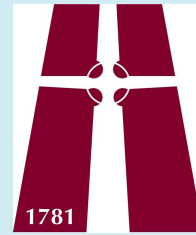


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

November 2, 2023



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

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

District 2 Churches

- ~~Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford, Geoff Rach, Pastor*
- ~~Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton, Karen Kifer, Commissioned Pastor*

District 3 Churches

- ~~Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Dunbar, Bill Weightman, Commissioned Pastor*
- ~~First Presbyterian Church, Fairchance, Lee McDermott, Moderator*

District 4 Churches

- ~~Cresson Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Pastor*
- ~~Ebensburg Presbyterian Church, Owar Ojulu, Pastor*

REDSTONE CHURCHES UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Craft and Vendor Show](#) - November 4, 2023 - New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon
- [Blood Drive](#) - November 9, 2023 - Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg
- [Spaghetti Dinner](#) - November 18, 2023 - Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo

- 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
- Month of November - [Bible Study](#) - Calvin United Presbyterian Church, Scottdale

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

"Words to Live By"

In "When Church Stops Working", the assumptions of the title would lead one to believe the critique of the church is a failure of strategy or technique. Yet, this book (like many others of Andrew Root) offers a perspective that challenges all of us to count less on our own efforts (even with a pious rationale) and much more on waiting, resting, and relying on what God is and will be doing around us.



For those who know me, you probably know that I tend to operate by the principles of "work hard," "work smart," "work fast," and "work effectively." Within God's providence, such perspectives may or may not be aligned with faithfulness. Implicitly, it is all too tempting to rely upon myself and somehow think and justify that it pleases our God. Yet, time and again, I (and maybe you) need to be reminded that it is not that God needs me, but rather anything that God chooses to enact through me for the sake of God's kingdom is always an act of grace.

It is not that we are needing to dismiss any focus on who God has called us to be or what God has called us to do. Yet, any such emphasis is always held loosely and with an expectation that God just might be doing something more importantly and differently than what we have concluded even in our most convinced moments of discernment. For throughout any such grace-facilitated planning, strategy and effort, we are reminded most of all to look to see what God is and will be doing among us, around us and even, in spite of us.

In Root's work, he writes of the importance of "watchwords." More than mission statements which tend to focus on what the church/organization will, watchwords remind us through the lenses of Scripture of God's faithful presence in what the Lord has done and to watch for what God is doing in the world. In this perspective offered by Root, such watchwords open us and remind us of the transcendent perspective of a God who is creator and redeemer. They orient us again to the sovereign One who reigns yet draws us close in intimate relationship in Jesus Christ.

Not only do these perspectives give us bearing on lives of grace-filled lives of love and service, they form and reform us in our identity as a new creation in Christ Jesus. The importance of such transcendent tokens remind me of the words that Leif Peterson offered at the memorial service for his father, the accomplished writer and pastor, Rev. Eugene Peterson. He noted that his father really only had "one" sermon and that he knew this "secret" because it was the same message over and over that his father had repeated to him in private.

"God loves you. He's on your side. He's coming after you. He's relentless."

In the midst of all our well intentioned and discerning efforts in ministry in the name of our God, we may just need to be reminded, oriented, and live by words such as those. Soli Deo Gloria!

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF PENSIONS

This year's Annual Enrollment — the time when employees can make changes or elect new benefits



coverage for next year — is Monday, October 23 through Friday, November 10. To help employees understand what they will need to do and how to make the best choices for their needs, the Board of Pensions shares communications leading up to, and during, Annual Enrollment. Go to pensions.org for

more information.

Also, the Board of Pensions is launching a new Benefits Connect website for employers and members in early January 2024.

- Simplified, easy-to-use navigation and tools
- Secure invoice access and bill payment
- Streamlined benefits selection and management

Benefits Connect will be unavailable from November 22, 2023, to early January 2024 as we make these exciting website enhancements. To prepare for the new Benefits Connect, we encourage you to submit all year-end transactions by Tuesday, November 21.

During the time that Benefits Connect is unavailable, our dedicated team will be here to serve you:

Call or email us

800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN) (TTY: 711)

memberservices@pensions.org

Join us for the Saturday, November 18, 2023 Presbytery meeting that will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette, beginning at 9:00 a.m. This will be an in person meeting and also via zoom. The packet and zoom login information will be available Thursday, November 9, 2023.



If you have an announcement for the announcements loop for this meeting please send that information directly to redstonestories@gmail.com by Thursday, November 9, 2023. Thank you!



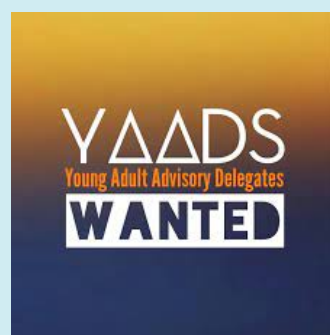
Matthew 25 Summit: An Invitation to Innovation

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.](#)

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.



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

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

- **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.

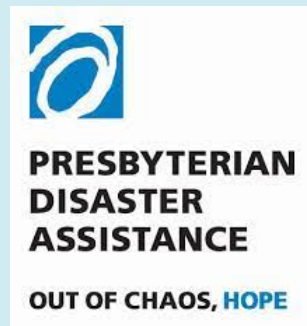


Also, I have updated the Remittance Form. [Click here](#) for a copy to download and write in your remittance information. If you would like to have a "fillable" form that can be completed and then printed, please email me at the Presbytery office at redstonepresbyterybookkeeper@gmail.com and I will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

The [2024 First Fruits Pledge Form](#) is now available. Please complete your pledge form and return it to the Presbytery office at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

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.](#)

AMEN TO ACTION 2023 FOOD PACKING EVENTS - Join with other people of faith and good will to address food insecurity in Pittsburgh at an Amen to Action 2023 food packing event. These events will take place on various dates throughout October and November in the Greater Pittsburgh Area. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Last year, 1,000s of volunteers packed more than 1,011,000 meals for families in the area! [Learn more about ways to volunteer and donate!](#)



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.](#)

FREE TO GOOD "HOME" CHURCH

The Presbytery has several items at the Presbytery Center that are being offered to any church/pastor that may need/want them. There are:

- Communion ware sets
- Books - Bible, Theology, Pastoral Ministry
- Projectors (older ones with VGA connections)
- "Into the Light" Curriculum Life Recovery Workbooks and thumb drives. (this was put together by the Redstone Presbytery Addictions Ministry Network)



If you have any questions, or would be interested in any of these items, please contact the Presbytery office at 724.837.6737 or via email at secretary@redstonepresbytery.org to make arrangements to stop in for them.



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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