

**Mid-week E-News November 19, 2020**  
**The next issue will be published December 3.**

# *The Presbytery* OF SCIOTO VALLEY

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

*February 18, 2020*

[Visit our website](#)

Constant Contact has upgraded and has brought changes to the PSV Mid-week E-News.  
For comments and questions, email: [dagmar@psvonline.org](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org)

#### PRAYING TO OUR GOD...

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. - Phil. 4:4-7



#### ***Highlights of the Presbytery Meeting***

The 256th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley met by Zoom on Tuesday afternoon, November 18, 2020. Following some challenges, this virtual Meeting was smoothly run by Moderator Mark Gauen and Vice-Moderator Kae Merold. Following an inspiring worship video, special guest Reverend Chip Hardwick, gave an update on Synod activities. Commission reports were presented and the 2021 budget for PSV was approved. Watch for details of the business of this meeting in the minutes which will be available in the near

future. The Meeting culminated in the Installation of Elder Kae Merold as the new Moderator of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley and Elder Bob Gustafson as the Vice-Moderator. Much gratitude goes to Reverend Mark Gauen, outgoing Moderator. Mark has done an excellent job of leading the Presbytery through the challenging months of this ongoing pandemic. The next Presbytery Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

**The Presbytery of Scioto Valley meeting by Zoom November 17<sup>th</sup>** was unfortunately "Zoom bombed." We apologize for the offensive and inappropriate material presented by intruders to the meeting. Up until now, we have been erring on the side of accessibility, as opposed to security, as we had not yet had a problem. Your Presbytery staff persons are reviewing options for preventing this from happening again in the future. Rev. Doug Browne, Journal Clerk.



## ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES FROM THE PRESBYTERIES OF THE SYNOD

The Presbyteries of the Synod of the Covenant are offering you an Advent gift: Full pre-recorded worship services for each of the four Sundays of Advent Christmas Eve and the Sunday after Christmas. Links will be available on the Synod of the Covenant website: [www.synodofthecovenant.org](http://www.synodofthecovenant.org).

November 29 – Terry Kukuk and Lisa Allgood (Presbyteries of Miami Valley and Cincinnati)

December 6 – Sharon Core and Cathy Ulrich (Presbyteries of Eastminster and Western Reserve)

December 13 – Synod of the Covenant Staff

December 20 – Cal Bremer and Fran Lane-Lawrence (Presbytery of Lake Michigan) Christmas Eve – Matt Skolnik (Presbytery of Muskingum)

December 27 – Dan Saperstein (Presbytery of Lake Huron)

STAY TUNED—these are going to be a great celebration across the Synod!

**ALSO:** Two fully recorded services for November 22nd, Reign of Christ Sunday, both focused on Matthew 25:

**The Presbytery of Scioto Valley:** This Matthew 25 worship service was created with the help of persons from 18 of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley congregations, synod Executive Chip Hardwick, and General Assembly colleague, Chris Roseland. This service can be downloaded from the Presbytery of Scioto Valley FACEBOOK page, or through the link: <https://youtu.be/7e-6WTe56iY>

**The Presbyterian Mission Agency:** drawing from the Worship in a Matthew 25 Church resource available on the Matthew 25 website, this worship also includes the new Matthew 25 hymn, "Jesus, Be With Us," sharing the vision of Matthew 25 through images and song. The Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, president and executive director of the PMA, will bring the sermon, and the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, will bring the blessing and charge. The video will be shared at [pcusa.org/matthew25-worship](http://pcusa.org/matthew25-worship) for viewing and downloading by Nov. 18, 2020. **Both of these services can be used on any date!!**

Q

## Continuing guidance for congregations in the Pandemic Urgent Advice Regarding COVID-19 Precautions

To: Sessions and Congregations of Scioto Valley Presbytery

From: The PSV Coordinating Team

Recently, the State of Ohio has seen a marked spike in COVID-19 infections, resulting in hospitalizations and deaths at their highest rate since late May. The coronavirus is spreading at critical levels in every county of our Presbytery. Because of this recent spike some public schools have suspended in-person learning. We encourage our churches to do so as well. The Center for Disease Control warns that the nation is on a pace to generate over 400,000 new COVID-19 cases a day by March 1. If we do not act to contain this spike through vigilant and sustained efforts that include masking, social distancing, disinfection, and restricting unnecessary meetings and travel, hospitals may become overloaded and thousands may die.

