

Mid-week E-News September 9, 2021

The Presbytery OF SCIOTO VALLEY

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

February 18, 2020

Visit our website



God, where are you?

this pandemic just will not go away
as the politicians and naysayers hoped
when all you are hoping is that they
(okay, we as well) will love our neighbors as much as ourselves.

God, where are you?

wildfires out of control,
rains and floods surging,
and all we can do is continue to turn
the dangers of climate change into political fodder,
rather than taking those steps we could
so easily do in our lives.

God, where are you,

and the answer is what it has always been . . .
you are doing your best (through us)
to protect the vulnerable,
working in overwhelmed hospitals (through us),
stockpiling food and water and meds (through us)
for those who will need them most
and if we would just stop digging in our heels
and holding our breath until we turn blue
waiting for you to answer the age-old question

where are you, God?

you might be able to use us
as you always hope you can.

(c) 2021 Thom M. Shuman

Sunday, September 12, at 4 p.m., New Pastor Installation!

The Waverly First Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of Scioto

Valley Invite all... to celebrate the Installation Service of Waverly's Called Pastor, the Reverend Jane Johnson. The installation service will be held at the Waverly church, located at 211 Schmitt Drive, Waverly. A supper will follow the service.

PSV's Continued Guidance for Covid-19/Delta Variant....

Many of our areas have returned to the highest level red in the CDC's data tracker for high levels of community transmission of COVID-19. Therefore, it is important to get vaccinated to prevent serious illness and hospitalization. It is also very strongly advised by our Presbytery Coordinating Team that masks be worn indoors regardless of vaccination status. See the CDC map here: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

Putting the fun back into fundraising

Ideas to inspire and encourage giving.

By Emily Enders Odom | *Presbyterians Today*

Pumpkins for Peacemaking

Because the **Peace & Global Witness Offering** is usually received on World Communion Sunday, which was observed last year on Oct. 4, Carla Mavis, a retired schoolteacher and the volunteer Christian education director at Circleville Presbyterian Church in Circleville, Ohio, sprang into action. She gathered the church's children and youth to pack sack lunches with a sandwich, an apple, a bag of chips, literature on the Peace & Global Witness Offering and a famous Circleville pumpkin doughnut, which were all distributed in drive-thru fashion in the church's parking lot.

"Circleville is a big pumpkin town," said Mavis, referring, in part, to one of the U.S.'s largest and oldest pumpkin festivals held annually in Circleville, which was canceled last year because of COVID-19.

For the youth and children's portion of the fundraiser, Mavis had set up socially distanced assembly stations throughout the church's large fellowship hall, where the younger youth decorated the lunch bags with pictures and messages and the older youth packed the lunches. Everyone who participated was gloved and masked for safety.

Once the assembly was completed, volunteers placed the lunch bags on a cart, wheeled it outside and handed out the lunches as people drove through beneath a large overhang and portico on the side of the building. Since Mavis knew what was in each lunch bag, she had made a suggested donation amount that was roughly twice the cost of the contents so that

there would be a good source of revenue to benefit the Peace & Global Witness Offering. "Our members all knew that the money was going to Peace & Global Witness," said Mavis. "That was part of the publicity so that people wouldn't think we were just going to put the money in somebody's pocket somewhere. People were very generous. They paid much more than the suggested cost for these lunches." Read the entire article:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0921-fundraising/>

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

God is our refuge and strength *therefore, we will not fear, though the waters roar and foam.*— Psalm 46

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is mobilized and already delivering immediate aid to those impacted by Hurricane Ida. The initial assessment of the damage is staggering. The needs of those impacted is changing daily because of lack of access to power, refrigeration, water and housing. This will be a long-term commitment to the people impacted by this catastrophic destruction.

PDA will continue to work with Presbyterian leadership to respond to Hurricane Ida and remain engaged in the recovery efforts during the hurricane season of 2021, during which several named storms are expected to impact the region. After initial needs are addressed, PDA will remain — providing emotional and spiritual care and Long-Term Recovery to address unmet needs.

