



2024 Stated Meeting

of the

Presbytery of Redstone  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

March 19, 2024  
6:00 p.m.



ONLINE (ZOOM)

**CONTACT PRESBYTERY OFFICE  
FOR MEETING ID# AND PASSWORD**

OR

New Hope Presbyterian Church  
North Huntingdon, PA

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

**Directions to  
New Hope Presbyterian Church  
12727 Lincoln Way, North Huntingdon, PA 15642  
724.863.7702**

From Route 22 to Route 48 (Mossie Boulevard): Route 48 to Route 30 East toward Irwin. Travel approximately 5 miles. Turn right onto Lincoln Way between Norwin Town Square and Rite Aid. Travel 1 mile and look for New Hope Presbyterian Church sign on right. Church sits back off of the road.

From Route 30 East or West: Route 30 East or West to Norwin Town Square. Turn onto Lincoln Way between Norwin Town Square and Rite Aid. Travel 1 mile and look for New Hope Presbyterian Church sign on right. Church sits back off of the road.

From McKeesport Area take: Lincoln Way East toward Irwin and Route 30. Look for New Hope Presbyterian Church sign on left (approximately 5 miles from Oak Park Shopping Center.)

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MEETING**

- **The offering for this meeting will go to the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church and our partnership together.**

To make your Offering through online contributions go to [www.redstonepresbytery.org](http://www.redstonepresbytery.org) and click on the green "GIVE NOW" link on the left of the page.

You will need to login - or create a profile if you don't already have one - and then designate your offering in the space(s) provided. You may also mail your Offering to the Presbytery office at 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg, PA 15601. Please designate "Presbytery Offering" on the memo line.



- **Presbyters are reminded to get "Prayer Requests" to the Clerk as soon as possible as they will be lifted up during the prayers in the Worship Service.**

New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon, PA

or

Zoom meeting

March 19, 2024

4:00	<i>Minutes and Church Register Reviews</i>	<i>Clerks of Session</i>
5:00	<i>Registration, fellowship and food.</i>	<i>In Person</i>
<b><u>WORSHIP AND WORK OF REDSTONE PRESBYTERY</u></b>		
	<b><u>GATHERING</u></b>	<i>In Person or Zoom</i>
6:00	<p><b><u>Presbytery Gathering Convenes</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gathering Song</li> <li>• Call to Order/Opening Prayer</li> <li>• Formation of the Roll (any new business should be submitted to the Associate Clerk in writing before the end of worship)</li> <li>• Seating of Corresponding Members</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Stated Clerk(s)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correspondence Log (page 5)</li> <li>• Statistics</li> <li>• Consent Agenda (page 8)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Treasurer</u></b> – (page 9)</p> <p><b><u>Executive Presbyter</u></b> – (page 10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honoring retirement of Bobbie Shaffor</li> <li>• Soli Deo Gloria</li> </ul>	<p><b>Len Morgan</b></p> <p><b>Rev. Cliff Foster</b></p> <p><b>Rev. Skip Noftzger</b></p> <p><b>Rev. Cliff Foster</b></p> <p><b>John Dickson</b> <b>Rev. Skip Noftzger</b></p>
<b><u>CELEBRATING GOD'S GRACE IN WORSHIP – page 12</u></b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Sentences</li> <li>• Opening Hymn “Here in This Place”</li> <li>• Prayer of Confession/ Assurance of Pardon</li> <li>• Passing the Peace</li> <li>• Hymn “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”</li> <li>• Scripture Readings</li> <li>• Sermon – “Swimming the Race That’s Set Before Us”</li> <li>• Hymn “The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound”</li> <li>• Offering</li> <li>• Communion Hymn “One Bread, One Body”</li> <li>• Prayer</li> <li>• Hymn “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”</li> </ul>	
7:30	<b><u>SHARING IN MINISTRY AND MISSION</u></b>	
	<b><u>Council</u></b> – (page 24)	<b>Rev. Dawn Sherwood</b>
	<b>“On the Road with Redstone”</b>	<b>Rev. Don Glunt</b>

	<p><b><u>Enabling Ministry Networks</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Presbyterian Women (page 21)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Empowering Mission Partnerships</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrating 20 years of Partnership – SPEC/SSPEC &amp; Redstone --Congregation mission report</li> <li>• Pine Springs Camp - page 22</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Committee on Ministry – (page 28)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Engaging Congregations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Presbyterian, Fayette City request for dissolution</li> <li>• Family and Medical Paid Leave Policy-revision</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Equipping Leadership</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pastor Getaway Retreat – April 9</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Committee on Preparation - (page 33)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on inquirers, candidates, and IPLF students.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Nominating Committee - (page 35)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordination examination readers-2024</li> <li>• Standing committees unexpired terms</li> </ul>	<p>Rev. Sue Washburn</p> <p>Patricia Hart</p> <p>Rev. Owar Ojulu</p> <p>Chuck West</p> <p>Rev. Donna Havrisko Joshua Scully</p> <p>Rev. Mary Kay Glunt</p> <p>Robin Jennings</p> <p>Glenn Hart</p>
	<p><b><u>New Business</u></b> (should be submitted to the Associate Clerk in writing before the end of worship)</p>	<p>Rev. Cliff Foster</p>
	<p><b><u>Announcements Loop</u></b></p>	
	<p><b><u>SENDING</u></b></p>	
	<p><b><u>Resolution of Thanks</u></b> <b><u>Benediction</u></b> <b><u>Adjournment</u></b></p> <p><i><u>The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on May 28, 2024, 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM and at the Pleasant View Presbyterian Church. A Minutes review session will be available at 5:00 p.m. at the same location.</u></i></p>	<p>Rev. Brenda Barnes</p>

*By God's grace,*  
*Communicate the Word,*  
*Carry on the Work,*  
*Change the World!*

**STATED CLERK'S REPORT:**

1. During the period since the last regularly stated Presbytery meeting, all correspondence that was received was responded to and/or appropriately routed for review and response to the appropriate entity of Presbytery.

