

Mid-week E-News November 25, 2021

The Presbytery OF SCIOTO VALLEY

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

February 18, 2020

A Litany of Generosity, adapted from Joyce Rupp's Fresh Bread.

Gracious God, give us generous hearts...
...to acknowledge you as the giver of all good gifts.
...to share without expecting something in return.
...to be wise in the way of caring for ourselves and others.
...to hold our treasures and values with open hands.
...to have gospel priorities and to align our life, love and time in their light.
...to recognize the abundance of blessings in each passing day.
...to know the freedom that comes with generosity.
...to accept our talents, whether many or few, and to use them in service.
...to grow in giving thanks for everything.



Holy One, in the midst of these pandemic days you continue to provide. Create in us a deep center of gratitude, a center so strong in thanksgiving that sharing our treasures becomes the norm and pattern of our existence. Remind us how much you cherish us, and how abundantly you have offered gifts to us, especially in our greatest need. Thank you for reaching into our lives with surprises of joy, growth, and unearned love. Amen.

What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?

-Written by Ann Palmerton, Associate Pastor, Columbus Broad Street Presbyterian Church



A December Message

from Jeannie Harsh, Executive Presbyter

Greetings to my sisters and brothers in Scioto Valley. I wanted to send you greetings as we move into the advent and holiday season. I also want to let you know that I will be enjoying a "mini-sabbatical" during the month of December. This is a new journey for me since I have not participated in a sabbatical during my years of ministry with the Presbytery. I am honored that the Commission for Presbytery Operations has affirmed this gift of sabbath time for me in December. Our Presbytery has a policy on

sabbatical leave that says the "purpose of a sabbatical is to enhance and strengthen a minister's effectiveness by giving an uninterrupted time to care for one's own well-being, and to return to work with renewed energy and enthusiasm." This sounded exciting to me, and I am looking forward to this special time. I will spend some time at Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina with time for reading and enjoying the mountains. The rest of the time I will spend in Ohio mostly in my country home in Morrow County. Since I am an extrovert, I will really miss the many connections that I enjoy with all of you, my treasured friends and colleagues throughout our Presbytery. However, all will be covered as the Presbytery Office will normally be open Monday-Thursday, 9-4 with Dagmar Ramage making sure all details are covered. I look forward to catching up with all of you when I return after Christmas. Meanwhile, many blessings to each and all of you! Jeannie

Coming Events and Updates...

Live Nativity Worship Experience at Broad Street Presbyterian Church

On Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m., you and anyone from your congregations are invited to join us for a hands-on, interactive 30 minute outdoor worship experience. There will be four stations along our story path that share the story of the birth of Jesus. We will sing carols and end with *Silent Night*. This is designed with children and families in mind, but is fun and meaningful for all ages. Dress for the weather!



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

Let us help you train your church leaders!! Our annual Presbytery Leadership Training Day "Partners in Education" (PIE) will be offered twice - **live** on Saturday, January 8 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at Worthington Presbyterian Church (cost \$15 for lunch), and **on Zoom** from 7:00 - 8:30 pm on Tuesday, January 11 (workshops only). Topics for the workshops include elder and deacon training, discussion of legal issues in the church, a youth ministry roundtable, information of Matthew 25, and a conversation about Vital Congregations for churches in transition. IN ADDITION we have two great keynotes - Michael Wilkos from United Way on "Poverty in Central Ohio", and Carlton Johnson from the PC(USA) Mission Agency on "Vital Congregations - What's Next?" Both keynotes will be recorded for later viewing on our You Tube channel.

More information here: <https://psvonline.org/publication/partners-in-educationpie-workshops/>

The link for registration: <https://psvonline.org/events/pie-partners-in-education/>

Through the per capita commitment from our congregations, the Commission on Nurture and Outreach has been able to fund four Neighborhood Mission Grants:

- Bremen Bethel - "Breakfast to go" bags for school children
- Mifflin - "Closet for Kids" provides hygiene products for two area schools
- Indianola Presbyterian Church - utility assistance for Afghan refugees
- Cap City Helping Hands - West High School Cowboy Bucks Holiday Store

If your congregation would like to know more about any of the projects and how you can get involved, contact the presbytery office.

Cowboy Bucks Christmas Store

Donations are requested by the Cap City Helping Hands (CCHH), a Scioto Valley Presbytery mission, which has partnered with West High School in Columbus to ensure continued support of their Cowboy Buck's Christmas Store program. The students earn "cowboy bucks" from their teachers following West High School's matrix of "Be safe, be responsible, be respectful." For many of their students, the holiday store represents their only opportunity to **earn money and** purchase items to give to their family and friends. Some of the more popular items are phone chargers, earbuds, Bath and Body Works lotions and sprays, Axe/Old Spice body wash for men, sketch books, stuffed animals and toys for their younger siblings **and anything OSU**. CCHH's goal is to purchase **or have donations of** 1600 items (average 2 per student).

