

# This week's Redstone happenings

## July 11, 2024



**This week we are praying for the following congregations:**

### *District 1 Churches*

*Delmont Presbyterian Church, Anthony Catullo, Interim Pastor  
Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell, Owar Ojulu,  
Pastor*

### *District 2 Churches*

*First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette, Dawn Sherwood, Pastor  
Latrobe Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Derek Campbell, Pastor*

### *District 3 Churches*

*Tent Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, Jeff Smith, Commissioned Pastor  
Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, Ed Gray, Moderator*

### *District 4 Churches*

*First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Hyiwot Teshome, Pastor  
Second Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Art Moffat, Temporary Supply*

---

~From Skip...~

---

### **General Assembly—“Living into Hope”**

***The General Assembly is the council of the whole church and is representative of the unity of the synods, presbyteries, sessions and congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) The General Assembly constitutes the bond of union, community and mission among all its congregations and councils, to the end that the whole church becomes a community of faith, hope, love and witness.***

While some of you were “enjoying” this summer heat, I joined our four Redstone commissioners in Salt Lake City (where it was really hot☺) for the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Every two years, presbyteries across the country nominate and elect commissioners to service at the General Assembly([a short video explaining differences between General Assembly and other denominational agencies](#)). At this gathering, commissioners participate in discussions and discernment on concerns that have been elevated and brought forward by sessions and presbyteries.



Sometimes the temptation exists to think of this “group” as some external authority “out there” when the reality is that both the items of business and the authority to discern and decide resides with those elected commissioners from presbyteries such as Redstone. I can testify that Jackie Eckenrod(Westminster), Robin Jennings (First Greensburg), Brian Kilbert(Puckety, Lower Burrell) and Andrew Wirt(West Hempfield) served diligently and faithfully through their preparation, committees and plenary sessions. These commissioners will be offering personal reflections on their experiences in the upcoming weeks of the Enews. So, stay tuned.

Beyond items that garners much of media attention, much of General Assembly takes place in worship and prayer, customary approvals of leadership, and authoritative interpretations of the constitution as well as those common concerns brought forth seeking to be addressed by a collective voice at a national level. For presbyteries and congregations, these serve as encouragement, guidance or resources on these concerns. Any items approved that are proposed revisions in the constitution (Book of Order and Book of Confessions) go back to the presbyteries for validation or disapproval. In the future, your commissioners and I will address some of the items of business considered at this assembly.

In large gatherings in the body of Christ, you experience all the joy and the pain of seeking to be faithful together in the midst of difference (this was true of many of the early churches as well). Despite our own failings before God and with one another, yet an assembly gathered to address the common life of the whole church seeks the mind of Christ, demonstrates

consolation, spiritual sharing, compassion and humility in modeling a witness of Jesus Christ. The values of “engaging with one another in love, humility, grace and servant discipleship as the council of the whole church” were on display in tangible ways. They were there in the deliberations and in the informal interactions among commissioners and staff alike. They were evidenced through the leadership of the co-moderators in their able efforts to guide the body through times of reflection, discernment, worship and fun (even dancing).

Since 1789, GA has provided opportunities for relationships, old and new, in the part of the body of Christ we call Presbyterian. Gathering to listen and to learn from one another by faith, we sought experienced God’s presence in our midst. At the end of this assembly and upon my return, I have spent some time reflecting upon the “takeaways.” While a Presbyterian by choice (God’s), my identity has not been as a PCUSA or GA “nerd.” Yet, I can testify firsthand to the ways I have seen and experienced God’s presence in our midst in this and every assembly. And, having seen God at work in the midst of difference and discussion, through prayer and conversation, in worship and in items of business, we are seeking to “live into hope” as a community of faith in Jesus Christ.

