

This week's Redstone happening  
**July 17, 2025**



This week we are praying for the following congregations:

*District 1 Churches*

*Community United Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria, Len Morgan, Commissioned Pastor*

*Congruity Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria, Cliff Foster, Pastor*

*District 2 Churches*

*Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Jenifer Frayer-Griggs, Pastor*

*First Presbyterian Church, Irwin, Doug Rehberg, Interim Pastor*

*District 3 Churches*

*New Salem Presbyterian Church, William Wiegand, Commissioned Pastor*

*Calvin United Presbyterian Church, Scottdale, Doug Yauger, Commissioned Pastor*

*District 4 Churches*

*Revloc Presbyterian Church, David O'Hara, Commissioned Pastor*

*Bolivar Presbyterian Church, James Sunseri, Commissioned Pastor*

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~From Interim Executive Presbyter~

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**“Heartburst”**

My wife and I had a marvelous week in a beloved place in Canada with our children, their spouses, our grandchild, and longtime friends. It was a time filled with laughter and conversation, swimming and reflection, savory new meals and traditional treats. There were so many opportunities for strengthening relationships and gaining wisdom from the stories that enriched our time with one another. But, as is always the case, the regrettable point in the event came to an end with our departure from one another.

Thankfully, most of the group made their way home without incident. And for the bulk of my trip back to Greensburg, I was experiencing the same; that is, until fifty yards from mile post 472 going westbound on the I-90 New York Thruway, 25 miles from Pennsylvania. At that point, the electricity in my Jeep gradually eased to a stop, the heat rising substantially, and the front windshield wipers making a slow pirouette to a stop. Those of you who have mastery of car engines – I decidedly do not – have guessed by now that the alternator had gone kaput. For a time, this was an utter contrast to the joy and comradery of the vacation that was still in my mind. My Minnesota-based AAA card had the phone number for roadside assistance...in the state of Minnesota. The person who answered the phone was unable – in fact, prohibited – to give me the number for the state of New York. When I finally found and called the number for New York, I was patronized by the answerer, implying (if not explicitly expressing) what a fool I was, before sending help that would likely not be there for an hour. The spirit of “connection” of the week before was fully absent at that moment; that is, until a guy named Steve showed up.

Steve was the driver of the flatbed tow truck that AAA sent my way. He was a friendly, straightforward fellow who had been in this line of business for twenty-plus years, thought my trouble was likely a broken alternator, knew of a town just five miles away (Fredonia), and had insight into a dependable mechanic, a reasonable hotel, and an Enterprise auto rental place in Fredonia. He was also curious about a minister from PA driving a car with MN license plates, leading him to tell me stories of preachers he knew. His kindness led me to connections to a helpful hotel clerk, a reassuring mechanic, and a generous Enterprise employee, who saved me more than a hundred dollars when I returned the car a day early, because the mechanic had room to squeeze my job into his calendar sooner than expected.

In *Pilgrim Band* – our read for the summer – Tom Bandy points to the unpredictable ways that grace falls into our lives. Bandy embraces the notion of “heartburst.” He writes, “One’s heart suddenly opens to someone other than yourself, aware that there is a deeper meaning bigger than both of you (p. 66).” An experience like this is an incarnational

Peace in Christ,  
Lon Weaver

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## ~Presbytery News~

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### Final Service at Hopewell Presbytery Church

Please Join us this **Sunday, July 20, 2025 at 3p.m.** at the Hopewell Presbytery Church, 400 Hopewell Road, Merrittstown, PA 15463.

A Celebration of their Ministry, Members, Volunteers and Leadership and honoring their dedication and contributions over the years for the Glory of God. This Congregation's Faith and Connection to God will continue beyond this farewell service.

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### "Pilgrim Band" Tom Bandy

The quest for hope is the driving force of religion today. The Christian movement is entering a new era of smaller companionships, mutual mentoring, and social service. The



Pilgrim Band emerging around the world is a fluid, flexible, mobile, highly committed, and mutually accountable group of *spiritual travelers* earnestly seeking the immanence of God.

If you were unable to attend the 1st Zoom Session on June 18, 2025, [Please click here to view the video](#) on YouTube.

[Click Here](#) to view Notes on Intro & the First Three Sections.

