

Mid-week E-News March 9, 2023

# The Presbytery OF SCIOTO VALLEY

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

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)

## Come Walk the Labyrinth!

The Presbytery's labyrinth is set up in the chapel at Overbrook Presbyterian Church during Lent. Stop by anytime during office hours, Monday through Friday 9-4 and spend some time in quiet reflection or stop by before or after your Presbytery business.

Mary Gause, Associate Pastor, Overbrook Presbyterian Church



Visit the revised  
Presbytery website.

[www.psvonline.org](http://www.psvonline.org)

[Special Offerings - Offering Season in 2023.](#)

Mark your calendar for the month of March.



Sunday, March 12, Self-Development of People Sunday is a celebration of the work of the church in partnering with congregations and communities to eradicate systemic poverty and its

intersectional social and economic justice issues. New SDOP Sunday Resource & Yearbook released in time for annual celebration. **Be sure to visit page 15**, SDOP member of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley is featured.

[Download SDOP Resource](#)

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**The History of Women in the Presbyterian Church - March 14 at 1p.m.**

Come learn about pioneering women in the church and the challenges they overcame. The Rev. Dr. Tom Rice will share the story of Margaret Towner, the first woman ordained as a pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Rev. Towner will also attend from Florida! The event will be held in Hazelton Fellowship Hall at Worthington Presbyterian Church, 773 High St. and via Zoom. If you plan to attend online, [please register](#) so we can send you the link. This program is sponsored by Presbyterian Women United.

**The Presbytery Matthew 25 Group** invites you to join us on **Saturday, March 18** at 10:00 a.m. at Capital University for "Undesign the Redline", an interactive exhibit that explores the history of structural racism caused by the 1938 redlining maps. This exhibit examines how this inequality continues to impact our communities today, focusing on the ways in which we can come together to "undesign" these systems with intentionality. We will gather from 11:00 - 11:30 am at Capital to reflect on our experience. Please contact Steve Hills at [stephen.m.hills@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.m.hills@gmail.com) for more information and to sign up.



Dear Friends,

My heart is breaking. I have such a love for our churches, even without having met you all yet. I hear so many stories of how the presbytery is a nebulous "being" who is often the rule-enforcer, not helpful when you are in serious need, and "those" people who are unreachable.

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,

Community...a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common...

One of the things that we Presbyterians have in common is that we love to ask questions! We use our brains to think about God, we use our words to talk about God, and we use our hearts to love as

ruling elders, deacons, Christian educators. Maybe that is why we appear nebulous. It's hard to understand so many moving hearts that are working together to achieve more.

One of the core values that the Discernment & Design Administrative Commission has presented is that we should be a **nurturing spiritual community**. Can we take a moment to pause and think on that?

Nurturing...to care for and encourage the growth or development of... How best can the presbytery show you that you are cared for? Currently we provide a list of those congregations and pastors that we can be in prayer for each week in this newsletter. I'm sure there are other tangible and intangible ways that you might like to feel care. What are those? How can the presbytery encourage your growth and development? We do PIE events annually to help offer educational opportunities. We offer book clubs, Commissioned Ruling Elder trainings, and other trainings as a need is brought to our attention. What other means for growth and/or development should we be considering?

God first loved us. We come from small towns, suburbs, and the city. We live in many different kinds of homes, and some are without homes. Some of us were born and raised Presbyterian, while others have "inherited" the moniker because of a spouse or a friend. Some of us know the Book of Order well, and others have no idea what the Book of Order is! But we have this in common: we belong to a congregation within the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, a place where we can grow in our faith with other faithful saints.

I am going to visit each of the core values that the Discernment & Design Administrative Commission has presented. Some of these may touch your heart and sound exactly like your congregation. If that's the case, please send a few sentences to [discernment@psvonline.org](mailto:discernment@psvonline.org) so the team can recognize your congregation in its work. And yes, if you have answers to any of my questions...please reach out to me, or send it to the discernment email so the whole group (me included) can see your thoughts.