We invite you to join in this effort.

The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.

GIVE. ACT. PRAY.

GIVE: Gifts can be **made online**, by phone at (800) 872-3283 or by check, which can be made payable and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

ACT:

- Share our Mobile Cause campaign link (bit.ly/PDAIda)
- Learn how you and your congregation can help families affected by Ida. Stay informed and like us on Facebook (facebook.com/pdacares), download resources at pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources, and share updates with your congregation.
- **Download the bulletin insert** to share in your congregation.
-

PRAY: God of Compassion,

With sighs too deep for human words, we come to you again in prayer, lifting up the sorrow, the trouble and the weariness of so many of your peoples. For those whose homes and communities are torn and flooded by the winds of Hurricane Ida, for those who abide in darkness and in oppressive heat, trying to begin the work of rebuilding, especially for those whose resources and access to help are tenuous, hear our prayer.

Oh, God of all things: There is so much. May your Spirit expand our vision, sustain our attention, and deepen our compassion and commitment: For neighbors in Haiti, grieving loss, working to mend bodies and lives, moving rubble, hoping for help, weary and weighed down. For neighbors fleeing fire in western states, violence and fear in Afghanistan, for

people everywhere who suffer loss of home, community, livelihood, hope. Help us to be part of your healing, your Wholeness, your hope. In the name of the Christ our justice and our life. Amen.

Haiti & Afghanistan Peace & Global Witness Update

As congregations receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering on October 3, we recognize they do so with many concerns on their hearts for our siblings around the world. The devastating earthquake in Haiti and the refugee crisis following the end of the war in Afghanistan are humanitarian disasters of particular concern. Congregations understandably feel called to support relief efforts for these impacted communities.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering offers flexibility for congregations to support these relief efforts while supporting the peacemaking work of their mid councils and the PC(USA). Twenty-five percent of the Offering stays with the congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in your own community. This year, if your congregation is so moved, we encourage you to contribute your portion of the Offering to assist in either or both Haiti or Afghanistan.

In **Haiti**, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery through our established local partners and in collaboration with ACT Alliance, a worldwide network of Protestant and Orthodox churches. The PC(USA), through PDA, will remain active throughout the entire recovery process, accompanying our partners in the area as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for rebuilding and resilience.

Regarding assistance for our **Afghan refugee** siblings, PDA is working alongside U.S. resettlement networks and congregations as they welcome the large number of refugees and work to accompany them with both financial and emotional support for a sustainable new beginning. For Afghans who flee to neighboring countries, PDA is working with partners in the ACT Alliance alongside local and regional authorities to respond to the growing needs

in host countries like Pakistan and Turkey. PDA is providing financial support for these ecumenical and interfaith efforts.

Where there is no justice, there is no peace. This year, we invite you to share God's peace with our Afghan and Haitian neighbors in particular through the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

Prayer: Dear God, be with our siblings in Haiti and Afghanistan. Let us answer with our prayers. Let us answer with generous gifts. Let us join together, an international community of healing, to rebuild, restore and in time, rejoice. Remind us that in a world that suffers, light still shines, and darkness and dust shall not overcome it. *Amen.*

Help is needed for Afghanistan...

The Presbyter of Scioto Valley (**PSV**) **Global Mission Network** wants congregations in our presbytery to have the following information about how to assist Afghan refugees, and to feel free to contact Rev. Les Sauer (HR), CNO liaison to the Global Mission Network for additional local information if needed:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/pda-blog/2021/08/18/afghanistan-evacuations-and-refugees/>

Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Calendar

Visit our website to view the calendar.

Monday, September 13, 3 p.m., Commission for Presbytery Operations (CPO) Zoom Mtg.

Tuesday, September 14, 10 a.m., Older Adult Ministry Task Team Zoom Meeting.

