

This week's Redstone happening  
**August 21, 2025**



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

*District 1 Churches*

First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Ed Gray, Pastor  
Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Curtis Paul, Pastor; Travis Webster, Associated Pastor

*District 2 Churches*

Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford, Geoff Rach, Pastor  
Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton, Karen Kifer, Commissioned Pastor

*District 3 Churches*

Palmer Community Presbyterian Church, Adah, Nicholas Beatty, Temporary Supply  
First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon, Rick Sweeney, Interim Pastor

*District 4 Churches*

Westmont Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Martin Ankrum, Moderator  
Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church, Ligonier, Steve Hospodar, Temporary Supply

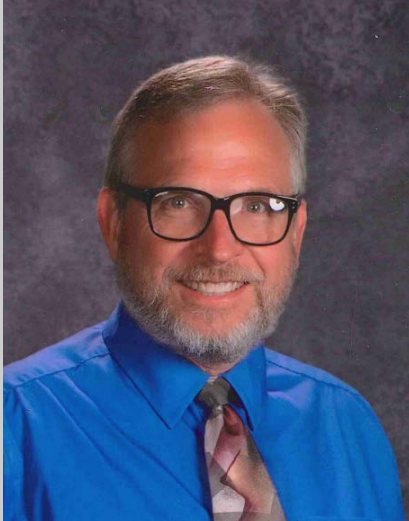
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~From Interim Executive Presbyter~

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**“More Is Less”**

This week I heard a news report about the scarcity of water in Las Vegas. This has become so serious that the city’s water authority has two dozen investigators whose job is to patrol the streets to ensure that water isn’t being wasted. Anyone who has followed this trend knows that Las Vegas isn’t alone. It is in one of seven states – and millions of people – who are dependent on the Colorado River



for their water. With growing population, more people are dependent on less water. It's a "slow-moving natural disaster." So when a homeowner miscalculates sprinklers or irrigations, allowing water to go down the gutter, it is a serious mistake: in Las Vegas, it's one that can cost you a fine, and one that seems to be working. Given the limits of creation, I appreciate that effort.

This morning, I overheard of the strategy of California's Governor – a possible presidential candidate in 2028 – to mimic the practice of the President in using social media with UPPER CASE MESSAGING: basically, it's SHOUTING in written form. I remember a speech course that was available once each year in seminary. This was separate from learning to craft sermons. It was

intended to help you to use your voice effectively. One skill was to be aware of the volume of your voice. If you were constantly speaking loudly or constantly quietly, your audience would gently...and...comfortably go to sleep. As a musician, this made sense: sameness is boring; contrast is interesting. More than that: regarding the loudness issue, I early learned that a soft-spoken word was more easily "heard" when your message was hard to hear. Speaking within limits can be effective, or as my grandmother taught me, "deep waters run gently."

For all of the words Jesus offered in the Gospels, one of his more powerful actions was when he "got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was around him (John 13:4-5)." Maybe we are in an especially important time for frequent and profound actions and less words, especially loud ones.

Peace in Christ,  
Lon Weaver

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~Presbytery News~

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**Wee Kirk**

small numbers. big faith.  
huge impact.

IT IS STILL NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR WEE  
KIRK 2025!!

October 13-15 - Laurelville Retreat Center

Our purpose is to inspire, equip, motivate and encourage small churches of any denomination and to provide rest and refreshment for the clergy and lay leaders like YOU!

Please join us and become part of this Incredible Opportunity!

[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 attending Pre-Kirk.

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## GROW YOUR FAITH THROUGH INTER-PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP FORMATION (IPLF)

Are you interested in deepening your spiritual journey and biblical knowledge? The Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation (IPLF) program offers excellent opportunities for both personal growth and leadership development. While IPLF

helps prepare Ruling Elders who feel called to become Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs), the program welcomes all who want to grow in their faith and biblical understanding. The program features:

- Monthly Saturday workshops and courses
- In-depth Bible study
- Leadership skill development
- Specialized topics like Stewardship
- Flexible learning options

[If you would like to learn more about joining IPLF](#), Please Contact Karen Gray at the Presbytery Office 724-837-6737 or [secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org)

IPLF is part of Redstone Presbytery's commitment to "Growing Leaders" - helping equip both current and future church leaders while supporting individual spiritual growth. Join us in this enriching educational opportunity

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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, September 13, 2025 - Polity - "More than A Rule Book" - Faithful Ordering  
Meeting Location: Laboratory Presbyterian Church - 23 Manse Street, Washington, PA  
Instructor: Rev. Skip Noftzger

[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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Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the

anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world. [Click here for more information on this Special Offering.](#)

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~Events at our Churches~

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Masontown Brethren Church  
Invites You to a  
Community Concert Featuring

## The Gibson Girls



Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>  
6:30 p.m.

**Masontown Brethren Church Lawn**  
110 W. Church Avenue  
Masontown, PA 15461

Bring your lawn chair and join us for an evening of Music,  
Fellowship and Ice Cream!

For more information on the Gibson Girls visit  
<https://thegibsongirlsmusic.com/home>



*Join us for an afternoon of jazz with  
Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quartet*



*Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 4:30 pm*

*First Presbyterian, 300 S. Main St., Greensburg, PA*

*Tickets are \$15. Available at the church.*

*The Quartet will also assist in the 10:00 am worship service.*



**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**

~From Outside Redstone Presbytery~



**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.](#)

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## 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.](#)

A vertical event poster with a green and yellow background. At the top, it says "THE 2050 CHURCH" in large white letters. Below that, "CULTURE, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE CALL TO LEAD" is written in smaller white letters. Two circular portraits of speakers are shown: Dr. William Curtis and Dr. Edwin Van Driel. Below the portraits, their names and roles (Presenting and Preaching) are listed. A dark blue bar contains the date "Oct. 9, 2025", and another bar below it shows the time "9:30 a.m.-3:00 pm.". A third bar says "Register: www.pts.edu/Pastor25". The Pittsburgh Theological Seminary logo is on the right side. At the bottom, a dark blue bar says "Pastor Appreciation Luncheon".



**W. DON McCLURE LECTURE IN WORLD MISSION AND EVANGELISM - Oct. 21st at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.** Soon after Kenneth E. Bailey passed away in 2016 at the age of 85, the title of his obituary in Christianity Today captured the significance of his life in a few words: "The Scholar Who Made Jesus

Middle Eastern Again." In the McClure Lecture this year, historian Michael Parker will

discuss Bailey's life as a Presbyterian missionary in the Middle East and the key ideas that marked his scholarly contribution. Learn more and register



**CIRCLE OF TRUST RETREAT: LAURELVILLE** - Oct. 19-22 at Laurelville Retreat Center. In this Circle of Trust retreat, you'll be invited to listen deeply to your own inner teacher within a trustworthy space. Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture and its integration of inner and outer worlds, we'll explore our own inner and outer landscapes and open pathways for greater congruence, authenticity, and flow in our lives. The retreat includes trips to Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob. There are a limited number of spots available, so [register soon](#)

## Presbytery Staff

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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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