

Presbytery of Redstone eNews

September 15, 2022



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

~~Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Brian Kilbert, Pastor
~~First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Ed Gray, 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

~~Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Kristen Emrick, Covenant Pastor
~~Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Louise Corbett, Moderator

District 4 Churches

~~First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Chuck MacPherson, Interim Pastor
~~Second Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Art Moffat, Temporary Supply



“Louisville” or Us?

It was “reading week” 1979, a few of my classmates and I had taken off on an adventure and ended up in NYC. Traveling the boroughs of NYC, one of my classmates decided we should go visit “475 Riverside Drive.” Although I had worked in a Presbyterian Church as a youth minister, I was neither a member nor under care of any presbytery, so the significance of the address did not mean much to me. At the entrance with the locked doors, it became clear that we could not gain entrance without someone letting us in. There we were, at the door of the PCUSA “headquarters” and none of my Presbyterian friends knew anybody who worked there. Ironically, the lone non-Presbyterian (at the time), I happened to know a person who worked in the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Upon reaching out to him, we gained access, toured the facilities, met different personnel, and even took some pictures.

As a relative “outsider” at the time, I was curious about the desire to visit as well as their ambivalent feelings. To them, it represented the “center” of power and authority for a church they loved. For me, it signified the functional workings of ministry on a large scale with all its strengths and weaknesses. For them, it represented the advocacy of positions

and policies, some of which they disagreed. For me, they were just people, part of the body of Christ, with whom I might have affinity or difference, much like my relationship with my friend who had let us in.

Over the years, I have witnessed similar reactions among others as they refer to "Louisville" (no longer NYC). Often, in response to some advocacy or policy or practice within the larger denomination that we might find problematic or even unfaithful. While the people who labor within the denominational structures certainly have influence in the support, resources and programs that they offer, yet most reactions that one hears are a response to items passed by the gathered General Assembly.

That gathering of people every two years come from presbyteries, like us, organized to be the body of Christ in a region. The differences among presbyteries and even commissioners may be personal, may be theological, and may be geographic. The authority for these actions comes not merely from those with vested interests, but those across the country commissioned to gather, to pray, to debate, to deliberate, and to discern issues and concerns that have been placed before them. No doubt, like all gathered bodies, including our own presbytery and sessions, they may not always get it "right" and they certainly will not always "please" everybody (which would be impossible), but like you and me, they are desiring to serve the Lord not just individually, but collectively on behalf of the gathered body of Christ known as the PCUSA.

In the previous three Enews articles, you have had the opportunity to read of the experiences of your own peers, members of Redstone Presbytery. Each one described impacts that do not always make headlines or may not be sensational, but they are God's work among us whether in encouragement or in challenge not only in our region, but across the country. At our September gathering, you will also have the opportunity to hear from each of these three commissioners. I invite you to further conversations with them not only there, but over the next two years (term of their commission). At future presbytery meetings, we will also be considering any overtures that were passed recommending changes to the Book of Order which will require approval by a majority of presbyteries if they are to be implemented. So, the next time, you are tempted to think of it as merely "Louisville," let's be reminded that in many ways, it is really just "us."

REDSTONE CHURCHES UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Third Tuesday each month - Food and Fellowship](#) - First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon
- [Wednesdays - AA Meetings](#) - Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville
- [Blood Drives](#) - Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown

- [9/23-24/2022 - Yard Sale](#) - Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown
- [10/7/22 - Fall Festival](#) - United Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria



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

Please Join Us for a Rededication Ceremony of the Brownsville Union School, First Presbyterian Church, Fort Burd United Presbyterian Church Bell



The bell at Fort Burd Church was cast by the Andrew Fulton Bell Foundry of Pittsburgh in 1860. The bell called our children to the Union School on the Northside until 1910 when the school was demolished to build the first Brownsville Hospital. The bell then called worshippers to the First Presbyterian Church in Brownsville until 1967 when the church was destroyed by fire. The bell was then moved to the Fort Burd United Presbyterian Church at 200 Thornton Road.

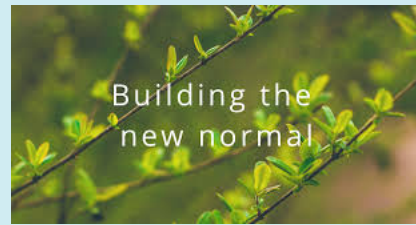
Celebrating 162 Years of History in Brownsville
Sunday, September 18, 2022
11:00 a.m. (During Morning Worship) at Fort Burd Church
For more information contact fortburdchurchtech@gmail.com



Fort Burd Presbyterian Church is having a special church service to rededicate their church bell Sunday, September 18 at 11 am. The bell was cast in 1860 and had an interesting history before arriving at Fort Burd. Following the service they will have a reception in the social hall. Please plan to join the Fort Burd congregation to celebrate this rededication service.