Thursday, September 16, 10 a.m., Certified Ruling Elder Task Team Zoom Meeting.

Thursday, September 16, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Fireside Chat, Rusty Bucket, Clintonville.

Tuesday, September 21, 3:00 p.m., Presbytery Meeting.

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

Sunday, September 26, 2-4 p.m. Review of 2020 Congregational Session Records
Bremen Bethel Presbyterian Church, 142 Purvis Avenue, Bremen, OH 43107

Tuesday, September 28, 1 p.m. Commission for Nurture and Outreach (CNO).

Review of 2020 Congregational Session Records Dates...

The PSV Commission for Congregational Life has set three opportunities to do the Session records reviews. These are:

Sunday, September 26, 2-4 PM

Bremen Bethel Presbyterian Church, 142 Purvis Avenue, Bremen, OH 43107

Sunday, October 10, 2-4 PM

First Presbyterian Church, 210 W 5th Street, Marysville, OH 43040

Saturday, October 30, 10 AM-12 PM

Mifflin Presbyterian Church, 123 Granville Street, Gahanna, OH 43230

2021 PRESBYTERY STATED MEETING DATES...

September 21 and November 16

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

Your Presbytery staff persons are at work, in the office and remotely.

Do not hesitate to email or call.

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

Bill Gause, Stated Clerk, statedclerk@psvonline.org

Bob Patterson, Treasurer, treasurer@psvonline.org

Dagmar Romage, Administrative Assistant, dagmar@psvonline.org

John Wyckoff, Financial Assistant, accounting@psvonline.org

Presbytery Office: 614-847-0565.

From the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Coronavirus/COVID-19 — Latest church resources for congregations and members.

Commission for Church Professionals (CCP) Events.

CCP works to foster the faith and vitality of those who are called to professional ministry—pastors, associate pastors, designated pastors, interim pastors, honorably retired teaching elders, stated supply, temporary supply, teaching elders in specialized ministry, inquirers, candidates, commissioned ruling elders, certified Christian educators, and ministers at-large.

Study Leave and Educational Options for Pastors – *From Rev. Annie Melick, Commission for Church Professionals*

A few weeks ago, I took study leave to be trained as a conflict mediator. It was 5 days (40 hours) of training on Zoom. The content was so good, but that much “zooming” was rough! This season has been difficult for many pastors to even take their vacation and study leave due to Covid restrictions, and yet we need time away, possibly more than ever.

I've put together a short list of study leave and educational opportunities below. Many of these are offered online so they will be available regardless of the pandemic situation. Let me know if you are aware of others, and I will share those. Don't forget – our Church Professionals Retreat is coming in November. Also, check out the Presbytery of Scioto Valley Policy for Sabbatical Leave <https://psvonline.org/publication/policy-sabbatical-leave-policy/>

- How to Craft an Effective Sermon by Friday <https://www.backstorypreaching.com>
- Shalom: Six Perspectives on the Pursuit of Peace and Justice <https://lmpeacecenter.org>
- Facilitating Healthy Pastor-Congregation Relations - <https://lmpeacecenter.org>
- Leadership Series 2021-22; Finding One's Own Path in the Midst of Anxious Families, Congregations, and Communities - <https://www.healthycongregations.com>
- GPS For Leadership: Finding One's Way in the System, Thinking Differently About Life and Learning - <https://www.healthycongregations.com>
- Preaching Workshops - <https://synodofthecovenant.org/2021/03/26/explore-these-opportunities-to-train-and-strengthen-preachers/>
- Art of Transitional Leadership - <https://lakesandprairies.org/event/art-of-transitional-leadership>

2021 Fall Church Professionals Retreat at Deer Creek State Park

PASTORS, MARK YOUR CALENDARS....

November 7-9, 2021, with Retreat Leader: David LaMotte

Theme: *Worldchanging 101: Moving Beyond Hero Stories*

PASTORS OF PSV WEEKLY CHAT MEETING ON ZOOM. This informal gathering of PSV pastors is held on each Thursday at 1 pm.