---

~Presbytery News~

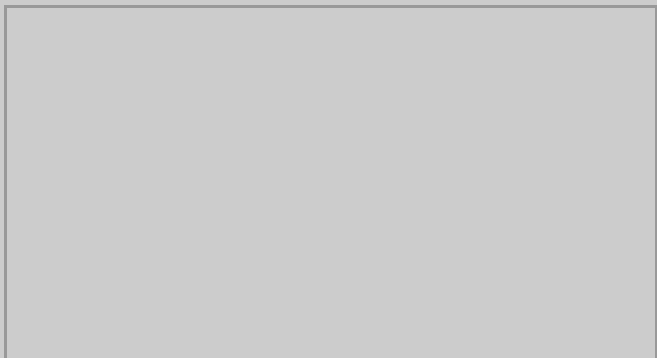
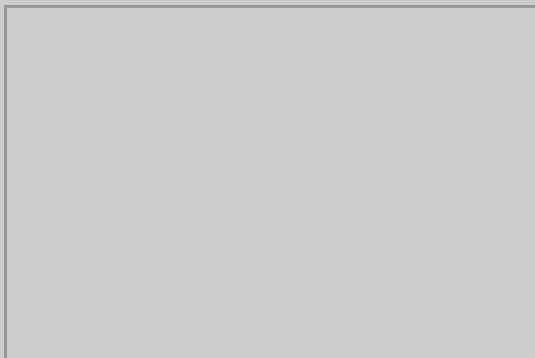
---



Picture of our GA Commissioners and EP at the Salt Palace Convention Center.

*From Left to Right:* Andrew Wirt, Robin Jennings, Skip Noftzger, Brian Kilbert and Jackie Eckenrod

Please stay tuned for their reflections in upcoming additions.





## 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](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.**

**Summer**  
READING

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

All discussions will take place at 6:30PM

**July 11** *To Kill a Mockingbird*  
by Harper Lee  
*Coming up next*

**August 8** *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*  
by James McBride

**Zoom login:**  
**Meeting #: 7248376737**  
**Password: Redstone**

## 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.

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



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.**

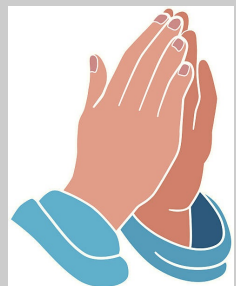
**For more Information about the**



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**

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

**August 2, 2024** in order to have them  
for distribution at the September  
meeting. Thank you!



**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



### **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](mailto:executive@redstonepresbytery.org)

**MINISTER ID CARDS** from PC(USA) are available at the Presbytery Office. If you have not  
picked yours up, please contact the office. Office hours are Monday - Thursday 9am - 2pm.

## **~Grants~**

### **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?**

#### **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

- PCUSA pastors
- Commissioned Ruling Elders
- 1001 New Worshipping 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.

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.

**WONDER OF WORSHIP CHURCH GRANTS** - The Wonder of Worship program at Columbia Theological Seminary is offering grants of \$1,000 to congregations looking to **enhance the engagement of children in their corporate workspaces. Wonder of Worship is funded through Lilly Endowment's Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative.** The aim of the national initiative is to support faith-based organizations as they help children grow in faith and deepen their relationships with God. Instructions for applying for the grant are provided in the [attached link here](#). The deadline for the application is **July 15**.

**~Events at our Churches~**

**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](#)

**Unity Cemetery & Chapel  
 250th Anniversary Celebration**

Honoring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future

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

The Masontown community kitchen will be open Tuesday, July 16, 2024 from 4 to 5:30. The menu will be pork and sauerkraut, potatoes, 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. The meals are free, but donations are gladly accepted and provide for future meals. For questions or to volunteer your help please call Judy at 724-943-3013 or Kathy at 724-583-9514

**~Upcoming Events Outside of Redstone Presbytery~**

**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 (nwmcmision.org)**

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

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](http://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**

---

### **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**

*Communicate the Word...*  
*Carry on the Work...*  
*Change the World...*  
*Together*

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

Bookkeeper

Presbytery of Redstone | 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road | Greensburg, PA 15601 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!