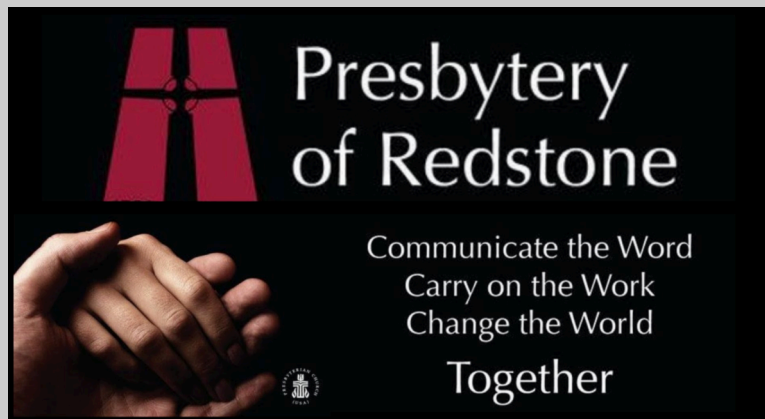


This week's Redstone happening February 19, 2026



This week we are praying for the following congregations:

District 1 Churches

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

District 2 Churches

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

District 3 Churches

Calvin Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Kristen Emrick, Pastor
Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, Kristen Emrick, Pastor

District 4 Churches

Patton Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Pastor
Revloc Presbyterian Church, David O'Hara, Commissioned Pastor

~From the Interim Executive Presbyter~



"Sisters and Brothers"

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania and the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh are collaborating in the *Reckoning with Antisemitism as Christians* project. Next week – Tuesday, February 24th at 10:00 - 11:15 AM – there will be a Zoom presentation offered by two Christian preachers entitled, "**Preaching in Holy Week.**" Its goal is to "explore best practices and pitfalls for preaching the momentous days of Holy Week with respect and care for our Jewish neighbors."

While there are mixed responses to the vulnerability of Jewish Americans in various surveys, a recent one (**taken from September 26 through October 29, 2025**) indicated that the October 2023 attack by Hamas killing more than 1,000 Israeli Jews fueled fears among Jewish Americans. In the survey, these comments

describe the complex nature of their responses: “Asked ‘Have you, yourself, been the target of an antisemitic attack in person?’ 97% of U.S. Jews polled said no, though 71% said they had ‘seen or heard’ antisemitic content, such as comments, posts or videos, online or on social media not directly related to them. Seventy-nine percent of U.S. Jews said they did not feel physically threatened by such posts.” At the same time, “The poll does show that U.S. Jews reported avoiding specific behaviors in 2025 out of fear of encountering antisemitism; 41% said they ‘avoided publicly wearing, carrying, or displaying things that might help people identify you as a Jew,’ and 30% said they ‘avoided certain places, events, or situations out of concern for your safety or comfort as a Jew.’ Generally speaking, 66% of U.S. Jews reported they felt ‘less secure than a year ago.’” (**American Jewish Committee**)

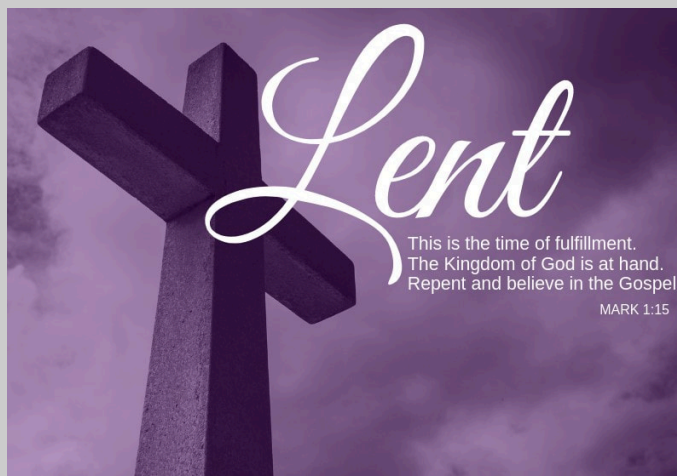
Christians have a problematic relationship to Jewish people. We generally fail to acknowledge that Jesus of Nazareth – the center of our faith – was a Jew and turned to a Hebrew sacred text we share (what Christians generally call the Old Testament) as his chief source of written truth. His crucifixion – by the Roman Empire, not by the Jewish religious authorities – has regularly been used to attack the Jewish community, culminating in the Holocaust of six million Jewish people under Nazi Germany. During the Nazi period, a large majority of Christians supported Nazism. The United States even had a significant fascist movement that gathered in Madison Square Gardens on several occasions. The martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, had an ambiguous relationship to Judaism. Early on, he was unwilling to officiate the marriage of one of his sisters who married a Jewish Christian. He later regretted that. Further, he was disappointed by Karl Barth’s omission of the Jewish Question (that is, the defense of Jewish people) in the “Theological Declaration of Barmen,” which is included in our own *Book of Confessions*. Ultimately, influenced by another brother-in-law, he participated in the attempted assassination on July 20, 1944, suffering execution as a result.

