

Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Mid-Week E-News April 2, 2020

www.psvonline.org

The Presbytery OF SCIOTO VALLEY

Mission and Vision Statement

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

Presbytery Calendar

April 1-30

**Presbytery Office
Closed**

All meetings of Presbytery Commissions and committees have been cancelled, postponed or are being managed via conference calls, online conversations or Zoom meetings.

Although the Presbytery Office is closed, the Presbytery staff persons continue to work remotely.

Email:

Jeannie@psvonline.org

with any questions or requests.

Sunday, April 5

Palm Sunday
Holy Week Begins

Congratulations to Scioto Valley Pastors

Celebrating Ordinations in April

April 6, 2014 Reverend Elizabeth Wagner
April 7, 1991 Reverend Dr. Mary Shields
April 9, 1989 Reverend John E. Birkner
April 10, 2011 Reverend Roger Au
April 24, 1988 Reverend Donald Frank
April 27, 2003 Reverend Mary Gause



NEWS/UPDATES FROM PRESBYTERY MODERATOR

The Reverend Mark Gauen

- ***Presbytery Discernment and Design Administrative Commission (AC) Update.*** At the February Presbytery meeting in Newark, the Presbytery voted to establish a "Discernment and Design" Administrative Commission. This Commission, which is to have 9-12 members, is charged with recommending ways that Presbytery can adapt to the future. I, as Moderator, was charged to appoint this Commission, after consulting with an Advisory Committee consisting of Jeannie Harsh, Rebecca Tollefson, Kathi Bubb, and Tim Jones. This Advisory Committee has been at work since February, seeking to put together a Commission that reflects the diversity of our Presbytery in age, geography, gender, ethnicity and outlook. The pandemic has slowed, but has not stopped, our progress. I hope to have the Commission appointed before the date of the May Presbytery meeting.

A Prayer for Holy Week
by bill leety

Make a joyful noise...,
all the earth.
(Ps. 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 work
places,
neighbors ask the old
if they can grocery
shop for them.

Earth turns and this
north hemisphere
spins

again towards spring.

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

April 10

Good Friday

Blessed Lord,
you come as guest and
family,
as outsider and one
beside us,
bringing more mercy
than we can swallow,
more love
than we can empty,

- **May 19th Presbytery Meeting Cancelled!**

The Coordinating Team of the Presbytery has decided to cancel the May Presbytery meeting due to the continuing problems caused by the coronavirus. This meeting will not be rescheduled and all business for the Presbytery will flow into the regularly scheduled September meeting. Thanks goes to the Broad Street Presbyterian Church for their willingness to host the May Presbytery meeting and for their understanding now that it has been cancelled.

PSV COMMISSION LEADERS READY TO ASSIST CONGREGATIONS AND PASTORS...

Your Presbytery leaders have been participating in Zoom meetings each Wednesday to continue to decide how best to support, guide and assist congregations and pastors during this difficult time of dealing with the danger and impact of the Coronavirus. One of the ways they are all offering assistance is to gather resource materials and ideas and post them on a new website designed just for this timely information and updates. You can reach this new website by clicking on: www.psvresources.org, or going to the Presbytery website and click on the link on the front page.

The PC(USA) continues to offer updated information for congregations in this challenging time. There is abundant information that can effectively guide us as we go through this pandemic at: <https://www.pcusa.org/covid19/>.

Please feel free to contact any of our presbytery leaders with your questions and concerns. The Presbytery Commission leaders are: Commission for Congregational Life; The Reverend Adam Anderson, Chairperson, email: pastor@oldstone.org; Commission for Church Professionals, Reverend Annie Melick, Chairperson, email: Annie@Melick.net; Commission for Nurture and Outreach, Reverend Mary Gause, Chairperson, email: mgause@overbrookchurch.org; Commission for Presbytery Operations, Jim Hines, Chairperson, email: jhines1116@gmail.com; Coordinating Team, Elder Carla Mavis, Chairperson, email; carla.mavis@gmail.com.

In addition, please feel free to contact the Reverend Jeannie Harsh, Executive Presbyter by email: Jeannie@psvonline.org, or cell: 614-562-1775.

more hope
than we can imagine.
Give a swig of the best
wine
to lift our spirits
and remind us
of past joys
and better days
in Jesus.

