

# Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Mid-Week E-News May 7, 2020

[www.psvonline.org](http://www.psvonline.org)

## *The Presbytery* OF SCIOTO VALLEY

Mission and Vision Statement

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

### **PRESBYTERY NEWS and May Calendar...**



#### ***Presbytery Office Remains Closed...***

Although the Presbytery Office is closed, the Presbytery staff persons continue to work remotely and separately. They are available and can be contacted through email or phone messages.

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

### **RESOURCES for SCIOTO VALLEY CONGREGATIONS**

**PSV Resource Website...** This recently created website, [www.psvresources.org](http://www.psvresources.org), contains timely information, creative ideas and resources gathered by your presbytery leaders. You can also reach this website from our Presbytery website. Don't miss this opportunity to find helpful information and resources for all areas of your church life and ministries. These continually updated materials and resources are designed to provide information and resources for all areas of your church life and ministries.

#### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL RESOURCES AND IDEAS...**

As we move into summer, here is a helpful piece on VBS: <https://hope4ce.net/2020/05/06/is-vbs-to-be-part-of-your-re-entry/>

#### **FROM THE PSV COORDINATING TEAM...**

*Elder Carla Mavis, Chairperson*

***"Be Still and Know that I am God"*** Psalm 46:10.

This scripture is one of my favorite Bible verses. Until now, it meant something totally different to me. Our current world situation is forcing a stillness on us that is unlike any we have ever known.

As the chair of the Presbytery Coordinating Team, I am so proud of all the work that continues to grow out of this group of leaders. Each Presbytery commission is listening, creating, and reaching out to all of you in many different ways to provide resources, connect needs and respond to questions with information and answers. We continue to

## MAY



### Thursday, May 7

National Day of Prayer

"The Lord builds up  
Jerusalem;  
he gathers the outcasts  
of Israel." Psalm 147:2

It is not complicated:  
by breaking off  
closeness  
with everyone  
for a short time,  
we make the community  
whole,  
by scattering  
to our homes  
for just a while,  
we will be able  
to gather for a new  
Pentecost of hope!

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### Thursday Afternoons

#### 1 pm Zoom Meeting Informal Gathering for PSV Pastors

To join, email Annie  
Melick  
for information:  
[annie@melick.net](mailto:annie@melick.net)

explore through denominational resources and other available information to help you and your church family as you move forward to revitalize our members with a new vision of what God's people in the church will look like.

While we contemplate the future in the church, one important review is your general liability with your insurance provider for guidance as you make the decision to reopen. The following is a quote from a document supplied to us from Gibbs and Associates Law Firm.

"The chance of your ministry being sued over reopening is incredibly high, and your ministry must be prepared. Without sufficient insurance, the church could possibly be held directly financially responsible for any damages. The amount of damages in a wrongful death case can be extremely high and could potentially bankrupt smaller churches. Unfortunately, there is even the chance that your church officers could be held personally liable for the damages, particularly if you chose to ignore a governmental order." Please do the preparation needed in your own situation. It is vital to the life of your congregation.

There will continue to be more resources and helpful guidance coming from your commissions. Your Presbytery leaders are working hard to support and serve each of you as we travel together through this wilderness time.

**Technology Support Grants for Congregations...**The Presbytery Commission for Congregational Life (CCL) has allocated funding for up to \$500 reimbursement grants to any church in the Presbytery for purchased materials that assist pastors and congregations in reaching out to members through technology during the COVID-19 Crisis. Items can be purchased anytime between March 8 and August 31, 2020. You can send receipts to the Presbytery Office or email to [dagmar@psvonline.org](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org) with a description of why you purchased the items. If you have questions, email Adam Anderson, chair of Congregational Life: [pastor@oldstone.org](mailto:pastor@oldstone.org).

**PSV Facebook Page News...**The PSV Facebook page is a great way to see events, meetings, resources, information and educational opportunities offered in and through the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. The chairpersons of our Presbytery Commissions, the Coordinating Team and the Moderator of Scioto Valley Presbyterian Women all have access to post information on the PSV Facebook page.

