

# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## June 20, 2024



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### Please pray for...

#### *District 1 Churches*

- ~~Congruity Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria, Cliff Foster, Pastor,
- ~ United Presbyterian Church, New Kensington, Rebecca Siddle, Covenant Pastor

#### *District 2 Churches*

- ~~Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Steve LaSor, Pastor
- ~~ Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Jennifer Grayer-Griggs, Pastor

#### *District 3 Churches*

- ~~New Salem Presbyterian Church, Bill Wiegand, Commissioned Pastor
- ~~ Calvin Presbyterian Church, Scottdale, Doug Yauger, Commissioned Pastor

#### *District 4 Churches*

- ~~Colver Presbyterian Church, Robert Sheehan, Moderator
- ~~Cresson Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Pastor

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### Called to Serve Together (Whole and Parts)

In my line of work, it is not uncommon to hear references to the “presbytery,” as an existing entity or hierarchy or bureaucracy outside of ourselves. The reality is that the “presbytery” is not “they.” Nor is it the EP, the Moderator or a center in Greensburg, but rather “we are” Redstone Presbytery. Through representation in elders, whether ruling or teaching, every congregation is a part of the collective whole that we label a presbytery.

That “we”(presbytery) may assume responsibilities with congregations or pastors or in cultivating shared ministry and mission. As the means to fulfill this calling, staffing, structures or resources are organized to support fulfillment of these responsibilities. Yet, even when delegated authority, they serve based upon the mission, vision and values of the presbytery (“we”). Whether it is the EP, the Council, COM or CPM or various networks



or task forces, all are just some of the “means” for the Presbytery to pursue faithfully the calling that the Lord God has given us together.

There is an old saying that goes “when all that you have is a hammer, than everything looks like a nail.” The limitations of thinking that your only “tool” in ministry is the familiar one, will inevitably influence your own assessment of the issues before you as well as defining the ways that you might seek faithful solutions. This can be true within congregations, but also within presbyteries or at least the perceptions of presbyteries.

In the history of presbyteries in general, there have been differences in function and values based upon God’s mission and the needs of the current context. In 1781, when Redstone was being organized on the frontier, it was so that congregations might share together, and preaching might be obtained and authorized. In other times, Redstone Presbytery served as a larger program “arm” in a common ministry whether for youth or adults. Sometimes, the calling of the presbytery provided resources to particular pastors, congregations and ministries in ministry strategy and applications or technical issues or financial support. Another function of the presbytery is in the networking of congregations and pastors that they might benefit not only in fellowship but in learning from each other. Additionally, the “we” of presbytery served as a “catalyst” by which God-given visions and dreams might be cultivated, seeded, watered and come to fruition.

Each of these callings may have been emphasized in one context or another. Today, those multiple functions may still be in our “toolbox.” In addressing the complexities of both individual ministries and shared ministries and mission, we” must be prepared with more than just a “hammer.” Whether programmatic, resourcing, governance, or creating networks and cultivating new initiatives, all of these roles may be useful when grounded in service to God’s mission in this place and time. “We are” connected for purpose. Embodied in these various expressions of collective ministry, “we” act in ways to serve both the whole and the parts of God’s work here and now. Since 1781, as Redstone Presbytery, “we” will glorify God together in the whole and in the parts.



#### General Assembly—June 25-July 4

Please remember to support in prayer the Redstone commissioners engaging in this national gathering. They are **Jackie Eckenrod, Robin Jennings, Rev. Brian Kilbert, and Rev. Andrew Wirt**. Look for their reflections upon the experiences in upcoming Enews articles.

#### 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.

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**Summer**  
READING

You're invited to the racial reconciliation group's Zoom book club

All discussions will take place at 6:30PM

June 13 *Night* by Eli Wiesel  
July 11 *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
August 8 *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

Email [secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org) to register

Zoom login:  
Meeting #: 7248376737  
Password: Redstone

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## The Mission Network of the Presbytery of Redstone

will be sponsoring a **"Mission Fair"** again for our congregations at the September Presbytery Meeting at Pine Springs Camp. We are asking

you to prepare to share local, regional, national or international projects in which your church is engaged or supports. You will have the opportunity to display any objects, flyers, information, etc. at a exhibit table before and during the Presbytery gathering. So, plan now for what you would like to share about where God has led you in mission.



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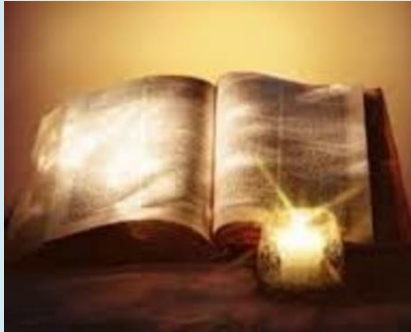
if you have a **"Quilting group"** in your congregation or just some individuals who engage in quilting, we are looking for churches to bring one or more squares (10.5 x 10.5) that represent any or some of the mission areas of the church. Each square might also have the name of the congregation on it 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 - \(debkoenig@wpa.net\)](mailto:debkoenig@wpa.net) or [Rev. Skip Noftzger - \(noftzger@gmail.com\)](mailto: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.

