

Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Mid-Week E-News March 12, 2020

www.psvonline.org

The Presbytery OF SCIOTO VALLEY

Mission and Vision Statement

"Inspire, Strengthen, And Challenge Congregations For Christ's Mission"

Presbytery Calendar

MARCH

Sunday, March 15

Self-Development of
People Sunday

PSV Leadership Retreat

Procter Conference
Center, near London

Sunday, 5 pm to
Monday, 1 pm

Monday, March 16

1-3 pm

Coordinating Team
(CT) Meeting at Procter
(following the Retreat)

Thursday, March 19

10 am

PSV CRE Task Team

1 pm

PSV Older Adult
Ministry Task Team

Helping Congregations Face the Coronavirus...

Common Sense Practices to Safeguard Congregations

Amid the flurry of news stories and fears of further outbreaks of COVID-19, churches face the dilemma of being the churches God has always believed we can be, providing essential spiritual guidance and reaching out to help our communities, while finding ways to reinforce our care and nurture of our congregations. The virus is spreading and we must make common sense decisions to be able to do be the church we are called to be. The Presbyterian Mission Agency has issued some guidelines for pastors and sessions that might help provide a safer worship experience. The full document of this pastoral statement, "Coronavirus: Faith Not Fear", is available at www.presbyterianmission.org/story/faith-not-fear-2/ and includes an additional link for heightened procedures should we reach a Pandemic 6 status.

- Being aware and cautious, caring for ourselves as we protect one another, include tips like not sharing communion with a common cup or loaf. Communion servers dropping bread into the open palms of the participants, and with elements prepared and covered until serving still preserve this precious Sacrament even in these difficult times.
- Passing the peace of Christ is important to many of us, but there are some new ways we might do that. Perhaps we can adopt the time honored practice of bowing as show of love and respect as we say, "Peace of Christ" to our siblings in the congregation. Sharing a genuine smile and greeting with peace, instead of a hug or a handshake, might even be

First Day of Spring!



Tuesday, March 24

Commission for Nurture
and Outreach (CNO)

1 pm

Westside Urban (WUM)
Ministry Team Meeting

5:30 pm

Wednesday, March 25

noon

PSV Hanging Rock
Pastors Lunch and
Special Event

Arch and Eddies
Gathering House in
Jackson

Prayer for Today...

*Make a joyful noise...,
all the earth.
(Psalm 100:1)*

Lots of noise, Lord,
a small measure "joyful"
a ton fearful, complaining,
worried about illness
or the market.
Yet IRS workers
remain civil
in workplaces,
neighbors ask the old
if they can grocery shop
for them.

more caring during this challenging time. Some churches are adopting the fist-bump or the elbow-bump as well.

- Worshippers are always encouraged to participate in worship according to their comfort, conscience, and condition, and while we always want people in worship, we must be careful not to make judgements upon those who are not comfortable. We should lift them up in special prayer and encourage that they might spend that hour with scripture and prayer for the congregation and all of humankind who are navigating this challenge together. If you are unable to come to worship, stay in touch through prayer circles, social media, or telephone calls. If you are a church that has live-streaming capabilities, worship with the congregation from the safety and comfort of your home, but do not let self-quarantining result in total isolation from friends.
- If you have room in your sanctuary, and many of us do, alternate rows and spread out to have a 3 foot distance between you and the next person. Make sure your church has plenty of tissues and hand sanitizers. Especially follow regular hand washing with a healthy dose of sanitizer in addition. It is recommended that communion and all food be prepared using gloves and masks.
- And be especially careful of those most at risk. Our youngest children are generally still developing good hygiene practices. Seize this opportunity to have teaching moments. The elderly or those with compromised immunity through illness, or chemotherapy and radiation, need our special care in our interactions.

As we work through this, be practical but not filled with panic. Watching the news could make you fearful, but remember that the God who brought the people through the wilderness of the Exodus still protects and nurtures each of us. Let the Spirit be your guide in this time, showing you a light that the darkness cannot extinguish. We will get through, with God's help.

(Edited by Elder Christine Burns, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Fredericktown)

Common-sense Tips on Coronavirus Outbreak for Individuals and Congregations...

From the Presbyterian News Service

Read more: <https://>

Prayer continued.....