To
join: <https://zoom.us/j/588789104?pwd=cDBEUm8vYnNIS0RUK3dwZG5KVFMvZz09>
Meeting ID: 588 789 104, Password: 463317, One tap
mobile+13126266799,588789104#

Commission for Nurture and Outreach (CNO) News, Updates and Upcoming Events.

To provide and nurture educational, connectional, and outreach opportunities, which promote growth in discipleship, encourage congregational mission partnerships, and support special areas of ministry, such as peacemaking, youth and campus ministry.



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.

PSV Commission for Nurture and Outreach(CNO) 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

Matthew 25 Event: The Death Penalty- September 18, 2021

Plan now to gather for another Matthew 25 Zoom Event, Saturday, September 18th from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. We will discuss The Death Penalty, race, poverty, and pending legislation in Ohio. Elder Glen Schmidt, community organizer Nate Brown, and Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Executive Director of the Ohio Council of Churches, will help us understand the history of capital punishment in this country, learn what is happening right now in our Ohio legislature, and explore what it means to act with justice. To

register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlcuChrDouGdY-69kHGCGCGX4W3RqRnUvK>

PSV Mission Work Trip the Week of October 17-23, 2021

Scioto Valley adults, age 18 and over, are invited to join the Presbytery's 2021 Mission Work team in West Virginia. This will be a small team of 12-13 workers

WVMAW TEAM IN COLCORD W.VA.

We will be serving with the West Virginia Mission Advocacy & Workcamps (WVMAW) in the work of poverty relief with the people in the Colcord area in West Virginia. The cost per person will be \$400 to cover lodging, food, travel and work supplies. Some scholarship assistance may be available. For more information, or to obtain an application to participate in the work trip, email: jeannie@psvonline.org

[Visit our website](#)

2021 Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Covenant

September 18, 2021, 9:30-11:30 am, via ZOOM (seats limited!)

Theme: What My Grandmothers Taught Me



Bible Study overview by Rev. Cheri Harper, PW staff (Mission Associate)

Keynote by Rev. Kathy Reeves, Moderator-elect for Churchwide PW 2021-2024

Overview of two Thank Offering grant recipients:

Koinonia Project in Belize (building a daycare center and Sunday school)

The Castle in Centerville, OH (Mental Health drop-in center)

Business Meeting will include Financial Report, Election of Leaders &

News from the Synod of the Covenant (by Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick, Interim Synod Executive)

How to Register: Email the following information to Susan Ochs, s2123@aol.com, by September 13, 2021:

Your Name, Phone Number, Email address & Your Presbytery's Name. You will receive a registration confirmation.

Then on September 16, you will receive a zoom invitation giving you the link and login information needed for Zoom and gathering documents including agenda for the gathering.

Cost to attend: \$0. A suggested offering will be received that will be split among the two Thank Offering Grant recipients that you will hear about during the gathering. More info will be sent with Zoom invitation. In the meanwhile, find a picture of your grandmother (or a woman of faith standing in for your grandmother) or a candle to light to have with you at the gathering.

Upcoming Youth Ministries Events in 2022

Presbytery of Scioto Valley YOUTH RETREAT 2022

Camp Akita for grades 6 - 12, Theme: "Attitude of Gratitude"

Saturday, January 29, 10:30 am - Sunday, January 30, noon.

(There will not be a confirmation track at the Retreat.)

Cost \$80 by January 6, 2022. \$100 after that through January 23

We will observe COVID protocols.

2022 PC(USA) Presbyterian Youth Triennium, July 24 - 27, 2022 in Indianapolis.

Triennium is the PC(USA) national youth conference for those entering 9th grade through graduating seniors (and chaperones!) The cost is \$515 for registration PLUS around \$150 per person for lodging. The Presbytery Commission on Nurture and Outreach will cover the cost of a bus, and plans to set aside \$10,000 in scholarships. Watch for more information from co-registrars Martha Pool and Jenni Whitford.

