

**Mid-week E-News May 20, 2021**

# *The Presbytery* OF SCIOTO VALLEY

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

*February 18, 2020*

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley includes 88 churches with a membership of 13,520 (updated March 23, 2021). Surrounding the metropolitan center of Columbus, Ohio, the Presbytery extends northward to Marion, east to Newark, west to London and southward to the Ohio River. The southern portion of the presbytery is distinguished by an Appalachian culture, where there are many small towns and much rugged open country. Scioto Valley Presbytery is represented in 21 Counties: Athens, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Knox, Lawrence, Licking, Madison, Marion, Meigs, Morrow, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Union, and Vinton.

[Visit our website](#)



## **Turn on the Spiritual Burner.**

*Sunday, May 23, the Day of Pentecost*

The disciples were waiting and praying. As he was ascending to heaven, Jesus had promised they would receive power from on high---they had no idea what that would mean---but they knew in their own strength they weren't going to get very far from that upper room; and their feeble efforts to tell people about Jesus would fall on deaf ears without some power bigger than themselves.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come...

And suddenly, unexpectedly, uncontrollably, God does what God has promised and the holy Spirit is poured out. The Spirit appears with the sound of wind and the tongues of fire. Come, Holy Spirit! This Spirit changes the disciples. It unlocks their mouths and gives them words to speak. The Spirit also opened the ears of the crowd that gathered so that they could hear the powerful message of God's love through Jesus Christ.

It's already in us. We receive it when we say yes to Jesus. But it could be in pilot light stage. All we have to do to light the spirit's fire fully, is to ask. Come, Holy Spirit, come. Be our guide. Fill us with your wisdom. Remind us that we are forgiven. Come, Holy Spirit, Come. Help us be more fully human, more like Jesus. Grow your fruit in us: love, peace, patience, joy, goodness, gentleness, kindness, generosity and self-control. We can't produce this fruit on our own. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Fill us with the whoosh of your spirit. Move us beyond the pilot light stage and turn up your power among us. Open our eyes to see your visions for our families, our neighborhoods, our schools, our communities. Move us from our hidden rooms out into

the streets filled with your people hungry to hear the good news. Open our mouths to speak your truth of Jesus Christ. Open our arms to share your love. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

### **The Pentecost Offering...**

*As one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.*

*Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. This celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come--children, youth, and young adults.*

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### **Highlights from the May 18 Presbytery Meeting...**

The 258th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley gathered nearly 100 elders and pastors for the Zoom Meeting the afternoon of May 18. The meeting was convened with an inspirational prayer by Moderator Kae Merold.

In the midst of presbytery important business items, Commission reports, and inspiring worship, the Presbytery unanimously voted to move Bruce Miller from an inquirer to a candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Bruce is a member of the Grove City First Presbyterian Church where he was baptized and raised.

The minimum compensation guidelines for pastoral leadership were approved for 2022.

Certified Ruling Elder Ann Moody was commissioned to serve congregations in the Hanging Rock Area of the Presbytery. Ann, an elder in the Gallipolis First Presbyterian Church, will be available for pulpit supply, celebrating the sacraments and moderating sessions in the southern (Hanging Rock) area of Scioto Valley.

Guests included the Reverend Chip Hardwick, Synod of the Covenant Executive, and the Reverend Doug Portz, PCUSA Board of Pensions Regional Liaison. Both guests brought greetings and gave interesting and informational reports.

For more information about this full meeting of the Presbytery, minutes will be available. A special word of thanks goes to the Reverend Bill Gause, newly installed Stated Clerk for the Presbytery. Bill carefully organized this meeting of the Presbytery. Gratitude also goes to Vice Moderator Bob Gustafson, and Reverend Doug Browne, technology support.

The next Presbytery Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21.

## **Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Calendar**

### **Thursday, May 20**

10:00 a.m. Certified Ruling Elder Task Team meeting by Zoom

### **Monday, May 24**

6:30 p.m. Westside Urban Ministry (WUM)

### **Tuesday, May 25**

1:00 p.m. Commission for Nurture and Outreach meeting by Zoom

**Monday, May 31 - Memorial Day**

**Monday, June 7**

12:30 p.m. Commission for Church Professionals Zoom Meeting  
3:00 p.m. Commission for Congregational Life Zoom Meeting

**Tuesday, June 8**

1:00 -2:00 p.m. Transitional Pastors Zoom Meeting

**Monday, June 14**

3:00 p.m. Commission for Presbytery Operations Zoom Meeting

**Tuesday, June 15**

10:00 a.m. Older Adult Ministry Team Zoom Meeting

**Thursday, June 17**

10:00 a.m. Certified Ruling Elder Task Team meeting by Zoom

**Saturday, June 19**

10:30 a.m. - noon

MISSION ENGAGEMENT CLASS - Session 6

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

**Tuesday, June 29**

1:00 p.m. Commission for Nurture and Outreach

**2021 PRESBYTERY STATED MEETING DATES...**

**September 21, and November 16**

Presbytery meetings will be held via Zoom until in-person meeting is deemed safe.

