

Mid-week E-News March 11, 2021

The Presbytery OF SCIOTO VALLEY

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

February 18, 2020

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



Lent...Fire and darkness concede the challenge
of assertive light and Lent is near.

The winter of our discontent—or even content—must
by some long-ago agreed-upon covenant surrender to approaching
spring.

Days lengthen, lending its name to the time: Lent

Nature stirs. Creation stretches and yawns.
Earth shakes off the lethargy of winter's sleep.

Bulbs in deep soil on secret command from the Creator
awaken and journey upward to bloom and grow.

Even God's image-bearers—women, men, girls, boys—
rouse from silver days and frosted nights,
done with winter's fatigue, yearn for freshness and renewal.

Revelation and epiphany in a timeless round of liturgical seasons
lead to reflection and contemplation, the way briefly barred by purple shades,
as if springing to brilliant Easter is too much like staring
directly into the face of God.

In front of the immaculate White billows the curtain of Lent,
restraining us till we have answered for ourselves.

Who is Jesus the Christ?
What does he have to do with us?

Then in forty days—ready or not— the curtain parts,
Resurrection is revealed, and we know.

Poem by the Reverend Phyllis Heffner, Honorably Retired

Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) March Meeting Calendar

PSV GLOBAL MISSION NETWORK EVENTS...

Mark your calendar for March 20, April 17, and May 15

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

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

Saturday, March 13, 10 a.m.

Zoom Meeting - Matthew 25 Round Table Discussion

Tuesday, March 16, 4 p.m.

Zoom Meeting - PSV Coordinating Team

Saturday, March 20, 10:30 a.m.

Zoom Meeting - Global Mission Event
Mission Engagement Class

Tuesday, March 23, 1 p.m.

Zoom Meeting - Commission for Nurture and Outreach (CNO)

2021 Presbytery Meeting Dates

May 18, September 21, and November 16.

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



MATTHEW 25

YOU ARE INVITED...To Join in a "Matthew 25 Roundtable" Zoom Meeting, Saturday, March 13, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Hello presbytery friends! We hope that your churches will be sending a representative (or two or three...) to our **Matthew 25 Roundtable** this Saturday, March 13, on zoom from 10:00 - 11:30 am. We will be sharing ideas on how churches in our presbytery can address issues of poverty, racism, and congregational vitality. Spread the word! Please register at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZiOfu6rpjktGdGJshu6AOoQaOTWPAm5BkIw>

Worship Resources for Lent and Holy Week...

These online worship experiences are available for your worship services or to serve as personal devotions for you. You can find all of the information here:

[Synod Coordinating Lenten Worship Videos - Synod of the Covenant](#)

Mission Engagement Opportunities Continue

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 in this exciting way to engage your members and leaders in Global Mission.



"MISSION ENGAGEMENT CLASSES..."

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

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 highlighting 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.

Columbus Indianola Presbyterian Church



Indianola Presbyterian Church was built in 1916 in the Iuka Avenue gorge on a spot that had once been a favorite swimming hole for the local persons. It was founded originally in 1909 at the strong urging of the president of Ohio State University, Dr. William Thompson.

The Indianola congregation has been one to try new things. It is the first church in Columbus to sponsor a nursery school and the first church to hire a woman minister. The church has also nurtured a number of women as candidates for the ministry. From the beginning, the church has placed emphasis on ministry to university students, faculty, and staff. As a church at the crossroads of the OSU campus and community, it strives to be a creative center, offering an alternative to empty secularism and to religious rigidity.

This congregation's mission statement declares that the congregation is committed to embracing the mystery of faith, social

Columbus Old First Presbyterian Church



In 1805 the General Assembly sent Dr. James Hoge as an itinerant missionary to Ohio. The First Presbyterian Church, the first church in Columbus, was formally organized February 8, 1806. Dr. Hoge served as pastor for over 50 years.