**Correspondence Log**

Date Received	Received From	Content	Action
March 8, 2024 - mail	Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell	2024 Terms of Call for Rev. Owar Ojulu and List of Session Members	To COM and FILE
March 8, 2024 - mail	McClellandtown Presbyterian Church	2024 Terms of Call for Rev. Rebecka Abbott and List of Session Members	To COM and FILE
February 29, 2024 - email	Pleasant View Presbyterian, Smock	2024 Terms of Call for Rev. Laura Blank and List of Session Members	To COM and File
February 29, 2024- mail	Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Dunbar	Wavier Requist, List of Session Members	To COM and File
February 27, 2024 - mail	Level Green Presbyterian Church - Trafford	Manse Inspection Report	File
February 26, 2024 - email	Patton Presbyterian Church	2024 Terms of Call for Rev. Alice Tondora	To COM and File
February 26, 2024 - mail	Cresson Presbyterian Church	2024 Terms of Call for Rev. Alice Tondora	To COM and File
February 22, 2024 - mail	Brenda Barnes	Annual Report Other Ministers on the Roll	To Com and File
February 19, 2024 - mail	Calvin Presbyterian Church, Brownsville	Manse Inspection Report, List of Session Members, Request for Waiver	To Com and File
February 19, 2024 - mail	Mry Kay Glunt	Ethical Conduct - signed	File
February 19, 22 - mail	Jennifer - Frayer-Griggs	Ethical Conduct- signed	File
February 19, 2024 - mail	First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville	2024Terms of Call for Rev. Edward Gray	To COM and File
February 19, 2024 - mail	Westmont Presbyterian Church, Johnstown	2024 Terms of Call for Rev. Bernard Nti, Manse Inspection Report, List of Session Members	To Com and File
February 19, 2024 - Mail	United Presbyterian Church, New Kensington	2024 Terms of Call for Rev Rebecca Siddle	To COM and File
February 15, 2024 - mail	Calvin United Presbyterian Church, Scottdale	2024 Terms of Call for CP Doug Yauger	To COM and File
February 12, 2024 - mail	Karen Kifer	Ethical Conduct - signed	File
February 12, 224 - mail	Springhill Furnace Presbyterian Church, Lake Lynn	2024 Terms of Call for Rev. Molly Hall	To COM and File
February 11, 2024 - mail	New Salam Presbyterian Church	2024 Terms of Call for CP William Wiegand	To COM and File

February 10, 2024 - email	Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville	2024 Terms of Call for Rev. Dr. Travis Webster	To COM and File
February 10, 2024 - email	Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville	2024 Terms of Call for Rev. Curtis Lane Paul	To COM and File
February 7, 2024 - mail	Bob Sheehan - CP	2023 Annual Report	To COM and FILE
February 7, 2024 - mail	Harmony Presbyterian, Belle Vernon	Request for Waiver of Rotation for 2 Ruling Elders	To COM and FILE
February 7, 2024 - email	Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville	2023 Statistical Report Information	To FILE
February 7, 2024 - email	McClellandtown Church	2023 Statistical Report Information	To FILE
January 31, 2024 - mail	Cresson Presbyterian Church	2024 Terms of Call for the Rev. Alice Tondora	To COM and FILE
January 31, 2024 - email	Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford	2024 Terms of Call for Rev. Geoff Rach	To COM and FILE
January 31, 2024 - email	First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg	2024 Terms of Call for Rev. Martin Ankrum	To COM and FILE
January 30, 2024 - mail	Synod of the Trinity	Request for Audit Information for 2023	To BOOKKEEPER and FILE
January 30, 2024 - mail	Harmony Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon	2024 Terms of Call for CP Glenn Hart, Manse Inspection Report and List of Session Members	To COM and FILE
January 30, 2024 - mail	Colver Presbyterian Church	List of Session Members	To FILE
January 29, 2024 - email	West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, Irwin	2024 Terms of Call for Rev. Andrew Wirt	To COM and FILE
January 25, 2024 - mail	Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville	Request for Waiver of Rotation for 2 Ruling Elders	To COM and FILE
January 25, 2024 - email	Community United Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria	Active Membership Report, Manse Inspection Report, List of Session Members	To FILE
January 25, 2024 - email	Springhill Furnace Presbyterian Church, Lake Lynn	2023 Statistical Report Information	To FILE
January 24, 2024 - email	Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg	List of Session Members	To FILE
January 23, 2024 - email	Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown	Manse Inspection Report	To FILE

January 22, 2024 - mail	East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Vanderbilt	2024 Terms of Call for CP David McElroy	To COM and FILE
January 22, 2024 - mail	East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Vanderbilt	2023 Necrology Report, List of Session Members, Manse Inspection Report	To FILE
January 22, 2024 - email	Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg	2023 Necrology Report	To FILE
January 22, 2024 - email	Delmont Presbyterian Church	List of Session Members	To FILE
January 22, 2024 - mail	Grace Chapel Presbyterian Church, Smithfield	2024 Terms of Call for Student Pastor Regina Sturiale	To COM and FILE

## 2. Summary of 2023 Comparative Statistical Summary for the Presbytery

<b>Membership Statistics</b>	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Active members	14,329	13,961	13,679	12,543	11,477	10,628	10,287	10,017	9636	9077	8863	8249	7952
Gains by Profession of Faith - 17 under	82	102	105	101	85	70	53	58	36	22	31	45	38
Gains by Profession of Faith - 18 over	178	146	154	155	171	170	102	119	98	30	56	89	115
Gains by Certificate	85	79	95	61	56	43	48	57	73	38	63	52	50
Losses by Certificate	95	78	243	519	437	205	65	215	34	18	24	41	41
Losses by Death	274	252	248	252	239	238	187	194	196	250	191	241	157
Losses by Other	511	417	182	781	725	732	304	106	316	344	144	521	313
Infant Baptisms	163	122	158	128	127	110	100	87	56	24	61	43	37
Adult Baptisms	25	22	35	17	24	20	9	13	14	6	10	1	4

As of the 2024 deadline for statistical reporting to the General Assembly, 55 churches have filed at least portions of their annual statistical reports for 2022. The following churches failed to submit their Annual Statistical Report based upon the deadline: Adah, Palmer; Hopewell; First, Fayette City;

Bethany, Johnstown; Leisenring; Pleasant Grove; First, Masontown; Sewickley United; Sewickley.  
(See Appendix A.)

3. The following dates represent additional opportunities for Clerks to have their Session minutes and Church Registers reviewed for 2024.

- April 17, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.--Presbytery Center
- May 28, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.---Pre-Presbytery; Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Stated Clerk for Constitutional and Judicial Matters of the Presbytery, Rev. Cliff Foster, presents the following Consent Agenda.

#### **From Executive Committee**

1. Following the review of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Stated Clerk, and Associate Stated Clerk, it is **recommended** that the minutes of the Presbytery meeting of January 27, 2024, be approved.

#### **From the Council**

1. Council **recommends** that the Financial and Treasurer's Reports presented to the Council and the Presbytery be received and filed for audit. (Appendix B).
2. Council **recommends** that the Executive Presbyter, Treasurer, Mission, Pine Springs Camp reports presented to the Presbytery be received and filed.