Earth turns and
this north hemisphere
spins again
towards spring.

Release me, Lord,
so that I make
joyful noise to you
with your earth.
Amen!

**J. Herbert Nelson,
PC(USA) Stated
Clerk, Visits in the
Presbytery of Scioto
Valley on March 9**



Justice Ofosuhen,
Rebecca Tollefson, Jeannie
Harsh and Jim Wilson
enjoy conversation with
J. Herbert Nelson

Members and leaders
in the Presbytery
enjoyed visiting with
J. Herbert Nelson on
Monday morning,
March 9, during his
recent visit in
Columbus. The
inspiring
conversation with
J. Herbert focused on
how we are the
Hands and Feet of
Christ right here
where God planted
us. We are being
challenged to discern

www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-disaster-assistance-releases-pandemic-preparedness-guide

New CDC guidance says older adults should 'stay at home as much as possible' due to coronavirus. Amid a coronavirus outbreak in the United States, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are encouraging older people and people with severe chronic medical conditions to "stay at home as much as possible:

<https://apple.news/AymksIYXBtKtKFax4b1DrWpg>

The PC(USA) Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson has halted international travel for PC(USA) staff in Louisville. Growing threat of coronavirus prompts decision. Read more.....

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2020/3/9/stated-clerk-halts-international-travel-pcusa-staf>

Worshipping in Alternative Ways During Crises...

By Reverend David Gambrell

David Gambrell, PCUSA Associate for Worship, offers suggestions of ways to continue worship practices despite the challenges in a time of health crises. Gatherings of people in hospitals and nursing facilities can worship via live streaming. The sacraments should be suspended since they are meant to be done with the physical presence of the elements in worship. Encouraging interaction from the congregation, through comments, posts, blogs, likes and shares, will help enrich the worship services. The use of Daily Prayer services are good options for these occasions and short sermon messages will still bring meaning to the worship for those who are unable to physically attend. Tithes and offerings can be achieved through on-line giving. Most websites can easily set this up and help for this, or information can be found by contacting the Presbyterian Foundation regarding on-line giving. With these alternatives, those unable to be physically present may still, for the short term, be nurtured as part of the worship experience.

what God is calling
Scioto Valley to lift
up and share as we
prepare for and host
the 225th General
Assembly of the
PC(USA) the
week of July 2-9,
2022.

Congregations Offer Excess Bulletin Covers...

Reynoldsburg Unity Presbyterian Church are offering small quantities of bulletin covers in the 8-1/2" x 11" size for any small church that could make use of them? In most cases, we have 50 or less of each type, but multiple styles. To arrange for pick them up contact Linsie A Rose at 614-866-5451 or email secretary@parkviewpresbyterian.org

Westerville Central College Presbyterian Church has a lot of bulletin covers for Easter and Funeral Services to share. The packages have not been open so they are still good. Contact Norma at normaahlborn@ccpc.us or call 614- 882-2347.

Church Safety and Trending Topics Workshop, April 1st 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Insurance Board - Partners in Protection representative Ben Rupp will host a workshop on Church Safety and Trending Topics at Dublin Community Church, 81 West Bridge Street, Dublin, Ohio 43017 on Wednesday, April 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Topics include: Abuse Prevention, Benefits of Property Upkeep, Financials Controls for Churches, Active Intruder Event Response. Lunch will be provided. Seating is limited. Please register early at www.InsuranceBoard.org/regional-workshop

The 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) To be held in Columbus, Ohio, July 2-9, 2022

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley has the honor of hosting the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), July 2-9, 2022. Please note the date change from the original announcement. For questions, or to sign up to volunteer, email: jeannie@psvonline.org

Stated Meetings of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) in 2020

February 18, 2020, Stated Meeting Minutes are now available:

<https://psvonline.org/publication/minutes-presbytery-meeting-february-18-2020/>

May 19, 2020, 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. - Columbus, Broad Street Presbyterian Church
September 15, 2020, 3:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. - Columbus, Overbrook Presbyterian Church
November 17, 2020, 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. - Jackson, First Presbyterian Church

For the latest news and information from the Presbytery of Scioto Valley and its churches, visit www.psvonline.org. Telephone: 614-847-0565 or 800-244-7207; Fax: 614-847-4359

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