For questions or further information, email Christine Burns, [cvanderkooi45695@gmail.com](mailto:cvanderkooi45695@gmail.com).

**Sunday, May 10**

Mother's Day

**Monday, May 11**

3 pm Zoom Meeting  
CCL and CCP

**Tuesday, May 12**

3 pm Zoom Meeting  
Commission for  
Presbytery Operations

**May 17**

Presbyterian Heritage  
Mission Worker Sunday

Tuesday, May 19

4 pm Zoom Meeting  
PSV Coordinating Team

**May 24**

Intercultural Church  
Sunday

**Monday, May 25**

Memorial Day

**May 31**

**Day of Pentecost**



Pentecost Offering  
(for Ministries with  
children,  
youth and young adults)

**Board of Pensions offers dues relief** and deferments to churches and employers. The PCUSA Board of Pensions is extending dues relief and other assistance to churches and employers as we move through the COVID-19 crisis. Any church or employer experiencing economic hardship is encouraged to contact the Board. For further information, visit: [pensions.org](http://pensions.org).

**A Thank you to PSV Congregations**

*From Dagmar Romage, PSV Administrative Assistant*

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) is grateful for your continued financial support. Please know that your faithful giving allows us to continue the ministry and mission of this presbytery and support programs throughout the denomination.



**A Prayer from Chautauqua's Interfaith Family**

--Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB

GOD OF LIGHT AND GOD OF MYSTERY,  
GIVE US THE FAITH TO SEE YOU IN THE GREY  
DIMNESS OF THIS TIME.

GIVE US THE HEART TO HEAR, IN THE SILENCE  
OF THE SICK, THE CALL TO CARE FOR THOSE IN PAIN.

GIVE US THE COURAGE TO FIND YOU  
WHERE YOU DO NOT NOW APPEAR TO BE.

GIVE US THE TRUST IT TAKES TO MAKE OUR WAY  
THROUGH THIS UNCERTAINTY, THIS FEAR,  
THIS SEEMINGLY IRREDEEMABLE SENSE OF  
LIMITLESS LOSS TO THE RECOGNITION OF THE  
RELENTLESS HOPE THAT EACH SEASONAL CYCLE OF  
LIFE CONFIRMS IN US.

YOU WHO MADE ALL THINGS FOR OUR GOOD AND  
OUR GROWTH, SHOW US, TOO, NOW, THE POWER OF  
DARKNESS, SO THAT WE MIGHT SEE NEWLY-  
BEYOND THE EPHEMERAL- TO WHAT ARE REALLY  
THE GLORIOUSLY IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE.

## Pentecost Special Offering...

The four Special Offerings of the PC(USA) are each connected to a season of the church year. These Offerings engage congregations in ministries of compassion, justice, Christian formation, education, peacemaking, and global witness. The Pentecost Offering is normally promoted and received on Pentecost Sunday in May. The Offering is divided into the following categories: 40% supports youth in your own church; 25% serves young adult volunteers; 25% supports ministries with youth; 10% provides advocacy that protects and nurtures children and youth. Information and resources are available at [presbyterianmission.org/Pentecost](http://presbyterianmission.org/Pentecost)

## RESOURCES FROM PSV COMMISSION CHAIRS AND PRESBYTERY LEADERS

As churches begin to cautiously consider re-opening to in-person worship and church activities, please keep in mind the presbytery's guidance...

- "The Least of These: Guidelines for Churches in a Pandemic" - which can be found here: <https://psvresources.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/least-of-these.pdf>
- Churches would be wise to abide by Ohio's official guidance for Consumer, Retail and Services: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Consumer-Retail-Services.pdf>
- The Presbytery has a COVID-19 Resources website that is updated regularly. Please visit [www.psvresources.org](http://www.psvresources.org) for a variety of information related to every aspect of congregational life. Good resources can also be emailed to any of the Commission chairs. Building this site out is a collective, connectional work.