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**Your Presbytery staff persons, are available. Do not hesitate to call.**

Jeannie Harsh, Executive Presbyter, [jeannie@psvonline.org](mailto:jeannie@psvonline.org), Cell: 614-562-1775

Bill Gause, Stated Clerk, [statedclerk@psvonline.org](mailto:statedclerk@psvonline.org)

Bob Patterson, Treasurer, [treasurer@psvonline.org](mailto:treasurer@psvonline.org)

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

John Wyckoff, Financial Assistant, Email: [accounting@psvonline.org](mailto:accounting@psvonline.org)

Presbytery Office: 614-847-0565.

**Moving Through the Pandemic and Re-opening our congregations...**

*Thoughts from Jeannie Harsh, Executive Presbyter*

It has been over a year since much of our lives and activities have become limited, especially in our congregations. Through this time, our Presbytery Coordinating Team has continually encouraged your churches to be especially cautious in considering re-opening and re-gathering. This has not been easy for any of us. And I want to especially offer gratitude for the good work you all have been doing in caring for the health and safety of your people. In this important journey to safely care for your people, you have learned new ways to be the church in your communities. You have discovered creative gatherings using technology. You have become experienced in on-line services and meetings.

Now, with the COVID-19 vaccines, we are beginning to have more choices in our congregational lives and gatherings. Since the CDC's recent recommendations about mask

wearing and in-person gatherings, we are wondering what to do now? How do we begin to safely re-open our lives, especially in our churches?

As we continue this journey in re-opening our worship, programs, meetings, gatherings and ministries, I know that our churches' Sessions will carefully evaluate their unique settings and make important decisions for the safest re-openings and gatherings for their church communities. Many of our congregations have carefully studied this and have made detailed steps and plans for reopening. This is a good opportunity to talk with your pastor colleagues and share creative and safe ways you have discovered for your gatherings and in-person worship experiences. I too would welcome hearing about your Sessions' decisions and plans for safe gatherings. In any event, I look forward to worshiping, gathering and sharing meetings with you in the future. Meanwhile, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

### **Guidance From Your Presbytery Coordinating Team (CT)...**

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) CT continues to hold all pastoral leaders and congregations in prayer as together we cautiously move through this pandemic time.

### **A Short Reflection as we Begin to Re-Enter our Church Buildings...**

*By the Reverend Ron Botts*

As hard as it was to close our buildings in early 2020, reopening them may prove to be equally difficult. We're tempted to think it's just a matter of unlocking the door and picking up from where we left off. Churches who have already reconvened may have found that this isn't really true. We can't live in yesterday. Perhaps our greatest gain comes from a fresh possibility to look ahead rather than dwelling in the nostalgia of another age. During this time of global disruption God may indeed be bringing us a rare chance to exchange the doldrums of the past for the unlimited possibilities of the future. The Church's role is not to adjust to the world as we find it, but always to shape it in the image that Christ showed us.

### **The Healthy Boundaries Training is free this year for All PSV Pastors!!!**

The Synod of the Covenant in partnership with its Presbyteries, including Scioto Valley, is offering 2 more boundaries trainings over the course of this year. Each training will be 5 hours online via zoom, 2.5 hours each day for 2 consecutive days. Sign up for whichever one fits best into your schedule. There is **no cost** for these trainings, and they are easily accessible on-line. Our presbytery, along with the synod and our partner presbyteries will be providing these workshops for free. Pastors, please don't miss this opportunity to get updated on your required training in healthy boundaries!

- August 18 and 19, 6:00 - 8:30 pm each day (Registration Deadline 8/5/21)
- November 9 and 10, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm each day (Registration Deadline 10/27/21)
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To register for a workshop, or others offered through LeaderWise in 2021, visit [Leaderwise Registration - Synod of the Covenant](#). You'll receive the zoom information after you register.

