

Mid-week E-News September 30, 2021

The Presbytery OF SCIOTO VALLEY

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

February 18, 2020

[Visit our website](#)

Prayer for World Communion Sunday.

Once, you came,
not with blueprints under your arms,
but with grace cradled in your hands.
You came,
not to force us to choose sides
as so many these days try to do,
but to be that voice which calls us together.
You came,
so that we would not have to worry about
what lies ahead of us on these days,
but that we could see that community
of gentleness, of justice, of life you have prepared.
Fill our hearts emptied of hope
with your grace more precious
than our deepest fears, Word Bearer.

(c) Thom M. Shuman

September 5 - October 3, 2021 *Peace & Global Witness on World Communion Sunday.*

The Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world.



Hurricanes. Earthquakes. Wildfires. Refugees. A resurgent pandemic. Political upheaval. The end of the Summer of 2021 has dealt the world a plethora of challenges, and as God's hands and feet in this world, we are called to respond. This week's Justice & Peace Monthly comes at the end of the Second Annual Presbyterian Week of Action and the beginning of A Season of Peace, a time to deepen our pursuit of peace, culminating in receiving the Peace & Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 3. Read on to see the many

ways Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries are working for peace and healing in our world and how you can help. [Learn more about Peace & Global Witness →](#)

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



We help transform lives through our work for peace, with the tools God has given us. Together, in the Spirit of God, we work to break the power of hate, and heal the wounds of violence and division. WE join together to pray, and boldly take action for God's peace at all times in all ways. Amen.

Blessed are the Peace Makers!

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 important that masks be worn indoors regardless of vaccination status.

See the CDC map here: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

From the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

[Coronavirus/COVID-19](#) — Latest church resources for congregations and members.

Vaccination and faithfulness in a time of pandemic

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) urges vaccination against COVID-19
September 27, 2021

The theological commitments of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) compel us to support vaccination against COVID-19 for all people except those who are unable to receive the vaccines due either to age or medical condition.

Because we believe in the God who urged the people of God to "seek the good of the city" (Jeremiah 29:7) where they were located, a city that was not even their native home,

we urge all people to be vaccinated. Because we are followers of the Jesus Christ who requires us "to love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27), we urge all people to get vaccinated. Because we confess, as a matter of our religious belief, that "the members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of all in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics" (Confession of 1967), we urge all to seek the good of all, to love their neighbor and get vaccinated. The need for vaccination has been clear for months. It is utterly compelling now. The variants of the coronavirus are harming thousands, infecting us at rates our medical system is straining to handle. Those who are infected by the variants of COVID-19 are overwhelmingly people who have not been fully vaccinated — more than 90% of those now becoming infected. Getting vaccinated is loving oneself. Getting vaccinated is also fulfilling the command to love our neighbors. Those who refuse to be vaccinated are prolonging the pandemic and spreading the coronavirus and its variants to people who cannot receive the vaccine, including children and people with compromised immune systems, and carrying it to people who have been fully vaccinated, causing "breakthrough infections." As hospitals fill with those fighting COVID-19, there is less room and less time for those facing other serious health conditions. Let us be clear. Scripture and our confession of faith lead us to call on all people to be vaccinated against COVID-19, except those who are unable to receive the vaccines due either to age or medical condition. Our faith, our religious convictions, leave us no other course. We do not stand alone in this understanding of Christian faith; we stand with other Christians as we urge getting vaccinated.

About requests to PC(USA) pastoral leaders to support claims of religious exemptions Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic has been a struggle in the U.S. from its beginning. We are receiving reports of specific ways pastoral leaders in all parts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are encountering the struggle over vaccination, masks and other measures to slow the spread of COVID-19.

In some cases, pastoral leaders are being asked to support claims of religious exemption with statements that the theology of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) supports religious exemptions from COVID-19 vaccination. The theological commitments of the PC(USA) do not support such exemptions. To the contrary, as already stated, our theological commitments compel us to urge that all people be vaccinated against COVID-19.

In some cases, congregations that host facilities such as day cares are facing questions about requiring vaccination for employees and volunteers.

Information on how to respond to requests for religious exemption can be found [here](#).

Additional resources about these topics and others are available for congregations and related ministries facing questions about requiring vaccinations [here](#).