Sunday, April 12
Easter

Resurrection
of the Lord!

Calendar Update!

***The Art of
Transitional
Ministry Week 1***

has been Postponed
from May 3-7 to
August 30-Sept 3

Prayer Concern



Prayers of healing for the
Reverend Dr. Tom Martin,
Honorably Retired
Minister member of
Scioto Valley. Tom is
recovering from
surgery at
Willowbrook Christian
Home. Tom served as the
transitional pastor of
Dublin PC and the pastor
of Ostrander Presbyterian

NEWS FROM GLOBAL MISSION TEACHER/WORKER

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Holder Rich is offering to help you!



Cynthia Holder Rich

It was great to meet some of you when I presented a brief report about our work teaching in Tanzania during last September's Presbytery Meeting. I, a minister member of this Presbytery, is unexpectedly among you and staying in Columbus because of the global pandemic. Our employer (ELCA Global

Mission), like PCUSA World Mission, worked to bring many personnel to the US over the past couple weeks. When the Tanzanian government closed all the universities, the decision to return was made simple.

We are finding that life in the US right now resembles our experiences in Tanzania in some ways. A trip to the store reaps what they have, and often not what you wanted. We are able to call, and even see on the screen, friends and family members-but no matter how much we long to we can't go visit in person. I am writing this in a house on the north end of Franklin County-but coffee or lunch with friends and colleagues here is not a possibility. What IS possible is help for pastors and congregations-if you can see a way that I can be of service. The universities were closed on March 18 (and unlike here, moving all teaching online is not possible), so time is one thing I can give! Do you need someone to lead an online study? Preach an online sermon? Serve as an online liturgist? Help out with Holy Week services? Write prayers, develop liturgies, take part in prayer groups? Do you need a listening ear? How can I pray for you? Let me know at Cynthia.HolderRich@elca.org. I'll be glad to hear from you.

A Prayer for This Time of Social Isolation...

*God said, "...not good that a person
be alone..." Genesis 2:18*
Lord, in the weight of this sad time
when aware of the danger
we are to one another,
strengthen us for
the chore of isolating in sickness
and health together
in Jesus Christ
whose presence and touch
heals.

Church. Keep Tom and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

A Letter to our Presbytery of Scioto Valley Church Professionals (CCP)

From the Reverend Annie Melick, CCP Chairperson, [email: annie@melick.net](mailto:annie@melick.net)

Many of us find ourselves busier than ever in this strange season. As we head into Holy Week, I am praying for all of you! I pray that you find space for Sabbath rest each week. I pray that you have healthy boundaries in ministry. I pray that you are able to practice joy and thanksgiving in your call. If you need prayer or assistance of some kind, do not hesitate to contact me or Jeannie.

In addition, all pastors are invited to join in a Zoom meeting to check in with one another, share ideas, etc., on Thursdays at 2 pm. To join the meeting, click on the following link,

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/812694666?pwd=R0ZXMEkxZUJUY3p0YmdxUzZadGFMdz09>

Meeting ID: 812 694 666 Password: 980039 One tap mobile, +13126266799,,812694666#

Words of Gratitude...To Congregations and Leaders...From Jeannie Harsh

I am amazed at the good work you all are doing as you adjust to the many changes, we have to make in order to care for each other during this COVID-19 pandemic. I hear many stories about the new ways you are worshipping, and how you are supporting and caring for each other without putting any one at risk. I continue to be grateful for your creativity, commitment and resilience.

THE PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO VALLEY COMMISSION LEADERS' WEEKLY REPORT...

A Report from the April 1st ZOOM Meeting of the PSV Chairs for The Commission for Congregational Life, The Commission for Church Professionals, The Commission for Nurture and Outreach, The Commission for Presbytery Operations, The Coordinating Team, and PSV Staff (*Summarized by the Reverend Jeffrey A. Schooley, PSV Stated Clerk*)

April 1, 2020

Greetings Friends and Colleagues in Ministry,

As promised last week, the Commission chairs continue to meet weekly in order to seek ways to best serve the churches and members of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. This week, the Chairs focused on four main topics:

- Financial Opportunities for Churches
- May Presbytery Meeting
- Further Explanation of Our Rationale in Decision-Making
- Reminders

Financial Opportunities for Churches

We continue to hear stories of churches that are struggling financially since they are unable to meet in person. We're also pleased to hear many more reports of churches still receiving much of the same amount of offering as they would normally. Our recommendations, then, are guided by the call to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.