#### **From the Committee on Ministry**

1. The Committee on Ministry **recommends** that Presbytery grant the request from the Fort Burd Presbyterian Church of Brownsville to waive the rotation of service for Mary Grace Bohna and Melissa Deal, Ruling Elders.
2. The Committee on Ministry **recommends** that Presbytery grant the request from the Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church of Dunbar to waive the rotation of service for Margaret Gilchrist, Ruling Elder.
3. The Committee on Ministry **recommends** that Presbytery grant the request from Harmony Presbyterian Church of Belle Vernon for a waiver of rotation for Ronald Horne and Henry Kopczak, Ruling Elders.
4. The Committee on Ministry **recommends** that Presbytery grant the request from the Calvin United Presbyterian Church of Brownsville for a waiver of rotation for Rhonda Martini, Ruling Elder.

#### **From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

#### **From the Nominating Committee**

#### **From the Committee on Representation**

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT**

This report provides an unaudited overview of the Presbytery's finances for the month ending February 2024. The month of February represents the second month of the new fiscal year. At this time during the budget period, it is anticipated 17% of all Church Commitment pledges are receipted and expenses in total do not exceed 17%.

### **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW / INCOME**

Church Commitments receipted for the month totaled \$16,700 versus a targeted budgeted amount of \$26,667, representing a -\$9,967 shortfall. YTD, receipted is \$35,698, versus a targeted benchmark of \$53,333 or a -\$17,635. Other income, consisting of unrestricted & restricted totaled \$4,170. Total for the month totaled \$20,870.

### **Noted Church Commitment Activity - Pledges & Payments**

*Of the sixty-seven (67) churches within the Presbytery, thirty-one (31) have offered a pledge amount, and thirty-five (35) have provided payment.*

### **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW / EXPENSES**

Total expenses for the month just peaked above the 17% benchmark. A few areas of note, Audit Services was paid this month and is a one-time expense for the year, Workman's Compensation coverage was paid, Council Expense is a timing matter along with utility (gas & sewage) cost. There are no material concerns with expenses.

### **EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENSES**

For the month expenses exceeded income (-\$28,052), and YTD expenses (-\$31,814) also is greater than income.

### **INVESTMENTS & HOLDINGS**

Ameriprise Investments statement for the end of February 29, 2024 showed a beginning value of \$689,603, a withdraw of -\$4,835, dividends, interest & income gain equaling \$1,325, and a positive change in value of \$21,159. The ending value for the totaled \$707,251.

YTD, for the past two months a positive change in value totals \$27,654.

Other Investments and Holdings (1st Commonwealth checking \$40,541, PILP \$10,000, Petty Cash \$250.00, E Johnston-New Covenant \$335,053) total \$385,844.

Total Investments & Holdings = \$1,093,095

### **Property & Finance Committee**

P&F Committee met with Ameriprise financial advisor Tim Henry on March 11<sup>th</sup>, to overview the investments of the Presbytery. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, it was reported the Ameriprise portfolio grew to \$708,801. Economic trends and forecast were discussed with the Committee. Asset class distribution of investments (cash 1.20%, fixed income 33.80%, equities 64.97%, other .02%) were reviewed. It was noted all investment percentages meet the direction of the Investment Policy of the Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted, John Dickson

**MINISTRY AND MISSION REPORTS**

**Executive Presbyter**

**Rev. Richard "Skip" Noftzger  
Executive Presbyter Report**

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

VISION	1/26/2024-3/19/2024	
<p><b>Congregation-centered (ENGAGE)</b></p>	<p>Visible presence within the Presbytery engaging with congregations---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since the January Presbytery meeting, I have visited at ten different morning worship, anniversary celebrations or special events or services. I have preached at five different morning worship special services.</li> <li>• Met with three different sessions as one component of engaging congregations. Two were for the purpose of talking about possible pastoral options. One was to serve as moderator both for the session and or the congregation which does not have current pastoral leadership.</li> <li>• Working alongside PNC's in various stages, including the searching/filtering, finalizing selection, and preparing for a start date and installation. Regular communication with each PNC chair as needed. Seek out and provide weekly referrals within the CLC search system.</li> <li>• Served as a "bridge pastor for two months in one of our congregations which included preaching, pastoral care and church leadership.</li> <li>• Initiated discussions with potential pastor candidates for our churches. Some are in the search process. Others are just entering the process, while others were part of recruiting among those actively serving for possible discernment based upon openings in Redstone Presbytery.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Leadership developed (EQUIP)</b></p>	<p>Developing and equipping leadership within the Presbytery---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned and prepared IPLF courses and workshops through online support and resourcing both individual instructors and students enrolled in the program.</li> <li>• Consulted with Clerks of Sessions and Pastors on a number of policy and procedures related to Presbyterian polity and legal/ecclesiastical organizational issues.</li> <li>• Offered Elder and Deacon training within the program of the annual Enrichment Day in Johnstown.</li> <li>• Individual consultation with various pastors in the areas of ministry strategy, strategic planning, financial health, and conflict management.</li> <li>• Continued assistance and consultation with members of the Committee on</li> </ul>	

	<p>Ministry in their roles as serving as liaisons to individual congregations. Providing individual support in response to inquiries as well as resources for liaison contacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Networked with leaders in other presbyteries, seminaries and churches to identify possible candidates for different pastoral leadership opportunities within our Presbytery.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Collaboration-Districts/Network (ENABLE)</b></p>	<p>Creating and supporting collaboration in ministry both within and outside Redstone---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resourcing networks within the presbytery including mission, racial justice and reconciliation, communications, addictions ministry, Wee Kirk planning, and Sudan Mission Partnership Network steering committee.</li> <li>• Actively engage within the ministry and work of Christian Associates through both regular meetings and special projects. Participant in the quarterly "Pittsburgh Prays" gatherings.</li> <li>• Directed the planning programming and evaluations with other participating presbyteries in the ongoing administration of the Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation program.</li> <li>• Initiated contact and networking will colleagues serving similar roles in our region with churches that we are in full communion.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Partnership in Mission promoted (EMPOWER)</b></p>	<p>Promoted and provided leadership in our partnerships in mission---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve on the Pine Springs board, particularly in working with the area of finance policy and planning.</li> <li>• Ongoing participation on the board of Redstone Highlands including the Strategy committee, the annual retreat and regular board meetings.</li> <li>• Working with the Sudan/South Sudan Partnership by serving as the co-convenor of the Steering Committee of the network by providing leadership in planning the annual gathering. Advising Redstone Mission network on plans for promoting and celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the partnership between Redstone and the Sudan/South Sudan Presbyterian Church.</li> <li>• Commissioned the team participating in the short term mission trip to West Virginia on behalf of the Presbytery.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Operational Support</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewed monthly financial reports for accuracy of information. Monitored expenditures and made adjustments to support and retain the financial health of the presbytery.</li> <li>• Assisted clerks of session in completing annual reports both for the Presbytery and for the Office of General Assembly.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>VALUES</b></p>	<p><b>Servant Leadership</b></p>	<p><b>Flourishing Community</b></p>	<p><b>Witness to the World</b></p>	<p><b>Generous and effective Stewardship</b></p>	
<p><i>Soli Deo Gloria</i></p>					

# Presbytery Worship: A Community of Faith

## Prelude Call to Worship

The Church is the body of Christ.