Please read the second section of the book (pages 47-103). We are inviting you to submit your questions from the reading that you have encountered to [Lon Weaver \(executive@redstonepresbytery.org\)](mailto:executive@redstonepresbytery.org) by Saturday, July 26, 2025.

Tom Bandy will respond with a video recording that provides his answers to our questions We will let you know when the video is ready for viewing.

Join us for this next step of this inspiring book!



### A Message from Rev. Thomas Tut on a Update from South Sudan...

Calvary greetings,

The challenges for peace are still tall up the government still bombarded the rural areas in greater upper Nile region and most of people are left their original areas which cause more hunger to many people and the international communities included UN are not taking attention to South Sudan people any more.

The people who are working with government are going for more than one year without salaries, which means our economy is going down very bad and the value of South

Sudanese pound losing its value against US dollar which cause the prices in market going up and no one able to buy something from market because everything became in dollar while not everyone having the hard currency.

The SSPEC in its last GA formed five presbyteries which need to be established well but because of these challenges in country we are not able to assist them and even to visit them and we are hoping for dry season to make some visitation when the security is stable.

Please find the report of last funds with received last year for relief for pastors and did as was designed only there were church land which was going to lose for clearance the documents.

Blessing,

Rev. Thomas Tut  
SSPEC Moderator



### IPLF PROGRAM

Wanting to learn, grow in faith, and serve the Lord in Ministry? Wondering whether God might be calling you to preach or to another way of serving the church?

Classes start on August 9, 2025 with Introduction to Reformed Theology with Instructor: Rev. Dr. Martin Ankrum

The Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation (IPLF) is a collaborative program among presbyteries to train, educate, and prepare those called to

serve as Ruling Elders in particular pastoral service.

For more Information about the program and Enrollment, Please Contact Karen Gray at the Presbytery Office 724-837-6737 or [secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org)

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## IPLF Fall Workshops

Fall Pastor and Elder Training Workshops presented by the Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation. All workshops will be hybrid offerings by Zoom and in-person from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 9, 2025 - Boundaries and Ethics in Church Leadership  
Meeting Location: Laboratory Presbyterian Church - 23 Manse Street, Washington, PA  
Instructor: Michelle Snyder

[Click Here to view the Full Schedule](#)

The zoom login information is:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7248330340?  
pwd=gpnK4liH8GsZGOXApZLISyM18vgsVV.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7248330340?pwd=gpnK4liH8GsZGOXApZLISyM18vgsVV.1)  
Meeting ID; 7248330340  
Password: IPLF

Please contact the Presbytery office if you plan on attending in person or by Zoom 724-837-6737, [secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org)

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**Wee Kirk**  
small numbers. big faith.  
huge impact.

**Early Bird Registration Closes on August 1st  
Secure your Spot Today before you miss it.**

**Wee Kirk 2025  
October 13-15 - Laurelville Retreat Center**

Our purpose is to inspire, equip, motivate, and encourage small Churches and to provide rest and refreshment for the Clergy and Lay Leaders of those Churches.

**The Wee Kirk Conference will be here soon!  
Register online today to receive the discount.**

**[Click Here](https://wee-irk-ne.org) to go to the website (https://wee-irk-ne.org) and view the speakers and topics and to Register.**

**[Click Here for the Brochure](#) that lists all the seminars/workshops, their leaders, the schedule and Registration.**

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## PRE-KIRK

Rev. Jim Farrer invites members of Redstone Presbytery to Laurelville Retreat Center on Monday, October 13, 2025 from 1-4pm. Jim will address a variety of topics like Jesus' model for reaching younger generations and bringing about change and resurrection.

There is not cost for this Workshop. Please either call (724-837-6767) or email the Presbytery Office ([secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org)) if interested in



## Planning Calendars 2025-2026

The Presbytery will be doing a bulk order for the 2025/2026 Planning Calendars. Calendars begin in September again this year. The bulk order rate per calendar will be \$11.25 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 4, 2025** in order to have them for distribution at the September meeting. Thank you!

