

# Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Mid-Week E-News June 11, 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"***

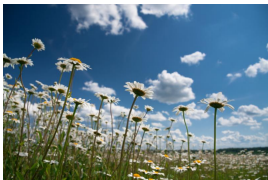
#### Prayer for the Day...

*"The Lord answer you in  
the day of trouble!"* Psalm  
20:1a

Just remember:  
the answer you  
are seeking  
may just come from  
that person you  
look past,  
in the voice which  
upsets you,  
in the moments  
that worry you,  
in the wonder  
which knocks  
you off your feet!

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#### JUNE



#### Thursdays

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

#### Tuesday, June 16

1 pm  
PSV Nominating Com.  
Zoom Meeting

4 pm  
PSV CT

#### THOUGHTS DURING THE PANDEMIC...

*The Reverend Mark Gauen, Presbytery Moderator*

I was talking with a pastor colleague of mine the other day and she mentioned that the church is going through quite a transition in these times. The comment caught my attention because she is right. Her comment made me realize that our churches are all in an interim time right now. Usually we use that term when there is a pastoral change at a church. In most of our churches the pastor is not changing, but the ministry is. And that makes it an "Interim" time, or, a "Transitional" time.

I'm discovering that many of the skills that I learned as an interim pastor are the ones that I am applying to my ministry now: grieving what has passed, maintaining the essentials, discovering the church's true identity, envisioning the future, and developing the church's leadership. In one way or another, all of us are doing these things during this interim time. In many ways, what we are doing now will determine the future of the church even when the pandemic is just a memory. We are all wrestling with how to do our ministries in times like this, and in that wrestling, we are discovering the deeper issues of who we are and what God has called us to be.

One of the things I enjoyed about interim ministry was watching a church grow through the challenging experience of an interim time. I am finding that same sense of satisfaction as I watch my church and the other churches of the Presbytery grow in new and exciting ways. We may be wandering in a pandemic wilderness right now, but in this wilderness, we are developing the faith communities of bright and promising future.

#### PSV Staff Continue to Work To Meet Your Needs!

REMOTE AND IN-OFFICE STAFFING CONTINUES...

*Jim Hines, Presbytery Operations Commission Chair*

The Overbrook Presbyterian Church, that houses the Presbytery Office, has made the difficult choice to remain closed until at least September 7th due to the COVID-19

Coordinating Team  
Zoom Meeting

**5:30 pm**  
**Commissioning of PSV**  
**Commissioners to the**  
**224th General Assembly**

(To join in this virtual  
commissioning, email:  
[jeannie@psvonline.org](mailto:jeannie@psvonline.org) for  
Zoom meeting info.)

**June 19 and 26-27**  
**224th General Assembly**  
**of the PCUSA**

We hold in prayer our  
Presbytery's  
Commissioners to the  
224th GA: Mark Gauen;  
Kae Merold; Kathi Bubb;  
and Sarah Juist.  
Milo Browne, YAAD.

**224th General**  
**Assembly**

*From Lament to Hope.*  
June 19, 26-27, 2020  
(An Online Assembly!)

2020 General Assembly is just around the corner. As the Scioto Valley Commissioners gear up to do the important work of the church, other preparations are underway as well. There have been training sessions provided for our mid-council leaders to train them to help support commissioners as they navigate this unprecedented General Assembly. Candidates who are standing for Moderator presented their experiences and visions for the PC(USA) on June 10th via a live webinar. Despite the sadness of not being able to meet these candidates personally, the opportunity was rich for more people than ever to be able to know these candidates before voting begins. Participants are experiencing preparation for GA like it has never been experienced before. Because the Presbyterian

Pandemic. Rest assured that this has not affected the ability or desire of our PSV staff to meet the needs of you, the congregations and pastors in our Presbytery. Your Presbytery Commission for Presbytery Operations (CPO) has emphasized that the Presbytery will continue to refrain from in-person activities at the office. However, our physical office staff, Jeannie, Dagmar and John, will continue to utilize a hybrid work-style which combines essential time both in-office and remotely. Each is coming in as needed, respecting social distancing, and working from homes regularly. They are readily available through phone and email to answer your questions or find solutions that will address your concerns.

Presbytery staff and CPO will be working closely with Overbrook to determine how re-opening might most safely be accomplished so that you all will have access to our presbytery resources. Until then, we will continue to meet virtually through our very successful methods using Zoom and conferencing technology. We appreciate the patience and cooperative efforts of everyone as we navigate these tumultuous times together.

