

Presbytery of Redstone eNews

May 9, 2024



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

~~Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Owar Ojulu, Pastor,

~~Puckety Presbyterian Church, Brian Kilbert, Pastor

District 2 Churches

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

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

District 3 Churches

~~Little Redstone Presbyterian Church, Fayette City, Joshua Scully, Commissioned Pastor

~~Springhill Furnace Presbyterian Church, Lake Lynn, Molly Hall, Covenant Pastor

District 4 Churches

~~Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church, Ligonier, Steve Hospodar, Temporary Supply, Ronald Durika, Moderator

~~Bethel Presbyterian Church, New Florence, James Sunseri, Commissioned Pastor



“It Ain’t Over, Till it’s Over”

Whether it had to do with the pennant race in 1973 or other “games” of life, the reality is that the season is not yet complete. There is still time. Like this one, various quotes attributed to Yogi Berra are often both humorous, yet ring true in our own life experiences. Whether they always make “sense” or not, we know and appreciate the reality of its meaning in our lives and can become a “mantra” for coaches as well as ourselves. *“It’s Not Over, Until it’s Over.”* In this case, we recognize that whether in baseball or in other parts of life, there are endings. Yet, because it is not yet the “end,” it is premature to anticipate or

even count out anyone or team until it is complete (*my ongoing reminder as a Pirates fan*). In other words, keep playing until the last out. This is true not only in baseball, but it is true in life, in ministry and in God’s

kingdom. By God's grace, since 1971, it has been and will remain the focus of my own ways of living life, in work and in ministry.

As many of you already know, in April I announced to the Council my intention to retire as the Executive Presbyter of Redstone at the end of 2024. The notion of discerning the appropriate time to make a change is never an easy one for me. There is always more to do and my own obsessions with completing the work keep my eyes on the horizon and my feet moving forward. Yet, as I began to anticipate the upcoming years, I sensed God's leading that it was time for a change both for Redstone Presbytery and for me. It will represent a closing of this chapter and role for you and I together as EP and presbytery, but not as fellow laborers and servants of the Jesus Christ.

In God's providence, when I first came across the advertisement for the position of Executive Presbyter, I remember being attracted to the appeal that the search committee was looking for candidates who were willing to "think outside the box." At the time, I wondered if they really meant it or were prepared for what it might mean. For after all, Presbyterians often love creating "boxes" and living within them. By God's grace and calling, I came to serve alongside of you in order that we might hear the Lord's voice and follow in faithfulness wherever we might be led. We may not always have escaped the "boxes" of our own making, but hopefully, during these many years, we have at least punctured a few holes for God's light to shine. Perhaps, we even altered the "box" or added new ways of serving our God in our local congregations, but also together as a presbytery that were outside of it.

Since my announcement, many people have expressed their appreciation and inquired whether I am looking forward to those days. While I am sure that I will enjoy the "next chapter" of God's calling (whatever that is), I am more focused on completing the calling well that the Lord extended through this presbytery. You see, *"It's not over, until it's over."* I am trusting that God has many opportunities to serve in God's reign not only for me over these next eight months, but for all of us together.

Though there may be changes and callings to different "stations" in our lives (individually or collectively) at different times, there is no ending, no finish line, to discipleship. By God's grace alone, seeking the first the kingdom and its righteousness is our constant call in this life until Christ reconciles all things and brings them to completion in Christ's reign on earth as it is in heaven. So, until that day, *"It's not over, until it's over."* Whether over the next eight months laboring together, we will finish strong in what has called us. And over the next years, even as we pursue God's calling in different places, yet we are and will be joined together in serving for God's glory and God's glory alone "until it's over." *Soli Deo Gloria!*

ANNOUNCEMENT LOOP FOR PRESBYTERY MEETING

The May meeting of Presbytery will be on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 In Person and via ZOOM videoconferencing and at the



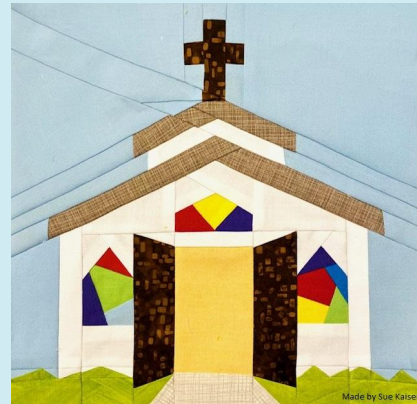
Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock, beginning at 6:00 p.m. If you have an announcement that you would like included in the announcement loop that will be presented that day please submit them directly to redstonestories@gmail.com by Tuesday, May 14, 2024
Thank you!

Pray for the Congregation of the Week ([Facebook](#))

Each week a different ministry of one of our congregations is featured on the Presbytery Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofRedstone>) Look for your friends and colleagues in ministry and intercede on their behalf with the Lord for what God has called them to be and do.

if you have a “**Quilting group**” in your congregation or just some individuals who engage in quilting, we are looking for churches to bring one or more squares (10.5 x 10.5) that represent any or some of the mission areas of the church. Each square might also have the name off the congregation on it as well. These squares will be combined into a quilt along with other symbols of the Presbytery to form a quilt that will be on display at the Presbytery and particular events.



Please contact either **Debby Koenig** - (debkoenig@wpa.net) or **Rev. Skip Noftzger** - (noftzger@gmail.com) if you need any additional information.

