

Mid-week E-News January 28, 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)



**The First Robin of 2021...A Welcome Sight on a Cold January Day**

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.* Ecclesiastes 3:1

A robin was recently spotted resting in the garden area next to the Presbytery Office. The robin sat quietly looking into the

Presbytery window wondering why I was staring at her. In the midst of the cold, dreary January day, I enjoyed the peaceful robin reminding me that spring is not far away. The robin lifted me from a weariness of winter, and of course the

ongoing pandemic, into an attitude of hopefulness. I began to look forward to a time when nature will burst into new life again. The robin, my surprising and somewhat spiritual messenger, reminded me of the hope of another springtime and, maybe even a time when we can all gather again in person in safe settings.

Meanwhile, we give thanks for signs of new life. And we continue to keep in touch as we spend time in our Zoom gatherings, workshops, and meetings, always holding each other in our thoughts, hearts, and prayers. Peace and blessings to each and all of you! Jeannie and your Presbytery Staff

## Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Meeting Calendar

### PSV GLOBAL MISSION NETWORK...

Global Mission Network will be sponsoring zoom-groups on the third Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. - noon.

(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)

### JANUARY

**Thursday, January 28, 2 p.m.**

Zoom Meeting - PSV Nominating Committee

**6-8 pm**

Zoom Healthy Boundaries 201

### FEBRUARY

**Monday, February 1, 12:30 p.m.**

Zoom meeting - Commission for Church Professionals (CCP)

**Monday, February 1, 4:00 p.m.**

Zoom meeting - Commission for Congregational Life (CCL)

**Tuesday, February 2, 9-11 a.m.**

Zoom Healthy Boundaries 101

**Thursday, February 4, 6-8 p.m.**

Zoom Healthy Boundaries 201

**Monday, February 8, 3 p.m.**

Zoom meeting - Commission for Presbytery Operations (CPO)

**Tuesday, February 9, 10 a.m.**

PSV Older Adult Ministry Team zoom Meeting.

**Saturday, February 13, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

Doing Justice & Loving Kindness: An Intro to Matthew 25

An On-line event to introduce and support the work of the PC(USA) Matthew 25 Initiative

To Register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwscOCgrTIuGdGT-zCK\\_KRbjT1d1tCxEX-M](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwscOCgrTIuGdGT-zCK_KRbjT1d1tCxEX-M)

**Tuesday, February 16, 3:00 p.m.**

**STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING**

Presbytery Meetings continue to meet via Zoom, until meeting in person is deemed safe and appropriate.

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**Tuesday, February 23, 1 p.m.**

Zoom meeting - Commission for Nurture and Outreach (CNO)

**Saturday, February 27, 10 a.m.**

Zoom Winter Gathering of Presbyterian Women (PW) in Scioto Valley

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### **Future 2021 Presbytery Meeting Dates**

May 18, September 21, and November 16.

Held via Zoom until meeting in person is deemed safe and appropriate.



### **Mission Engagement Opportunity**

The presbytery's Global Mission Network is sponsoring zoom-groups on the third Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. - noon. The course is 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.

#### **"MISSION ENGAGEMENT 101."**

**\*\*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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### **Update on MISSION ENGAGEMENT 101 FIRST SESSION...**

*From the Planning Team...*

We give thanks to God for more than 60 participants at our first seminar on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. You, as an individual, or as a church team, can still join us for the remaining sessions. For more information, or to register, email Les Sauer at [lessauer@hotmail.com](mailto:lessauer@hotmail.com).

During our first seminar, Cynthia Holder Rich talked about "What is Mission? Why do we do mission?" giving historical background on *missio dei* and the 1910 Edinburgh mission conference, and how the PC(USA) has changed its way of following Matthew 25 and Acts 15 as we do mission. A highlight of the first seminar was to hear Mission co-worker Michael Ludwig speak about "Community Health Evangelism" training 90 pastors in Niger, reaching out with both physical and spiritual help in a country that is 97% Muslim.