**DISMANTLING STRUCTURAL RACISM**  
**Conversations on Racism and Advocacy**  
**June 18 and July 9**

If you have expressed an interest in talking specifically about Dismantling Structural Racism in light of our current situation, mark your calendars. You are invited to join us for a conversation on Thursday, June 18 at 10:00 am:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86339089144?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86339089144?pwd=L3V0bVZMWW5JUEdEb3BvYkQzYk1UQT09)  
[pwd=L3V0bVZMWW5JUEdEb3BvYkQzYk1UQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86339089144?pwd=L3V0bVZMWW5JUEdEb3BvYkQzYk1UQT09)  
Meeting ID: 863 3908 9144  
Password: 774082

We are also inviting all members of our presbytery to join in conversation with The Reverend Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, for a conversation on how we do advocacy in the midst of COVID 19 and how we can continue to do the Lord's ministry in this new reality on Thursday, July 9 from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm.  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86736218336?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86736218336?pwd=Ry83VVZPTWk0NSszQlY0ZnN5V1BQZz09)  
[pwd=Ry83VVZPTWk0NSszQlY0ZnN5V1BQZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86736218336?pwd=Ry83VVZPTWk0NSszQlY0ZnN5V1BQZz09)  
Meeting ID: 867 3621 8336  
Password: 975763

*I realize that there is much to process in these troubling times, and that you may not be able to make time (or have the energy) for these conversations. I do hope that you will pass this information along to others who might be able to pick up the baton as we move forward as the hands and feet of Christ. Elder Kathi Bubb, PSV Commission for Nurture and Outreach (CNO).*

**FROM THE OLDER ADULT MINISTRY TASK TEAM**  
**Special Considerations For Our Most Vulnerable...**  
*By Liz Tietz, Member of the PSV Older Adult Task Team*

As the pandemic response enters a new phase, many of our older adults may begin to feel even more lonely. Care

Outlook reports the daily important outcomes of GA, this "meet the candidate" time is usually an opportunity for fund-raising for Outlook. Outlook sincerely hopes that the support for their reporting will still be funded by your donations for this extraordinary GA. For the first time in our denomination's history, GA will be held totally online. The commissioners have been trained and are prepared to thoughtfully consider the essential business they are being called to. Each one will listen for the Holy Spirit as they execute the duties assigned to each, and they will come together with voice and vote to one secure environment from homes, offices, or other safe spaces. Continue to keep our Presbytery Commissioners in your prayers.

### Presbyterian Planning Calendars for 2020-21

This 16-month calendar will start with September 2020 and end with December 2021. It contains many planning aids for pastors and other church leaders. This popular calendar includes lectionary for Sundays and special days, liturgical days, liturgical colors, resource information for PC(USA) programmatic emphases, updated synod, presbytery and Presbyterian Mission Agency staff directories, a color foldout synod/presbytery and world maps. The cost is \$10 each. You may place your order anytime. Email: [dagmar@psvonline.org](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org) The calendars should arrive by mid summer. You will be

centers may remain closed to visitors. Inclusion in family vacations and milestone celebrations may exclude older members, as families try to care for their loved ones. When worship resumes, older members may not feel safe in attending. Our Older Adult Task Team offers suggestions from three separate categories to help you continue to care for these individuals.

#### Sunday Worship:

- We have seen an increase in homebound worship attendance since many of our churches have gone to online worship. Consider continuing online worship in companionship with your in-person worship.
- Identify those who need help with whatever way your church is doing Sunday worship and attempt to assist them to worship, either through caregivers or by mailing bulletins and sermons.
- If a person has worshiped alone at home, perhaps a Deacon or Elder could phone in the afternoon with a friendly hello?
- Memorial Services may need to be done via Zoom. Be prepared to remember that Older Adults may mourn "lifetime friends" and need our support.

#### Everyday Loneliness:

- Many churches have organized Care Groups or Teams, headed by Deacons, Elders or Stephen Ministers. Refresh or re-evaluate after three months, do these need refreshing or reevaluating? \*A care team zoom meeting for worship and sharing of ideas? \*Do any of the groups need a change in leadership?
- Offer a Zoom "Fellowship Time" to any member over "65", or any select group (circle etc.)
- Encourage older members to call old friends and stay in communication with one another.
- Is there a fund whereby a hot, surprise meal might be delivered to someone in need of a surprise?
- Remember to do card showers or drive by recognitions for birthdays and anniversaries.
- Some residential facilities are now allowing porch visits. Set up deacons or care team members to visit with social distancing and masks.

