

Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Mid-Week E-News June 4, 2020

www.psvonline.org

The Presbytery OF SCIOTO VALLEY

Mission and Vision Statement

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

June Calendar...



JUNE

Thursdays

1 pm Zoom Meeting
Informal Gathering and
Timely Conversation for
All PSV Pastors

Thursday, June 4

1:30 pm
Christian Educators
Zoom Gathering

Monday, June 8

3 pm
PSV CPO Zoom Meeting
Commission for
Presbytery Operations

Celebrating June Ordination Anniversaries for Pastors in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley

One of the ministries of the Presbytery Commission for Church Professionals is to support the minister members in our Presbytery. One of the ways to support these faithful servants is to celebrate their ordination anniversaries. This month we recognize and lift up in prayer the following ministers who are celebrating the anniversaries of their ordinations to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the month of June.



Congratulations to...

The Reverend Robert C. Briley (6-1-1966)
The Reverend Theresa C. Gifford (6-1-1974)
The Reverend Frank E. Hare (6-1-1955)
The Reverend Julian Taggart (6-1-1972)
The Reverend Otto M. Zingg (6-1-1962)
The Reverend Sydney (Skip)V. Jackson (6-2-1991)
The Reverend Neil MacQueen (6-2-1985)
The Reverend Michael O. Wilson (6-2-1985)
The Reverend Dr. Alan D. Wendt (6-3-1973)
The Reverend John Stull (6-4-1961)
The Reverend Judith M. Hoffhine (6-5-1988)
The Reverend Dr. Robert J. Armstrong (6-6-1957)
The Reverend James Gray Marshall (6-7-2009)
The Reverend Dr. George O. Mehaffey (6-7-1957)
The Reverend Jane P. Mykrantz (6-9-1980)
The Reverend Richard G. Riedel (6-11-1959)
The Reverend Susan Warren Smith (6-11-1995)
The Reverend Gareth D Baker (6-13-1957)
The Reverend Dr. Timothy Jones (6-13-1965)

Tuesday, June 16

1 pm

PSV Nominating Com.
Zoom Meeting

4 pm

PSV CT
Coordinating Team
Zoom Meeting

5:30 pm

**Commissioning of PSV
Commissioners to the
224th General
Assembly**



**224th General
Assembly of the
PCUSA**

A Virtual Assembly

June 19 and 26-27

We hold in prayer our
Presbytery's
Commissioners to the
224th General Assembly:

Mark Gauzen; Kae
Merold; Kathi Bubb; and
Sarah Juist.

Milo Browne, YAAD.

**224th General
Assembly Theme:**

From Lament to Hope.

June 19, 26-27, 2020

(An Online Assembly!)

Scioto Valley's
Commissioners to this
year's General Assembly
are experiencing

The Reverend Robin W. Obetz (6-13-1999)
The Reverend Steven B. Brand (6-14-2009)
The Reverend Jeffrey A. Schooley (6-14-2014)
The Reverend Rawley D. Boone (6-15-1966)
The Reverend Francis R. Nagy (6-15-1956)
The Reverend Donn F. Vickers (6-17-1962)
The Reverend Harold L. Clark (6-18-1960)
The Reverend Jonathan T. Carlisle (6-19-1977)
The Reverend Sarah Juist (6-20-2015)
The Reverend Carroll C. Meyer (6-20-1971)
The Reverend Dr. Linda Mercadante (6-21-1987)
The Reverend William J. Eldridge (6-22-1984)
The Reverend Jeffrey P. Jaynes (6-22-1980)
The Reverend Mark E. Parsons (6-23-2019)
The Reverend Edward Sensenbrenner (6-24-1962)
The Reverend Justice Agyemang Ofosuene (6-25-2006)
The Reverend Dr. Thomas J. Mori (6-26-1962)
The Reverend W. Donald Pendell (6-26-1955)
The Reverend Dr. Jason Link (6-27-2004)
The Reverend Ronald Botts (6-28-1970)
The Reverend Charlise Ramsey (6-28-1998)
The Reverend Marion T. Redding (6-29-1980)
The Reverend Adam W. Anderson (6-30-2018)
The Reverend Sharon Sauer (6-30-1991)

Presbyterian Peace Camp, June 18-27, 2020

From Reverend Lucy Waechter Webb

All Presbyterians are invited to delve into some of the most pressing issues of our world. Participants will engage in teach-ins on issues that would've been discussed at General Assembly including fossil fuel divestment, gun violence prevention, and other peacemaking issues. We will hold a vigil to begin and end our time together, which will be a dedicated space for grief and prayer. And every morning participants will receive a devotional in their inbox. We want our time together to be life-giving and joyous!

