

# Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Mid-Week E-News May 14, 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"***

### MAY Calendar...

May



#### Thursdays

1 pm  
Zoom Meeting  
Informal  
Conversation for  
PSV Pastors

#### May 17

Presbyterian  
Heritage

Mission Worker  
Sunday

#### Tuesday May 19

1 pm  
PSV Nominating  
Committee  
Zoom Meeting

### Struggles and Insights as We Reopen the Church

*Rev. Mark Gauen, Moderator, Presbytery of Scioto Valley*

As the state has begun relaxing the pandemic restrictions, businesses and organizations have begun the process of reopening. Churches are doing the same, including my church, Westerville-First. Like every church we sought guidance from the state, from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), from the Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV), from other churches, from anywhere we could find it. Most of the guidance was informative. Much of the guidance was repeated over and over. Some of guidance was contradicted by other guidance. All of the guidance was helpful. However, what we discovered was that while all the statements from the CDC and the State of Ohio and PSV and every other source was necessary, it was not sufficient. For what we learned was that while such guidance informed our decisions, it was the process of wrestling with those decisions that was most important. As we discussed when and how we should reopen our church, the enormity of the task became apparent. As we began to picture worship in our setting under social distancing rules, we began to see that things would not be anything like what we were imagining. When we realized that there were many in our congregation who could not and would not join in any group gatherings any time soon, we were forced to ask ourselves how do we minister to them and with them in the weeks and months to come. As we considered those questions, we realized that we were also considering larger questions of who we are as a church and to what ministries is God calling us. The words from Revelation came to mind, "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'" Sometimes when we wrestle with the problems we face, God reveals something new, and we discover new opportunities to share the good news. We are learning this truth, right now!

**Tuesday  
May 19**

4 pm  
PSV Coordinating  
Team Zoom  
Meeting

**May 24**

Intercultural  
Church Sunday

**May 25**

Memorial Day

**Tuesday  
May 26**

1 pm  
PSV Commission  
for Nurture and  
Outreach Zoom  
Meeting

**May 31**

**Day of Pentecost**

Pentecost  
Offering

(for Ministries with  
children, youth and  
young adults)

**Synod of the  
Covenant News...**

*Reverend Dr. Charles  
"Chip" Hardwick,  
Interim Executive*



Chip Hardwick

**Matthew 25 Church Event co-sponsored by First  
Presbyterian Church of London and Presbytery of Scioto  
Valley Commission for Nurture and Outreach**

Our denomination is encouraging congregations to become Matthew 25 churches. As a Matthew 25 church, we are called to live out true discipleship by acting boldly, compassionately and fearlessly serving people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. To some degree, many churches are already doing the work of Matthew 25, which includes Eradicating Systemic Poverty, Dismantling Structural Racism and Building Congregational Vitality. Let's come together to share our stories, be inspired with new ideas, and learn more about this Matthew 25 movement on Saturday, May 30 from 10 am to noon on Zoom.



More details about the event can be found at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/709954913143734/>

**Rose Run Presbyterian Church Member is Sharing a new  
Sanitizing Protocol Method...**

Rose Run Presbyterian Church member, Robert Howard, is a chemist with a company called Victory Elements, which markets a biocide that is approved for killing coronavirus on hard surfaces. Robert worked up a sanitizing protocol for Rose Run PC and is open to visiting with churches that are looking for a solution for sanitizing worship spaces as we begin to return to our sanctuaries.

Videos for this product can be found at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJfxL7HYMT0g0sgJLcTtGuqMRKUTQD5bM>

For questions, or more information, contact Rose Run Transitional Pastor, the Reverend Frank LeBlanc, (614) 289-3444(office) or cell: (501) 208-3747.

**RESOURCES for SCIOTO VALLEY CONGREGATIONS**

**PSV Resource Website...**The Presbytery leaders have recently created a website, [www.psvresources.org](http://www.psvresources.org), which contains timely information, creative ideas and resources gathered by your presbytery leaders. You can also reach this website from our Presbytery website. These continually updated materials and resources are designed to provide information and resources for all areas of your church life and ministries, especially during this pandemic time.

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

As we move into summer, here is a helpful piece on VBS:

<https://hope4ce.net/2020/05/06/i-s-vbs-to-be-part-of-your-re-entry/>

Rev. Chip Hardwick, who has served as the director of theology, worship, and education for the Presbyterian Mission Agency of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and most recently, interim pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, Illinois, has begun his work as the Interim Executive for the Synod of the Covenant. Chip is already busy connecting with pastors and leaders in the Presbyteries in the Synod of the Covenant.  
Welcome Chip!

*Thanks for your Continued Financial Support...*

Christine Burns, PSV  
Commission for Presbytery  
Operations (CPO)

Despite the difficulty our congregations are experiencing amid the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our congregations are practicing the full expression of faithful stewardship and support of the connection and mission the church through their submission of their per capita. Thank you hardly seems enough to say. It is especially inspiring, and

**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).

**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).

expression of hope in the future, that congregations have continued to pay per capita when they are looking at budgetary cuts caused by the virus. The world is uncertain, there are few concrete answers, but we can be sure that God walks with us and we walk with one another through this tumultuous time in history. Your payment of per capita supports our journey through this together as connectional denomination. Through your support, the presbytery is able to support and reach out to every congregation.

#### *A Message from Jeannie Harsh, Executive Presbyter*

Recently members of our presbytery have received fake requests for help from me. Please know that I have not emailed anyone requesting a favor or personal requests. Please do not respond to any of these email requests! In addition, the email address used for me is a Gmail account which I do not have. Please call the Presbytery Office if you have questions about these fake requests.

#### **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!

## 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!!!

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

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley  
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