\*Suggestions for Care Team leaders: Vary the means of communication: cards, phone calls, e-mail sharing of church news, etc. What to say: Share any good news, send a Scripture or short prayer, share a poem or book, share life stories of members.

- Youth groups are doing safe distancing or Zoom meetings. How can young people connect?

\*Design cards to send to older members:

Paintings, drawings, messages

\*A teenager might enjoy having a prayer partner.

Just a call once a week to share and check in with someone who lives alone.

\*During summer months, set up pen pal connections.

contacted to arrange for a scheduled pick-up.

**A Gift from the Synod of the Covenant...  
A Sabbath for Pastors**  
Interim Synod Executive Prepares Worship Service

The Synod of the Covenant (which includes this presbytery) wants to offer our pastors and worship leaders a Sabbath from worship preparation and leadership in recognition of faithful ministry in this challenging time. Interim Synod Executive Reverend Chip Hardwick is coordinating a service based on Romans 6:12-23, one of the lectionary passages for June 28th. You'll be able to download the worship service as either the whole service (which will involve liturgists from throughout the Synod), or just the scripture and sermon. You could use this service on 6/28, or any time afterwards.

Of course, there is no requirement to use the service!  
The Synod is offering it with hopes that our pastors and churches will receive it as a gift to enjoy a Sabbath Sunday. For questions, contact Chip Hardwick at [synod.covenant@gmail.com](mailto:synod.covenant@gmail.com) or 309-530-4578.

\*Is there someone who needs help with yard work, weeding or mowing?

\*Via phone can they help people learn Zoom, Facebook or Live Streaming for worship services and other gatherings?

- Remember Older Adults are often those in the "at risk" category who have always been active, involved, even current leaders, and now are completely isolated. How can they be the helpers? (Make caring phone calls, Chair a care group, Write a prayer or devotion to be used in worship or as a midweek devotional, use an interest or skill to prepare a program for circle, for the youth, to be used at a future time.)

\*Someone may have a special craft or skill such as sewing, quilting, painting. Does the church need more masks? Is a liturgical piece needed for the church? A banner? A stole?

**Physical and Medical Support:**

- At this point, three months into isolation, a letter from the pastor listing some highlights of the church, naming regrets, (ex. home communion or in home visits are impossible).
- Include in the above or in a separate mailing, a questionnaire with addressed envelope. Assess current needs (ex. Is your grocery or prescription plan working? Do you need additional help?)
- Gather volunteers (healthy retirees and others) who are willing to check on each person.
- Pro-bono help: Is there anyone who is struggling with taxes, bills, paper work, due to isolation from family members? Is there a retired attorney, banker, someone who would willingly (and legally) provide pro-bono help for this person? 211 is also a great resource to help needs.
- Pay attention in these days, to any signs of stress related to news reports. Encourage trust in their faith and God's care, but listen to worries and concerns.

**Ramseyer Presbyterian Church Celebrating the Class of 2020**



CLASS OF 2020: We are so proud of you. Where you are now is just the beginning of great things you can do. Let the sky be your aim.

On behalf of the Session, Ramseyer Family and myself as the pastor, we congratulate you and wish you well in your chosen colleges and vocations. God bless you. Osofo <https://www.facebook.com/1759625637/posts/10207848386085127/?d=n>

**Healthy Sunday School Practices shared by the Reverend Neil MacQueen...**

[Rotation.org](https://www.rotation.org) offers updated COVID resources particular to Sunday School.

The latest is: A List of "Healthy Sunday School" Practices for those Sunday Schools re-opening during the COVID-19 Pandemic. It can be found at <https://www.rotation.org/topic/getting-ready-from-the-exiles->

## 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](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](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.eddiemoorejnr.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](http://www.teachingtolerance.org)

Racial Stereotypes in media

[https://mediasmarts.ca/sites/mediasmarts/files/pdfs/tipsheet/TipSheet\\_TalkingKidsRacialStereotypes.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](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/ideas-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](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).

**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).

## 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](https://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](http://www.psvonline.org).  
Telephone: 614-847-0565 or 800-244-7207; Fax: 614-847-4359

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