Further, to this day, we tend to gloss over the repeated use of “Jews” in John’s Gospel and Nazism’s distortion of it into a derogatory misuse of the term, largely because we fail to give it a proper context for hearers to understand it. William Orr (the most important tutor I had in biblical Greek) argued that the Greek term (*loudaios*) is often more properly translated as “Jewish religious official”, not the Jewish people as a whole. In the same spirit, Paul Tillich embraced collaboration with Jewish colleagues early on in his academic career, such that he was forced to leave Germany in the early 1930s. Even more, in his first Voice of America broadcast into Nazi Germany, he argued that Christianity was born out of the cradle of Judaism.

Turning to Lent and Holy Week, anyone who has Jewish friends knows that Holy Week is one of the most painful periods of the year for them. I urge everyone to consider Dr. Orr’s way of thought: understand that religious communities risk betraying their deepest beliefs in favor of raw power, in Christianity as well as Judaism. The important, two-part question we must ask ourselves is this: (a) are we being faithful to the teachings of the prophetic tradition we share with our Jewish sisters and brothers, the part of the Bible Jesus read, a tradition that condemns corrupt powerholders and protects their victims? and (b) are we embodying the example of the Christ who faced down the exploiters of the poor and the powerless, humbling “the first” and empowering “the last”? In short, in this period of special seasons, remember our sisters and brothers.

Peace in Christ,
Lon Weaver

*** Please click on the links in maroon for more information.



The dates for the 2025 Session Minutes Reviews are:

March 24, 2026—First, Irwin; 4:30 p.m. Pre-Presbytery Meeting

April 22, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. Redstone Presbytery Center

May 26, 2025 – Congruity, New Alexandria; 4:30 p.m. Pre-Presbytery Meeting

IPLF Spring Workshop

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, March 14, 2026 - Occasional Services Planning

Meeting Location: Laboratory Presbyterian Church, 23 Manse Street, Washington, PA 15301

Instructor: Rev. Mark Woomer

[Click Here to view the Full Schedule of the Spring 2026 Workshops](#)

The zoom login information is:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7248330340?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7248330340?pwd=gpnK4liH8GsZGOXApZLISyM18vgsVV.1)

[pwd=gpnK4liH8GsZGOXApZLISyM18vgsVV.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7248330340?pwd=gpnK4liH8GsZGOXApZLISyM18vgsVV.1)

Meeting ID; 7248330340

Password: IPLF



It's time again for interested churches and leaders to partner with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to educate pastors. PTS encourages large and small congregations from all denominations to apply TODAY to be field education sites for the next school year, September-May.

If you would like to apply, please go to: <https://www.pts.edu/field-education-supervisor-form>. Questions about the program? Email swashburn@pts.edu.

Notes: An application does not guarantee a student. We do not offer summer field education.



Sudan aid is still needed! With our mission personnel gone, more than ever we entrust care for the starving and war-inflicted people to our partners in the Sudan/South Sudan Presbyterian Church. Please keep Rev. Thomas, Rev. Barnaba, Rev. Philip and others in your prayer and donate generously.

~Events at our Churches~

This fast paced production will appeal to all ages.
Escape the winter doldrums with a night of entertainment performed by the Bethel UMC Blacklight Puppet ministry.
Cookies & Hot chocolate will be served.

**Saturday,
February 21
7:00p.m.**

Level Green
Presbyterian Church
105 Olive Drive
Trafford, PA 15085

**Let It Shine
Blacklight Puppetry**

Pajama Night
Kids and Adults
(Optional)
Come and enjoy the show
in your favorite pajamas.
A Pajama Party with the Puppets.