For the schedule, more information, and registration, visit <http://bit.ly/ppf-peacecamp>

If you're interested in promoting Peace Camp, feel free to use this blurb: *Are you interested in social justice issues? Do you wonder how environmental justice issues intersect with the Presbyterian faith? Are you looking for a week of virtual fun and joy? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you're in luck! Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and Fossil Free PCUSA will be hosting Presbyterian Peace Camp: A Virtual Week of Learning, Prayer, & Action June 18-27! Peace Camp is taking place during the week of General Assembly so that Presbyterians-*

preparing for GA like it has never been experienced before. For the first time in our denomination's history, GA will be held totally online. As COVID-19 has ravaged all of our lives, the Office of the General Assembly has made decisions recognizing that these unusual times prevent us from living into who we are. As our commissioners prepare for this unprecedented experience, the careful consideration of essential business is being placed at the forefront. They are being trained to be able to participate in the Assembly, with voice and vote, in a secure environment from homes, offices, or other safe spaces to act on a list of critical business items. Our prayers are with our commissioners as they enter into this important work of the church.

Christian Educators' Conversation...

Those involved in education at their local churches are invited to join a Zoom conversation today, June 4 at 1:30 pm to share ideas, questions and concerns about summer and fall programming for faith formation for all ages. Contact Kathi Bubb for information or questions.

kathibubb@gmail.com.

commissioners and others alike-can put our faith into action alongside the GA business meetings. Campers will have the opportunity to join in vigils, teach-ins on social and ecological issues, and receive a daily devotional to your inbox. More info and registration at bit.ly/ppf-peacecamp

Matthew 25 Presbytery-Wide Event Well-Received!

The First Presbyterian Church of London and the Presbytery of Scioto Valley Commission for Nurture and Outreach sponsored an inspiring and informative online Zoom seminar on the denominational focus on Matthew 25. Speaker Chris Roseland, PCUSA Mission Agency Advisor, led the conversation on Saturday morning, May 30. This interactive presentation encouraged and challenged all participants to work toward Eradicating Systematic Poverty, Dismantling Structural Racism, and Building Congregational Vitality. The video of this event is available on the Presbytery website in the Commission for Nurture and Outreach section. Thanks to the planners and leaders of this event for an excellent program! Watch for follow-up events on these topics.

WHAT IS GOD CALLING US TO NOW?

Reverend Adam Anderson, PSV Commission for Congregational Life Chairperson, Pastor, Old Stone Presbyterian Church

As this newsletter heads to your inbox this morning, many of you are thinking critically about your plans for re-entering your worship spaces or planning alternatives to ensure that your communities can enjoy just a little bit of a "new normal." Checklists are being formed, compromises are being negotiated, all with the aim of protecting the most vulnerable among us.

Now, we are trying to finalize our plans amidst a backdrop of domestic unrest and violence that cannot be equaled in recent memory. Our hearts are pulled in myriad directions, and we grow ever wearier.

I wonder what God may be calling us to now?

What better time to witness the brokenness of this world than when we must stay away from the safety of our sanctuaries? What more honest time to learn what it means to be a people seeking deliverance when we live in exile?

Pastors, what better way to speak the Spirit's words ablaze in your heart but to the camera that will not avert its gaze as you proclaim?

Peace and Prayers

To the family, friends, and colleagues of the Reverend Georgiana (Jan) Williams. Jan, who has been in failing health, died last week. Jan was an honorably retired minister member of Scioto Valley and formerly served as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Ironton.

The Reverend Tom Rice and family in the recent death of Tom's mother.

The Reverend Robert Martin and family in the recent death of Rob's mother.

A Prayer for Wisdom and Strength...



God of Wisdom and Strength, we are a broken people, too often couched in the traditions that have oppressed our sisters and brothers.

We have become trapped in systems of racism preventing your people from the opportunities you have promised all of us. We have embraced our self-serving ways and left behind those who

People of the church, what better time to have those prophetic words afflict your soul than in a place of safety where you can reflect?

And what better time for each and all of us to silence ourselves and listen than when we must refrain from lifting our song?

God has always seemed to have a clever way - from the tower of Babel to the temple courts - of refocusing our efforts to what we are truly called to do. It would seem that moment is upon us again. What message would it be to our culture to proclaim that our doors will remain shut until "thy Kingdom come, thy will be done" isn't simply theological window dressing but truly believed and enacted?