Book of Order, *F-1.03*

Christ gives to the Church  
all the gifts necessary to be his body.

**The Church strives to demonstrate these gifts  
in its life as a community in the world.**

The Church is to be a community of faith,  
**entrusting itself to God alone,  
even at the risk of losing its life.**

Where Christ is, there is the true Church.

**We affirm that, in the power of the Spirit,  
the Church is faithful to the mission of Christ  
as it proclaims and hears the Word of God,  
administers and receives the Sacraments,  
and nurtures a covenant community of disciples of Christ.**

\*Opening Hymn #401 Here in This Place

# Here in This Place

## Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ish-ed a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

\*Prayer of Confession/Assurance of Pardon

Are you thirsty for grace? Are you hungry for mercy?  
God is calling; come to the waters. *Isa. 55:1*

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**O Lord our God,  
you call us to proclaim the gospel,  
but we remain silent in the presence of evil.  
You call us to be reconciled to you and one another,  
but we are content to live in separation.  
You call us to seek the good of all,  
but we fail to resist the powers of oppression.  
You call us to fight pretensions and injustice,  
but we sit idly by,  
endangering the lives of people far and near.**

**Forgive us, O Lord.  
Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit,  
and give us the courage and strength  
to be reconciled to others;  
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.**

God's love has been poured into your hearts *Rom. 5:5*  
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God.**

\*Passing the Peace

\*Hymn #582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

# 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)  
 B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
 2 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)  
 F B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)  
 C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)  
 Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

Scripture Readings:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, 32-40; 12:1-3,  
 John 12:20-25

Sermon: “Swimming the Race That’s Set Before Us”

Rev. Liddy Barlow

\*Hymn: #766 “The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound”

# 766 The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound



1 The church of Christ can - not be bound by  
2 True faith will o - pen up the door and  
3 True love will not sit i - dly by when  
4 If what we have we free - ly share to  
5 The church of Christ can - not be bound by



walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and  
step in - to the street. True ser - vice will seek  
jus - tice is de - nied. True mer - cy hears the  
meet our neigh - bor's need, then we ex - tend the  
walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and



love are found, there can the church be known.  
out the poor and ask to wash their feet.  
home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.  
Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.  
love are found, there can the church be known.

Presbytery Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Lord's Supper

Rev. Brenda Barnes

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Let us pray: Holy Lord God, Creator of Heaven and earth, ...from every time and place we lift our hearts in praise to you.

**Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Great God, we thank you for your Son Jesus ... we will celebrate victory with him and declare:  
**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!**

Almighty God, pour out your Holy Spirit ...who taught us to pray saying:

**Our Father who art in heaven**

**Hallowed be thy name**

**Thy kingdom come thy will be done**

**On earth as it is in heaven**

**Give us this day our daily bread**

**And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

*Gluten free communion is available*

\*Hymn during communion #530 "One Bread, One Body"

# 530 One Bread, One Body

*Refrain*

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of

all, one cup of bless - ing which we bless.

And we, though man-y, through-out the

earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

1 Gen - tile	or Jew,	ser - vant	or
2 Man - y	the gifts,	man - y	the
3 Grain for	the fields,	scat - tered	and

free,	wom - an	or man,	no more.
works,	one in	the Lord	of all.
grown,	gath - ered	to one,	for all.

*to Refrain*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray together:

**Almighty and everlasting God, thank you for this love feast that we have enjoyed together for our spiritual nourishment. You assure us of Your goodness towards us and that we are members of the mystical body of your faithful people and heirs to the heavenly kingdom. Give us strength in grace that we may continue in this holy fellowship and live forever to your glory. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, when we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm – through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

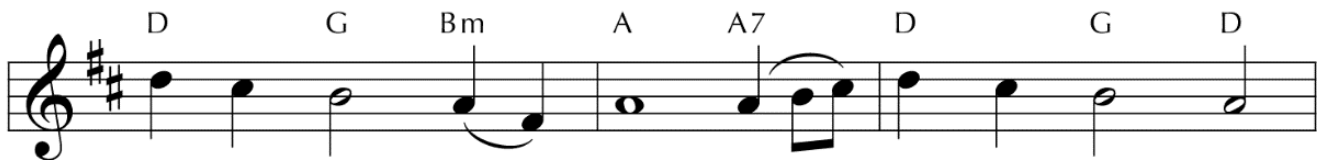
\*Hymn #817 “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

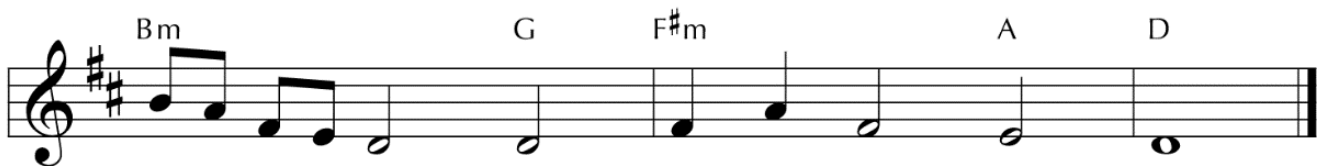
# 817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
4 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
you are near and seek where you are found.  
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

*At the close of the meeting: Benediction: Rev. Brenda Barnes*

## Here in This Place Gather Us In

401

The “you/your” mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God’s witnesses and for God’s purposes.

TEXT and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1979  
Text and Music © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

GATHER US IN  
10.9.10.10.D

### SERVICE MUSIC

## 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text; adapt. Paul M. Vasile, 2008  
MUSIC: Paul M. Vasile, 2008  
Text Adapt. and Music © 2008 Paul M. Vasile

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

### JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

## 766 The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

This text was the winning entry in a hymnwriting competition seeking new texts dealing with poverty and homelessness, but as the stanza sung at the beginning and end of the hymn makes clear, such specific ministries grow out of an understanding of the church as love in action.

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2005  
MUSIC: African American spiritual; *Jubilee Songs*, 1884; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940  
Text © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.

MC KEE  
CM

### LORD’S SUPPER

## 530 One Bread, One Body

This Lord’s Supper text is based on various Scriptures (1 Corinthians 10:16–17, Galatians 3:28, and 1 Corinthians 12:1–31) as well as imagery from the *Didache*, a significant Christian document from the early 2nd century, about scattered grain united in the eucharistic bread.