While we have heard encouraging news regarding the development of vaccines, the logistics of approval, manufacture, distribution, and administration suggest that the pandemic will continue to pose a threat well into 2021. The Presbytery Coordinating Team has consistently

urged Sessions and congregations to heed the orders of state and county public health officials regarding public meetings, including worship assemblies.

These orders currently restrict meetings to no more than 10 persons in most indoor spaces, and no more than 20% of fixed seating capacity (or 20 persons per 1,000 square feet in rooms with non-fixed seating) in larger venues. These guidelines also presume and require that all other protocols, including masking and social distancing, be observed. As of this writing, these guidelines have not changed. However, due to the high risk posed to vulnerable individuals in certain groups – including the elderly and those with certain preexisting conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and chronic lung disorders – we urge Sessions and congregations to exercise greater caution than what is allowed by public health guidelines.

This should include temporarily suspending in-person worship activities and returning to online-only worship. A common question is “How do we know when it is safe to meet in person, or necessary to suspend in-person activities?” <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/OPHASM/COVID-19-Risk-Level-Guidelines-GP.pdf> provides guidance through the level-color system that is shared each week during the Governor’s briefing sessions.

The Presbytery Coordinating Team recommends monitoring daily a website such as <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/> and adopting the following guidelines based on county-level statistics.

At the time of this writing, most counties within the bounds of the Presbytery are registering “red,” meaning it is unsafe to conduct in-person activities, even with safety protocols. We recognize that no one standard fits all situations. The demographics of individual congregations, the size of your sanctuary, local infection rates, and the awareness of infections among church members or staff may lead you to be more or less restrictive at any given time. If churches have not already done so, it would be timely for Sessions to adopt a policy for when to discontinue in-person worship and establish a “re-closing” strategy that includes a process to notify members of the status of worship gatherings with the reasons for any changes. Having a policy might make it easier to address resistance from members who do not understand the severity of the risk to themselves and others.

Likewise, it is our abiding conviction and hope that Sessions should and will respect the conscience of pastoral leaders who, during this pandemic, believe it is unsafe for them to engage in activities or to perform services at which they may become infected. Some pastors may themselves have medical conditions putting them in high-risk categories or must interact with others who do. We strongly believe they should be given the right either to abstain from that activity or service or be given the opportunity to find a safer alternative means of participation.

To summarize:

- Infection rates are now at a critical level making in-person gatherings unsafe.
- Sessions should adopt policies with parameters for closing and re-opening in-person activities including a process for congregational notification.
- Sessions should respect the conscience of pastors who believe it unsafe to engage in in-person activities and should provide them the opportunity to find a safer means of participation.

“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” – Luke 2:10-11 This year will be different from previous years. Although our celebrations may change, Christmas is not canceled. Christ is born!

May you remain safe, remain well, and remain secure in the knowledge of the love of God in these difficult times.

## Perhaps you know of someone to share this information with? **Presbytery of Scioto Valley in Search of Stated Clerk and Treasurer.**

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley is now receiving applications for a Stated Clerk and a Treasurer, both to begin serving January 4, 2021. Information about these positions and the job descriptions are available on the Presbytery website. If interested in serving the presbytery in one of these important positions, please send a letter of interest and a resume to the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, 4131 N. High St., Suite B, Columbus, Ohio 43214, or by email to: [jeannie@psvonline.org](mailto:jeannie@psvonline.org).

<https://psvonline.org/publication/presbytery-of-scioto-valley-search-for-presbytery-stated-clerk/>

<https://psvonline.org/publication/presbytery-of-scioto-valley-search-for-presbytery-treasurer/>

## Presbytery of Scioto Valley Partners in Education (PIE)



**PIE on ZOOM.** Partners In Education Leadership Training Days, with workshops on elder training, deacon training, clerk training, faith practice toolkit and self-care for clergy. The same workshops will be offered both days.

The event is FREE, but please register:

**Saturday, January 9 from 10:00 - 11:30 am**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqdeurpz8iEtWYIFTxvEXELixhcyEBLZCE>

**Wednesday, January 13 from 7:00 - 8:30 am**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtcOqupzqtG9XSoKq9wD5CdTWTrC49QGzm>

## Healthy Boundaries Training for Pastors-Mark your calendar!

For all pastors serving churches or in validated ministries; CREs; and certified Christian Educators: Healthy Boundaries 101 and 201 on Zoom will be offered early in 2021.