I doubt any of us have the ability - or perhaps more cynically, courage - to do so, and it must be our work of confession to determine which is true. But I believe moving forward without placing the needs of the oppressed front and center comes at our peril. The words of God through Amos still ring true as he spoke in a land eerily similar to ours: without the roar of the waters of justice, God reviles our worship. And after all the hard work to get to where we can reopen, how awful it would be for our lack of vision and action to be the thing that prevents God from hearing our prayers?

So, then, let us seek to be a balm to others first over our own comforts. Let us see this time as *Kairos* and be diligent in being the church that is present to where God would call us. If we can do so, I believe that the church may begin to be the place we've prayed it so often to be.

2020 New Wilmington Mission Conference

Goes Virtual, July 17-19, 2020

For the first time in its 115 years, the popular New Wilmington Mission Conference will meet on-line, July 17-19. This no-charge mission conference will offer programming for all ages. "Because we are an international conference bringing people together from around the globe, and because we do not want to put any of our participants at risk, we have made the decision to move to a virtual platform for 2020," said the Rev. Ginny Teitt, director of NWMC and organizing pastor of [Concord Presbyterian Church](#) near Columbus, Ohio. "We hope to capture the fun and joy that is often a part of the morning meeting, and we

have too long been without voice and choice. We continue to enjoy our comforts and privilege and turn our eyes and hearts away from our brothers and sisters. Forgive us, and mend us, Oh God. Move us beyond our comforts and inspire us through your Holy Spirit to stand up for, and along-side, our brothers and sisters in Christ. Help us to love as we are loved by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

hope to provide opportunities for the meaningful interaction that has made the NWMC dear to so many for so long." Additional information will be available about this conference at the website: www.nwmcmission.org.

Resources for Churches in Addressing Systemic Racism...

Reverend Mary Gause, Chairperson, PSV Commission for Nurture and Outreach, CNO

A significant resource that includes websites/podcasts/ etc that are VERY helpful!!!!!!

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BRIF2_zhNe86SGgHa6-VIBO-QgirITwCTugSfKie5Fs/mobilebasic

Here is a beginning place for churches seeking to address systemic racism.

It is by no means exhaustive. As we move forward and LISTEN to our neighbors, we hope to add to this list:

PCUSA: Matthew 25 Initiative for dismantling Structural Racism - resources from PCUSA website <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/racism/>

Video of Matthew 25 Zoom Event from 5/30/2020

<https://psvonline.org/presbytery-leadership/nurture-outreach-commission/forms-resources-no/>.

#Black Lives Matter Resources (from Presbyterian Outlook) <https://pres-outlook.org/2016/08/blacklivesmatter-resource-list/>

Ted Talk - List of Ted Talks concerned with helping understand racism (of special note: Ted Talks by Bryan Stevenson as well as Chimamanda Adichie)

https://www.ted.com/playlists/250/talks_to_help_you_understand_r

Just Mercy - During the month of June, film available for streaming for free on multiple formats as a tool against systemic racism

<https://twitter.com/JustMercyFilm?>

National Museum of African American History - Resources compiled by the Smithsonian Museum in DC <https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race>

21-day Racial Ethnic challenge - an intentional practice of reading, watching, listening, and reflecting upon the voices often unheard.

<https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge>

An Antiracist Reading List (NY Times)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/29/books/review/antiracist-reading-list-ibram-x-kendi.html>

Children Resources www.teachingtolerance.org

Racial Stereotypes in media

[https://mediasmarts.ca/sites/mediasmarts/files/pdfs/tipsheet/TipSheet TalkingKidsRacial Stereotypes.pdf](https://mediasmarts.ca/sites/mediasmarts/files/pdfs/tipsheet/TipSheet_TalkingKidsRacialStereotypes.pdf)

Children's books on racism as compiled by NYTimes

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/parenting/kids-books-racism-protest.amp.html>

VBS Illustrated Ministry: Compassion <https://www.illustratedministry.com/vbs/>

RESOURCES for SCIOTO VALLEY CONGREGATIONS

PSV Resource Website...The Presbytery leaders 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/is-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.

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 and changing time of ministry. To join this gathering of our pastors at 1 pm each Thursday...

<https://zoom.us/j/588789104?pwd=cDBEUm8yYnNIS0RUK3dwZG5KVFMvZz09>

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

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 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is in unprecedented times. Our churches are facing difficult times as pastors and staff find new, innovative ways to minister from a distance. As we all prepare for a totally online General Assembly, the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly has had to make some difficult decisions as they decided to shorten the assembly and to focus on critical business issues. To learn more visit:

<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