

Mid-week E-News March 30, 2023

# The Presbytery OF SCIOTO VALLEY

*"Inspire, Strengthen, And Challenge Congregations For Christ's Mission."* 2-18, 2020

[Click here to visit our new website.](#)

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever.- Psalm 146:5-6 (NRSV)

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly calls on churches to be more vocal about gun violence.

J. Herbert Nelson grieves latest shooting at a Christian school in Nashville

J. Herbert Nelson, II | Stated Clerk of the General Assembly - March 28, 2023

## LOUISVILLE

Photo by Jose Alonso via Unsplash

The headlines just keep coming. Day after day, week after week, people are dying because of gun violence. It doesn't matter where you live, what you are doing or what your economic status is, the access to guns in this country has placed everyone at risk. My heart breaks once again for the loss of innocent lives in the latest shooting at The Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee, on Monday. Seven people are dead because one person decided to kill. Our hearts grieve for the children and families impacted by this latest tragedy.

[Continue Reading.](#)



Your Discernment & Design team met all day March 25, focusing on the assignment you gave us to propose a new purpose statement and model for the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. That is a tall order, but one we have embraced with enthusiasm, energy, and hope. **We got a lot done Saturday, but there's still a lot to do!** As we continue to do this work, about which we will have more to report at the May meeting of Presbytery, we continue to ask you to share stories from your congregations about ways in which your life together

exemplifies the Core Values we have identified. You may email us at [discernment@psvonline.org](mailto:discernment@psvonline.org).

Core values that the team has developed as a result of all we have learned since you commissioned us to this work.

- **Nurturing Spiritual Community** – We ground our work in the Spirit of God and nurture the faith and lives of those we serve.
- **Connection:** Focusing on what connects us creates community and deepens our relationship with God.
- **Unity in Diversity:** The diverse experiences and gifts of our people and communities strengthen us.
- **Spirit-led Adaptability:** We are open and responsive to the Spirit at work in our changing world.
- **Outreach:** We walk with others in partnership and compassion to improve the human condition.



Dear Friends,

This stands as your reminder: **YOU are the presbytery.** The presbytery has few employees. The rest of the worker-bees of the presbytery are volunteers, who serve churches in many ways – some as pastors and others as clerks of session, ruling elders, deacons, Christian educators. Maybe that is why we appear fluid. It's hard to understand so many moving hearts that are working together to achieve more, especially when those hearts change from year to year as volunteers cycle in and out of service from their three-year terms.

Another of the core values that the Discernment and Design Administrative Commission has presented is **Spirit-led Adaptability.** A couple weeks ago, I mentioned how we listen for the will of God in groups. We don't move as fast as a business might, but we listen and pray, and together we hear God's will better than individually. One of the things God is known to do is "a new thing...do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19) Our problem is that we often miss the beginning of the parade... and a cartoon I always liked showed a king talking to his soldiers saying, "find out where the parade is heading so I can get in front and lead!"

God has offered the Holy Spirit to us, not only to convict us when we're heading down the wrong path, but to nudge us to the correct path. We are *ecclesia semper reformanda est*, the church must always be reformed. This saying is often tossed about in seminaries (ask your pastor!), and says that the church must continually re-examine itself in order to maintain itself.

[A simple example: Read more.....](#)

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**Let's go on a FIELD TRIP! Faith Formation, Christian Educators, Youth Leaders, and Volunteer and Staff People.**

Do you wonder how other churches organize their resources, costumes, classrooms, resource closets and/or want to see a "Prayer Ground" space? My guess, you are not alone...let's go on a **FIELD TRIP!**

Brittany Porch, Director of Education and Mission at Broad Street Presbyterian Church will walk us through her church spaces, rooms, nook and crannies. Broad Street Presbyterian Church has a "Prayer Ground" where children worship in the Sanctuary – we will be able to see how it is set up and what type of hand-on things are available for children.