TEXT and MUSIC: John B. Foley, SJ, 1978  
Text and Music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ (Published by OCP)

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY  
Irregular

### LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

## 817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

The opening line here is essentially a quotation of 2 Corinthians 5:7, but that affirmation is fleshed out by references to the appearance of the risen Christ to Thomas (John 20:19–29). The shape note tune, named for a stream in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, adds resolution to the words.

TEXT: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.  
MUSIC: Samuel McFarland, c. 1814; harm. Richard Proulx, 1986  
Music Harm. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

DUNLAP’S CREEK  
CM

## Presbyterian Women

Redstone Presbyterian Women held their Fall Gathering on November 4, 2023. More than 20 women gathered at Congruity Presbyterian Church to learn about the Union Mission in Latrobe, PA from Executive Director Dan Carney. Through an excellent program based on questions from those gathered, we learned about homelessness in Westmoreland County and what the Union Mission does once men decide they need help. We heard what this help is and the partnerships they have with other organizations that enable men to put their lives back together. Wonderful food was provided and enjoyed by all. All of the leftovers were taken by Dan to the Union Mission and were greatly appreciated. The offering that day was specifically given to the Union Mission.

An introduction to the new 2023-2024 Horizons Bible Study, Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir was presented by Rev. Donna Havrisko.

The recent 2023 Synod Gathering at the Penn Stater, State College, PA was discussed.

The PW Spring Retreat at Pine Springs Camp in Jennerstown. is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2024. It will be led by Rev. Donna Havrisko. Registration and a Continental Breakfast begins at 9:00. The program "**Closer Than the Next Heartbeat: Thoughts on Prayer**" will be from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. with a break for lunch. The cost is \$20.00 per person. The retreat is open to all women. A reservation form is included with more information and reservation details.

The Upcoming Churchwide gathering for Presbyterian Women nationwide is fast approaching. It will be held in St. Louis August 8 – 11 with the theme "Do Everything in Love." Patricia Hart will be representing Redstone Presbytery as a delegate. More information can be found about the gathering at [presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](https://presbyterianwomen.org/gathering).

The PW Synod 2024 International Mission Project has been chosen. It is Casa Materna. Included is a handout and a description of the new mission project.

We encourage Presbyterian women to subscribe to *Horizons* magazine which includes the Bible study for the year. The magazine contains articles that pertain to current issues in the US and abroad and is \$24.95 a year. Digital subscriptions are available for \$15.

All Presbyterian Women are welcome at our gatherings! We have an extensive e-mail list for communicating with women across the Presbytery. If you have not received our e-mails, and wish to, send your e-mail address to Linda Blick: [lhblick@gmail.com](mailto:lhblick@gmail.com) Our newsletters are also posted on the Presbytery website.

If you enjoy reading, PW women has a national book club on Zoom 6 times a year. All are welcome to participate. The following link includes the list of books and dates.  
[https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what\\_we\\_do/work-for-justice/](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/work-for-justice/).

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Hart, Moderator

## Pine Springs Camp

- 2024 Summer Resident Camper Numbers as of Thursday, February 22- 420 Campers; 377 in 2023
- 2024 Summer Day Camp 2024- 48 Campers; Day Camp 2023- 27 Campers
- Staff Update
  - o 3 Female Staff Contracted/5 have completed or started applications.
  - o 0 Male Staff Contracted/4 have completed or started applications.
  - o 0 Adventure Staff Contracted/3 have completed or started applications.
  - o 1 Lifeguard Contracted/1 has completed or started an application.
  - o 2 Timothy Team Members Contracted/7 have completed or started applications.
  - o 0 Leadership Staff Members Contracted/1 has completed or started
  - o Staff will be taking additional visits to Waynesburg, Penn State and Westminster.
- Upcoming Events
  - o PSC Skates is scheduled for March 24 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Southpoint Ice Rink.
  - o We will continue to set up church visits throughout the winter and spring
  - o Someone will be at the upcoming Washington and Redstone Presbytery meetings to find churches who are interested in our Encourage a Summer Staff Member program.

## Mission Network

### February 8, 2024, Meeting

The meeting was opened in prayer.

Items discussed include:

#### **Campaign to bring awareness of desperate issues in Sudan / South Sudan-**

It was proposed that a document be included in the March Presbytery packet that highlights NTC, JEBS, and other areas of need in Sudan / South Sudan. Any support received goes to any of these groups. There could be a bulletin insert designed to be used by the churches to spread the need awareness. Churches would be encouraged to collect a special offering and write a Minute for Mission like OGHs. Since there is a gap between Pentecost and World-Wide Communion, now would be a good time to announce and promote the campaign.

Skip proposed a re-signing of the partnership with Sudan / South Sudan in November to commemorate the original commitment. Perhaps a Zoom meeting with a Sudan partner could be coordinated.

Think about what to highlight at this years' Presbytery meetings regarding the Sudan / South Sudan needs. A sub-committee was formed, including, Susan Keaney, Skip, Donna Havrisko, and Sylvia Carlson will work to have something drafted for the March meeting.

#### **Mission Fair in September at Pine Springs Camp, September 24, daytime meeting.**

It was suggested to have a Mission booth at the camp. Susan Keaney suggested making something to empower the churches to participate in mission. Tammy Germana explained their church (Westmont Pres) makes "Prayer squares," which attendees could work on during the meeting. A sub-committee of Tammy, Debby Koenig, and Skip to work on something for that.

#### **Presbytery Meeting Minutes for Mission: TBD**

**Mission Trip to Charleston, WV - scheduled for April 28 - May 3.**

**Offering Collection - TBD**

**Next Meeting - March 14, 2024.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Debby Koenig

## ACTION AGENDA

### Presbytery Council

[Links to complete copies of the Minutes of Council can be found online at [www.redstone.org](http://www.redstone.org) under the "Presbytery Council Meeting Dates" tab.]

#### **Presentation and Action Items**

- "On the Road with Redstone"
- Communications-survey
- Presbyterian Women report (page 21)
- Pine Springs Camp report (page 22)
- Mission network report (page 23)

#### **Information Items**

#### **February 27, 2024, Meeting**

##### **Call to Order**

Rev. Dawn Sherwood called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. for the scheduled meeting and a quorum of members was established.

##### **Approval of Agenda**

Rev. Dawn Sherwood solicited any necessary changes to the agenda. Having not received any, the agenda for the meeting was approved by **consent**.

##### **Devotions and Prayer**

Rev. Laura Blank opened the meeting with a devotional reading "A Good Gardener" by Kate Bowler from her book, Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for A Life of Imperfection. The meeting was opened in prayer

##### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for January 16, 2024, were reviewed as submitted. With the correction of a date typo and one excused absence, the minutes were **MSP** as corrected.

##### **Reports**

##### **Moderator Report**

Moderator Len Morgan had no report.

