

Presbytery of Redstone eNews

October 5, 2023



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

~~Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Robert Ruefle, Pastor
~~Community United Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria, Len Morgan, Commissioned Pastor

District 2 Churches

~~Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Jenn Frayer-Griggs, Pastor
~~First Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Doug Rehberg, Interim Pastor

District 3 Churches

~~Harmony Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Glenn Hart, Commissioned Pastor
~~Marion Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Robert Prinkey, Commissioned Pastor

District 4 Churches

~~Westmont Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Ben Nti, Pastor
~~Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church, Ligonier, Steve Hospodar, Temporary Supply

REDSTONE PRESBYTERY CELEBRATES

THIS MONTH'S ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Terry Carnahan - 10/1/1968
James Stobaugh - 10/23/1983
Skip Noftzger - 10/25/1992
Geoff Rach - 10/01/2006

REDSTONE CHURCHES UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Applekin Festival and Yard Sale](#) - October 6 -7, 2023 - Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown
- [Trunk or Treat](#) - October 21, 2023 - Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell
- [Drive Through Dinner](#) - October 26, 2023 - Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville

- Mondays - Nar-Anon Meetings - First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown - 6:30 p.m.

- First and Third Tuesday each month - [BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS](#) - North Huntingdon, New Hope - 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Biweekly Tuesdays - [Masontown Community Kitchen](#) - 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Every Other Month - [Blood Drives](#) - Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown
- Wednesdays - [AA Meetings](#) - Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville
- Second Wednesday - October through May - ["Soup for the Soul" Luncheon](#) - Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo

Click on each link listed above for more information on these events



HOW DO YOU "SAY" I APPRECIATE YOU?

I must confess that when I was serving a local congregation, I often found this month of "Pastor Appreciation" and the prompted expressions offered by parishioners to be a little awkward. Not that I believed they were insincere, but rather they were the result of "prompting" by the calendar rather than a response of gratitude in the moment.

Pastors serve their congregations faithfully by responding first and foremost to the calling of God as we heed God's guidance together. Whether it is in preaching, teaching, caring for others in times of trouble, or sharing in the ministry in that time and place, our feeble efforts seek to serve the Lord first and foremost. Yet, in our frailty, we may not always serve in ways that fulfill all of the expectations of others or ourselves. Like those we serve, we encounter our own struggles and difficulties whether in the pastoral service or in our own personal lives. In those times, personal acknowledgement and recognition by those you serve provides tangible validation of the pastoral calling you know internally by God's Spirit.

There are many callings by God in life that can prove challenging. Being a pastor is one of them, not just because of the interactions where you feel responsible, responsive and accountable to a number of people. The challenge is even more than the fulfillment of expectations of others that may be unrealistic for you or themselves. Often, I believe the real "test" of calling is in the daily grind of serving God and God's people and God's mission without knowing if it is making any difference in their lives or in the world.

And just because of that, the willingness of congregants to offer an expression of appreciation (whether prompted by the calendar or not) has the possibility of once more reminding each and every pastor of how the Lord is blessing and using them for God's glory. Of course, what matters most in this is not the gift or acknowledgement, but the particular expression that connects their calling with God's work (however incremental) among them. So, just to help us think about this, how about a few suggestions.

---Spend time praying for your pastor and the pastor's needs both personally and in their pastoral service. Ask the pastor how you might pray for them.

---Take the pastor for coffee not to talk about your committee assignment or issues in the church, but for the purpose of sharing with the pastor particular ways you have been impacted by their service...Perhaps,

---You can talk about a sermon or worship service that inspired you or even better, challenged you to grow and change as a disciple of Jesus.

---You might reflect back with the pastor on the time you were sick or grieving and what it meant to you that the pastor was there for you being the embodiment of Jesus' love and comfort.

---You could celebrate together where you see God at work in your congregation or

in your community and take the time to personally acknowledge and recognize the pastor's contribution there whether it was visible or behind the scenes.

---Offer an unsolicited act of service to the pastor and family not in response to a particular need, but because you know it is something the pastor would value and appreciate.

So, not just in October, step back, consider what God has been doing in your life and in what ways the pastor has been part of that. Then, let that pastor know in words or actions, "I appreciate you."



Thank you to all who contributed to the Redstone Presbytery Addictions Ministry "Hope in a Bag" campaign. The response was overwhelming!!



Matthew 25 Summit: An Invitation to Innovation

Join us in Atlanta, GA, following Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, January 16–18, 2024, for a first-of-its-kind event!

The Matthew 25 Summit will bring mid-councils, churches, and individuals together to explore this vision. What does it mean to eradicate poverty; how can we begin dismantling systemic racism; how will we know if we are building a vital congregation? We are offering you an invitation to innovation. A chance to dialogue, learn with, and grow with others in exploration. Featuring innovative speakers, thriving ministries, transformative workshops, and space to imagine what's next! The event cost is \$199 and includes two lunches, two dinners and conference materials. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Women Pastors

The Women Pastors Lunch group will **NOT** be meeting on the second Thursday in October (October 12). These lunches will resume in December.



