

Mid-week E-News January 7, 2021

# 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](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org)

## A PSALM FOR A TIME LIKE THIS...

### PSALM 46

- 1** God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.
- 2** Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- 3** though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*
- 4** There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 5** God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- 6** The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- 7** The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*
- 8** Come, behold the works of the Lord;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
- 9** He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.
- 10** "Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth."
- 11** The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.



### **A PRAYER FOR THIS NEW YEAR...**

"A New Year, a new time, changing life and opening up opportunities never before imagined. God of wonder and delight, let us put yesterday behind us. Any anger, fears, or doubts are but shadows that press upon us in the moment. These images form new realities and push our comfortable edges out into places opening us to so much that we can be and do and live for you and all of your creation!"...*from a prayer by Christine Burns, 2021*

## **Celebrating January Ordination Anniversaries of 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 and to support these faithful servants and 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 January.

The Reverend John M. Groat 1-1-2001  
The Reverend William I. Johnson 1-1-1952  
The Reverend Charles J. Ping 1-1-1951  
The Reverend Amy House 1-12-2014  
The Reverend Nancy Draves 1-17-1988  
The Reverend Jennifer L. Turick 1-24-1982  
The Reverend Elizabeth Maurath 1-25-2015  
The Reverend Jack Lewis Pursell 1-29-1960  
The Reverend Emily Corzine 1-31-2010

## **Presbytery of Scioto Valley Congregations To Be Lifted Up in Prayer**

Beginning with our next week's Email news, we will be lifting up our congregations, celebrating their ministry and holding them in prayer. If you have particular information about your congregation, please email it to: [dagmar@psvonline.org](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org), and we will try to include this in our articles about your congregation. We will begin alphabetically to share about our 88 congregations. As we share and celebrate our wide variety of congregations, we hope you and your congregation will join with us and lift them up in prayer too.

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

*Partners in Education (PIE) (Two Opportunities)*

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

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8121212121>**

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

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8121212121>**

## Monday, January 11

(End Date for Submission of 2020 Per Capita and Mission Giving)

### 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

## Saturday, January 23

#### 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.

January 23, February 20, March 20, April 17, and May 15.

For more information, or to register, email Les Sauer at [lessauer@hotmail.com](mailto:lessauer@hotmail.com)

### 2021 Presbytery Meeting Dates

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.

*The Presbytery of Scioto Valley Partners In Education (PIE) 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.*



**PIE Leadership Training Days on ZOOM**  
**Saturday, January 9 from 10:00 – 11:30 am**  
**Wednesday, January 13 from, 7:00 – 8:30- pm**

**Words of Inspiration** Co-moderators from the 224th General Assembly, Teaching Elder Gregory J. Bentley and Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart

### PIE Workshops (Choose one)

**Elder Training** – The rule of the elder and session is unlike that of any other governing body. This workshop will explore practical and spiritual topics of church leadership for today and for the future. *Led by the Rev. Dr. Peggy Hinds, professional congregational and leadership coach. Peggy has taught elder workshops for several presbyteries and at PCUSA's Big Tent. Along with coaching, Peggy serves as a transitional pastor and consultant.*

**Deacon Training** –This workshop will help you learn ways to grow community, compassion, and witness in the deacon ministry, in ways both great and small. *Led by the Rev. Charles "Chip" Hardwick, Interim Executive for the Synod of the Covenant*

**Clerk Training** – This workshop offers tools, methods, tricks of the trade and resources for clerks of sessions *Led by Jim Wilson, Clerk of Session from Columbus Broad Street Presbyterian Church*

**Faith Practice Toolkit** - The practices of Hospitality, Prayer, Service, Storytelling, and Retreat in your faith community offer a means to connect the different life stages in life-long formation and cultivate intergenerational community. We will explore these practices and how to engage with them in your congregation, especially in the upcoming season of Lent. A toolkit for each participant will be provided.

*Led by Stephanie Fritz -Mission Coordinator for Christian Formation in the Presbyterian Mission Agency, PC(USA)*

**Clergy Self-Care** -This workshop will not only offer ways for pastors to practice self-care, but to help shift their mindset and intention to make self-care an integral and essential part of their ministry. *Led by the Rev. Anne Russ – An ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) who has as a solo pastor for over 15 years and learned the hard way how to take radically good care of herself. She has created an online faith community called Doubting Believer and currently lives in New York City.*

**All workshops are offered both days, but you may attend both times if you'd like to take two workshops. We hope to record the events.**

**The event is FREE, but please register at the link**

**on [www.psvonline.org](http://www.psvonline.org)**

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/tZIqdeurpz8iEtWYIFTxvEXELixhcyEBLZCE>**

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

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

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**January 11, 2021...**

**End Date for Submission of 2020 Per Capita and Mission**

*Robert Gustafson, PSV 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 of 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.

