

Mid-week E-News December 24, 2020

The Presbytery OF SCIOTO VALLEY

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

February 18, 2020

[Visit our website](#)

For E-News comments, questions or additions, email: dagmar@psvonline.org



Christmas is upon us, Christ is born!

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

I will light candles this Christmas
Candles of joy, despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.
Candles of courage where fear is ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.
Candles of love to inspire all my living.
Candles that will burn all the year long.

– Howard Thurman

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND PRAYERS FROM YOUR PRESBYTERY STAFF...

"O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth, Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day." Psalm 96:1.

We, your Presbytery staff, bring you greetings, prayers and messages of hope and joy as together we celebrate the renewing joy of the Christmas season. Let us sing a new song as we journey through this pandemic time. We all look forward to a time in the New Year when we can sit at the Table together once again. We send peace and blessings to each of you!

Jeannie Harsh, Executive Presbyter; Dagmar Romage, Administrative Assistant;
John Wyckoff, Financial Assistant; Jim Wilson, Temporary Stated Clerk; Bob Gustafson,
Temporary Treasurer.

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR YOUR CONGREGATION...

FROM THE PRESBYTERIES OF THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT

The Presbyteries of the Synod of the Covenant are offering you an Advent/Christmas gift: Full pre-recorded worship services for each of the Sundays of Advent, Christmas Eve and the

Sunday after Christmas. Links are available on the Synod of the Covenant website: www.synodofthecovenant.org.
Christmas Eve – Matt Skolnik (Presbytery of Muskingum)
December 27 – Dan Saperstein (Presbytery of Lake Huron)

SONGS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON...

The Community Church of Seattle-CCS (Hyungjae Church) in Bothell, WA produced an amazing, Pentatonix-esque version of "[Joy to the World](#)" and they offer it to the church with gratitude. CCS is a church with primarily Korean-American membership and a vibrant, fruitful ministry. They did a fantastic, professional job producing this video. Enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/nhMh67Hbe3E>

Three sisters (Molly Mason, Kelsey Fletcher and Becca Kreutz), of Mountain View PC in Marysville, WA sing an elegant version. of "[Have Yourself a Merry Christmas.](#)"

<https://youtu.be/BdfumUaCCX8>. This might be fun to share as a post or pre-lude.

They did it as part of a virtual benefit for the Seattle Children's Chorus.

Add to your Christmas Cheer! from the Presbytery of Muskingum Valley

Many are struggling this year. Here are some blessings from Presbyterians around the country that may help lift your spirit:

- **Christmas Music**, Heather Cooper, Organ
 - **Silent Night**, G. Wilson Gunn Jr., Hammer Dulcimer
 - **Collection of Christmas Music**, Presbyteries of Boston and Northern New England
 - **Christmas Music**, Synod of the Trinity (coming twice next week on Facebook)
 - **Worship**, Presbyteries of Boston and Northern New England
 - **Christmas Eve Worship**, Shenandoah Presbytery
 - **Christmas Eve Worship**, Muskingum Valley Presbytery
 - **Advent Worship, Week 4**, Lake Michigan Presbytery
 - **Sunday after Christmas Worship**, Lake Huron Presbytery
 - **Complete Advent Worship Series**, Synod of the Covenant
 - **Christmas Worship**, PC(USA)
-

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.



Click on this link for a description of the workshops:

<https://psvonline.org/publication/pie-workshops/>

The event is FREE, but please register:

Saturday, January 9 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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

Wednesday, January 13 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtcOqupzgtG9XSoKq9wD5CdTWTrC49QGzm>



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 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



Office of the General Assembly Stated Clerk urges churches to stay the course on virtual worship.

The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, says now is not the time to return to in-person gatherings. Read his message.

https://www.pcusa.org/news/2020/12/1/stated-clerk-urges-churches-stay-course-virtual-wo/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Presbyterian+Church+USA+Weekly+News&utm_campaign=Weekly+News+-+Nov-Dec+25-01%2C+2020

Continuing Guidance for Congregations Regarding COVID-19

The State of Ohio continues to experience 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. 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.

To read the entire document please visit:

<https://psvonline.org/publication/continuing-guidance-for-congregations-in-the-pandemic-urgent-advice-regarding-covid-19-precautions>

Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Updates, and more.....