Louis Sullivant, a founding member, built a small brick chapel on River Street where a cemetery still exists. In 1812 the U.S. Army took over the chapel to store grain which pushed out the walls. In 1821 members of the congregation donated the money to build a place of worship at Town and Front Streets. In 1830 a church building was built at Third and State Streets. In 1900 the church moved to the suburban area at Ohio Avenue and Bryden road, where the church stands today. When two Presbyterian denominations united in the 1950's, Columbus suddenly had two First Presbyterian Churches. The First United Presbyterian Church at Bryden and Ohio became Old First Presbyterian Church.

justice and transforming lives through inquiry, prayer, and action.

The Reverend Trip Porch is faithfully serving as the pastor of this open and questioning congregation. Indianola Presbyterian Church strives to be inclusive in word and deed as the people work together to live in and share the unconditional love of Christ.

Old First has been involved, sometimes controversially, in urban issues through the years, and its membership reflects the diverse community. Old First has provided unique leadership in the Columbus area and continues to carry out its motto:
A CHURCH OUT OF YESTERDAY - PROCLAIMING TRUTH OF TODAY - IN WAYS AS NEW AS TOMORROW.



The Seven Marks of Vital Congregations...

By the Reverend Katie Kinnison, PSV Commission for Nurture and Outreach

As part of our Matthew 25 initiative, the PC(USA) has named Seven Marks of vital congregations. The first is **Lifelong Discipleship Formation**. Following Christ means being transformed, dying to one way of being and coming alive to another. We do not simply teach good morals or offer programs that we think might fill our pews for a moment. We do not imagine that we have learned everything we need to know in a kindergarten Sunday School class. We are here to become the fullness of our unique selves, made in the image of God, dwelling places of the Spirit. Our chief end is to be in relationship with the Living God: a relationship that fuels our acts of justice and teaches our hearts compassion. The Church equips human beings for living in such a way that our neighbors and all of creation are enriched as, together in love-driven communities, we bear Christ's love and power into the world.

For a brief video on this First Mark, go to our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/You.R.Presbytery/videos/146868257298034>.

And you can read about the Seven Marks

here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/ToolkitDAVID4.22pm.pdf>



Reverend Thom Shuman, Pastor, Galloway Presbyterian Church,

recently received an award for each of four areas: career or profession; service to Eckerd College; dedication to the Church, faith, or spirituality; and service to the community. As an honorably retired pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Thom has served churches in three states and four presbyteries. In those roles, he served on a variety of committees, task forces, administrative commissions, and disciplinary commissions. In addition to being a pastor, Thom is a published poet and author of some 20 books of worship liturgies, prayers, devotions, and reflections. As an associate member of the Iona Community, an

international ecumenical community working for peace and social justice, he is a regular contributor to its worship and spiritual resources, and it has published eight books of his writings. Thom's weekly liturgies and poems/prayers are used in worshiping communities, as well as by individuals, throughout the world. During this season of pandemic, he has been posting morning and evening prayers on both YouTube and Facebook.

Holiday confections inspire a way to share story...

By Donna Frischknecht Jackson. (with Permission from Presbyterians Today)

One year for the children's sermon during the Easter worship service, I created an "Easter Scripture" basket. Inspired by the chocolate bunnies and lambs and marshmallow Peeps I saw in the store, I began thinking about what Scripture passages would go with the confectionery creations. When I spotted a chocolate rabbit with exaggerated long ears, I thought about the passage in Isaiah 55:3: "Incline your ear and come to me." And when I saw the foil-wrapped lambs it was John 10:11 that I heard: "I am the good shepherd." I put the basket together with the candy and corresponding Bible verses, and I shared with the children the Good News of Jesus and why Easter is more than just egg hunts and goodies in a basket. With virtual worship still a reality for many congregations this Easter, consider inviting families to create their own baskets or assemble baskets to be given to families.