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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)

**Matthew 25 Zoom workshop  
Saturday, June 5, 10-11:30  
a.m., "Extraordinary Time:  
Coming Out of COVID with  
Vitality".**

*The Rev. Carlton Johnson,  
Associate Director for Vital  
Congregations will be the  
speaker. We will reflect on our call  
to follow Christ at this moment in  
time. As our churches go back to  
in-person worship and we find  
ourselves doing more than "going  
back to normal" we face an  
opportunity to follow God in  
amazing adventures. Come help us  
explore the astonishing truth that  
" perhaps we were made for a time  
such as this." (Esther 4:14)  
Register in advance for this  
meeting:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/me  
eting/register/tZIpf-  
6ariMjHtCpiq0BemssRiZqxU4  
Bqp6w](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6ariMjHtCpiq0BemssRiZqxU4Bqp6w)*

**PCUSA Mission Engagement and Support  
Resources...**

Our PCUSA Mission Engagement Advisor Chris Roseland is offering resources that can be helpful to you, your ministry and your congregation. Here are links for some PCUSA videos:

- Shared Mission, "When did we see you?": <https://vimeo.com/presbyterianmission/sharedmission2020>
- GA Per Capita Giving, "Blessed be the tie that binds": <https://vimeo.com/presbyterianmission/percapita2020>

**PSV Commission for Nurture and Outreach...**

We did it! We have reached over 100 subscribers to our new PSV YouTube channel - [www.youtube.com/sciotovalleypresbytery](http://www.youtube.com/sciotovalleypresbytery).

You can watch recorded programs, including:

- "Understanding How Historical and Structural; Racism Have Shaped Central Ohio - Neighborhoods Today" with Michaelo Wilkos from United Way
- Summer Idea Exchange with educators in our presbytery
- Global Mission Engagement 101, session 1-4
- Interview with Sportscaster James Brown on racism
- Presbyterian women Spring Gathering and more!!

**Looking for Curriculum and Youth Idea Exchanges?**

The Commission on Nurture and Outreach (CNO) is pleased to offer TWO upcoming Idea Exchanges in our presbytery:

**Curriculum Idea Exchange:** Looking at resources for children, youth and adults...

**Thursday, May 20 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsdeurzqtHdaWLiVd1ImfjUzMRI9a129Y](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6ariMjHtCpiq0BemssRiZqxU4Bqp6w)

**Youth Idea Exchange:** Sharing ideas about resources and programming for grades 6 - 12

**Thursday, June 17 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm**

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkcOupqDwuGtw7dioMXIIM\\_yZiQYS  
cTCKY](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6ariMjHtCpiq0BemssRiZqxU4Bqp6w)

Questions? Contact Kathi Bubb, chair of CNO at [kathibubb@gmail.com](mailto:kathibubb@gmail.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 highlighting our 88 congregations, celebrating their beginnings, histories, stories and ministries. We hope you and your congregation will join in celebrating our congregations and holding them in your prayers.

### **Grove City First Presbyterian Church**

The first religious services in the Grove City community were conducted by the Reverend R.K. Davis, a Presbyterian minister, who came here with Mr. William Foster Breck, the village founder, in 1846. It was a part of this inter-denominational group that later formed the First Presbyterian Church in Grove City. The strength of integrity and determination thrives in the present, tempered by a warmly inclusive community with diverse outreach and mission goals.

The church was formally chartered in November 1858. A group of about sixteen members of the German Reformed Church, met in 1856 to petition the Presbytery of Columbus to allow them to organize a Presbyterian Church. Various church buildings housed this faithful congregation, including the "Highland Mission" (services first held in this log building), the "Old Brick Church", the Quonset hut, and the present building.

From at least 1931 through 1949, this was a joint pastorate with Galloway. The pastor lived most of that period in Galloway and had services every other Sunday in Grove City. The times were very lean, and it was hard paying a pastor, so there were several months between pastorates. In 1949 it was decided to try it as a single pastorate. With the help of National Mission aid to the supplement the minister's salary.

in 1997, the latest addition to the church, a new fellowship center, kitchen, additional classrooms, restrooms, overflow space at the rear of the sanctuary, and a large entry hall was dedicated.

The congregation has historically enjoyed strong lay leadership. Today the members of this vibrant congregation are faithfully led by the Reverend Robert Tolar.

### **Groveport Presbyterian Church**

The history of the Groveport church can be traced to a home meeting held early in 1853. The meeting was held to organize a Presbyterian congregation in Groveport, and was attended by eleven people. What was lacking in numbers was made up in determination since the congregation was organized at this meeting.

The news spread rapidly, and within a short time, additional members were enrolled. A Presbyterian Church building was erected and dedicated in 1853. The site for the church was donated by the Reverend Fleming Solomon. The brick sanctuary portion of the building on College Street stands today as originally constructed and features lovely art glass windows. It is the oldest church in Groveport.

The cornerstone for a social hall was laid in 1949, and the facility was first used for the annual Easter Supper in 1951.

In 1959, the first full-time minister in the history of the church was called, the congregation previously sharing ministers with the Lithopolis, Greencastle and Madison Presbyterian Churches.