##### **Executive Presbyter Report**

Executive Presbyter Noftzger reminded Council members of the summary documents from the Retreat that they had all receive previously. These reflections will remain part of the background reference as the Council wrestles with the reading and strategic thinking throughout the year.

Council members engaged with one another on initial observations of the book, Navigating the Future: Traditioned Innovation for Wilder Seas, authored by Gregory Jones and Andrew Hogue. Focusing on the perspective "traditioned innovation," a discussion occurred on its applicability in our churches and as a presbytery.

Rev. Noftzger provided some updates of pastoral concern within the Presbytery as well as reminders about important upcoming events.

1. Retirement of Bobbie Shaffor as Administrative Assistant on March 31
2. Pastor Getaway Retreat n April 9 at Pine Springs Camp
3. Installation of Rev. Owar Ojulu at Grace Community Presbyterian Church on April 14

Rev. Noftzger encouraged members of the task force for the “Anti-Racism policy” to review the revised draft and plan on meeting before the April Council meeting to bring a recommended version for consideration.

Rev. Noftzger shared five requested dates (20, 21, 25, 26, 27) for vacation in March. It was **MSP** to approve these dates.

### **Stated Clerk Report**

- The Correspondence Log was included within the meeting documents folder.
- The schedule for the upcoming Council meeting dates (available in person at the Presbytery Center or by Zoom) included the following dates:
  - April 23
  - June 25
  - August 27
  - October 22
  - November 26
- Rev. Noftzger highlighted the upcoming opportunities for peer-review of the 2023 Session Minutes and Church Register. They include:
  - March 19 – 4:00 p.m. Pre-Presbytery, New Hope
  - April 17 – 5:30 p.m. Presbytery Center
  - May 28 --- 5:00 p.m. Presbytery, Pleasant View
- Members were reminded of the current overtures for the 2024 GA are available on PC-Biz. If there is any desire for Redstone to concur with any of those not requiring Constitutional revision, that must be completed this spring.

### **Treasurer Report**

John Dickson had provided a Treasurer’s report based upon the January, 2024 Income/Expense Report and Balance sheet. All documents were including in the meeting documents folder.

### **Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp**

It was noted that Executive Director is on Sabbatical. A written report was received that identified current summer resident and day camp numbers compared to last year, as well as summer staff recruitment progress and strategies.

It was agreed to receive the reports **by consent** of the Moderator, Executive Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Treasurer,

and Executive Director of PSC.

### **Subcommittees/Networks/Task Forces**

#### **Staff Support**

- The subcommittee reminded Council members about the retirement of Bobbie Shaffor as Administrative Assistant and the recognition of her service at the upcoming Presbytery meeting.
- It was reported that Karen Gray, Administrative Operation Manager had begun work on February for a period of orientation and training.
- Staff reviews will be conducted in the spring with surveys for responses on the Executive Presbyter to be solicited from Council members and a variety of other presbyters.

#### **Worship**

- Rev. Laura Blank reminded others of the current schedule for worship listed below.
  - 2024 Plan for Worship at Presbytery Gatherings
    - January 27 – "Celebration of Community" (installation of Moderator/Vice Moderator; Commissioning of Pastors) – Rev. Skip Noftzger-Executive Presbyter
    - March 19---"Community of Faith" – Rev. Liddy Barlow; Christian Associates
    - May 28---"Community of Hope" ---Rev. Forrest Claassen, Synod of the Trinity
    - September 24 – "Community of Witness"
    - November 23 – "Community of Love" – Len Morgan, Presbytery Moderator

Rev. Blank acknowledged that the preferred preacher for September 24 was unavailable. She solicited recommendations from the Council.

#### **Mission Network**

- The Redstone Presbytery mission trip is scheduled for April 28-May 4 in Charleston, WV. Participants were commissioned at the conclusion of the Pancake dinner fundraiser held on Shrove Tuesday at Congruity Presbyterian Church.
- Throughout the year, both in Presbytery gatherings and through other communications, congregations will be invited to join with us in celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our mission partnership with the Sudan and South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Churches.
- The annual gathering of all presbyteries and participants with a partnership with one of the Presbyterian churches will take place on May 20-22 at Camp Crestfield. Others interested in this partnership are invited to participate.

#### **Finance and Property**

- Having reviewed the request from the Puckety Presbyterian Church for renovations to the parking lot and building, the Committee recommended its approval. It was **MSP** to approve this recommendation and authorize Puckety to proceed with the process.

### **Racial Justice and Reconciliation**

- No report. Will be meeting next week.

### **Communications**

- Rev. Washburn reported on the meeting for reorganization with some new participants.
- In her requested time on the Presbytery agenda, she requested permission to conduct a short survey using a link to a Google form for both in-room and remote participants. It was **MSP** to authorize the network to conduct the survey as part of the gathering.

### **Addictions Ministry Network**

- No report. Meeting next week.

### **Presbyterian Women**

- A written report from Patty Hart was included in the meeting documents. Additionally, information about the Synod PW mission project Casa Materna was also provided.
- Discussion occurred about the possibility of inviting a PW representative to make a short presentation at the March Presbytery meeting. Rev. Brenda Barnes agreed to ask Patty Hart if they were interested and willing.

### **March 2024 Presbytery Agenda**

The proposed agenda for the January 19 Presbytery gathering was presented. After review and discussion and the possible addition of PW, it was **MSP** to approve the submitted version with that possible addition.

### **Intercession**

Prayer concerns were shared by members of the Council. A period of intercession was entered with various members leading in prayers for those requested needs.

### **Adjournment**

Having lifted up in prayer particular shared needs, it was **MSP** to adjourn the retreat meeting at 8:05 p.m.

## Committee on Ministry

### **Presentation and Action Items**

- **Request from First Presbyterian, Fayette City**  
**--- The COM recommends approval of the request of the First Presbyterian, Fayette City to be dissolved and that an Administrative Commission, appointed by the moderator, be authorized to consider, decide, and conclude all matters related to the dissolution of the First Presbyterian congregation of Fayette City.**
- **The COM recommends approval of the revisions in the Family and Medical Paid Leave policy. (the revised version in accordance with changes in the Book of Order are attached in Appendix C)**
- **Pastor Getaway Retreat – April 9; Pine Springs Camp**

### **Information Items**

#### **March 7, 2024, Meeting**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

**MSP** approval of the minutes of February 1, 2024.

#### **Report of the Stated Clerk**

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Meeting Documents).
- Minutes Review Dates
  - March 19; 4:00 p.m.; New Hope Presbyterian Church
  - April 17; 6:00 p.m.; Presbytery Center
  - May 28; 5:00 p.m.; Pleasant View Presbyterian Church
- **MSP** to approve the recommendation to the Presbytery the following requests:
  - from Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church of Dunbar for a waiver of rotation for Margaret Gilchrist, Ruling Elder.
  - from Harmony Presbyterian Church of Belle Vernon for a waiver of rotation for Ronald Horne and Henry Kopczak, Ruling Elders.
  - from Calvin United Presbyterian Church of Brownsville for a waiver of rotation for Rhonda Martini, Ruling Elder.
- **MSP** to approve the recommendation to the Presbytery the revised Paid Family Medical Leave as amended.
- **MSP** to recommend to the Presbytery the request of the First Presbyterian Church, Fayette City, if the way be clear, to dissolve the congregation (Congregational meeting on March 10, 2024).
- Discussion of the 2023 Church and Pastor stats (Meeting Documents) providing some insight in the ecology of the churches in the Presbytery.