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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](mailto:executive@redstonepresbytery.org)

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## 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](http://wee-kirk-ne.org)

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The Presbytery will be doing a bulk order for the 2024/2025 **Planning Calendars**. Calendars begin in September again this year. The bulk order rate per calendar will be \$10.50 this year. If you would like to get in on the bulk rate deal please complete the [order form](#) and email it or mail it with your payment to the Presbytery office. **The deadline for orders will be August 2, 2024** in order to have them for distribution at the September meeting. Thank you!



## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School season is here!

[Click Here](#) to view the list of churches in Redstone Presbytery that are hosting VBS this summer.



Need more information? Please call the  
presbytery office or email  
[secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org).

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## Church Financial Leadership Grants Available Now

If you are a pastor, commissioned ruling elder (CRE), a leader of a 1001 New Worshiping Community or a member of a stewardship team we have Church Financial Leadership Grants available for you. The grants will enable you to institute best practices for church financial leadership, introduce you to new models of giving and stewardship, and offer you new ways to talk about money and form generous disciples within your church.

### Who can apply?

- PCUSA pastors
- Commissioned Ruling Elders
- 1001 New Worshiping Community leaders
- Church member attending the event with their pastor

### What do the funds cover?

The grants are matching funds to help cover half of the cost of:

- Registration fees
- Transportation
- Lodging
- Meals
- Other expenses

The other half of the funds will need to be provided by the church or another source.

### What events can I use the funds for?

- Stewardship Kaleidoscope
- Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising (ECRF) through the Lake Institute
- Other church financial leadership events (subject to approval)

### What is the deadline?

For Stewardship Kaleidoscope, we are asking that applications be sent in by Monday, August 12 so that we have time to process the application and send out the funds prior to the start of the event. Applications received after the deadline or for the ECRF program will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Once we receive your application, it may take up to six weeks to process.

**APPLY NOW**

If you have questions, please email [serving@presbyterianfoundation.org](mailto:serving@presbyterianfoundation.org) and we'll be glad to help.



Honoring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future

For more information [Click Here](#) for upcoming events or visit [unitycemeterychapel.org](http://unitycemeterychapel.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](mailto:office@firstpresbyirwin.org).



**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](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org)  
724-837-6737 - Office

**PRESBYTERY UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Community Yard Sale - Derry Presbyterian Church is Participating in Derry's Great Garage Sale! Friday and Saturday, August 2nd and 3rd.**

For additional information [Click Here](#)

**Upcoming Events Outside Redstone Presbytery**

**Reckoning with Antisemitism as Christians-June 27; 6:30**

**p.m.**—sponsored by PTS, Christian Associates and the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh. For Christians, acknowledging and confronting antisemitism in ourselves and our religious traditions can help us see and respond to multiple forms of oppression. Learn from Christian leaders who will share their own experiences of wrestling with antisemitism and the ways this work has deepened their commitment to dismantling all oppression. See the attached [flier](#); learn more and RSVP at [casp.org/reckoning](http://casp.org/reckoning).

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**NEW WILMINGTON MISSION CONFERENCE - July 19-24 at Westminster College.** The longest-running Christian mission-focused event in the United States. The theme this year is based on Romans 14:19: "Make peace and build one another up." The conference provides a wide range of programs designed to inspire individuals of all ages. Mission-driven individuals, pastors, congregations, youth groups and mission workers connect with each other, worship together and gain a deeper understanding of mission. **For more information and to register, go to:** [2024 Conference — New Wilmington Mission Conference \(nwmcmission.org\)](https://2024Conference—NewWilmingtonMissionConference.nwmcmission.org)

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**Presbyterian Youth and Triennium - July 28-31, 2025 in Louisville, KY at the Kentucky International Convention Center**

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**Clergy Peacemakers Workshop—August 1**--Christian Associates is joining with Common Ground USA and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to sponsor this workshop which includes modules on navigating difficult conversations, conflict resolution, contextual assessment, and actionable plans for peace building. It is by invitation-only, and is designed as a "train the trainer" opportunity with the hope that participants will be equipped with tools they can then share with others in the presbytery and/or in their neighborhoods. **If you wish to be considered for participation, please contact Executive Presbyter Skip Nofzger.**

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**WOMEN'S CONNECTION 2024 - Aug. 9-11 at Montreat Conference Center, NC.** "In the Arms of God," you'll have the chance to retreat from the day to day, take a deep breath of the Spirit, gather in community with other women of faith, and leave with a heart full of hope. Women's Connection 2024 will be a time for women to connect with old and new friends, a time to care for yourself; a time for space and Sabbath. [Learn more](#)

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**Stewardship Kaleidoscope - Real Tools for Real Ministry**  
September 23-25, 2024 in Portland OR.  
For more information visit [stewardshipkaleidoscope.org](https://stewardshipkaleidoscope.org)  
PC(USA) Pastors - Learn about the Church Financial Leadership Grant Program through the Foundation [here](#)

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**Sudan/South Sudan Mission Partnership Network Gathering-- September 26-28, Antiochian Village---**Join this gathering of those interested and engaged in Sudan/South Sudan mission partnership not only in our presbytery, but with others across the country, including visitors from South Sudan and from the Sudanese diaspora in this country. **For more information, please contact the Redstone Presbytery office.**

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**2024 EVANGELISM CONFERENCE - Oct. 3-5.** Registration for the 2024 Evangelism Conference, planned by Theology, Formation & Evangelism, is now open. "A Lifestyle That Exudes Justice" **Evangelism Conference will be held at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky.** [Learn more and register](#)

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.



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## 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*

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

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