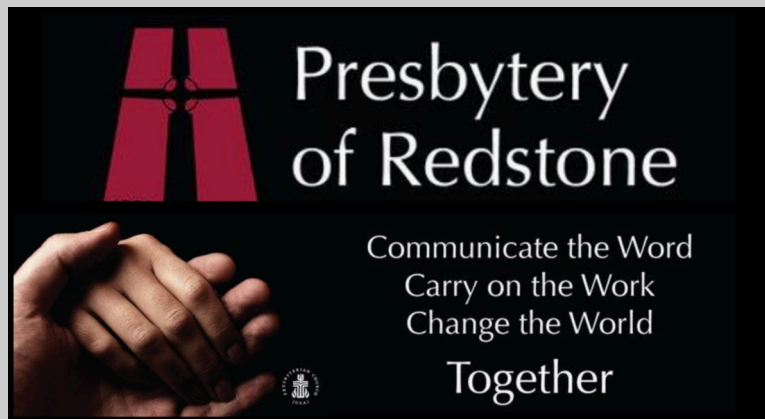


This week's Redstone happening

September 17, 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, Brian Kilbert, Moderator

District 2 Churches

New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon, Brenda Barnes, Pastor
Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford, Geoff Rach, Pastor

District 3 Churches

East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Vanderbilt, David McElroy Commissioned Pastor
Palmer Community Presbyterian Church, Adah, Nicholas Beatty, Temporary Supply

District 4 Churches

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church, Ed Gray, Moderator
Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, Bob Sheehan, Moderator

~From the Interim Executive Presbyter~



"Practicing Oneness"

As I reflect on the family into which I was born, I recall that we had a basic political correctness. Much of the time, that phrase is connected to people of liberal views, but my family was conservative in its viewpoints. The family - that is, my parents - had viewpoints that members of the family knew that they weren't permitted to challenge if they wanted our parents' favor. In another "community" - a college class - I once encountered a liberal professor who penalized the grades of students whose perspectives were different from his. What those experiences taught me was that "political correctness" was simply a phrase indicating a person or group was rigid in their perspective.

Thankfully, I experienced professors in college that were open to a range of views on their disciplines. Further, I discovered families in which a variety of thoughts were welcome to be shared around the dining room table. Since that time, I have been part of a range of groups - smaller and larger. When I've guided them, I made it my goal to provide a safe space for addressing the important matters in life.

At the upcoming September 22nd presbytery meeting at the Pine Springs Camp, we will have two specific times for us to share our individual thoughts. In both of these opportunities, our goals will be to hear - to listen to - every voice around our tables. In addition to that, they are both exercises in respecting the dignity of every person at the meeting. Again, the key goals are to listen to all and to respect the dignity of each person. The topics will be these: (a) ideas about the directions of ministry that are faithful and healthy for our congregations; and (b) ideas about the upcoming elections. If people don't listen to all others and people don't respect the dignity of every person, we've left behind the calling and yearning and prayer of Christ for the church. Remember these words of Christ's last prayer for the apostles before his betrayal:

"After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you...I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.' (John 17:1, 6-11)."

We live in a culture that frequently fails to have conversations that are attentive to others and that show respect for the dignity of every person. Are followers of Christ to be silent about the futures of our congregations and the issues of day-to-day life here and abroad? Of course, not! We would betray Christ once again! So, next week is a special opportunity for the Redstone faith community to hear and speak and appreciate one another as followers of Christ: people of a range of views, but people pursuing in the spirit Christ, "that we may be one" as the Savior and Creator were one during the earthly ministry of Jesus the Christ.

~Links to Events & Resources~

Church Events

**Presbyterian
Women**

**Conferences &
Continuing
Education**

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