

Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Mid-Week E-News May 21, 2020

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 Gathering and
Conversation for
PSV Pastors

May 24

Intercultural Church Sunday

Pentecost marks the
beginning of the church
as an intercultural
community of faith
whose members praise
God in many
languages.

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day

Reverend Jeff Schooley, PSV Stated Clerk Resigns

Greetings colleagues. I have tendered my resignation as Stated Clerk to the Presbytery of Scioto Valley to the Human Resources Committee on Friday, May 15 (effective Sunday, May 31). I do so with regrets for the brevity of my time in this position, but under the sincere conviction that I am not a good fit for the position at this time. I love this Presbytery enough to want the best for it - even if what is best for it comes at a personal and professional sacrifice. I have appreciated the time I've spent in this position and hope that my service has been beneficial to you and glorifying to God. However, it is now time for me to step away and allow someone else this privilege and honor.



Jeff Schooley

PRAYERS FOR A TIME SUCH AS THIS...

Reverend Thom Shuman, Pastor, Galloway PC
Reverend Adam Anderson, Pastor, Delaware Old Stone PC

How shall we pray this morning?

So many things to fear these days,
God of our feelings,
all the unknowns around us,
all the competing voices,
all the questions which no one
seems able or willing to answer,
the worries about what might lie
outside our doors if we step out.
but the witness of our faith ancestors
is that whatever unknowns they faced,
that is where they found you, whispering, 'be not afraid.'
How shall we pray this morning?

Tuesday, May 26

1 pm

PSV Commission for
Nurture and Outreach
Zoom Meeting

5:30 pm

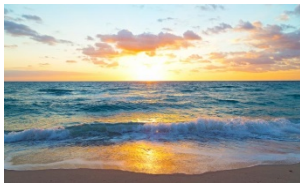
PSV WUM Meeting
Westside Urban Ministry

May 31

Day of Pentecost

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

JUNE



Monday, June 1

12:30 pm

PSV CCP
Zoom Meeting
Commission for Church
Professionals

3 pm

PSV CCL
Zoom Meeting
Commission for
Congregational Life

Monday, June 8

3 pm

PSV CPO
Zoom Meeting
Commission for
Presbytery Operations

We are frightened when we wake up,
Jesus who walks with us,
frightened to turn on the news,
frightened to open up the curtains,
frightened of the storms which bring
flooding into our neighborhoods and towns,
frightened of those who seem to not care
that folks around them will put their lives
at risk so they can go drinking, partying, shopping.
yet from the moment of your birth,
throughout your life, your stories, even your death,
you have called us over and over,
'be not afraid.'

How shall we pray this morning?

Scared, that is it in a nutshell, in one
simple word, Spirit of our souls,
we are scared as we move through the day,
scared that we finally cannot endure the boredom
for even one more moment,
scared that today, no matter how we have resisted,
that we will finally and completely fall apart,
scared that finally, despite every precaution we take,
we will end up with the virus inside of us.
remind
us that, in every story you tell us,
of every person who endured every fear we know
that they heard your still, small voice challenging them
'be not afraid.'

How shall we pray this morning?

O God, whisper to us, 'be not afraid,'
O Jesus, call to us, 'be not afraid,'
O Spirit, challenge us, 'be not afraid,'
so that today, and tomorrow, and all the days
to come, we truly can live unafraid. Amen

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Our Bones are Dry...

We are doing the best we can to be a good Christians, good
workers, good spouses, good parents, good people. We try
to balance all of the emotions we have,
all the emotions others have.

Our bones are dry.

We lament a church distanced. Sanctuaries sanitized and
touch denied. We worry about those the fear of those who

**Tuesday, June 16
1 pm**

PSV Nominating Com.
Zoom Meeting

4 pm
PSV CT

Coordinating Team
Zoom Meeting

**224th General
Assembly of the
PCUSA**

A Virtual Assembly!

Details to be announced
soon!



**Presbyterian Women
in the Synod of the
Covenant...**

**SUMMER EVENT
CANCELLED!**



The PW Synod Gathering
scheduled for July 17 and
18, 2020 has been
cancelled. The next Synod
Gathering will be in 2022
as next year 2021
Churchwide meets in St.
Louis, Missouri.

care too much, and we worry about the arrogance of those who don't care enough.

Our bones are dry.

They rattle, creak, remind us of everything that is yet to come and whether we are up to the task.

Our bones are dry.

But yet Breath comes. It sweeps over you and over me. It brings sinew, muscle. We are animated by Spirit, holy wind, dancing.

Our bones are dry.

But there is life. So says the LORD.

As we continue through this time, we may experience the valley of dry bones more than ever, and we want to feel the Breath of God on us as a community of believers. We hear ourselves in the house of Israel: "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely."

As a presbytery, we hope to continue to provide good guidance, like the letter that went out to pastors and clerks yesterday. We are all together in the same hope, and continue to find ways to be connected as we've always been but perhaps too easily take for granted.

Yet in the midst of all of this, we seek life. We discern the ways sinew and muscle can dance again safely. It's not easy, of course, but it is what God has called us to in this moment.

Our bones are dry.

But there is life. So says the LORD. Amen!

(Reverend Adam Anderson, Delaware Old Stone PC)

Free Commentaries on the Books of the Bible...A Gift from Reverend Rawley Boone...

Commentaries on the books of the Bible are available free for the asking: Genesis - Towner; Isaiah - Westermann and Kaiser; Jeremiah - Bright; John - R.Brown; Acts - Willimon; Romans - Barrett; Philippians - Craddock; Epistles of John - Dodd; Revelation - Caird. For information, contact Rawley Boone at rboone@insdight.rr.com or call 614-418-5031.

Back to Worship Guidelines: Singing in Church: Reverend Neil MacQueen

I recently came across several important articles about the dangers of SINGING when churches get back together. It's something I have not seen in a lot of the "back to worship" guidelines, yet it is being talked about by some in the church and in the choral world.

The [American Choral Director's Association and National Association of Teachers of Singing](#) panel of experts recommend against singing together in public even with masks until a vaccine is distributed. they called singers "Super Spreaders" because of the forceful expiration. Imagine the implications.

[This church music director's article](#) says pretty much the same thing, but with the research included (she's a PHD in vocal/voice science). Her conclusion has some suggestions for churches. You can read my [summary here at rotation.org](#) for our Christian education audience as they contemplate children's ministry and summer VBS programs. It includes links to the articles.

Zoom Meeting: May 30, 10 a.m. - Noon 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/>

For more information, visit www.psvonline.org.

Talking Points for a Virtual Zoom Meeting...Larry Hollar, Stated Clerk, Miami Valley PBY

Instruction on using Zoom for a virtual presbytery meeting. For more information: <https://psvonline.org/publication/clerk-talking-points-for-a-virtual-meeting>

You are Invited to...JOIN IN A VIRTUAL CHOIR...

Adam Garner, music director of Condit Presbyterian in Sunbury is looking to reach out to other choir directors for the formation of a **virtual choir!** Performances would be shared with all congregations and directors will meet together (virtually) to pick pieces. All those interested can contact me at garneradam@gmail.com or 740-739-0002.

RESOURCES for SCIOTO VALLEY CONGREGATIONS

PSV Resource Website...The Presbytery leaders have recently created a website, 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/>

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 with a description of why you purchased the items. If you have questions, email Adam Anderson, chair of Congregational Life: pastor@oldstone.org.

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.

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.



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 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. 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. 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>

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

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>

**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. Telephone: 614-847-0565 or 800-244-7207; Fax: 614-847-4359

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