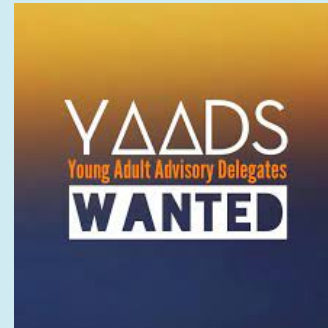
Board of Pensions Employer Agreement

The Board of Pensions requires that every employer who offers benefits through the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) submit an Employer Agreement. This agreement documents the benefits an employer offers its employees each year. The deadline to complete your employer agreement is Friday, October 6th! You still

have a little time to review your 2024 Employer Agreement on Benefits Connect. This is your annual opportunity to select the benefits that will be available to your employees during their Annual Enrollment, open Monday, October 23 through Friday, November 10.

Young Adult Advisory Delegate Nominees

The 226th General Assembly will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah for committee meetings and online plenary sessions June 25 – July 4, 2024. The Session of each church has the opportunity to nominate a young person to attend the General Assembly as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YADD). The person you nominate should be at least 17 years of age, but no older than 23 years of age, on June 20, 2024. The nomination form and application is attached. Please return your application to the Presbytery office by October 15, 2023. Thank you.



The Healing Prayer Network will meet Thursday, October 12 at the Presbytery Center from 4:30-6:00pm. ANYONE, ordained or layperson, is welcome to come, learn about the ancient practice of healing prayer, and engage in prayer for one another and/or our concerns. If you or someone else in your congregation is known as a 'Prayer Warrior,' this ministry might be just for you!

The Redstone Mission Team has been approved for a mission work trip to St. Alban's, WV from October 22 - 28, 2023. If you would be interested in being a part of this trip, please contact Phyllis Frye for more information - pfrye1234@windstream.net or 724.468.3740.



Pastor and Elder Training Workshops
Presented by Inter-Presbytery Leadership
Formation (IPLF)

Workshops are again being offered for the Fall of 2023. Workshops include:

- Being and Leading Presbyterian Polity - October 14, 2023 - Rev. Randall Clow, Instructor
- Boundaries and Ethics in Church Leadership - November 11, 2023 - Michelle Snyder, Instructor
- Learning to "Exegete" the Community - December 9, 2023 - Rev. Dr. Scott Hagley, Instructor

All workshops are from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.; are FREE; and will be offered in person at the Redstone Presbytery office along with an online option via ZOOM. To register for any of these workshops, please contact Bobbie Shaffor at Redstone Presbytery at 724.837.6737 or secretary@redstonepresbytery.org.

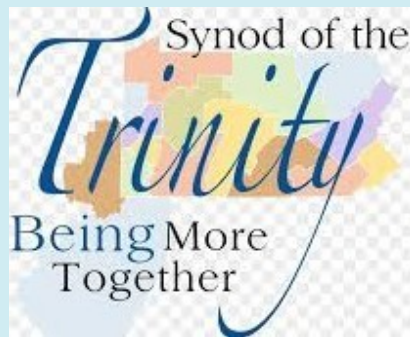
Notes from the Redstone Bookkeeper

I will be closing the books for the year 2023 on Thursday, January 11, 2024. Any monies received after that date will be credited to the 2024 financial records.



Also, I have updated the Remittance Form. [Click here](#) for a copy to download and write in your remittance information. If you would like to have a "fillable" form that can be completed and then printed, please email me at the Presbytery office at redstonepresbyterybookkeeper@gmail.com and I will forward one to you.

Please use this updated form when sending in your remittances to the Presbytery office. Thank you!



[Click here to read this months newsletter from the Synod of the Trinity.](#)



NEW PMA GRANT WEBSITE - Throughout the year, the Presbyterian Mission Agency offers more than 20 grants and scholarships ranging from \$100 to \$50,000 awarded to individuals, communities and mid councils. These opportunities can now be found on the [grants webpage](#) that centralizes all the opportunities and lists their key attributes, such as application date, eligibility and purpose. Take a look and see what your church might be eligible for!

**PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION FINANCIAL
LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**



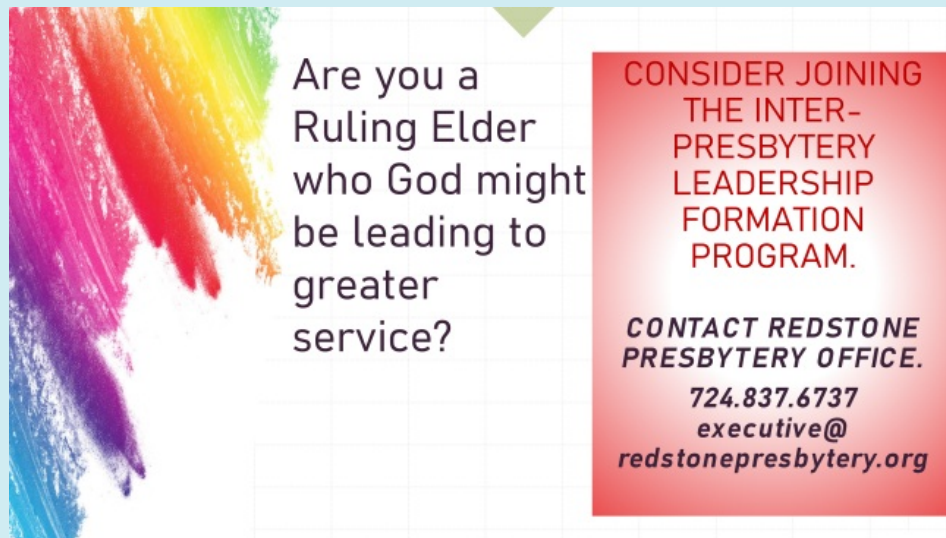
CHURCH FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM - The Presbyterian Foundation's Church Financial Leadership Coaching Program is a free, 12-month coaching program for church pastors that will assist pastors in leading their congregation down the

path of financial sustainability to fulfill the church's mission. The program connects pastors with individual coaches to help them gain a solid foundation in church financial literacy. [Learn more.](#)

CHURCH FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP GRANT - Grants are available through the Presbyterian Foundation to assist pastors and New Worshiping Community leaders to attend continuing education opportunities which will help them in leading their congregations toward financial and missional vitality. There is a list of pre-approved events and courses, such as the [Stewardship Kaleidoscope](#) conference, but other educational opportunities will be reviewed as well. [Learn more.](#)



PDA RESPONSE TO HAWAI'I WILDFIRES - In collaboration with the Presbytery of the Pacific and its leadership, PDA has been in communication with pastors in the affected communities and elsewhere in Hawai'i. PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate care. PDA affirms our commitment to accompany those affected by this disaster. As people of God, once again we are called to stand with our siblings in the "GAP" – [Give, Act and Pray.](#)



Are you a Ruling Elder who God might be leading to greater service?

CONSIDER JOINING THE INTER-PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP FORMATION PROGRAM.

CONTACT REDSTONE PRESBYTERY OFFICE.
724.837.6737
executive@redstonepresbytery.org



Tell Us About God's Mission in Your Congregation - The Mission Network of Redstone Presbytery is gathering information on the local; regional and international mission projects of our congregations. Knowing and sharing this information will provide opportunities to connect together for collaboration and greater impact. Go to <https://forms.gle/AEdEwn8eeGVqvm9w5> and tell us about where you are following God into mission.



**Employment Opportunities Within Redstone
Presbytery**



Latrobe United Presbyterian Church is searching for an organist/pianist starting effective immediately. 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. All applicants should call the church office at 724-539-8881 and leave a message with name and phone number stating their interest in this position.

The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington, 601 Fifth Avenue, New Kensington, PA 15068, 724.339.6618 - is seeking to fill:

Assistant Treasurer Part-Time

8 to 10 hours per week. Accounting Experience/Education Required.

Maintain Financial Records; AP; Deposit and Post Monies; Do PR, PR Taxes, Bookkeeping, and Record Keeping.

Send Resume to The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington, 601 Fifth Avenue, New Kensington, PA 15068-6508 Attn: Personnel Committee Telephone: 724-339-6618



Employment Opportunities Outside of Redstone
Presbytery

PRESBYTERY OF LAKE ERIE is seeking a Stated Clerk. The successful candidate must be an ordained Ruling Elder or Teaching Elder, will perform various administrative tasks, and be responsible for ensuring the records, roles, reports, and correspondence of the Presbytery are maintained. View the [full job description](#).

**Beulah Presbyterian Church, located in Churchill, PA, is seeking a Financial Manager. The Financial Manager of BPC provides for the overall management and reporting of the finances for the Church and the Preschool. The Financial Manager maintains all financial records, serves as an active member of the Finance Committee, manages the BPC's Information Technology and various Human Resources activities. View the [full job description](#). This is a full-time position with benefits. Interested applicants should email a cover letter and resumè to: churchoffice@beulahpresby.org or by mail to :
Beulah Presbyterian Church, 2500 McCrady Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235**

Presbytery Staff

[Richard "Skip" Noftzger](#)

Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk

[blog address](#)

[twitter address](#)

[Bobbie Shaffor](#)

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

*Communicate the
Word...*

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

Presbytery of Redstone
www.redstonepresbytery.org

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