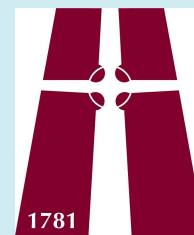


Presbytery of Redstone eNews

May 16, 2024



Please pray for...

District 1 Churches

~~First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, Ed Gray, Pastor,
~~ Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Curtis Paul, Pastor, Travis
Webster, Associate Pastor

District 2 Churches

~~Sewickley United Presbyterian Church, West newton, Glenn Hart,
Commissioned Pastor
~~ United Presbyterian Church, West Newton, John Manon, Pastor

District 3 Churches

~~Leisenring Presbyterian Church
~~First Presbyterian Church, Masontown, Eric Glisan, Commissioned
Pastor

District 4 Churches

~~Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence, Sara Sadler, Pastor
~~Patton Presbyterian Church, Alice Tondora, Pastor



REDSTONE PRESBYTERY CONNECTED FOR PURPOSE

Within the Scriptures, there are a number of different images used to picture this gathered people of God. One of those descriptions offered by the apostle is that of the “body.” Whether wrestling with divisiveness in local gathering or picturing the universal Church with Christ as head, the image is one of both difference in function or attributes, but unity of purpose under the direction of Christ. Using the comparison of different “parts” of the body, yet valuing and understanding of the collective need for all reinforces our overriding singular purpose of

loving Jesus Christ and embodying Christ’s mission in the world.

Often, for many of us, our experience of the “body” is on the surface, reflected in our immediate contacts within our various local congregations. Yet, though each one may have diverse attributes, they are only particular parts of the “body” needing the others to be who God intended them to be. Our connections together reflect both who God has called us to be and how God has called us to

serve. In Presbyterianism, we sometimes refer to ourselves as a “connectional” church. Though the particular structures, protocols and practices of living out that connection may change, the necessity and vitality of embodying Christ’s call as “connected” to one another can and should be more than just a loose “spiritual” association in name only.

When I think of the body of Christ in our particular expression as Presbyterians, I picture structures of the larger church such as the presbytery as beneath the surface. Much like our skeletal system of bones and cartilage, taken for granted but necessary to our collective functioning. In the same way, the presbytery provides a support structure and protection for the body and its individual parts in this region and facilitates movement through shared ministry and mission. As anyone would know who has ever broken a bone or torn a cartilage, one takes it for granted, not knowing that you have depended upon it or needed it until its dysfunction or absence makes it apparent. Yet, acknowledging its importance does not make the presbytery(skeletal structure) its own end. That focus would make it all about the “bones” if you will and can contribute to church bureaucracy and bureaucrats (the last thing I ever wanted to be). Its purpose is supportive and necessary in order that the particular and shared work of Jesus Christ not only in our towns, but in our region may be pursued faithfully.

Over the next several weeks(months?), I would like to offer some reflective thoughts not only on the significance and purpose of a presbytery (the “Why?”), but the characteristics and attributes of its role within this body of Christ called Redstone Presbytery in this time and place. They say that in order to have healthy bones, one must eat vegetables and do strength training, so think of these as “good” for us as a presbytery of Christ’s church in southwestern PA. I would ask that you indulge me as I plan for this transition to retirement as your EP and offer those twelve-year reflections on the “Why?” and the “How?” through these Enews articles in upcoming issues. ***Soli Deo Gloria!***

G-3.03--- *“The presbytery is responsible for the government of the church throughout its district, and for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness. As it leads and guides the witness of its congregations, the presbytery shall keep before it marks of the Church(F-1.0302), the notes by which Presbyterian and Reformed communities have identified themselves through history(F-1.0303) and the six Great Ends of the Church(F-1.0304).”*



Final Call for ANNOUNCEMENT LOOP FOR PRESBYTERY MEETING

The May meeting of Presbytery will be on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 In Person and via ZOOM videoconferencing and at the Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock, beginning at 6:00 p.m. If you have an announcement that you would like included in the announcement loop that will be presented that day please submit them

directly to redstonestories@gmail.com by Monday, May 20, 2024

Thank you!