SMALL CHURCH? NO FULL TIME PASTOR?

You are rapidly becoming part of the majority of our congregations across the USA. "[Designing for the New Norm](#)" is a free webinar that features G. Jeffrey McDonald, author of the book Part Time is Plenty. Join us for this Sep. 22 event discussing ways our churches do something different, rather than simply accept decline and dissolution.



Application forms for persons who wish to be considered for appointment by GA Co-Moderators, Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace and the Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis, to the special entities – special committees, commission, task force, development team, and implementation team –

1. 2020 Guiding Statement Implementation Team (2022)
2. Commission to Unify the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency (2022) (225GA Commissioners and YAADS encouraged to apply; must be ruling elder or teaching elder)
3. Funding Model Development Team (2022) - (225GA Commissioners, TSADs, YAADs encouraged to apply)
4. Special Committee on the PCUSA and Race (2022)
5. Special Committee to Revise the Standing Rules (2022) - (224GA and 225GA Commissioners and 225GA TSADs and YAADs encouraged to apply)
6. Special Committee to Write a New Confession - (2022) - (must be ruling elder or teaching elder)
7. Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination - (2022)

created by the Assembly this summer are now available at [the GA nominations portal here](#).

Only those who have completed and submitted an application form and for whom we have received reference forms can be considered for appointment by the Co-Moderators. The deadline for submission of applications for Special Entities is October 14, 2022.



Interested in connecting with Addictions Ministry, Racial Justice and Reconciliation, Missions? We have a network for you. Contact the Presbytery office if you would like more information on becoming a part of any of our networks.

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: \$23/hr. 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 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.

Compensation: Starting salary of \$8,200/yr. (average of 7 hrs./week - includes personal practice time at whatever location the candidate prefers):

For "Sunday only" weeks (no choir) - \$150/week

For "Choir rehearsal + Sunday" weeks - \$185/week

Paid bi-weekly through Direct Deposit

Submit inquiries and resumes to: kelly@pucketychurch.org

Call 724-339-1323 for more information.



Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation (IPLF) Workshops

The IPLF workshops have begun for the Fall of 2022.

Workshops that will be offered are:

- 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, December 10, 2022

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 Shaffor at Redstone Presbytery, 724.837.6737, secretary@redstonepresbytery.org.

Mark your calendars: Sunday, Sept. 18, is Synod Sunday!

On Sept. 18, we invite the congregations and presbyteries in the Synod of the Trinity region to celebrate the gifts and blessings that take place in our bounds throughout the year.

The Synod works hand-in-hand with the ministry and mission of our presbyteries as they seek to support the witness of congregations, to the end that the church throughout its region becomes a community of faith, hope, love and witness.

Please use these BULLETIN INSERTS to help tell our story and celebrate the good news that is occurring in our region! [COLOR INSERT](#) - [B&W INSERT](#)



Join the Presbytery and the Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church for the installation service for the Rev. Travis Webster, Associate Pastor, on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 3:00

p.m.

Ellie Davis from Pine Springs Camp is inviting women in Redstone Presbytery to attend the Women in the Woods Retreat from Sept.30-Oct. 1.

Attached are the [brochure](#), [bulletin insert](#), and [poster](#) to inform the women in your congregation of this event.



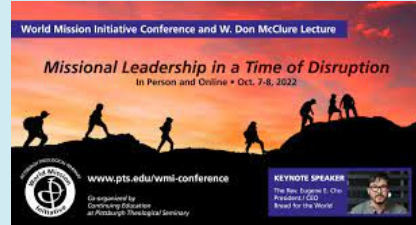
World Communion Sunday Bulletin Insert Being Offered



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.

World Mission Initiative of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is dedicated to developing mission vision, nurturing missionary vocations, and cultivating missional congregations by equipping mission leaders to engage faithfully and effectively in God’s intercultural mission. WMI offers opportunities and resources to serve congregations and students. This year’s World Mission Initiative Conference - Missional Leadership in a Time of Disruption - will be held October 7-8, 2022. [Click here for more information.](#)



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.](#)

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



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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