As a follow up to this first session, you might engage your congregation's prayer teams by inviting committees to open their meetings with a devotional from the Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study ([presbyterianmission.org/yearbook](http://presbyterianmission.org/yearbook)).

You are especially invited to join us on February 20<sup>th</sup> when we will hear about “New Testament Models of Mission” and visit with Mission co-workers Mark Hare and Jenny Bent, serving in Costa Rica.

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## 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**. For more information, go to the PC(USA) website [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). CNO (PSV Commission for Nurture and Outreach) has appointed Matthew 25 Ambassadors who can speak to your Mission/Outreach/Service Committees and/or Sessions to explain more about Matthew 25. Check out [pcusa.org/matthew25](http://pcusa.org/matthew25)



### Special Event on Doing Justice and Loving Kindness

An Intro to Matthew 25” is an on-line event to introduce and support the work of the PC(USA) Matthew 25 Initiative on Saturday February 13th from 10:00 – 11:30 am. After a brief worship and introduction, participants can choose from one of three workshops: Dismantling Structural Racism, featuring CBS sports broadcaster James Brown, Eradicating Systemic Poverty, and Building Church Vitality. This event is FREE, and we ask that

you register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwscOCgrTIuGdGT-zCK\\_KRbJt1d1tCxEX-M](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwscOCgrTIuGdGT-zCK_KRbJt1d1tCxEX-M). This event is sponsored by the Presbytery Commission on Nurture and Outreach. See the event flyer at:

<https://psvonline.org/publication/doing-justice-loving-kindness-an-intro-to-matthew-25-saturday-february-13th-from-1000-1130-am/>

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## PSV PIE Leadership Training Update and Resources

We continue to celebrate two great PIE Leadership Training Events earlier this month. The printed materials shared at all five workshops are now available on the website [psvonline.org](http://psvonline.org) under Presbytery Leadership, then Nurture & Outreach Commission, then Forms and Resources.



### PSV Self-Development of People program grants awarded...

As your congregation begins to prepare for the 2021 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS), please note that our Presbytery’s Self-Development of People program was able to

award two grants to organizations in this presbytery last year as a result of our unified giving through the OGHS.

The Mid-Ohio Workers Association received \$4,999.00 for outreach to the Hispanic community (see their “thank you” video: [SWAP2021 ok.mp4](#) ), and the Franklin County Youth Council was awarded \$3,000.00 for its “Keep It Moving” project.

Grant applications are received throughout the year and funded, based on national SDOP criteria, to any group within the bounds of our presbytery that are:

- Presented, owned, and controlled by the group of economically poor people who will benefit directly from it.
- Address long-term correction of conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression.
- Be sensitive to the environment while accomplishing its goal(s) and objectives.
- Not advocate violence as a means of accomplishing its goal(s) and objectives.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/sdop/criteria-for-funding/>

If you know of a community group, formal or informal, that might wish to apply, please contact either the SDOP Committee moderator, Carla Wilks of Bethany Presbyterian Church: [cwilks03@yahoo.com](mailto:cwilks03@yahoo.com) , or Rev. Les Sauer (Honorably Retired Pastor) Church Nurture and Outreach Committee liaison to the SDOP Committee: [lessauer@hotmail.com](mailto:lessauer@hotmail.com)

## Presbytery of Scioto Valley Congregations Lifted Up in Prayer

The Commission for Congregational Life is committed to helping congregations promote and nurture healthy, faith-filled relationships and ministries in their congregations and communities. Our weekly Email news is lifting up our 88 congregations, celebrating their ministries and lifting them up in prayer. We hope you and your congregation will join in celebrating our congregations and holding them in your prayers.



### Bloomingburg First Presbyterian Church

Continuously since its organization in 1817, the Bloomingburg Presbyterian Church members work to serve its community and follow Christ's teachings.