Your generous donations are needed by **11 December, 2021**. Please contact Natalie Alter for pick up... email her at alinefromnat@aol.com or text 614-806-7144.

The students, teachers and social workers at West High School say THANK YOU!!

Thanksgiving Love Note from our colleague in the Presbytery of Cincinnati...Lisa Allgood, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Cincinnati...

COVID cases are again surging – Across the US, cases have risen 14% and 12% over the past two weeks, respectively. Some parts of the country, most notably the Midwest, are seeing increases as high as 60%, and the virus is surging even amongst the most widely-vaccinated areas of the country. ICU and hospital admissions are also increasing – 85% of hospital admissions are the unvaccinated; 95% of ICU admission are unvaccinated. A rise in death rates is following.

Thanksgiving is here, we are back to crowds in malls and gatherings indoors with the onset of cold weather – which also means we are back to unventilated dry hot air. Which means particulates travel farther. While vaccination rates continue to increase, and the CDC will likely recommend a booster shot for all adults this week, we're still not near wide-spread immunity. Globally we are at more than 255 million cases of COVID reported – and that's a huge undercount, since it's only what's been reported. The death rate globally is also undercounted: 5.1 million souls lost. In the US, we're at more than 48 million reported cases and close to 800,000 deaths. PLEASE use common sense – masks should be required in all indoor gatherings, distance as much as you can, minimize unmasked singing.

Presbytery Meeting Calendar

Thanksgiving Day - Presbytery Office Closed

December 6, 12:30 p.m. Commission for Church Professionals (CCP) Zoom Meeting

3:00 p.m. Commission for Congregational Life (CCL) Zoom Meeting
December 13, 3:00 p.m. Commission for Presbytery Operations (CCP) Zoom Meeting
December 21, 4:00 p.m. Coordinating Team (CT) Zoom Meeting

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.



Christmas Joy Offering. We continue to offer resources to help you and your congregations interact with the Special Offerings. Our Facebook group, **Special Offerings: Promoting Presbyterian Mission Together**, is a great source for these. If you haven't yet joined, take a minute and do so. **Our Website** has a multitude of

tools to offer, including many more digital resources than ever before. Mission Specialist for Special Offerings & the Presbyterian Giving Catalog Presbyterian Mission Agency, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202, Phone: 502.569.5187.

Email: deidra.may@pcusa.org or visit

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy>

Preaching Workshop for Pastors and other Preachers...

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/>**.



The 225th General Assembly (GA) will be held in the summer of 2022. Our presbytery has elected two Minister Commissioners to the 225th General Assembly. The Reverend Dr. Mark Parsons, First Presbyterian Church, Gallipolis, and the Reverend Ron Johnson, First Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth, were elected as the Scioto Valley Minister Commissioners to GA. The PC(USA)'s 225th General Assembly will be taking place June 18 - July 9, 2022, as a Hybrid Assembly. Committee sessions will be in Louisville, KY, and Plenary sessions will be online.

Commission for Church Professionals (CCP) Events.

Purpose: 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.



The Presbytery Invites all to join in the celebration of the Ordination and Installation of Edward K. Lewis Sr. as pastor of the Bethany Presbyterian Church. Sunday, December 5, 4:00 p.m. Columbus Bethany Presbyterian Church 206 N. Garfield Ave., Columbus.

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. **Purpose:** 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

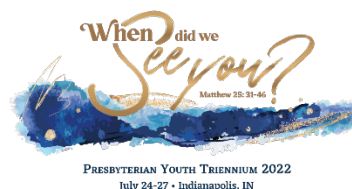
Upcoming Youth Ministries Events and Updates for 2022

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/>



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 87 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.



Association of Presbyterian Educators (APCE) Annual Event February 9-12, 2022 in Chicago

For all Presbyterian Christian educators, pastors, volunteers, and their faith communities

The Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators (APCE) circle of faith will gather February 9-12 in Chicago to welcome new people into the circle, to celebrate the great cloud of witnesses that formed the first circles, to reflect on broken circles and those excluded from circles, and to imagine ministries beyond the circle gathered to our neighborhoods, our cities, and the world.

[Learn more about the APCE 2022 Annual Event>>](#)

On the Road to the 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.



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From the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

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

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



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