

Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Mid-Week E-News July 23, 2020

www.psvonline.org

The Presbytery OF SCIOTO VALLEY

Mission and Vision Statement

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

Calendar

JULY



Summer in the Presbytery

*(Presbytery Office
closed, but Presbytery
Staff continue to be
available by email and
phone.)*

Thursday, July 23

1 pm

PSV Nominating
Committee

Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, July 28

1 pm

PSV Commission for
Nurture and Outreach
(CNO) Zoom Meeting

PSV COORDINATING TEAM MONTHLY REPORT

Elder Carla Mavis, Chairperson

The Presbytery Coordinating Team (CT) met on Tuesday, July 21, via Zoom, of course. We heard about many wonderful things continuing to happen in our Presbytery during this pandemic. While this is a difficult time for pastors and congregations, the Presbytery Commissions have been working hard providing resources, support, and encouragement. During this time, the Coordinating Team has been meeting every two weeks to keep on top of your needs and share needed information. We are pleased to see all the creative ways our churches are moving forward. You have not let the challenges slow the opportunities you have found to minister in and to God's world. We would love to share your creativity too. Please send any ideas or projects you have, and we will include them on the PSV resources website and through this newsletter.

Our PSV temporary stated clerk and Presbytery lawyer, Jim Wilson, is preparing guidelines for congregations as they navigate the difficult decisions each congregation has to make. Those decisions are based on love and concern for every member of our congregations. Staying safe is vital during this time, which is why we are working out the details of meeting virtually for the September 15 Presbytery meeting. More details will be coming soon.

This pandemic situation we continue to navigate is difficult and caring for each other is a top priority of the Coordinating Team. We are grateful to all of you for safely serving your people and the world that God created.

The Presbytery of
Scioto Valley
Presbyterian Women
(PW) Summer
Gathering scheduled for
August 22, 2020 is
cancelled.

225th General
Assembly 2022
in Columbus



July 2-9, 2022

PSV Staff Updates...

Your presbytery staff members are pleased to welcome two part-time temporary staff persons. Following the resignation of our Stated Clerk Jeff Schooley in May, we were pleased that Elder Jim Wilson was willing to serve as the temporary Stated Clerk. Recently we had to say thank you and farewell to our Presbytery Treasurer, Jim Wagner, who accepted a position on the staff of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Robert Gustafson, Commissioned Pastor for the West Berlin PC, has agreed to serve as the temporary treasurer for the Presbytery

Lancaster First Presbyterian Church - "All Things Work for Good," Paul wrote!

By The Reverend Steve Garstad, Transitional Pastor

We, First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, cancelled worship on March 15. The menacing reality of Corvid-19 was no longer to be ignored. One week later we began live stream worship via YouTube and Facebook. A lively worship team of a dozen brought inspiring worship to the people of God in exile from the sanctuary. Our virtual worship extended to worshipers in twelve states. The average number of views was 500, tripling our worshipers, physically separated but united in spirit.

Humanity's extremity is God's opportunity. What could not be accomplished in a decade was achieved in just a few months. New video cameras were installed. New computer hardware and software were introduced. Music was transformed from traditional to a blended mix including a more modern style. Large screen monitors are being installed.

If I had asked our older members a year ago what they would think about live streaming our worship, they would have asked, "Why?" Now during the pandemic, we receive emails and text messages weekly thanking us for this virtual offering of worship.

Two months ago I established the *Great Return Task Force* to plan and prepare for our eventual return to public sanctuary worship, albeit under COVID-19 safe practices. While many are now returning to Sunday sanctuary worship, we are committed to continuing live stream worship for our shut-ins and our new worship friends across the country.

"All things work for good," Paul wrote. God has used this wilderness of the coronavirus to transform our worship services and lead us into new ministries.

A PRAYER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE...

Brick House in the City

When our eyes do not see the gravity of this,
Shake us from our slumber and open our eyes,
O Lord.
When out of fear, we are scared into inaction,
Give us a spirit of bravery, O Lord.
When we try our best but say the wrong things,

through 2020. Many words of gratitude go to these persons who are willing to step up and serve in temporary positions on the presbytery staff.

Give us a spirit of humility, O Lord.
When the chaos of this dies down,
Give us a lasting spirit of solidarity, O Lord.
When it becomes easier to point fingers outward,
Help us to examine our own hearts, O Lord.

God of Truth, in your wisdom, enlighten us.
God of Love, in your mercy, forgive us
God of Hope, in your kindness, heal us.
Creator of all People, in your generosity, guide us.

Racism breaks your Heart, break my heart
For what breaks yours, O Lord.

"RAISING RACIAL AWARENESS"

Presbytery-wide 4-Week Conversations Beginning July 23, Noon and 7 pm
Sponsored by the PSV Commission on Nurture and Outreach (CNO)

- Have you ever heard the term "white privilege" and thought "I don't have any special privileges"?

- Have you ever heard the term "systemic racism" and thought "isn't racism over?"