Payments received after January 11 must be credited to the new financial year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

John Wykoff, Financial Assistant, [accounting@psvonline.org](mailto:accounting@psvonline.org) or

Dagmar Romage, Administrative Assistant, [dagmar@psvonline.org](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org).

**Per Capita Relief Policy**

Elder Jim Hines, Chair PSV Commission for Presbytery Operations

(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, Temporary Treasurer; John Wyckoff, Financial Assistant; or Dagmar Romage, Administrative Assistant. This relief will not be automatic.

- Robert Gustafson - [gustafson15@gmail.com](mailto:gustafson15@gmail.com)
- John Wyckoff - [accounting@psvonline.org](mailto:accounting@psvonline.org)
- Dagmar Romage - [dagmar@psvonline.org](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org)

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### Healthy Boundaries Training for Pastors

For all pastors serving churches or in validated ministries; CREs; and certified Christian Educators: Healthy Boundaries 101 and 201 on Zoom. Cost \$25.

**2-hour sessions each day, All three Sessions must be attended, choose one.**

- 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](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org)



### Mission Engagement Opportunity

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 mission co-worker in Tanzania. 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."

\*Session 1 (January 23) – "What is mission? What is our mission? Why do we do mission?"

Conversation with Michael and Rachel Ludwig, serving in Niger

\*\*Session 2 (February 20) – "New Testament Models of Mission"

Conversation with Mark Hare and Jenny Bent, serving in Costa Rica

\*\*Session 3 (March 20) – "Power and Money in Mission, historically and today" Conversation with Jed Hawkes Koball and Jenny Valles Koball, serving in Peru

\*\*Session 4 (April 17) – "What is Presbyterian about doing mission? How do congregations plug in?"

Conversation with Victor Makari and Doug Dicks, serving in Israel and Palestine

**\*\*Session 5 (May 15) – “Next steps--where do we go from here? Growing engagement in global mission in your congregation”**

Conversation with Dan and Elizabeth Turk, serving in Madagascar

For information, or to register, email Les Sauer at [lessauer@hotmail.com](mailto:lessauer@hotmail.com)

To see the event flyer visit: <https://psvonline.org/publication/13505>

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## **Virtual “At Home” Sunday School for children (and families)**

*Jenni Whitford, Educator, Worthington Presbyterian Church*

Beginning last September, Worthington Presbyterian Church (WPC) has been offering TWO “At Home” Sunday School options for K-6<sup>th</sup> graders. The curriculum we are using is “Growing in God’s Love” A Story Bible Curriculum (PCUSA) <https://www.pcusastore.com/Pages/Item/13638/Story-Bible-Curriculum.aspx>



The Director of Children’s Ministry records a 15-minute video with song, prayer, Bible story, wonder questions and a short activity. Parents can add to the lesson with “At Home” supplemental activities, ideas and book and video recommendations, which are emailed to the families each week. Families can watch the video alone, just do the “At Home” lesson or do both pieces. Families can do one thing one week and a different thing next week. Families can do Sunday School on a Tuesday night or a Friday afternoon....whenever it works best for their family. Each week is a stand-alone lesson, you do not have to do the lesson before.

The curriculum has 35 Units, each unit has 3-5 lessons. Lessons are well written; with lots of choices for activities and suggestions to dive deeper or add more to each lesson, such as books to check out from your local library to short YouTube videos to expand the learner’s knowledge. The lessons are multi-age: pre-readers to tweens will learn, have fun and be challenged in age-appropriate activities, questions and discussion starters.

Each family received a copy of “Growing in God’s Love” Story Bible. (When you buy 25 or more copies, the price drops to about \$13 each) This was the biggest investment we made. We thought it was worth it, as we weren’t (and still aren’t) meeting in person. Each unit is \$35-\$40, or about \$8/week. We ordered everything digitally – we hope to use this curriculum again in about 4 years, which will make it even more cost efficient. When we do start meeting again in person, we will continue to use this curriculum, the lessons have several activities each week that we have not been offering, as they are designed for group projects or require supplies such as paint, mural making, poster board or puppets.