#### **Report of the Moderator**

None at this time.

## **REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **Examinations and Membership**

- Information Items – None at this time.
- Action Items – None at this time.

### **Search and Call**

- Information Items
  - Transition Chart (handout)
    - Three congregations in transition.
    - Continued prayers for all three congregations in their transitional process.

### **COM Liaison Responsibilities and Suggested Timeline**

- IPLF Upcoming workshops:
  - Reformed Worship and Sacraments (begins January 6)
  - Workshops
    - April 6; Scripture and Study Methods – Rev. Sharon Stewart
    - May 4; Preaching Laboratory – Rev. Skip Noftzger

### **Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders**

- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for:  
Praises for growing Sunday school classes and for volunteers and help with funeral luncheons. Praises for craft vendor shows, designing prayer gardens, Bible club, and intergenerational discipleship. Praises for Easter egg hunts, Mission drives, food banks, life screening, and vibrancy in church and the community.  
Healing prayers for heart catheterization and surgery, those facing kidney cancer and returning to the hospital, those having a difficult time adjusting to a new facility, undergoing neck surgery, those suffering from a stroke, and newborns in the hospital.  
Prayers for churches losing members, financial challenges, and working hard to find a new normal with hopes of seeing the benefits. Prayers for finding music directors. Prayers for when a congregation is looking at closing that they reject the feeling of sadness or burden, but rather celebrate their accomplishment and their long history in the community.
- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time:  
John Morrow, Norma Murphy, Rodney Murray, Skip Noftzger, Ben Nti, David O'Hara, Owar Ojulu, Kirk Orr, Curtis Paul, John Pressler.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:  
Palmer Community Presbyterian Church, Adah; Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo; First Presbyterian Church, Avonmore; First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon; Harmony Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon; Marion Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon; Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, Belle Venon; United Presbyterian Church, Bolivar; Calvin Presbyterian Church, Brownsville; Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville.

### **New Business**

- Pastor one-day retreat – Pine Springs – update. Commitment from East Liberty Presbyterian Church of their labyrinth for use at the retreat. Elders and liaisons are to encourage your pastors to come on

Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30 am and ending at 2:30.

- An informational share: This Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, is Woman Composer Sunday. Established in 2021 by Society of Women Organist to raise awareness of the contributions from women composers during Women’s History Month.

**Adjournment**

It was **MSP** to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. with prayers offered by Rev. Brian Kilbert.

\*\*\*\*\*

**February 1, 2024, Meeting**

**Approval of Minutes**

**MSP** approval of the minutes of January 4, 2024 with corrections.

**Report of the Stated Clerk**

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Meeting Documents).
- Annual Reports Due
  - Statistics – February 14, 2024
  - Waiver of Rotation forms
  - Terms of Call forms
  - Pastor agreement forms
  - Necrology
  - Session members
  - Manse inspection
- Minutes Review Dates
  - February 10, Enrichment Day in Johnstown
  - March 19; 4:00 p.m.; New Hope Presbyterian Church
  - April 17; 6:00 p.m.; Presbytery Center
  - May 28; 5:00 p.m.; Pleasant View Presbyterian Church
- **MSP** to approve the recommendation to the Presbytery the request from Fort Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville for a waiver of rotation for Elders Mary Grace Bohna and Melissa Deal.

**Report of the Moderator**

- **MSP** to appoint Bob Sheehan as moderator at Colver.
- **MSP** to accept the resignation of Ben Nti from COM.

**REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Examinations and Membership**

- Information Items – None at this time
- Action Items – None at this time

**Search and Call**

- Information Items
  - Transition Chart (handout)

**COM Liaison Responsibilities and Suggested Timeline**

- Organization – Chair/Convener/Reporter
- Re-assign church liaisons
- IPLF Upcoming workshops:
  - Reformed Worship and Sacraments (begins January 6)
  - Workshops
    - February 3; Church Elders and Church Money – Rev. Tom Moore
    - March 2; Death, Grief and Pastoral Care – Rev. Peggy Shannon
    - April 6; Scripture and Study Methods – Rev. Sharon Stewart
    - May 4; Preaching Laboratory – Rev. Skip Noftzger
  - Enrichment Day; February 10, 2024 at Westmont Presbyterian Church

### Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for: Praises for new mission opportunities. Praises for a pastor called to a church, for planning Ash Wednesday and Lenten services. Praises for pancake dinners and Eater Egg Hunts providing the opportunity reach out to families in the communities. Praises for monthly lunches providing fellowship among 30 lunch-goers. Praises for young musician with new energy, for new folks involved in the church, and for providing a message that was recognized as being relevant.

Prayers to finding the answer to the question: Why I don't go to church. Prayers for new growth and new life after sacrifices and changes. Prayers for wisdom and leadership at the committee level. Prayers to bring back health and wholeness. Prayers for resolution on several concerns with finances, manse, and the state of property.

Prayers for those on medical leave, for continued healing, for wrist surgery, for those young and old going through cancer. Prayers for those that are grieving especially for the loss of a child.

- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time:  
Gail Mason, Bruce Maxwell, Dave McCabe, John McClure, Lee McDermott, David McElroy, Aleda Menchyk, John Michael, Art Moffat, Len Morgan.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:  
Grace Chapel Presbyterian Church, Smithfield; Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock; Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford; Tent Presbyterian Church, Uniontown; Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown; Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown; East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Vanderbilt; Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton; Sewickley United Presbyterian Church, West Newton; United Presbyterian Church, West Newton.

### New Business

- Pastor one-day retreat – Pine Springs – update. The one-day retreat will be held on Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30 am and ending at 2:30. Lunch will be provided with coffee and snacks available earlier in the day. Songs, crafts, time for fellowship activities such as ping pong and bocci ball. Rev. Hyiwot Teshome will provide a 20-minute presentation on suicide and depression. Strength of the day depends on getting the word out and the weather.
- Family and Medical Leave Policy revision – update. Reviewing the BOO amendment and rational and

working to converge the amendment with the existing Redstone policy. Copies of the current policy and the work in progress are in the drop box and feedback is requested. A Women and Gender Justice document is also in the dropbox which provides ideas for covering worship leadership for 12 weeks of family leave. Working to include similar resources to the updated policy in the section on Additional Considerations. Plan to have final draft for review to the March COM meeting.