- Have you ever wanted to ask questions about other races or learn more but never felt like there was a safe space to do it?



A 4-WEEK, PRESBYTERY-WIDE CONVERSATION ON RACE

THURSDAYS VIA ZOOM MEETING
JULY 23 - AUGUST 13
@ 12:00PM OR 7:00PM

- Have you ever felt hopeless about racism issues and wished you knew a way to help?

- Have you ever wanted to understand more about racial issues but didn't know where to start?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, then join us for **"RAISING RACIAL AWARENESS"**, a four week presbytery-wide conversation on race. Each participant will be invited to an introduction on Zoom on Thursday, July 23 at noon or 7:00 pm and will receive a list of articles and videos (maximum of 20 minutes each) to read and watch, one for each day. Conversations will be held on the following three Thursdays at noon or 7:00 pm, during which time participants will be invited to share observations, new learnings, and challenges with other church members and friends from around the presbytery.

Email Kathi Bubb, kathibubb@gmail.com for more information and the Zoom link.

PSV CONGREGATIONS ARE BECOMING MATTHEW 25 CONGREGATIONS...

Congratulations to the 9 congregations of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley who have applied for and have been designated as Matthew 25 churches within the PC (USA). These congregations have answered the call to accept the Matthew 25 invitation. Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, you can help your church and our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world. We recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious.



And we will rejoice as our re-energized faith unites all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission.

West Berlin Presbyterian Church in Delaware, First Presbyterian Church in Waverly, Overbrook Presbyterian Church in Columbus, First Presbyterian Church in Athens, First Presbyterian Church in Grove City, Plain City Presbyterian Church, Condit Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church in London and Broad Street Presbyterian Church in Columbus have all heard the invitation and responded, committing themselves to this common mission. And you can join them.

Each of our congregations across the denomination are unique in character and context. Some are in rural areas where poverty and oppression may look very different than an inner-city church. While not every church may have communities that exhibit all three focus areas, every church is surely in a situation where they are dealing with one. Perhaps your church is in need of revitalization as a missional force in the community such as Building Congregational Vitality. Maybe you have a deep desire to join others in Identifying and Dismantling Structural Racism. Still others are inspired to help find the causes of and Eradicate Systemic Poverty. While not every church can make the same affect, it is our common responsibility as human beings and Christians to work to restore equality and bring justice to every sibling everywhere. Joining with others in this common mission is an opportunity to share in making a real difference in lives.

Go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/matthew-25-sign-up-my-congregation> and complete an application to sign up your church. Join others in our presbytery and across the denomination in a common purpose to bring alive the commitment to "serve the least of these" in our communities and around the world.

The NEW 2020-21 Presbyterian Planning Calendars have arrived!

This 16-month calendar starts with September 2020 and ends with December 2021. It contains many planning aids for pastors and other church leaders. This popular calendar includes lectionary information 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 fold-out synod/presbytery and world maps. The cost is \$10 each.

For information, or to get your calendars, contact dagmar@psvonline.org

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#

To PSV Friends and Colleagues...Thoughts from your Executive Presbyter, Jeannie Harsh

These are extraordinary times for all of us, and all of you have taken extraordinary and creative measures to continue to grow in faith amid a time when worship in person has been unsafe and nearly impossible for many, maybe most, congregations. Along with our Presbytery Coordinating Team, I encourage you and your congregations to carefully consider the challenges and dangers of returning to in-person worship too soon. In these days when we imagine that everything has changed, it is difficult to remember that the one constant we have is that it is in the midst of change that God and the Holy Spirit abide most closely with us. As churches, there are other things that will always remain part of our work as God's mission in the world. There will always be needs to attend to. And there will always be changes in leadership in our churches at the most troubling and inconvenient times. As your presbytery executive, I keep you in my thoughts and prayers, and am always available to help you navigate these changes in leadership. In other times, when a pastor left a congregation, regardless of the circumstance, I treasured the opportunity to come to be with you and lead worship as a reminder that you are an integral part of our presbytery and always in my work and prayers especially during transitions. It always enriches me to visit with you all. Unfortunately, as the COVID-19 threat continues to loom as an aggressive enemy, I must follow the guidance of our denomination and our Presbytery Coordinating Team. Therefore, I will not be able to fill the pulpit as I once would have, even though I wish I still could. We share the frustration of these circumstances, and, with the help of the Commissions for Congregational Life and Church Professionals and all of us on the presbytery staff, we want to keep you moving forward and embracing the future with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. I continue to regret that I cannot accept invitations to worship with you in-person in this time. However, as you may have read, I am preparing a Matthew 25 video worship service that you can use to fill the absence of a pastor, whether you are in transition or are just giving your pastor a day off to say thanks for their leadership during this extraordinary time. Or, you may choose to use it in November when Matthew 25 shows up in our lectionary. I wish each of you God's peace and surprising blessings as we journey through this extraordinary time together...Jeannie

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

September 15, 2020, 3:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.

November 17, 2020, 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

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