If you would like to see a sample of what is emailed to families, or see the videos Jenni creates, or if you have questions, please contact Jenni Whitford, Director for Children’s Ministry at the Worthington Presbyterian Church, 614-885-5355.

If you are exhausted, if you don’t have staff to try to do this or if you have 2 or 3 families in your congregation, please contact Jenni to join WPC’s Virtual “At Home” Sunday School. We would love to partner with some of our smaller churches and be a resource for you.

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## News from the Covenant Presbyterian Church

On January 11, 2021, the Reverend Joel Alan Esala starts his call as Senior Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Upper Arlington, Ohio. Reverend Esala, his spouse Sarah, and his son Asher now reside in Dublin, Ohio. Pastor Joel was ordained in 2016 and received his BA from the Ohio State University, a Master of Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary, and Masters of Divinity from the Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando.

Prior to the call to Covenant, Joel was the solo Pastor at Circleville Presbyterian Church, Associate Pastor at Central College Presbyterian Church and Associate Pastor at Heritage Christian Church both in Westerville, Ohio. He also served as Director of Youth and Family Ministries at Trinity Episcopal Church in Solebury, Pennsylvania. Joel was selected from a field of more than 250 inquiries of which 48 were carefully reviewed and 4 finalists from around the country were interviewed. Throughout the selection process, Covenant and Joel were guided by God's hands that brought them together. Covenant was interested in calling a pastor like Joel who is committed to excellent worship, creative and innovative mission, and outreach to a diverse congregation.



### REQUESTS FROM THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT...

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.



## The APCE Virtual Event - Anything But Ordinary February 4-5, 2021

APCE is the Association for Presbyterian Church Educators

How will the 2021 Virtual Event be like other Annual Events?

The Virtual Event offers the best in the way of worship, plenary and workshops each day. Special events that are regularly a part of the Annual Event, like awards presentations, the corporation meeting, regional gatherings, the book store, the Marketplace, and even a spirituality center will all take place. For more details visit...

<https://apcenet.org/2021-annual-event/>

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

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies will offer this training designed for individuals who are considering ministry in temporary settings (as an interim, transitional or designated pastor). Materials presented will include the basics of transitional ministry and will be of value to all congregational pastors regardless of their ministry setting. 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. 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>



### **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)

### **News from our Presbytery Nominating Committee...**

Our PSV Nominating Committee and Operations Human Resources Team have been busy with the search for a Stated Clerk and a Treasurer for our Presbytery. The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that they are unanimously recommending the Reverend Bill Gause, pastor of the Columbus Overbrook Presbyterian Church, as their candidate for the position of the PSV Stated Clerk to be elected at the February 16 Presbytery Meeting. This part-time position of Stated Clerk for our Presbytery is currently being filled by elder Jim Wilson, who has been graciously and effectively serving as the Temporary Stated Clerk. The Presbytery of Scioto Valley Stated Clerk serves as the Presbytery corporate secretary and parliamentarian. The Clerk also provides support to the Presbytery Commissions, committees and other entities of the Presbytery.



### **From Your Presbytery Staff Persons...**

*Jeannie, Dagmar, John, Jim and Bob*

**Our presbytery offices may still be closed,  
but we're available to serve!**

We, your Presbytery staff persons, continue to work in a hybrid style-from the office and from home. We are all available to assist you especially in regular office hours, via email, phone, or Zoom conference calls:

Jeannie Harsh, Executive Presbyter

[jeannie@psvonline.org](mailto:jeannie@psvonline.org)

Cell: 614-562-1775

Dagmar Romage, Administrative Assistant

Email: [dagmar@psvonline.org](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org)

Presbytery Office: 614-847-0565

John Wyckoff, Financial Assistant

Email: [accounting@psvonline.org](mailto:accounting@psvonline.org)

Jim Wilson, Temporary Stated Clerk

Email: [jawilson@vorys.com](mailto:jawilson@vorys.com)

Bob Gustafson, Temporary Treasurer

Email: [gustafson15@gmail.com](mailto:gustafson15@gmail.com)



**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#**

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

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. For more information: <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2020/12/4/225th-general-assembly-move-louisville-2022/>



## Continuing Guidance for Congregations Regarding COVID-19

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



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

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