Groveport Presbyterian church has served its mission as a village congregation with a global perspective. Through the years, this congregation has provided Sunday morning worship services, a full range of youth and adult classes, women's associations, choral worship, bible study, support activities, mission outreach, and opportunities for community involvement. Today this historic and faithful small membership congregation with Commissioned Pastor Chris Piper and the assistance of the Presbytery will be celebrating the many years of serving the Groveport community.

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### **Commission for Congregational Life Technology Grant money is still available to Presbytery of Scioto Valley Congregations!**

Congregations of the presbytery are invited to take advantage of a \$500 grant that has been approved by the Presbytery Commission for Congregation Life. One way to take advantage of the grant would be to purchase equipment that allows your congregation to stream worship and other activities as your congregation re-opens.

Persons who wish to take advantage of the grant for technology or reopening expenses should make their purchases and submit their receipt(s) to the presbytery for reimbursement no later than September 1, 2021. Please email receipts to [dagmar@psvonline.org](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org) or mail them to the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, 4131 N. High Street, Suite B, Columbus, OH 43214.

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**Higher Education Scholarships for Christian Leaders:** Students in undergrad, associates, vocational, or their first theology masters program are encouraged to apply for these scholarships. Applications due 5/31/21. Learn more here: [\*\*Grants and Scholarships - Synod of the Covenant\*\*](#)

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### **Racial Justice Training Available for Scioto Valley...**

**To Register:** <https://synodofthecovenant.org/leadership-development-workshops>

Our Synod, the Synod of the Covenant, in cooperation with its presbyteries, is offering high quality leadership training to members of our presbytery. Racial Justice Training is one of these. In this program, **each participant will take the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), which is the premier assessment of cross-cultural acumen, have a 1:1 debrief with a LeaderWise psychologist, and then participate in a ½ day workshop for the group led by 2 LeaderWise staff members who are certified to administer and teach the IDI.** During this Zoom workshop, participants will learn more deeply about cross-cultural competence; constructions in in diversity, equity, and inclusion; reflect on their own opportunities for increasing competence; and begin to create their own development plan for increasing their competence.

You can receive a refund grant of \$75 (that is half the \$150 fee for the testing and individual consultation) if you also take part in a follow up meeting to discuss how to share what you learned with our presbytery. Please contact Kathi Bubb for information about this: [kathibubb@gmail.com](mailto:kathibubb@gmail.com). Time is of the essence - assessments must be completed by May 26th.

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**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#**



### **International Peacemakers to return in 2021 An Overview of the Program**

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program makes it possible for leaders from our partner denominations and partner organizations around the world to visit the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) each year to interpret issues of peace and justice. Since 1984 approximately 300 International Peacemakers from

60 countries have been hosted by Presbyterians. These visits have informed Presbyterians, opened hearts and minds, touched lives, established relationships and inspired new ministries. By sharing stories of their work and witness, the peacemakers help us understand peace and justice concerns around the world and provide insights that can inspire us to greater faithfulness. Their visits broaden our sense of God's inclusive family and help equip us to build a culture of peace and nonviolence for all God's children.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/international-peacemakers>



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNium 2022  
July 24-27 • Indianapolis, IN

## Changes are coming to Triennium, a life-changing event for thousands of Presbyterian youth and young adults

**A new venue and new way of being in small groups are designed to enhance the beloved event, which takes on a Matthew 25 focus by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service**

LOUISVILLE — The 2022 version of Presbyterian Youth Triennium will feature **a Matthew 25 framework**, activities that will extend a full year following Triennium and enough innovation to send thousands of high schoolers and young adults scurrying to register — once registration goes live this winter.

Among other changes, organizers are moving the popular every-three-years event, set for July 24-27, 2022, from the campus of Purdue University, which has hosted Triennium since 1983, to a place where everyone involved can enjoy around-the-clock air conditioning: the **Indiana Convention Center** in Indianapolis, as well as at least eight nearby hotels, most of them connected to the convention center by pedestrian walkways. All attendees will enjoy their meals together in a large assembly hall at the convention center. Meals together will also include Bible study, games — and one of PYT's signature components, music. Read more <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/changes-are-coming-to-triennium-a-life-changing-event-for-thousands-of-presbyterian-youth-and-young-adults>. For more information visit:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/changes-are-coming-to-triennium-a-life-changing-event-for-thousands-of-presbyterian-youth-and-young-adults>



## Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) approves docket for the 225th General Assembly, between June 18-July 9, 2022

Members ponder what's in store for future Assembly gatherings  
Rick Jones | Office of the General Assembly - April 16, 2021

Read more: <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2021/4/16/coqa-approves-docket-225th-general-assembly>

**Presbyterian Historical Society** <http://www.history.pcusa.org/>



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