## ~Events at our Churches~

### The Summer Chamber Music Series

at historic

#### Unity Chapel

114 Chapel Lane, Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650

#### Trio Granato

Thursday, July 17 – 7:30 pm

Trio: Flute - Harp - Cello

#### Keys of Brass

Thursday, August 14 – 7:30 pm

Quintet: Trumpet – Trumpet – Horn – Trombone - Tuba

General admission - \$15. All donations benefit the Westmoreland Youth Symphony Orchestra Program. For more information please call 724-537-3631 x15 or 724-837-1850.

[unitycemeterychapel.org](http://unitycemeterychapel.org)

[latrobepc.org](http://latrobepc.org)

Underwritten by the Charles F. and Mary Esther Sawyer Music Fund  
of the

#### The Latrobe Presbyterian Church



Unity Chapel is handicap accessible: parking, entrance and restroom.  
The chapel is air-conditioned.

The Masontown community kitchen will be open Tuesday, July 22, 2025 from 4 to 5:30 PM. The meal will be barbecue ham sandwiches, baked beans, salad,

homemade desserts, and Panera breads. The Kitchen is open every other Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church, 102 W. Church Ave., Masontown PA. The dinners are provided without charge; Donations are gladly accepted and provide for future meals. This local mission would not be possible without the help of the many volunteers from the area's local churches and the community. For questions or to volunteer your help, please call Judy at 724-943-3013 or Frank 724 366-4721

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## **VENDOR/CRAFT SHOW**

**Saturday, July 26, 2025  
9:30 am to 2 pm**

*Lots of great vendors*

*Basket/Gift Auction*

*Food Available in Church Kitchen*

**First Presbyterian Church  
501 Fayette Avenue  
Belle Vernon  
724-929-7616**

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## PLAN TO ATTEND the Encore Performance!

### Unity Cemetery & Chapel Historical Program



With the goal of sharing 250 years of Unity Cemetery and Unity Chapel's history – a history that reflects the story of our nation – the program's creator and four actors will present an encore performance on Saturday, August 2, at 4 p.m. in Unity Chapel at 130 Chapel Lane, Latrobe. Admission is free and the program is appropriate for all ages. The public is invited.

Mary Lou Townsend, Latrobe Area Historical Society President, tapped her vast knowledge of local history to create the slide program that spans 1774 to the present. Mary Lou will periodically pause her narration so the audience can 'meet' several people who played a key part in local history and who are buried in Unity Cemetery.

- Sarah Taylor, who died in 1786 and whose headstone is the oldest in Unity Cemetery, will talk about the challenges her family faced in order to make a new life in the Land of Opportunity.
- Rev. Noah Hallock Gillette served Unity Church for nineteen years and then, because America's population was increasing and people were moving into towns, established the mission church on Main Street in Latrobe that became Latrobe Presbyterian Church.
- Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Leasure Beatty, born in 1859 and the great granddaughter of Benjamin Beatty on whose family's land the present Unity Chapel was built, will tell of 19<sup>th</sup> century lifestyles and pastimes.
- Eli Chambers represents young Americans who served in the Civil War because Americans' opinions differed enough to battle one another.

Mark your calendars now for this encore performance! Enjoy the hour-long program and then have dinner at a nearby restaurant!

Call Latrobe Presbyterian Church (724.537.3631) with questions.



### Leisenring Presbyterian Church Bazaar

**August 16, 9am-2pm**

**Huge Flea Market-Food-Music-  
Kids Craft & Face Painting &  
Chinese Auction**

**1004 Church St, Leisenring, PA  
15455**



### Leisenring Presbyterian Church Cabbage Roll Dinner & Bake Sale

**September 6, 10am-3pm**

**\$12.00 includes Cabbage Roll,  
Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll,  
Dessert & Drink Eat-In or Take-Out**

**1004 Church St, Leisenring, PA  
15455**



**NEW WILMINGTON  
MISSION CONFERENCE**

**Thanksgiving for PCUSA Mission Co-Workers**

In recognition of the call, commitment, service, and sacrifice of the PCUSA mission co-workers whose positions have been ended, the New Wilmington Mission Conference (NWMC) together with conveners of some Presbyterian Mission Networks invite you to attend a service of thanksgiving at NWMC Monday, July 21st at 7 pm,

The decision of PCUSA leadership to stop global mission sending brought mission co-workers service to an abrupt end. This evening meeting at NWMC is dedicated to expressing appreciation to them and praise to God for their faithfulness. All mission co-workers and their immediate families have been invited to attend the Conference free of charge.