Healthy Boundaries 201: Thursdays, 6-8 pm, January 21, 28 and February 4

Healthy Boundaries 101: Tuesdays, 9-11 am, January 19, 26 and February 2

## Learning Ministry Skills for Today's and Tomorrow's Church Pastors, Staff, COMs and Congregational Leaders February 8-12, 2021

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies Presents The Art of Transitional Leadership - **Online**  
Whether it is a change in leadership or a changing community, leading a congregation through change is both challenging and rewarding. It takes knowledge, skill, resilience and spiritual strength to navigate the waters of change in a way that leaders and congregations thrive. This training is for individuals who are considering ministry in temporary settings (as an interim, transitional or designated pastor) or are experiencing ministry in these transitional times. Materials presented will include the basics of transitional ministry and will be of value to all congregational pastors regardless of their ministry setting. Best practices in transitional ministry include ways to enter the congregation and community, how to analyze a

congregation's strength and growing edges, and how to assist a congregation in moving toward a vibrant future. This training will delve into navigating change, the pastor as a spiritual interpreter of transition, family systems, mission focus ministry, conflict mediation, and building resiliency.

Participants completing the full 30 hours of training will meet the requirements for Week I Transitional Ministry Education. If you want a certificate of completion, you must actively participate in all sessions in their entirety. We will meet Monday-Thursday from 9:00-11:30, 1:30-4:30 and Friday from 9:00-noon. Tuition and fees cover the tuition as well as the costs of taking the Thomas Kilman Inventory and the Intercultural Development Inventory. To see the flyer go to <https://psvonline.org/publication/the-art-of-transitional-leadership-learning-ministry-skills-for-todays-and-tomorrows-church/>  
Registration opened this morning. <https://synod-of-lakes-and-prairies.events.idloom.com/the-art-of-transitional-leadership2021>

### **Beware of Email Scammer Posing as Jeannie Harsh...**

The Presbytery has been informed by several members about emails they received that appear as if the email came from our own Jeannie Harsh and even has her signature block on it. The email asks the recipient to go out and buy gift cards, saying that Jeannie is too busy to do it and the gift cards are needed right away. **This is a scam!** Jeannie would never ask you to buy anything! The emails are coming from a fake email: [jharshpsvonline@gmail.com](mailto:jharshpsvonline@gmail.com). Please do not communicate with this scammer, and please do not buy any gift cards for the Presbytery.



### **Scioto Valley Presbytery is a Matthew 25 Presbytery!**

Matthew 25 is a PC(USA) initiative that has three focuses - Building Congregational Vitality, Dismantling Structural Racism and Eradicating Systemic Poverty. We are beginning this work...For more information, go to the PC(USA) website [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org) and read about this initiative.

By becoming a Matthew 25 mid-council and partnering with congregations, we can together multiply and intensify our loving commitment to radical and fearless discipleship. CNO has appointed Matthew 25 Ambassadors who can speak to your Mission/Outreach/Service Committees and/or sessions to explain more about Matthew 25. Contact Jeannie Harsh for more information or check out [pcusa.org/matthew25](http://pcusa.org/matthew25)

### **Matthew 25 Video Worship Service Available...**

A complete video worship service focused on Matthew 25 is available for any congregation to use on any Sunday they might choose. This Matthew 25 worship service was created with the help of persons from 18 of our congregations, our synod Executive Chip Hardwick, and our General Assembly colleague, Chris Roseland. This service can be downloaded from the Presbytery FACEBOOK page, or through the link: <https://youtu.be/7e-6WTe56iY>  
For questions, email: [Jeannie@psvonline.org](mailto:Jeannie@psvonline.org)

## Chris H. Roseland Mission Engagement Advisor

**Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday** is November 22, 2020 and the Gospel Lectionary Reading for that day is Matthew 25:31-46, which is the focus of the Matthew 25 Vision for the PC(USA). Diane Moffett, J. Herbert Nelson, and the leadership of the Mission Agency is preparing a recorded **worship service based on the Matthew 25 Vision** for congregations to use however and whenever they like.

Here's the link to notice:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/matthew25-worship/>. It supposed to be available on the same link by **November 18, 2020**.



Also, the **Presbyterian's Today Advent Devotionals** are free and on-line this year.

Here's the link to the story on

PNS: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterians-todays-advent-devotional-extended-through-christmastide/>,

and here's the direct link to the Devotionals

homepage: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/advent2020/>.