Influenced by its first pastor, "Father" William Dickey, members supported the anti-slavery movement; their homes were often stations on the Underground Railroad. Later they took a strong stand on liquor and local option.

This small membership congregation recently received a presbytery congregational mission grant supporting their faithful involvement and service to their community.



### Bremen-Bethel Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterians came to the Rushcreek Valley during the early settlement of this area. In 1806, a log church was built north of the Village of Bremen. Reverend John Wright, from the Presbytery of Pittsburgh, was sent to serve Lancaster (then Hockhocking) and the Rushcreek churches. In 1824, the Bethel Church was organized. The records of Licking Presbytery show that the Bremen Church was organized in 1844. In 1932, the two congregations of the Bethel and Bremen Churches merged to form the Bremen-Bethel Presbyterian Church. The present building was constructed during 1907, and the first service in this building was held on Palm Sunday in 1908.

## A World of Thanks to our Congregations...

*An article by Commissioned Pastor Christine Burns, former member of PSV Operations...*

2020 was filled with unprecedented difficulties for congregations everywhere. In the midst of a pandemic, when many of our PC (USA) congregations were unable to worship or became stretched beyond what they believed they could do, new ways to worship had to be engaged and celebrated.

Amid financial hardships, the faithful members of the worshipping communities of our presbytery rose to extraordinary measures to support the connectional nature of our denomination through the payment of per capita. Many of our churches paid all of their per capita despite the difficulties because it is just that important that we keep our commitment to our sister churches across the denomination. In fact, 61 of our Presbytery of Scioto Valley congregations paid 100%, or more, of their per capita, with many others paying a large portion to support the mission and operations of our denomination and our presbytery. A total of \$406,463.00 was contributed for per capita, with an additional amount of \$158,098.00 in generous funds donated through mission fund commitments. Thank you for your support of the ministry and mission of our presbytery, our synod, and the General Assembly through your dedicated contributions of per capita. In a year that was fraught with potential barriers, we worshiped and worked our mission in new ways to stay always connected, always faithful, and always listening for the reforming work of the Holy Spirit to speak her wisdom. Well done, good and faithful servants!



## PSV Stated Clerk Candidate to be Elected at the February Presbytery Meeting...

The Presbytery Nominating Committee is pleased to bring to the February 16th Presbytery Meeting their candidate for election as the Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV). The Committee, along with the Presbytery Operations Human Resources team, voted unanimously to recommend the Reverend Bill Gause as the Presbytery's Stated Clerk. Reverend Gause serves as the Pastor of the Columbus Overbrook Presbyterian Church.

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## Special Resources for Lent and Holy Week.

*From The Reverend Neil MacQueen...*

The creative Christian educators and pastors at [www.rotation.org](http://www.rotation.org) have been collecting and creating resources for teaching and celebrating Lent and Holy Week at-home and online in 2021. In addition to lessons families can enjoy at home and teachers can use online, there are ideas for youth and entire congregations to learn and celebrate in socially responsible ways during the pandemic. Look for the links to these special resource forums on the Homepage of [www.rotation.org](http://www.rotation.org)

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## From Your Presbytery Staff- Jeannie, Dagmar, John, Jim, and Bob Our presbytery offices may still be closed, but we are 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@vorvs.com](mailto:jawilson@vorvs.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=cDBEUm8vYnNIS0RUK3dwZG5KVFMvZz09>  
Meeting ID: 588 789 104, Password: 463317, One tap  
mobile+13126266799,588789104#

## Continuing Guidance for our PSV Congregations

*From Your Presbytery Coordinating Team (CT)*

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley strongly discourages in-person worship, meetings, and gatherings during the current phase of the Pandemic. Although the vaccines are coming, the Presbytery will continue to recommend physical distancing and the wearing of masks. The new more transmittable strain reinforces the concerns underlying this strong recommendation.

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### PSV GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION...

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

## The 225th General Assembly of the PCUSA to be held in Louisville, KY.

The 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 will likely 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/>



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

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

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