**Date:** Thursday, April 27 at 10 a.m., stay for box lunch (\$15) and network with others in our Presbytery.

**Location:** Broad Street Presbyterian Church, 760 E Broad Street, Columbus

**RSVP** to: [BPorch@BSPC.org](mailto:BPorch@BSPC.org)

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**Undesign the Redline:**

**Exhibit Locator: Where will Undesign the Redline be next?**

20 Presbyterians gathered on Saturday, March 18 to view and discuss "Undesign the Redline", an interactive exhibit that explores the history of structural racism caused by the 1938 redlining maps and how this inequality continues to impact our communities today. If you were unable to attend, you are encouraged to view the exhibit in the lobby between Trinity Lutheran Seminary's Gloria Dei Worship Center and Hamma Library, which are up the ramp from the building's main parking lot. The exhibit will be open to the public weekdays from 8:30 AM-5:30 PM, with evenings and weekends by appointment, through May 31. More info about the exhibit is available here: [Columbus, Ohio Undesign the Redline Exhibit - YWCA Columbus](#)

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A group of LGBTQ+ affirming churches from our Presbytery are planning to march together for Columbus's pride parade and we would love for other affirming churches to join us! The pride march takes place on the morning of June 17, in the short north area of Columbus. Our plan is to march alongside one another behind one banner, and have each church march together in smaller sub groups behind a banner with their own churches name and neighborhood/town.



**LOVE IS LOVE!**

Find an affirming  
Presbyterian Church  
in your neighborhood



If your church is affirming and a group from your church (no matter the size) would like to join please email Trip Porch at [trip@indianolapres.org](mailto:trip@indianolapres.org)

**Commission for Church Professionals News, Updates and Upcoming Events.**

**Purpose:** 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.

**Coordinating Team**

**Purpose:** To organize the life of the Presbytery, and to hold the Presbytery accountable to its mission and vision by coordinating all presbytery strategic and long-range planning activities, presbytery meeting agendas, staffing, and budget creation.

**Membership:** Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, chairs of the four Commissions, four at-large members, one of whom shall be from among one of PC(USA)'s recognized racial ethnic constituency groups, and a convener.

**2023 Presbytery of Scioto Valley Meeting Dates**

Tuesday, May 16, Circleville Presbyterian Church, 3:00 p.m.  
September 19 and November 14 (TBA)



The 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2022) approved and recommended to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes proposed changes in the language of the Book of Order that, if approved, will amend the Constitution.

Please review: The OGA page which contains the link to the booklet: [https://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/proposed-](https://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/proposed-amendments-constitution/)

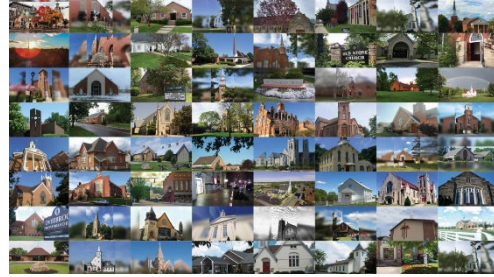
[amendments-constitution/](https://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/proposed-amendments-constitution/)

Here is the updated list of amendments and how they have been voted upon by the other presbyteries.

[Click here for the updated list of amendments.](#)

**Commission for Congregational Life (CCL). Purpose:** To promote and nurture healthy, faith-filled relationships within and among congregations and the presbytery through facilitation, communication, and coordination.

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley includes 87 churches with a membership of 12,996 (updated March 9, 2022). 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.



**March Prayer List for Scioto Valley Congregations and Pastors**

*Throughout each month we lift up in prayer some of our congregations and their pastors. During the year we hope to pray for every one of our congregations and their pastoral leaders.*  
 Grandview Heights, Boulevard Presbyterian Church, Pastor Charlotte O'Neil.  
 Columbus, Broad Street Presbyterian Church,  
 Pastors Amy Miracle and Ann Palmerton.  
 Columbus, Crestview Presbyterian Church, Worship Leader Carol Bogaards.  
 Columbus, Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church, Pastor Tom Billman.

**Special Offerings - Offering Season in 2023.**

**Commission and Ministry Team Meetings**  
[www.psvonline.org](http://www.psvonline.org)

**April**

- 3, 12:30 p.m. Commission for Church Professionals Zoom Meeting.
- 3, 3:00 p.m. Commission for Congregational Life Zoom Meeting.
- 10, 3:00 p.m. Commission for Presbytery Operations Hybrid Meeting.
- 11, 10:00 a.m. Older Adult Ministry Team Zoom Meeting.
- 11, 1:00 p.m. Nominating Committee Zoom Meeting.
- 17, 7:00 p.m. Discernment and Design Administrative Commission via Zoom.
- 18, 4:00 p.m. Coordinating Team Zoom Meeting.
- 23, 10:00 a.m. Commissioned Ruling Elder Ministry Team Zoom Meeting.
- 25, 1:00 p.m. Commission for Nurture and Outreach Zoom Meeting.