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

[Visit our website to view the calendar.](#)

Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Calendar

Monday, October 4, 1 p.m., Commission for Church Professionals (CCP) Zoom Mtg.

Monday, October 4, 3 p.m., Commission for Congregational Life (CCL) Zoom Meeting

Sunday, October 10, 2-4 p.m., Review of 2020 Congregational Session Records
First Presbyterian Church, 210 W 5th Street, Marysville, OH 43040.

Monday, October 11 , 3 p.m., Commission for Presbytery Operations (CPO) Zoom Mtg.

Tuesday, October 12, 10 a.m., Older Adult Ministry Task Team Zoom Meeting.

Saturday, October 16, 10 a.m., Matthew 25 Zoom Meeting - Church and Politics.

Tuesday, October 19, 4 p.m., Coordinating Team Zoom Meeting

Thursday, October 21, 10 a.m., Certified Ruling Elder Task Team Zoom Meeting.

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

Sunday, October 30, 1-3 p.m. Review of 2020 Congregational Session Records
Mifflin Presbyterian Church, 123 Granville Street, Gahanna, Ohio

NOVEMBER 16, 2021, PRESBYTERY STATED MEETING

The 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.

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.

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. Sign up now for this popular retreat. Registration forms available on the

Presbytery website. Retreat cost: \$375 Single; \$275 Double (Meals Included)

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=cDBEUm8yYnNIS0RUK3dwZG5KVFMvZz09>

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

PSV Mission Work Trip Cancelled for October 17-23, 2021

We regret to announce that the Presbytery Mission Work Trip in West Virginia has been cancelled for this year due to increasing health risks. We look forward to the next opportunity to schedule a work trip in a safer time.

Matthew 25 Zoom Event: Church and Politics - October 16

Join us as Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, the Associate Director for Advocacy in the PC(USA), leads us in a reflection on the challenging relationships between worship, justice, politics, partisanship and the body of Christ. Saturday, October 16th from 10:00am to 11:30am. To register:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9121212121>

Matthew 25 Zoom Book Study: Poverty

Join friends from around the presbytery for a book study on *Broke in America: Seeing, Understanding and Ending US Poverty* by Joanne Samuel Goldblum and Colleen Shaddox. We will meet on zoom for two consecutive Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:30 pm on November 10 and 17. This is sponsored by the Matthew 25 team from the Commission on Nurture and Outreach. Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9121212121>

MINISTRIES CELEBRATED BY THE COMMISSION FOR NURTURE AND OUTREACH: *Campus Ministries in Columbus...*

Jacob's Porch is an OSU campus ministry that is supported by the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), the United Methodist Church, and the Mennonite Church. Seeing their great work, our Presbytery has decided to partner with them fully to house our ministry to Ohio State (OSU) students. They offer a weekly bible study/topical discussion on Wednesday nights at 7 pm and have low-church contemporary worship and a meal on Sunday nights at 7:07 pm. Jacob's porch is located just east of the Student Union at 45 E 13th Ave, Columbus, OH 43201.

Ways to Support Our OSU Campus Ministry - Jacob's Porch

At our September presbytery meeting you got to meet Rev. Grant Eckhardt, the Pastor at [Jacob's Porch](#), and learn about our new partner in Campus Ministry at Ohio

State University. He mentioned several ways churches in the presbytery can support Jacob's Porch, so we wanted to follow up in case your churches would like to help. **First**, be sure to visit their [website](#), or [follow on social media](#) to learn more about their ministry.

Second, consider having your group bring a meal, reach out to office@jacobsparch.com to request further information and get the sign-up list.

Finally, if your church has the means to support campus ministry and would like to give something additionally to support this mission, you can do so by making a purchase from [Jacob's Porch's Amazon Wishlist](#) or you can [give directly here](#)

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.

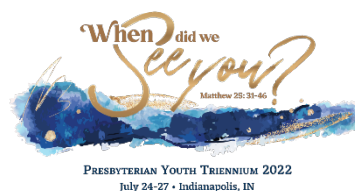
2022 PC(USA) Presbyterian Youth Triennium

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.

Check out the flyer and find the applications:

<https://psvonline.org/events/triennium-at-indiana-convention-center-july-24-27-2022/>



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



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 Keynoter is internationally-recognized author and speaker Missy Buchanan, from Texas.

LEARN MORE

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 General Assembly (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.

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

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

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/>.



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/>

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.

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)



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