Sharing God's love through puppets, song, and special effects.
Let It Shine will put a smile on your face, a song in your heart, and make you laugh out loud with their unique Blacklight ministry.
Blacklight Puppetry requires complete darkness.
Free of Charge. Donations accepted.


The Level Green Presbyterian Church invites the community to escape the winter doldrums and join them for a fun night of entertainment on Saturday, February 21, at 7:00p.m. The church will be hosting a Let It Shine Blacklight Puppet Show in their sanctuary.

The Let It Shine program is performed by a team of youth and adults from the Bethel United Methodist Church Blacklight Puppetry ministry. The group's purpose is to share God's love through puppets, song, and special effects. Their program has been described as a show that will put a smile on your face, a song in your heart, and make you laugh out loud.

The upbeat puppet show is a fast paced production featuring music and unique blacklight special effects that will appeal to all ages. The group has been sharing their Blacklight Puppetry ministry with communities for over twenty years. Since the show does require complete darkness it is only able to be performed during the winter months.

The evening will also be a Pajama Party Night with the Puppets. Both kids and adults will have the optional choice to come and enjoy the show wearing their favorite pajamas. Cookies, hot chocolate, and refreshments will be served after the program in the fellowship hall. The evening is free of charge. Donations will be accepted.

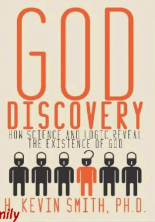
GOD DISCOVERY EVENT



A special invitation!
On Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 3:00 PM
Place:
Rehoboth Presbyterian Church
442 Rehoboth Road
Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Dr. Kevin Smith

You are invited to attend the God Discovery presentation of fascinating information from science, archeology, Bible facts and prophecies that reveal the existence of God. Dr. Smith is the author of **God Discovery: How Science and Logic Reveal the Existence of God**, a book written from his years of logically examining faith against the backdrop of science.



Come and be encouraged. Invite friends, neighbors, & family – including youth who will get a different perspective on some topics and views held in our times.

RSVP preferred but not essential
RSVP by texting/calling with number attending and name for group to
724-929-7020
Refreshments will be provided


Kevin looks forward to presenting this interesting information through visual and video media, while meeting and interacting with attendees.

For more information go to www.GodDiscoveryBanquet.com


Highlights of Presentation

Science Highlights:

- Human DNA model with 1 foot spacing of base pairs stretches 40 times around the earth
- 20,000 different protein molecules in a human cell
- 42 million total protein molecules make up each cell

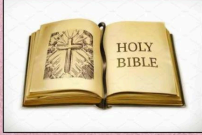


Archeology Highlights:



- Ancient Egyptian literature detail 10 plagues Moses/God unleashed on Egypt
- Strong archeological evidence at Red Sea of the miraculous crossing of around 2 million Israelites
- Egyptian tomb/temples that have etchings and other evidence indicate slave-hood of Israelites and the involvement of the God YAHWEH
- Evidence of walls of Jericho collapsing and details of Jericho's demise as told in the Bible

Bible Authenticity Highlights:



- Over 2000 prophecies have come true such as "they pierce my hands & feet" from Psalms 22 predicting Jesus's crucifixion
- Bible Old Testament almost an exact replica of Dead Sea Scrolls written circa 200 BC ➤ Many ancient writers contemporary to Biblical authors, (i.e., Josephus) verify authenticity of New Testament Biblical accounts.



The Masontown community kitchen is celebrating 20 years serving meals . The menu will be roasted pork chops, cabbage and noodles, homemade desserts, and Panera breads on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 from 4 to 5:30 PM. Located in The First Presbyterian Church, 102 W. Church Ave., Masontown PA meals are provided without charge. Donations are gladly accepted and provide for future meals. For questions or to volunteer your help, please call Kathy 724- 317-8623 or Frank 724 366-4721



Derry Presbyterian Church Sarris Candy Fundraiser

Place your order online to
SarrisCandiesfundraising.com

Group ID# 10-1741

[Click here for the Brochure.](#)

**All orders must be submitted by Sunday, March 22, 2026 at 11:59 PM EST



The churches in the Derry Area are hosting
the Community Lenten Luncheons for the season of Lent
Wednesdays from Noon - 1:00 p.m.