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 Last Date for the 2023 Session Minutes Reviews:

o · May 28; 5:00 p.m. Pre-Presbytery Gathering @ Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock

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) 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



What Can Pastors Say to Graduates?

The following “think-piece” by Jim Farrer and the Healing Prayer Ministry Network to our preachers It is an attempt at graduation season to help bring reconciliation between skeptical teens and “twenty-somes” and the church.

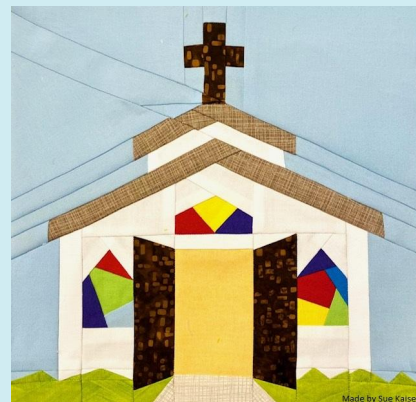


Unity Cemetery & Chapel 250th Anniversary Celebration

Honoring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future

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

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.

“Paraments; Looking for a Good Home”

First Presbyterian Church, Irwin has a couple sets of paraments that they are not using. If your congregation is interested in having them, please contact the church at: 724-863-5910 or office@firstpresbyirwin.org.



Pine Springs Camp

is looking to fill male summer staff positions who are committed to following Jesus and sharing his love with campers. If you are interested in all or part of the summer, please contact Mike Hurley - 814-629-9934 or email mike@pinespings.org

P



Vacation Bible School

The Vacation Bible School season is just around the corner!

[Click Here](#) to view the list of churches in Redstone Presbytery that already have their plans made for this year.

Are you hosting VBS at your Church? If so, please send the information to the presbytery office or email secretary@redstonepresbytery.org.

We will publish the list in up coming eNews with the possibility of sharing resources.

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



The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The

remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

First Presbyterian Belle Vernon invites you to our Annual Plant Sale, Saturday, May 18, 2024. We will have a selection of flower and vegetable plants, hanging baskets, and more. In addition, we will have bags of composted manure for sale to nurture your garden. Preorders must be received by May 5, 2024. The Plant Sale Order Form can be found at www.fpresbv.org. For more information, please contact Fred Exley at 724-322-1384.



Brass 3, a concert of brass music will be held in the sanctuary of **First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg, 300 South Main Street, at 4:15 p.m., Sunday, May 26, 2024**, featuring the Blairsville Brass Ensemble, Keys of Brass Quintet and Main

Street Brass. Repertoire will cover a wide array of musical genres from Baroque to Modern, Beatles to Brahms, Canzonas, Sonatas, American folk music and a Rigaudon. Each brass group will perform separately as well as part of a combined brass ensemble and feature organ on two of the pieces. A light reception hosted by the Worship Committee will follow the

concert. This program is a part of a larger Community Music Series offered by First Presbyterian Church and is free and open to the public.

PRESBYTERY UPCOMING EVENTS

· **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser** - Rehoboth Presbyterian Church
Saturday, May 18, 2024 - 2pm to 6pm

The Annual Strawberry Festival, sponsored by the Community United Presbyterian Church of New Alexandria, located at 1640 Keystone Park Road, will be held Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 4:30 to 7:00 PM

Town Wide Yard Sale June 8, 2024 - Community United Presbyterian Church of New Alexandria. As you do “Spring Cleaning” and have items you would like to donate, we are now scheduling times for drop-off. Please call Pete, Margaret or Marsha to schedule a time. Sorry, we cannot accept TV’s, computers or electronics.

Pete 724-668-7979

Marsha 724-639-9610

Margaret 724-668-7975

Upcoming Events Outside Redstone Presbytery

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, [click here](#)

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](#)

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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