of them an opportunity to offer written and oral reflections over the next several weeks and in the September presbytery gathering. As we approach the end of the year and into 2023, you will be hearing specifically about any Book of Order actions that will require validation of presbyteries and any policy revisions that may impact presbyteries or congregations.

Having adapted in this pandemic-impacted environment, all of us as local congregations, presbyteries and even the General Assembly have adapted and learned new practices. Some of these new practices will be retained and/or adjusted going forward. Consequently, the next General Assembly (2024) will be held through the structure of online committee meetings leading up to in person plenary sessions to be conducted in Salt Lake City. Of course, when we begin to plan for that gathering, we will be looking for both ruling and teaching elder commissioners from Redstone. So, perhaps, God might just be calling you... Until then, let's continue on this journey "from lament to hope."



## 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
- [8/11/2022 - Chatham Baroque](#) - Latrobe Presbyterian Church
- [8/13/2022 - Backyard BBQ](#) - North Huntingdon, New Hope
- [8/27/2022 - "Lap the Church"](#) - New Salem Presbyterian Church

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

Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell is looking for a Music Ministry Specialist to provide organ and/or piano and/or keyboard music for weekly & occasional services.

Time & Compensation: *Average of 7 hours/wk.*  
Paid bi-weekly (*see below*)

### Responsibilities:

- The Music Ministry Specialist (after MMS) is responsible for providing the music at the worship services held on Sunday mornings, and some other additional services (please inquire in full position description)
- The MMS will meet periodically with the Pastor, Praise Team leader and/or Choir Director & Worship Team to review and plan music for the church The MMS should be prepared to play music that is a blend of various types (traditional, modern, contemporary).
- The MMS shall be available for midweek Choir rehearsals (typically Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:45 pm from early Sept. to mid-May) to help with vocal parts and accompany choir for worship services.
- The MMS may take up to 4 weeks of vacation each year (no more than 4 Sundays) and will be responsible for recruiting a substitute for each absence.
- Personal rehearsal time is available at Puckety Church in coordination with the Church Secretary

**JOB OPENING**

(724-339-1323) and the church calendar.

Compensation: Starting salary of \$7,300/yr. (average of 7 hrs./week - includes personal practice time): For "Sunday only" weeks (no choir) - \$125/week; For "Choir rehearsal + Sunday" weeks - \$170/week; Paid bi-weekly through Direct Deposit

Submit inquiries and resumes to: [kelly@pucketychurch.org](mailto:kelly@pucketychurch.org) or call 724-339-1323 for more information.



### Clothing Drive

The Outreach Committee of the Rehoboth Presbyterian Church in Belle Vernon, is hosting a Christmas in July/August Gently Used Clothing Program.

They will be collecting gently used clothing through the last week of August. All seasons of clothing for infants, children, male and female adults, will be accepted; along with hats, gloves, jackets, and coats - especially those for elementary aged children. Undergarments will not be accepted. The clothing can be placed in the social room next to the sanctuary. The clothing collected will be distributed to clothes closets of the First Methodist Church of Belle Vernon, Pillars of Faith Church in Fayette City, Little Things for Little People, and to Marian Elementary School and will be given to families in need. For more information call the Rehoboth Presbyterian Church at 724.929.7020.

### 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](#).



**Pastor's Participation Medical Dues Increasing for 2023**  
Effective January 1, 2023, medical dues will increase 2%, from 27% to 29%. As a result, total dues for the benefits package will be 39%, up from 37%. Directors raised the cap on the maximum annual dues amount by \$1,500, from \$33,500 to \$35,000, and on the minimum annual dues amount by \$500, from \$11,000 to \$11,500.

### The Board of Pensions and Fidelity Offer Virtual Presentation

What are the top things to do before you retire? Ask Fidelity! Join Fidelity Workplace Financial Consultant Dan McCarthy for a 30-minute, interactive, virtual presentation on important things to consider — before you retire — that may impact or influence your financial decisions. [Click here](#) for more information on how to register for this event.

### Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation (IPLF) Workshops

The IPLF workshops will begin again for the Fall of 2022.

Workshops that will be offered are:

- Preaching the Psalms - Rev. Dr. Jerome Creach, Instructor, Saturday, September 10, 2022
- Preaching Lab - Rev. Dr. Doug Rehberg, Instructor, Saturday, October 8, 2022
- Creative Celebrations of the Sacraments - Rev. Laura Blank, Instructor, Saturday, November 12, 2022
- Leading as a Small Church Moderator - Rev. Dr. Brenda Barnes, Instructor, Saturday,



All workshops ([click here for full descriptions of workshops](#)) are FREE and will be hybrid offerings by ZOOM and in person from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Redstone Presbytery Center, 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg, PA 15601. To register contact Bobbie Martin at Redstone Presbytery, 724.837.6737, [secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org).

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#### World Communion Sunday Bulletin Insert Being Offered

We have had a partnership with the South Sudan Evangelical Presbyterian Church since 2004. In anticipation of World Communion Sunday on October 2, 2022, and in connection with our brothers and sisters in the Sudan, we will be making available a bulletin insert

sometime mid to late September, for your use in your worship service. When the insert has been completed we will be sure to get it out to everyone so you can plan to include this insert in your bulletins on that day.

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Redstone Mission Team has scheduled a trip to Hampdon, WV (southwestern WV, near the Kentucky border) the week of October 23-29, 2022. Cost per volunteer is \$150. If interested, contact Phyllis Frye at [pfrye1234@windstream.net](mailto:pfrye1234@windstream.net)



#### 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 your 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.

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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](http://AmentoAction.org)

***Amen TO ACTION***



Rev. John Manon, Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church of West Newton, has books he would like to see go to a good home. They include: Interpreter's Bible (12 volume set), Biblical Review (back issues), and Biblical Archaeological Review. If you are interested in any/all of these books, please contact Rev. John Manon at the church at 724.872.7414, his mobile phone at 606.261.0232, or email

[manon.john474@gmail.com](mailto:manon.john474@gmail.com).

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## 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*

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**Presbytery of Redstone**

**[www.redstonepresbytery.org](http://www.redstonepresbytery.org)**