## Celebrate the power of the connectational church on #GivingTuesday.

Join us on #Giving Tuesday, December 1, for an all-day, virtual celebration of the collective power of Presbyterian generosity, as we profess by our actions and with our gifts—that we can accomplish far more together than any one of us can do alone. On #GivingTuesday, we invite you to join with Presbyterians from near and far for prayer and worship, fun

with some familiar faces, and an unparalleled opportunity for your generosity to make a lasting impact around the country and around the world.

Your gifts on #GivingTuesday gifts will empower us as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out our call to be a Matthew 25 Church by addressing systemic poverty, structural racism, and congregational vitality. Join us in this global giving movement as, together, we feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, welcome the refugee and spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the farthest corners of the earth.

More information — including a complete telethon schedule — for #GivingTuesday will soon be available at [giving-tuesday.pcusa.org](http://giving-tuesday.pcusa.org). Downloadable graphics and suggested texts in support of #GivingTuesday are available by clicking [here](#).

## Congregational News.....



### Groveport Presbyterian Church

Our spaghetti dinner drive thru that we had on Saturday evening was a sell out! The largest we have ever done! We were to serve until 7, but ran out at 6:15! God is good all the time!!

(Groveport Messenger Photo courtesy of Keith Hanson).

Traditional community church dinners bring people together to share food and companionship. Several churches in Groveport have held such dinners over the years and one of the longest running of these eating get togethers is the Groveport Presbyterian Church's spaghetti dinner. This year, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic thwarted efforts to hold the gathering inside the church as usual. However, the church members were not to be deterred and still offered the spaghetti dinner on Nov. 7 as carry-out only. Cars filled with hungry drivers lined up at the church to obtain their tasty spaghetti dinners. Sights like this reassure a community that, even though we are in a pandemic, we will not let COVID-19 tamp down our community spirit.

## Ohio congregation finds a creative and safe way to receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering

by Emily Enders Odom | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — While Sunday morning worship and congregational fellowship, not to mention Circleville's annual Pumpkin Show — in that priority order, of course — would normally have brought the members of [Circleville Presbyterian Church](#) together this fall, these are strange times.

Read more at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pumpkins-for-peacemaking/>



**Prayers for Healing...** for Elder Larry Hayes, Clerk of Session for Reynoldsburg First Presbyterian Church, which recently closed.

## Remember in Prayer...

The Reverend Dr. Richard Ellsworth and the Reverend Jen Ellsworth and family in the death of beloved family member, Penelope (Penny) Ellsworth.

The Reverend Jennifer Eastman Hinkle and family on a recent death in the family.



### **PRESBYTERY of Scioto Valley (PSV) Meeting Calendar November 2020**

**November 23  
6:30 p.m.**

Westside Urban Ministry (WUM) Zoom Meeting

**November 24  
1 p.m.**

PSV Commission for Nurture and Outreach (CNO) Zoom Meeting

**No PSV NEWSLETTER ON THANKSGIVING!!!**

**Thursday, November 26**  
Thanksgiving Day

**Mark your calendar for 2021**

**Partners in Education (PIE)**  
**Saturday, January 9 from 10:00 - 11:30 am**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/588789104?pwd=cDBEUm8yYnNIS0RUK3dwZG5KVFMvZz09>

**Wednesday, January 13 from 7:00 - 8:30 am**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/588789104?pwd=cDBEUm8yYnNIS0RUK3dwZG5KVFMvZz09>

**November 7-9, 2021**

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley Annual Church Professional Retreat  
Deer Creek Resort, Mount Sterling, Ohio

**PASTORS OF PSV WEEKLY CHAT MEETING ON ZOOM.** 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.

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

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

**Available: Church Art Pro CD's and a binder which include clip art. Contact Laurie Johnson: [lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org) or call 614-451-6677**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

<https://pda.pcusa.org/>

Dear Presbyterian Friends in Christ,  
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

has been in communication with our partners and is responding to the urgent needs in Central America following Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Iota made landfall one week after Eta and hit many of the same regions. PDA started processing preliminary emergency assistance soon after Eta to our long-term partners in Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras, but with the additional impact of Category 4 Iota making landfall on the coast of Nicaragua late Monday night, additional damage and long-term impact and needs will be significant.

The double impact of these storms has resulted in over 100 lives lost and significant damage from flooding and mudslides; mass evacuations are further complicated by COVID-19.

Priorities for the response include WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food security, shelter and livelihood restoration. PDA needs your help to ensure that it can continue providing emergency response and long-term recovery support.

To support our response, designate gifts to **DR000194**

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