Per Capita Relief Policy, Submitted by Jim Hines, Commission for Presbytery Operations
The Commission for Presbytery Operations presented a **per capita relief proposal** at the February 2020 Presbytery meeting that was approved at the May 2020 Presbytery meeting. The intent of this policy is to grant relief to congregations that have experienced a 10% or more loss of membership from last year.

HOW THE POLICY WORKS – Historically, a congregation’s per capita for the coming year is based on their membership at the end of the previous year. For example, a churches’ per capita for **2021** would normally be based on their membership at the end of **2019** – NOT their membership at the end of 2020. Under this “relief policy”, the Presbytery will grant immediate relief to any congregation who has experienced a 10% or more loss of membership during 2020 and will base 2021’s per capita on your year 2020 membership. If you have had a significant loss of membership in 2020, you can apply for relief under this policy and your 2021 per capita will be based on your year-end membership as of 2020 – not 2019 as under the current policy.

If you want to request relief under this new policy, please email either Bob Gustafson, Interim Treasurer; John Wyckoff, Financial Assistant; or Dagmar Romage, Administrative Assistant in the Presbytery offices.

- Robert Gustafson - gustafson15@gmail.com
- John Wyckoff - accounting@psvonline.org
- Dagmar Romage - dagmar@psvonline.org

If you want relief under this new policy, you must request it – it is not automatic.

End Date for Submission of 2020 Per Capita and Mission

Robert Gustafson, Temporary Treasurer

Even in this challenging year, or perhaps even more so in this challenging year, your contributions to Per Capita and mission, are expressions God’s provision and grace. As you know Per Capita provides the means to strengthen the connections of our work and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God’s love through mission and ministry. Presbyterians do mission in partnership. We understand “mission” to be God’s work for the sake of the world God loves. Your financial support makes a difference. We are grateful!

As the end of 2020 approaches, I want to pass on the following information to you: **2020 remittances must be received by Monday, January 11, 2021.** You will find the remittance form and the Contribution Summary as of November 30, 2020 attached to this email.

Payments received after that date must be credited to the new financial year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

John Wyckoff, Financial Assistant, accounting@psvonline.org or
Dagmar Romage, Administrative Assistant, dagmar@psvonline.org.

Mission Engagement Opportunity

A five-session course on Global Mission engagement to launch in January. The presbytery's Global Mission Network will be sponsoring five zoom-groups on the third Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. - noon, beginning on January 23, 2021.

The course will be led by the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Holder-Rich, a teaching elder from our presbytery currently serving as a PC(USA) mission co-worker in Tanzania, and formerly pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Findlay. Each monthly class will feature PC(USA) mission co-workers for half an hour (from Niger, Costa Rica, Peru, Palestine, and other countries), along with a specific missiological theme for each session.

Plan now to join this exciting way to engage your members and leaders in Global Mission. We are asking for commitments from pastors/moderator and mission leadership to take part together in what we're calling "Mission Engagement 101."

For information, or to register, email Les Sauer at _lessauer@hotmail.com

PSV Congregations...

Rev. Lee Platt, Chair of PSV Commission for Congregational Life

A number of churches have asked about holding annual congregational meetings. Some are doing their meetings via Zoom which is acceptable. However, if your bylaws require a person-to-person meeting, hold the Zoom meeting and later, when in-person meetings become safely possible, announce a Congregational meeting to change the bylaws to reflect that meetings may be held either in-person or virtually.

Some PSV churches are struggling with how to do virtual/online worship during these times of distance worship. We are asking churches that are doing successful virtual worship to please let Presbytery know what you are doing. Please let us know if you have someone in these struggling congregations can contact and provide guidance on how to proceed. Some of the technical issues seem intimidating, but need not be as difficult as they appear.

Contact Lee with your ideas and questions: lelandw@msn.com.

PSV Older Adult Ministry Committee Newsletter

To Anyone over 50 and those who minister to those over 50:

Greetings from the Older Adult Ministry Committee of Scioto Valley Presbytery

We are sending this via email, but you will find it as well on the Presbytery website under

Nurture and Outreach Commission, Older Adult Ministry. To read the Older Adult Ministry

Newsletter visit: <https://psvonline.org/publication/the-presbytery-of-scioto-valley-older-adult-ministry-committee-newsletter-december-2020/>

PSV Westside Urban Ministry (WUM) NEWS...