Please plan on turning in your finished squares no later than Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at the Presbytery Meeting hosted by Pine Springs Camp.



The Last Date for the 2023 Session Minutes Reviews:

o · May 28; 5:00 p.m. Pre-Presbytery Gathering @ Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock



Are you a Ruling Elder who is interested in Learning and Growing in you Faith even more?

Is God Possibly Calling you to Preach?

CONSIDER ENROLLING IN THE INTER-PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP FORMATION PROGRAM.

For more Information about the program and Enrollment, Please Contact Skip Noftzger at the Presbytery Office 724-837-6737 or executive@redstonepresbytery.org

WEE KIRK 2024

Wee Kirk early bird registrations (lower price) are open. Taking place on October 14-16. Don't miss this important opportunity for learning, renewal and retreat. Sign up now at wee-kirk-ne.org

“Paraments; Looking for a Good Home”

First Presbyterian Church, Irwin has a couple sets of paraments that they are not using. If your congregation is interested in having them, please contact the church at: 724-863-5910 or office@firstpresbyirwin.org.



Healing Prayer Network Meeting Change

Due to leader scheduling conflicts, the May 9 meeting of the Healing Prayer Network is postponed to the following **TUESDAY, MAY 14 @4:30pm at the Presbytery Office**. Please note this in your calendars and come join us in a time of prayer for the world, our Presbytery, Congregations, Pastors, and Members - or for anyone or any situation that is heavy on your heart.



Norma Prina Murphy
Donna MacArt Havrisko
Jim Farrer

Vacation Bible School

The Vacation Bible School season is just around the corner!

[Click Here](#) to view the list of churches in Redstone Presbytery that already have their



plans made for this year.

Are you hosting VBS at your Church? If so, please send the information to the presbytery office or email

secretary@redstonepresbytery.org.

We will publish the list in up coming eNews with the possibility of sharing resources.

MINISTER ID CARDS from PC(USA) are now available at the Presbytery Office. Please pick yours up when you visit the office for a meeting or if you are in the area during office hours. (Monday - Thursday 9am - 2pm)

If you have any questions, please email me or call.

Karen Gray
Administrative Operations Manager
secretary@redstonepresbytery.org
724-837-6737 - Office

**JOIN US FOR
WORK DAY
MAY 11**

ANY AGE! ANY SKILL LEVEL! PROJECTS FOR ALL!

8:30 - Donuts/Coffee/Fellowship
9-1 - Work Projects
1-1:30 - Lunch*
1:30-3 - Finish Projects

*We will provide the main course for lunch. Please bring a potluck to share! (i.e. salad, chips, dessert)

RSVP at www.pinesprings.org/workday
Call (814) 629-9834 or
Email info@pinesprings.org

PINE SPRINGS CAMP GOLF OUTING

May 13th at Arnold Palmer's Latrobe Country Club. Join us for a day on the green to benefit Pine Springs Camp! Continental breakfast, lunch, banquet dinner, and silent auction. Your support



provides hundreds of families with financial assistance to send kids to camp. [Visit the PSC website](#) for more details or download the [Golf Outing Brochure](#).

[Click Here](#) to become an "Amen Corner" Scholarship Sponsor



The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The

remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

First Presbyterian Belle Vernon invites you to our Annual Plant Sale, Saturday, May 18, 2024. We will have a selection of flower and vegetable plants, hanging baskets, and more. In addition, we will have bags of composted manure for sale to nurture your garden. Preorders must be received by May 5, 2024. The Plant Sale Order Form can be found at www.fpresbv.org. For more information, please contact Fred Exley at 724-322-1384.



Brass 3, a concert of brass music will be held in the sanctuary of **First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg, 300 South Main Street, at 4:15 p.m., Sunday, May 26, 2024**, featuring the Blairsville Brass Ensemble, Keys of Brass Quintet and Main

Street Brass. Repertoire will cover a wide array of musical genres from

Baroque to Modern, Beatles to Brahms, Canzonas. Sonatas, American folk music and a Rigaudon. Each brass group will perform separately as well as part of a combined brass ensemble and feature organ on two of the pieces. A light reception hosted by the Worship Committee will follow the concert. This program is a part of a larger Community Music Series offered by First Presbyterian Church and is free and open to the public.

PRESBYTERY UPCOMING EVENTS

- Diaper Drive hosted by the Level Green Presbyterian Church Saturday, May 11, 2024 from 10am - 12pm in the Parking Lot [Diaper Drive Flyer](#) and [Mission Information](#)
- [Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser](#) - Rehoboth Presbyterian Church Saturday, May 18, 2024 - 2pm to 6pm

- 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

Upcoming Events Outside Redstone Presbytery

Stewardship Kaleidoscope - Real Tools for Real Ministry
September 23-25, 2024 in Portland OR.

For more information visit stewardshipkaleidoscope.org
PC(USA) Pastors - Learn about the Church Financial
Leadership Grant Program through the Foundation [here](#)

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.

Presbytery Staff

[Richard "Skip" Noftzger](#)

Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk

[blog address](#)

[twitter address](#)

[Karen Gray](#)

Administrative Operations Manager

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

[Bobbie Shaffor](#)

Bookkeeper

*Communicate the
Word...*

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

Presbytery of Redstone
www.redstonepresbytery.org

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