For churches that are worried about funds, we recommend the following:

- Again, as we mentioned last week, do not be afraid to spend down any reserves. It was God's faithfulness that created those reserves in the first place and using them to secure the financial well-being of staff people is a faithful use of those funds.
- Contact the Board of Pensions to work out a way to lessen current payments that are due. Call 1-800-773-7752.
- Investigate and consider applying for the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) from the Small Business Administration (SBA), which has recently received \$350 billion as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, passed by Congress earlier this week. Essentially, business of 500 or fewer employees (including churches) can apply for a loan of up to 2.5-times average monthly payroll expenses from the past year. This loan can also turn into a grant - and thus not be repaid - after six months of certain criteria are met.
- The PCUSA is holding a Zoom Webinar on PPP at 12 p.m. local time on Thursday, April 2. You can register for that webinar here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/9515853469562/WN_2x7BAEIS7KhNETwg2UDBQ
- Additionally, since this loan requires no real property collateral, it *does not* have to be approved by congregational vote and secure presbytery approval. Sessions *do* still need to vote to apply, but other aspects typical to securing a loan for a church do not apply.
- Finally, the Presbytery of Scioto Valley is working on its own loan/grant program to help churches out financially. Details about this will be forthcoming in future reports.

May Presbytery Meeting

- The Coordinating Team, who is authorized to call Presbytery Meetings, has voted to cancel the May Presbytery meeting at Broad Street Presbyterian Church. Should a meeting be necessary prior to our next Stated Meeting in September, the Coordinating Team will call a Special Meeting.
- Many of you may be wondering about the status of the Discernment and Design Administrative Commission that was created at the February 2020 Presbytery meeting. Moderator Mark Gauen is still working with the Advisory Selection Committee in identifying and securing this AC. This Commission will be formed as quickly as possible, though the pandemic is - naturally - raising some challenges in terms of being able to meet and secure commitments from would-be commissioners. Trust, though, that this important work is not being neglected, even in spite of current challenges.

More on Our Rationale

- The Commission Chairs want to make clear which sources of information are most important in our decision-making. While information and policies from the federal level are important in overcoming this pandemic, our primary focus is on local and state agencies and their guidance. We are, especially, attuned to Governor Mike DeWine and Director of Public Health, Dr. Amy Acton. As this virus progresses, it is even possible that we will see different counties or regions face different restrictions based upon the best epidemiological forecasting available. As such, we want to encourage every church to open up a line of communication with their local, county health department. To aid in this, the Stated Clerk has created a document with the website and phone number for the health departments of all 21 counties that comprise our Presbytery. This resource can be found under the "CCP" tab at our Presbytery's COVID-19 Resource page (www.psvresources.org). Again, the messaging from the federal level may be discouraging or it may be aspirational, but when it comes to making the best-informed decisions for the health and well-being of our Presbytery, we are focusing our attention on local and state-wide guidance.

Reminders

- Please do avail yourself of the resources found at www.psvresources.org. You are also encouraged to visit the PC (U.S.A.)'s COVID-19 resource page at www.pcusa.org/covid19. These sites have TONS of resources for helping make this a season in which our faith does not merely survive but thrives.
- Please commit to praying with the Commission Chairs for all the pastors and candidates for ministry in the Presbytery. This pandemic has raised logistical difficulties for churches where pastors were seeking to retire, for contracted pastors whose contracts have expired (or will soon expire), and for CREs who are often working in professional fields in addition to serving churches. Please also keep candidates for ministry in your prayer as their season of searching for and discerning a call has been interrupted in ways that none of us have previously experienced. Obviously, everyone needs some prayers right now, but we want to highlight clergy and clergy-candidates who were already facing a season of transition who have now had a new season of change interrupt that one.

As always, if we can be of service to you in any way, never hesitate to reach out.

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

May 19, 2020 Presbytery Meeting Cancelled!

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

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. Watch for more information!!!