**Adjournment**

It was **MSP** to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. with prayers offered by Rev. Jim Farrer.

## Committee on Preparation for Ministry

### Action Items

- **The Committee on Preparation for Ministry reports on the current status of inquirers; candidates and IPLF students under the care of Redstone Presbytery.**
- **New IPLF term will begin on August 10, 2024**

### Information Items

#### March 5, 2024, Meeting

- Approval of minutes of February 6, 2024, with corrections. Robin will be Danielle Kendig's mentor and Rev. Hyiwot will be James Vlosich's mentor. **MSP as amended.**
- Selection of names to submit to Nominating Committee for Ordination Exam Readers. Committee advancing ruling elder Robin Jennings and teaching elder John Manon.
- **Updates on Candidates/IPLF participants**
  - **Candidate Danielle Kendig** has passed all seminary exams as of February 2024. She is beginning her second field education experience at Conemaugh on March 11. Skip has revised the evaluation document for use with her supervisor. She is finishing her last two classes at PTS. She still needs to complete Boundary training for the Presbytery. Skip has met with Danielle regarding opportunities for a short-term student pastorate in Ebensburg and he and Danielle will be meeting with the Ebensburg Session so that they can become acquainted and determine if a good fit. If the way be clear for the experience, there may be opportunities for a continuing relationship at the conclusion of seminary.
- **Consultation with Candidate James Vlosich**

James is enthusiastic about his field ed experiences at Fairchance, and the variety of opportunities afforded to him. He is leading bible studies and small groups, as well as making visits to shut ins. He is continuing to juggle his workload at Trinity with field ed and course work. He acknowledged feeling both invigorated and stressed by the experience, and grateful for the support from family to handle everything. He sees the differences between the two congregations regarding organization, formality and structure, which has been eye-opening, as has the age difference. James has been used to dealing with younger people at Trinity and feeling a greater sense of control. His visitations at Fairchance are exposing him to an older demographic and he is learning to relate. He is meeting weekly with Molly Hall and appreciates the links both formal and informal between the congregations of Springhill and Fairchance and the added experiences he is having because of it. His current classes are Ethics and Theology and Global Traditions. James will be taking courses in Presbyterian Polity and Leadership and Pastoral Ministry. Hyiwot is also sharing a webinar link with James to further his education in pastoral ministry. He is on track for spring 2025 graduation. Will likely begin taking ordination exams in the fall of 2024. The committee prayed for James.
- **Consultation with IPLF authorized preacher Bill Poninsky**

Bill enjoys preaching and is scheduled most Sundays (Third, Leisenring, McClellandtown, Laurel Hill, Dunlap Creek, Rehoboth). He and his wife are both still working and sharing responsibilities for care of their elderly mothers. Bill still has several portions of the practicums to be completed in order to eligible for commissioning. He and John Manon are to establish a weekly schedule to work through

several outstanding items, and Skip will also assist. Bill desires to be of greater service but recognizes the healthcare needs in the family are a barrier. The committee prayed for Bill.

- **Consultation with IPLF participant Jackie Eckenrod**

Jackie is completing her last IPLF course and is working through the practicums with her pastor Jennifer Frayer-Griggs at Westminster. She has been facilitating a GriefShare group and enjoys that immensely. As worship committee chair, she has had many opportunities to act on this practicum. Her challenge is church administration, particularly budget and finance as she notes she is not a numbers person. Jackie feels she is being called to pursue full-time hospice chaplaincy and is getting much practical experience as a casual chaplain to Redstone at Home hospice. Jackie will be commissioned, along with Robin, as ruling elder commissioners to the General Assembly in Salt Lake City. Jackie is eager to deepen her knowledge of the church in all its aspects and looking forward to GA. The committee prayed for Jackie.

- **New Business**

- April 2, the committee will plan to meet with authorized preachers Linda Gossar Loesch and Anthony Marciano, Skip will check their availability. Robin will also provide a report on CPM at the March Presbytery Meeting.

### **Adjournment/ Mizpah Benediction**

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### **February 6, 2024, Meeting**

- Approval of minutes of January 2, 2024, with corrections. Robin will be Danielle Kendig's mentor and Rev. Hiyiwot will be James Vlosich's mentor. **MSP as amended.**
- Review of spring IPLF courses: **Previous:** Discipleship and Mentoring and Stewardship. **Upcoming:** March 2, Death, Grief and Pastoral Care; April 6, Scripture Study Methods, May 4, Preaching Lab, class in Reformed Worship and Sacraments
- **Updates on Candidates/IPLF participants**
  - Update on IPLF participant Jeff Martini - Feels sense of call and commitment; has supportive and encouraging family. He is progressing well. He has preached a few times at West Newton. He stated he is enjoying the program and has learned a lot about God. Committee prayed with Jeff.
- **Regarding field education**
  - Consultation with candidate **Danielle Kendig**
  - Danielle passed her Bible Content Exam, waiting to hear back about Theology exam (results due Feb. 12). She will be graduating in Spring 2024. Danielle is preparing for field education at Conemaugh Hospital with Carol Ann Ziecina CSJ as her supervisor/mentor.
  - The expectation is that Danielle will serve an average of 8-10 hours a week for 10 weeks and have regular weekly meetings with Carol Ann and some supervisory observation during the experience.
  - Skip will help Danielle update appropriate forms to capture program expectations, and observations/reports of progress for mid-point and conclusion of field education for Carol Ann's use. If opportunities exist, Danielle is encouraged to extend her experiences to other Conemaugh facilities beyond the main hospital. The committee prayed with Danielle.

- **New Business**

- March 5, committee will plan to meet with Jackie Eckenrod (IPLF) and candidate James Vlosich, Skip will check James's availability. Robin will confirm with Jackie.

## Nominating Committee

### **Actions Items**

**The Nominating Committee nominates the following persons to serve as the Presbytery representatives for service as readers for the process of the PCUSA ordination examinations.**

- **Robin Jennings, RE, First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg**
- **Rev. John Manon, TE, West Newton United Presbyterian Church**

**The Nominating Committee nominates the following persons to serve on the standing committees for the respective terms.**

#### **Council**

- **Glenn Hart, RE, Harmony Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon/Sewickley United Presbyterian Church, West Newton (Class of 2024)**

#### **Committee on Ministry**

- **Lynn Mance, RE, Avonmore Presbyterian Church (Class of 2025)**

### **Information Items**

There are always opportunities on various subcommittees, task forces and networks. Please submit names of possible Ruling Elders for consideration to the Nominating Committee through either Glenn Hart or Skip Noftzger.