Although the PCUSA has ended mission sending, God is not done calling and sending individuals throughout the world. On Monday and Tuesday (July 21st-22nd) from 1:00-4:30 pm there will be sessions dedicated to participating in God's global mission. Time will be devoted to listening to mission co-workers; sharing feelings and perspectives; and offering ideas and strategies. These discussions are intended to envision what next steps God may want us to take.

Representatives of mission networks, presbyteries and synods, congregations, and all who are committed to the mission of God are urged to attend. <https://www.nwmcmission.org/>

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**WOMEN OF CHAPLAINCY AND PASTORAL CARE**

**CONFERENCE - September 13th from 8:30AM-4:30 PM,**  
Geneva College. If you are a woman in Chaplaincy, Pastoral Care, or serving in a similar capacity, then you're invited to join us at the 3rd Annual Women of Chaplaincy and

Pastoral Care Conference! Learn more about the event and featured speakers at [www.pawomenchaplains.net/news](http://www.pawomenchaplains.net/news).

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**Fishing Differently: Ministry  
Formation in the Marketplace**

Sept. 17, 2025

In Person, Harrisburg, Pa.

Sidney S. Williams Jr. will present on the F.I.S.H. model (Financial, Intellectual, Social, and Human Capital) and the principles of Fishing Differently® to empower leaders, pastors, and congregations to strengthen their stewardship ministries. This engaging session will address the unique challenges congregations face while uncovering untapped opportunities to reimagine their assets and align mission with resources for greater community impact. Free book included with registration. Co-sponsored by The United Methodist Foundation of Pennsylvania and The Journey Church, Harrisburg, Pa. [Learn](#)

more.



## Faithful and Flexible Empowering Church Leaders for Emerging Possibilities

Sept. 19-20, 2025

In Person and Online

Join us in person or online for a two-day conference designed to equip church leaders for faithful and adaptive leadership in today's rapidly changing ministry contexts. The Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger, senior congregational strategist and affiliate professor of leadership formation at Fuller Seminary and an influential voice on adaptive leadership in the church, will deliver this year's Henderson Lecture.

Saturday will be "Worship and Workshops" day: bring a team of people from your church to learn practical skills for leading adaptive ministry! [Registration is open now!](#) We hope you will join us!

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## Stewardship Kaleidoscope - Real Tools for Real Ministry

September 22-24, 2025 in New Orleans, Louisiana

With an online virtual registration option. In-person attendees will be able to choose from dozens of workshops in addition to attending diverse plenary sessions and worship experiences.

For information on available grants through the Presbyterian Foundation to assist pastors and New Worshiping Community leaders to attend the conference, please visit <https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/resources/church-financial-literacy-and-leadership-program/grant/>.

For more information visit [stewardshipkaleidoscope.org](http://stewardshipkaleidoscope.org)

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## Concerned about Gun Violence?

Learn Faith-Based Skills for  
Gun Violence Prevention at the  
Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage Harrisonburg, VA  
Sept. 24-27, 2025

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship invites you to the **Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage** at Massanetta Springs Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA Sept. 24-27. The Institute offers continuing education for clergy and lay leaders on educational, pastoral and action steps for gun violence prevention mission with the local church.

**Who should come?** Lay leaders and teams, parents and grandparents, gun violence survivors, suicide prevention groups, gun owners, safety advocates, veterans, pastors, youth leaders--- people of faith who are committed to saving lives.

All denominations are welcome.

Questions? Contact [gvp@presbypeacefellowship.org](mailto:gvp@presbypeacefellowship.org)



## SAVE THE DATE: MESSY CHURCH SEMINAR -

Sept. 26, 9:30AM-3:30PM at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Messy Church started in England 20 years ago as a fresh way of being church. For the past two decades, Messy Church has grown around the world

(and across the U.S.). PTS will host this in-person program to provide an intergenerational model (liturgy) that is easily adapted to a variety of contexts from small church to large, urban to suburban to rural and beyond. [Read More.](#)

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*Communicate the Word...*

*Carry on the Work...*

*Change the World...*

*Together*

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

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