PSV YouTube channel - www.youtube.com/sciotovalleypresbytery.



The annual Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference will be held in Cincinnati, September 13-15, 2021. Over two dozen workshops will be available to in-person attendees.

This conference offers excellent plenary speakers, informative workshop leaders, provocative worship experiences, and incredible networking opportunities for all who are passionate about stewardship and generosity. **Learn more and register>>**



2021 NATIONAL CONFERENCE October 26-28, 2021

VIBRANT AND FAITHFUL AGING: LEGACIES ACROSS GENERATIONS

*"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He,
I am He who will sustain you" (Isaiah 46:4a)*

Our National POAMN conference is featuring our longtime friends Donna and Dennis Haines from Missouri, leading our music and worship. We will observe communion during Thursday's worship, please come prepared with your own elements. Our Keynote is internationally-recognized author and speaker Missy Buchanan, from Texas. She along with our workshop leaders bring a wealth of knowledge, wisdom, and experience in addressing the many aspects associated with aging.

We are working with technology partner GNTV Media Ministry to bring you a quality and informative virtual experience. The total cost for three days is only \$75, and if your time is limited you will be able to use the pass code issued only to paid registrants to watch at your leisure after the conclusion of the conference.

LEARN MORE October 2021, 26-28

Sign up today! **REGISTER**

This conference is offered in partnership with the Office of Christian Formation of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, PCUSA.

On the Road to G.A.

As the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approaches another historic General Assembly next year, church leaders are making sure that all voices are heard across the denomination. In its recent monthly meeting, the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly received updates on the planning as well as efforts to make this a more inclusive gathering.

**Get the next edition of
"On the Road to GA"
in your inbox
Subscribe Today**

Peacemaking and Global Witness Special Offering...

Equipping Peacemakers in Congregations and Around the World.

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

For more information, visit pcusa.org/peace-global/resources

The Synod of the Covenant is offering.....

1. The Synod grant application for the **Matthew 25 Grants** is available at <https://synodofthecovenant.org/synod-ministries/grants-and-scholarships/>. These grants are up to \$5,000 for PCUSA churches and ministries and are due on 9/30/21. Special attention will be given to applications from communities of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (These grants replace the prior New Covenant and Racial Ethnic Grants.)

2. Synod Executive Chip Hardwick will be leading the **monthly preaching workshop** that is the **first Wednesday of every month from 10:00 to 11:30 by zoom**. It's called

"Opening Your Listeners to New Perspectives." Interested parties can learn more/register at <https://synodofthecovenant.org/2021/05/28/opening-your-listeners-to-new-perspectives/>.

3. **Boundaries Training** through LeaderWise has one remaining session on **November 9-10**, for pastoral leaders. Learn more/register at <https://synodofthecovenant.org/2021/04/08/boundaries-training-what-would-you-do/>

Presbytery of Scioto Valley Prays for Congregations and Pastors...

During the summer you are encouraged to especially hold all of our congregations and their pastors in prayer as we carefully begin to return to in-person worship and gatherings.



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.

Resources Available at the Presbytery Office...

The Presbyterian Planning Calendars 2021-2022 are here! Arrangements for pick up or delivery can be made now. Contact: dagmar@psvonline.org or call Dagmar at 614-847-0565. Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- ***The Book of Confessions***

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Part I; Cost \$9

- ***The Book of Order 2019-2021***

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Part II; Cost \$8

- **Presbytery of Scioto Valley Directory.**

(Contact: dagmar@psvonline.org or call 614-847-0565)

Commission for Presbytery Operations (CPO)

Purpose: To provide organizational support to the daily operation of the Presbytery, to hold the Presbytery accountable to its members, and to comply with all state-mandated not-for-profit organizational requirements.



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