- The PCUSA, similarly, has its own resource page at [www.pcusa.org/covid19](http://www.pcusa.org/covid19). Please continue to check it out.
- Finally, stay connected, share resources, and share stories through our Presbytery's Facebook Page. Just search for "Presbytery of Scioto Valley" or go directly to [www.facebook.com/You.R.Presbytery](http://www.facebook.com/You.R.Presbytery). Like and Follow us to stay in the loop!

### **PERSONAL THOUGHTS ABOUT IN-PERSON WORSHIP...**

*Reverend Jeff Schooley, PSV Stated Clerk and Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Marysville*

As churches weigh remaining in some form of online/virtual worship or returning to highly regulated in-person worship, I find myself inspired by some insights that Rev. Nathan Custer, the pastor at First United Methodist Church in Marysville, Ohio shared with me. (Naturally, it pains me to point out that a Methodist had a really great insight before me, a Presbyterian). Nathan and I have worked closely together during this pandemic, seeking to encourage one another and to commiserate in the chaos. In a recent conversation, he reported that his leadership board had agreed to remain online for worship because no one could get excited about an in-person service that had no singing, no hugs, required face masks, and utilized social distancing. It was, he reported, a bleak-sounding sort of service and not at all what we desire our weekly celebration of Jesus' resurrection over death to be. But then he noted that they might return - at the earliest, in June - to some sort of Sunday morning, in-person gathering, but that they weren't going to call it "worship" or a "church service." He rightly reasoned that these words set a reasonable expectation in people's minds and when those expectations are systematically and intentionally not met, the only result could be discontent and more sorrow (as well as a distinct chance for frustration and anger). Instead, by doing something different - and intentionally rebranding and messaging it as something different - people will arrive merely with a come-and-see mentality, which will leave them more open to a different blessing their God has in store for them than the one they're used to receiving. Nathan's right. It's more than mere marketing. It's about setting holy expectations in line with the times and circumstances in which we live. Maybe no church will go back to "worship" (or that worship will remain online), but the idea that small, safe groups of gathering Christians can hear the Word read and meditated upon, could spend time in prayer, could just spend time in expectant silence - well, that seems like a holy offering worth pursuing and receiving. Will it be worship? Not as we normally think about that word. Will God still be glorified in it? Yes!

## PASTORS OF PSV WEEKLY CHAT MEETING ON ZOOM

*Reverend Ann Melick, Presbytery Commission for Church Professionals*

Join our online chats on Thursdays to give and receive encouragement and practical advice during this unusual time of ministry. Beginning on April 16, we will meet at 1 pm each Thursday.

<https://zoom.us/j/588789104?pwd=cDBEUm8yYnNIS0RUk3dwZG5KVFMvZz09>

Meeting ID: 588 789 104, Password: 463317, One tap  
mobile+13126266799,,588789104#

## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Grants Assistance...

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) (PDA) has recently granted 208 requests for assistance in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic for a total of \$1,119,688 in grants. Read more:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-disaster-assistance-approves-more-than-1-1-million-in-covid-19-grants>

## 224th General Assembly of the PCUSA On-Line



For the first time in the history of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the 2020 PC(USA) General Assembly will be held online only. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) approved a plan for a reduced assembly gathering that will require everyone involved - commissioners, advisory delegates, corresponding members and staff - to participate in a shortened and digital assembly. Read more...

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2020/4/21/224th-general-assembly-be-conducted-online-only>

## Covenant Gathering 2020 "BUILDING PEACE VIRTUALLY", July 12 to July 17

News from Carla Mavis: *The Annual Covenant Gathering event is still happening, but with a twist*

The community of God's beloved children cares for the neighbor, the stranger, and one another. So...the Covenant Gathering Design Team has determined that CG 2020 will need to be held virtually! No, it's not what we wanted to do. But we gather virtually now so that when we come back together in person, no one is missing. We're still working on details. Stay tuned on the [www.covenantgathering.com](http://www.covenantgathering.com)



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

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!!!