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**2023 Presbytery of Scioto Valley Meeting Dates**

Tuesday, May 16, Circleville Presbyterian Church, 3:00 p.m.  
 September 19 and November 14 (TBA)

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Scioto Valley Presbytery staff is working in the office, and available by email or phone. The Presbytery Office Hours, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Kathleen (Kathy) Nice, Transitional General  
Presbyter, [generalpresbyter@psvonline.org](mailto:generalpresbyter@psvonline.org)  
Bill Gause, Stated Clerk, [statedclerk@psvonline.org](mailto:statedclerk@psvonline.org)  
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John Wyckoff, Financial Assistant, [accounting@psvonline.org](mailto:accounting@psvonline.org)  
Website: [www.psvonline.org](http://www.psvonline.org) - Presbytery Office: 614-847-0565.

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## Mark Your Calendar, Future Events....

### **Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering** **Saturday, April 22, 9:30 a.m. – 3.p.m.** **Theme: Pursuing God's Dream... of a Healthy Planet** **Where All Life Can Thrive.**



First Presbyterian Church, 222 North Broad Street, Lancaster, OH  
43130. Registration deadline: April 14. Cost \$15.  
Registrar: Betsy Sebastian at 219-208-5602

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### ***Synod of the Covenant*** ***Healthy Boundaries*** ***Trainings in 2023***

Introduction to Boundaries  
Training. Three identical  
classes, each five hours split  
over two days, will be offered  
this year. The dates and  
times are:

**April 25-26, 1:00 to 3:30**  
**October 2-3, 6:00 to 8:30,**  
**and November 7-8, 1:00**  
**to 3:30.**

It's already possible to  
register for these. Head  
to [Leadership](#)  
[Development Workshops -](#)  
[Synod of the Covenant](#) and  
you'll find the zoom links  
there for registration.

### ***"Come and See! Go and Tell! Pilgrimage*** ***to Israel/Palestine.***

***New date: November 30-December 12,***  
***2023.***

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley and the  
Presbytery of Miami Valley are co-sponsoring  
a study pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine with an  
optional extension to Jordan in November  
2023. The trip, which will be led by the Rev.  
Mary Gene Boteler and Dr. Rick Nutt, will  
involve traveling to sacred sights and  
engaging with church and community  
leaders. Participants should expect to engage  
in a series of study sessions in preparation for  
the trip. Registration will be limited to 20. See  
the brochure and registration form. Here is the  
link: <https://psvonline.org/events/come-and-see-go-and-tell-november-5-17-2023/>

For additional information, contact Rev.  
Boteler at [mgboteler@gmail.com](mailto:mgboteler@gmail.com).

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Presbyterian Women (PW) in  
the Synod of the Covenant  
Gathering, August 4-5, 2023,  
First Presbyterian Church  
Findlay, Ohio.

**Keynote Speaker,  
Cheri Harper – PW  
Mission Associate**

Sacred Encounters 2023 –  
2024 Bible Study

***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.

**YouTube Channel.** A reminder that our presbytery has a YouTube channel. (<https://www.youtube.com/c/SciotoValleyPresbytery>) with videos on officer training, global mission, curriculum selection, Presbyterian Women gatherings, Matthew 25 programs, and more from our presbytery.

### **Neighborhood Mission Grant**

Perhaps **YOUR** congregation has a project that involves members of the congregation in “hands-on” ministry that builds a relationship between the congregation and the community. Grants up to \$2,000 are available starting in 2023.

More information: <https://psvonline.org/publication/neighborhood-mission-grant-application/>



**Join our Presbytery-wide Prayer Group** that meets by phone each Tuesday at 10:00 AM. The group prays for our Presbytery, its churches, and other concerns raised by the group. Simply call 240-591-0333 and when prompted enter code 783190#. The group is led by Rev. Don Pendell.

### **IF YOU HAVE A CAUSE THAT'S CLOSE TO YOUR HEART YOU CAN FIND A WAY**

If it matters to you, it matters for others.  
If it matters for others, it matters to God.  
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/>



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