News from the PSV Commission for Nurture and Outreach (CNO)

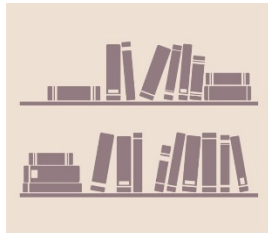
Elder Kathi Bubba, Chairperson

Woohoo!!! Our Presbytery has a YouTube channel for our videos! Please check out the link below - **be sure to subscribe!** We need to get to 100 subscribers and when we do, we'll get our own unique URL (probably something like: [youtube.com/PSV](https://www.youtube.com/PSV) or [youtube.com/presbyteryofsciotovalley](https://www.youtube.com/presbyteryofsciotovalley)).
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ybDKRw00j_q83Gsk8B9mA

News from the PSV Commission for Congregational Life...

The Reverend Lee Platt, Chairperson

The Commission for Congregational Life (CCL) has approved up to \$500 technology grants to congregations requesting financial assistance to purchase needed technology equipment as a result of the COVID pandemic limitations. This can also be used for needed technology as the church re-opens. An application form will be available soon.



A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR MINISTRY...

A complete set of (Paperback) of the current Westminster/John Knox Commentaries (individual books of the Bible) are looking to find a good home. I would like these wonderful books to go to someone who could use them. Interested persons may contact via email at RevMrs2@gmail.com in order to arrange transfer. Plus, other good study materials are available.

One Great Hour of Sharing: A Special Offering of the PC(USA)

The Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) offer the whole Church a way to embody Matthew 25 through the Spirit-inspired stories and gifts which place us in partnership with those who have the least. Through gifts to the Special Offerings, we directly support people experiencing hunger, homelessness, thirst, imprisonment, sickness, and deprivation, as well as welcoming the stranger.

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. 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



The Synod of the Covenant is a Matthew 25 Synod, where congregational vitality is a key goal. Lifelong Christian formation is one of the marks of a vital congregation, and the support of campus ministries is a critical way that the Synod promotes congregational vitality. The Synod has two endowment funds whose proceeds are used to support the 22 campus ministries throughout the Presbyteries in the Synod of the Covenant. Thanks to the generosity of our Synod, The Presbytery of Scioto Valley will receive a total of \$10,549.71 over four quarters beginning this month. Everyone in the Synod of the Covenant is blessed to have the faithful leadership of the Reverend Dr. Charles Hardwick as the Synod Executive.

An Invitation to Join in Worship by Teleconference...

The Outville Presbyterian Church is continuing to safely worship by teleconference, faithfully and inspiringly led by Pastor Kae Merold, CRE. Worship begins on Sundays at 10:45 am. Each participant receives prior to worship a mailing that includes a Home Touch ministry resource on the Text for the week, the hymns, and the Scripture references. The Outville PC Session warmly invites anyone not currently able to worship in other ways to join with them by dialing in TOLL FREE (844) 855-4444. You will be prompted to enter an access code which is 444960#. There is even time for fellowship if you dial in a few minutes early! If you would like to receive the mailing with worship information or if you have additional questions call 740-927-7925.

PSV Congregational Session Records Review Update...

The 2020 session records need to be reviewed this year. Stay tuned in the next several months for the plan. For questions: contact Marquell Segelken, email: dsegelke@columbus.rr.com.

Continuing Guidance for our PSV Congregations

From Your Presbytery Coordinating Team (CT)

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley continues to discourage in-person worship, meetings, and gatherings during this ongoing Pandemic time. In addition, the Presbytery recommends physical distancing and the wearing of masks. Watch for the next update from the PSV Coordinating Team in next week's E-News.

Church Opening and Closing Guidelines during COVID-19 pandemic

<https://psvonline.org/publication/church-opening-and-closing-guidelines-during-covid-19-pandemic/>

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 Presbytery offices are still closed. However, your Presbytery staff persons, are available. Do not hesitate to contact:

Jeannie Harsh, Executive Presbyter, jeannie@psvonline.org, Cell: 614-562-1775

Bill Gause, Stated Clerk, statedclerk@psvonline.org.

Dagmar Romage, Administrative Assistant, Email: dagmar@psvonline.org

John Wyckoff, Financial Assistant, Email: accounting@psvonline.org

Presbytery Office: 614-847-0565.

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



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