The picture shows some WUM members resting after assembling 280 gift bags: Tori Amicon from West High, Susan Imel from Covenant, Jim Benney from Westminster, and Connie Jump from Overbrook. Today, December 16, 2020, each student who is doing their online learning at West High School in Columbus is receiving a home visit from the West High staff. The purpose is to engage, encourage and reward the students for staying in school during this year's very difficult time of online-only learning. The student's "reward" is a gift bag from WUM, lovingly assembled by representatives of Covenant, Westminster, Overbrook, Hoge, Concord Fellowship, Central College, and Broad Street Presbyterian churches.

In the gift bag are: ear buds, a Bath & Body works lotion, chap stick, 2 candy canes, a hand-knitted hat or scarf from a Presbyterian knitter, and this message:

Dear West High student -

*Not everything is cancelled. Sun is not cancelled. Spring is not cancelled.
Relationships are not cancelled. Love is not cancelled. Reading is not cancelled.
Devotion is not cancelled. Music is not cancelled. Imagination is not cancelled.
Kindness is not cancelled. Conversations are not cancelled. Hope is not cancelled
And God's love for HIS people is never cancelled.*

Please know that we send you these gifts, along with our love and prayers, to encourage you to stay in school!

From the Westside Urban Ministry, a ministry of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley



NEWS AND REQUESTS FROM THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT...

Leaders in the Presbyteries in the Synod of the Covenant want to help congregational leaders proclaim the Gospel and minister to their community members during these difficult, changing times of the pandemic. A survey is being conducted to help the Synod of the Covenant to determine whether congregations in its member presbyteries would use virtual Lenten and Easter season worship services.

To participate in this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T2SNK53> .

The Synod is also conducting a brief survey to determine whether the virtual Advent worship series has been helpful to congregations. Click [here](#) to complete the survey by Friday, January 8, 2021. Please note that this survey is being conducted by the Synod of the Covenant to gather feedback from as many congregations in the member presbyteries as possible. Questions about the survey content or how the information will be used should be

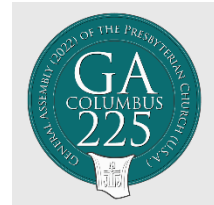
directed to Chip Hardwick, Interim Executive of the Synod of the Covenant,
at chip@synodofthecovenant.org

The Art of Transitional Ministry Leadership Training February 8-12, 2021

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies will offer *The Art of Transitional Leadership* Online. 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. The classes 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: <https://psvonline.org/publication/the-art-of-transitional-leadership-learning-ministry-skills-for-todays-and-tomorrows-church/> Registration is now open: <https://synod-of-lakes-and-prairies.events.idloom.com/the-art-of-transitional-leadership2021>

The 225th General Assembly of the PCUSA Will be Held in Louisville, KY in 2022...

The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) has approved moving the 2022 General Assembly from Columbus, Ohio to Louisville, Kentucky. This new plan for the 225th GA will feature a hybrid assembly that will include both in-person and online meetings. The in-person portion of the assembly will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, the site of the PC(USA) national offices. The assembly's 13 committees would hold in-person meetings over a two-week period, with all plenaries being held online with the exception of an initial quorum gathering. To read the entire report visit: <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2020/12/4/225th-general-assembly-move-louisville-2022/>



Healthy Boundaries Training for Pastors-Mark your calendars!

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.

2-hour sessions each day, All three Sessions must be attended:

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

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

Sign up now: email: dagmar@psvonline.org

Mark your calendars for 2021...

Monday, January 4, 2021

12:30 pm PSV Commission for Church Professionals
3 pm PSV Commission for Congregational Life

Partners in Education (PIE) (Two Opportunities)

Saturday, January 9 from 10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

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

Wednesday, January 13 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtcOqupzgtG9XSoKq9wD5CdTWTrC49QGzm>

Monday, January 11

3 pm PSV Commission for Presbytery Operations

HEALTHY BOUNDARIES TRAINING AND UPDATING FOR PASTORS...

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

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

Tuesday, January 19

4 pm PSV Coordinating Team

PSV GLOBAL MISSION NETWORK...

Global Mission Network will be sponsoring five zoom-groups on the **third Saturday of each month** from 10:30 a.m. - noon, beginning on January 23, 2021. For more information, or to register, email Les Sauer at lessauer@hotmail.com

2021 Presbytery Meeting Dates

Dates tentatively scheduled are: February 16, May 18, September 21, and November 16.
Most likely to be held via Zoom, until meeting in person is deemed safe and appropriate.

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#



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

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