

Presbytery of Redstone eNews

June 27, 2024



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

~~Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo, Pete Goetschius, Pastor
~ First Presbyterian Church, Avonmore, Lynn Mance, Commissioned Pastor

District 2 Churches

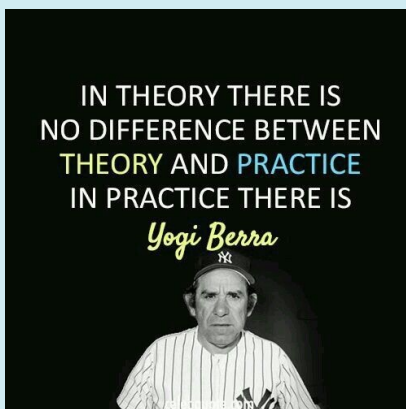
~~First Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Doug Rehberg, Interim Pastor
~~ West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Andrew Wirt, Pastor

District 3 Churches

~~Grace Chapel Presbyterian Church, Smithfield, Regina Sturiale, Student Pastor
~~ Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock, Laura Blank, Pastor

District 4 Churches

~~First Presbyterian Church, Ebensburg
~~Bethany Presbyterian Church, Denise Todero, Commissioned Pastor



**“CONNECTED FOR PURPOSE”—
PRACTICES AND
CHARACTERISTICS OF A
“PRESBYTERY**

Throughout the past few articles, we have been “wrestling” with the “why” of having a presbytery. Though there is nothing sacred about some of the particulars of the structure, the faithful living together as the body of Christ in the world beyond our immediate community leads us to the recognition that a skeletal structure matters in supporting and binding us together. In our belonging we are connected to one another where we become

responsible both to and for one another. The functional embodiment may take different forms at different times based upon the integration of Biblical norms with context and needs such that our collective approach as a region/presbytery may sometimes be programmatic or resource or catalytic or regulative.

Yet, for all of us there may be the discrepancy between affirmation of something in principle, but not in practice. Or as Yogi was “quoted,” there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice there is.” If we are connected for purpose, how might we ensure that practice matches the theory as much as possible within our sin-remaining world. While

there will always be the need for examination and transformation (both part of sanctification), I might suggest that we see the practice of presbyteries match the theory of presbyteries when we witness in tangible ways the presbytery as a Collegial body, Collaborative agency, Cooperative , and Catalyst for creativity.



Collegiality, while grounded in relationships, binds us together as we share in both fellowship and in ministry for the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. A willingness to engage one another in testifying to what God is and might be doing among us can be the very means of the movement of the Spirit among and upon us. Additionally, these shared relationships commit one another to be a level of constancy such that we can count on one another whether there is abundance or scarcity, tragedy or triumph.

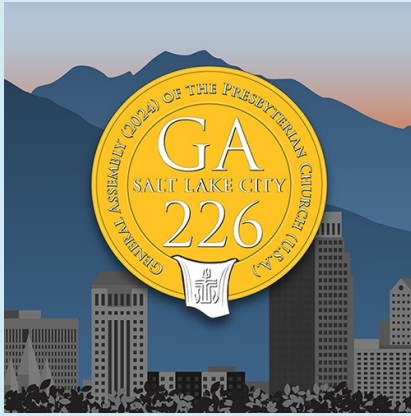
Moving beyond the sharing of individual or congregation ideas, resources and practices, we also become defined by a willingness to join in ministry and mission that transcends individual congregations either because of size, scope or specialization. This collaboration provides ministry and programs of God’s kingdom for the benefit of all who are connected by congregation or interest. Working together may render the creation of new initiatives where the “sum” is greater than the “parts.”

Having been bound together with traditions, structures, norms and practices, cooperation becomes the very means by which we may pursue the same ends. Rather than an authoritative declaration by an individual in power, we cooperate together through representatives in the gathered assembly or in committees to pursue collective faithfulness through consistent and wise protocols developed in shared discernment. At times, we initiate solutions to issues and concerns in congregations through reciprocal engagement and sharing expertise.

In the ongoing agency of the Holy Spirit working among us and through us, we find ourselves serving as resources to one another. At times, in the comfortability of routine of our own congregations, our discernment of the “new thing” that God can and might be doing may be limited. The creative “stirring” of one another becomes magnified in relationships across a region where there is both difference and credibility. In the ongoing improvisation of the ministry to which God might be calling us “next,” there are others who are able to jump in with “yes, and” in the discernment process that may lead us toward God’s intention for us a church.

No doubt, Redstone or any other presbytery may not live up always to these expectations. For indeed, the difference between theory and practice does exist. Yet, in our coming together, when we are “marked” by collegiality, collaboration, cooperation and creativity, we can trust that not only are we

“better” together, but that the Lord God is in our midst leading and guiding us. Soli Deo Gloria!



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.

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 to register

Zoom login:
Meeting #: 7248376737
Password: Redstone

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.



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.



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 until August 1st) 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



The Presbytery of Redstone Will Ordain

Regina Sturiale

as Minister of Word and Sacrament
Grace Chapel Presbyterian Church
1214 Walnut Hill Road
Smithfield, PA 15478

Sunday, June 30, 2024, 3:00pm
Dinner to follow, Please RSVP
724-599-6983 or email
rsturiale@atarahgroupinternational.org

Board of Pensions

Employee Agreements will open in August.



Consultations for navigating the 2025 changes are available.

Please contact Rev. Skip Noftzger - 724-837-6737 Office - 724-833-0340 Cell
executive@redstonepresbytery.org



HEALING AND PRAYER MINISTRY

NETWORK is going on vacation in July! Our next meeting will be Thursday, August 8, 4:30-6:00pm at the Presbytery Center. Praying that all find some time for recreation and refreshment during the coming weeks!

Grace and peace,
Norma

**Wishing everyone
a Happy and Safe
4th of July!**



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.

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 and we'll be glad to help.



Unity Cemetery & Chapel 250th Anniversary Celebration

Honoring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future

For more information [Click Here](#) for upcoming events or visit unitycemeterychapel.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
724-837-6737 - Office

PRESBYTERY UPCOMING EVENTS

The Masontown community kitchen will be open Tuesday, **July 2, 2024 from 4 to 5:30**. The menu celebrating Independence Day will be hamburgers, or sloppy Joe's, baked beans, homemade desserts, and Panera bread. Everyone is invited to come and share the meal and Christian fellowship that is found in the dining hall of the **First Presbyterian Church, 102 W. Church Ave., Masontown, PA** For questions or to volunteer your help please call Judy at 724-943-3013 or Kathy at 724-583-9514

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.

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 \(nwmcmission.org\)](http://2024Conference—NewWilmingtonMissionConference(nwmcmission.org))

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

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 Noftzger.**

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](#)

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](#)

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.**

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](#)

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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