February 25th - St. Martin's Parish
5684 Route 982
New Derry, PA 15671

March 4th - Derry United Methodist Church
311 North Ligonier Street
Derry, PA 15627

March 11th - St. Joseph's RC Church
125 S. Ligonier Street
Derry, PA 15627

March 18th - Derry Presbyterian Church
108 Presby Way
Derry, PA 15627

March 25th - Harvest Assembly Church
220 Pittsburgh Street
Derry, PA 15627

Community Maundy Thursday Service - Derry Presbyterian Church - 7:00 p.m.
Community Good Friday Service - Derry Methodist Church - 7:00 p.m.

Please join us for our monthly free

Community "Soup for the Soul" Luncheon

AND BRING A FRIEND!!!!

2nd Wednesday of the Month

October through May

Doors open at 11:30am

Soup's on at NOON!



Poke Run Presbyterian Church
1091 Poke Run Church Rd.
(up from the intersection of Rt. 366 and Rt. 66)
724-327-5563

October 8, 2025	January 14, 2026	April 8, 2026
November 12, 2025	February 11, 2026	May 13, 2026
December 10, 2025	March 11, 2026	


SAVE THE DATES - Join Us for an Unforgettable Overnight Adventure!

Imagine stepping into a world where history, faith, and wonder come alive. We're inviting you to be part of a special overnight trip to two of the most awe-inspiring attractions in the country — The Creation Museum and The Ark Encounter!


 Departure: First Presbyterian Church, Rostraver, PA parking lot

 Cost: Includes:

- Comfortable round-trip transportation
- Hotel accommodations for one night
- Zip Line Attractions
- Discounted Admission to both Creation Museum & Ark
- Encounter Possible Riverboat Cruise Dinner
- Petting Zoo and availability to ride a camel
- Fellowship and fun with a great group of travelers

 Why You Should Come:

This trip is more than sightseeing — it's a chance to grow in faith, connect with others, and experience the Bible in a whole new way. Whether you're coming with family, friends, or on your own, you'll leave with memories that will last a lifetime.

 Reserve Your Spot Today!

Contact (724) 858-5965 or send email to llamberski@gmail.com to register. Seats are limited, so don't wait. More information to follow. Let's journey together into history, faith, and wonder — you won't want to miss it!

~Presbyterian Women~

Hitch a Ride with Us to a **Joyful** PW Retreat!
Thursday, July 16-18, 2026 

 "Finding Joy in the Journey"
Gal. 5:22
Special of the Trinity PW Gathering

Guest speaker—CeCe Armstrong, co-moderator
PC(USA) General Assembly

 **Lively Worship, Special Workshops,
Great Food, Inspirational Small-
Group Time, Spirituality Walk, Toe-
tapping music, Silent Auction,
Games, Crafts, Mission Opportunities
and More!!**

Save the Date!!

Hosted by
The Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Trinity
More information to come in 2026

~Pine Springs Camp~



~From Outside Redstone Presbytery~



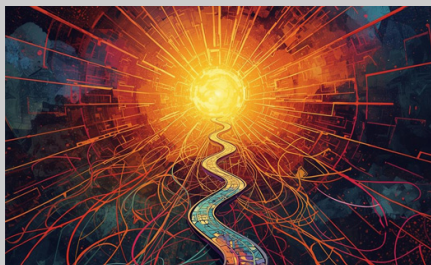
Luminosity Conference
 March 9, 2026 - March 11, 2026
 Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort
 Registration Closes on February 20, 2025

For full conference details, including workshops, schedule highlights, and frequently asked questions. Please visit the [Luminosity website](#)

Scholarships remain available for all participants, and additional planning resources—including travel details and meals—are available on the Luminosity website and FAQ page.

If you have questions or need assistance, please reach out to [serving@presbyterianfoundation.org](mailto:-serving@presbyterianfoundation.org)

Let's dream boldly, lead wisely, and shine brightly - together.



**Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
2026 Kelso Lecture
The Evidence of Faith**

**Resistance, Resilience, and the Road to
Liberation**

March 12, 6:00 p.m.

Location: In Person, at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church (East Liberty), and Online

Key note by the Rev. William H. Lamar IV

**For the Joy Set Before Us: Reflections on the Source of Resistance and
Liberatory Praxis**

**A concert by the Hampton University Concert Choir will follow the Kelso
Lecture.**

[Click Here to Register](#)

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Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...

Together

**Presbytery of Redstone
www.redstonepresbytery.org**



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