We will get better together. We, all of us as the presbytery. We will love and care for each other in this nurturing spiritual community.

In Christ's service,  
The Rev. Kathy Nice

Transitional General Presbyter  
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Spiritual...relating to or affecting the human spirit or soul... Remembering that while we do have business to do when we gather, that we are not solely about business meetings. Remembering that we are together to experience God together. Remembering that we have been called together to be the body of Christ. Presbyterians believe that we can best hear God when we focus on God's will together. That means our decision-making processes may not be as fast as we like. We are called to glorify God and enjoy God forever (Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q 1) How can the presbytery help you to focus on the Spirit of God in our work together?

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### **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.

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### **Update from Bill Gause, Presbytery Stated Clerk.**

These amendments have been sent to the Presbyteries for ratification.



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-amendments-constitution/>



*Your Discernment & Design team is preparing to meet again for a one-day retreat on March 25. As we anticipate this important day, we ask folks throughout the Presbytery to be in prayer for our work. In particular, we would appreciate being included on your church prayer lists, so that folks who may not read this E-News are reminded of our work and engaged in seeking God's plan for the future of this Presbytery. Thanks for your support.*

### **Discernment and Design Administrative Commission Update**

**We want to hear from you and your church.** Share a quick story with us (max 2-3 sentences!) of a time your church has exemplified one of these core values of our Presbytery.

**Email your story** to [discernment@psvonline.org](mailto:discernment@psvonline.org).

Thanks for your support, and, as always, please keep us in your prayers.

At the February 21, 2023, Presbytery meeting, the Rev. Steve Brand reported on behalf of your Discernment & Design Administrative Commission. He presented core values that this 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.

### **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.



Kathleen (Kathy) Nice, Transitional General  
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Website: [www.psvonline.org](http://www.psvonline.org) - Presbytery Office: 614-847-0565.

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

### ***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.

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### ***"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).

### ***Commission for Nurture and Outreach (CNO) News, Updates and Upcoming Events. Purpose:***

To provide and nurture educational, connective, 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.

**Educator Gathering** . If you missed the Educators Gathering with information on Opening Doors to Discipleship, you can check out the video here:

**[2023 - Educator Conversation - Opening Doors to Discipleship - YouTube](#)**

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## Mission Exchange Program in Berlin

A volunteer program in Berlin, hosted by the Berliner Missionswerk, will fund two participants starting in September for a 10-month program. Volunteers will be involved in different projects through two parish communities in and around Berlin. Berliner Missionswerk will incorporate the volunteers into their seminar program to introduce them to German culture, history, and language. This also allows the U.S. participants to get to know other volunteers, who come from other countries and backgrounds. If you wish to apply, please send your application by April 1 to Alethia White at [alethia.white@pcusa.org](mailto:alethia.white@pcusa.org). There will be some assistance with expenses and in general it should be quite a low-cost program for the participants. Here is the information: [Berlin Flyer](#) and [Berlin Application](#).

## International Mission Conference

In July the Czech Brethren Church along with the Czech Partnership Network (a committee of both Czech and American churches) will be hosting a conference in Olomouc, Czech Republic that is open to youth, adults, and any churches who may be especially interested in joining this partnership in the future. Alethia White is a PCUSA representative for this network and will be attending the conference. If you want more information, contact Alethia at: **Ryan & Alethia White** <[alethia.ryan@gmail.com](mailto:alethia.ryan@gmail.com)>

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## Partners in Education (PIE) resources are available.

2023 Resources: <https://psvonline.org/clerks-resources/minutes-archives/change-address-forms/>

### Links to watch trainings:

2021: <https://youtu.be/4COFd8BmPEQ>

2022 Elder: <https://youtu.be/ld62okcBsII>

2022 Deacon Panel: <https://youtu.be/pDqHCkVFTzw>

**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.

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## 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 here: [Neighborhood Mission Grant | Presbytery of Scioto Valley \(psvonline.org\)](#)

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**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.

**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.

### **Employment Opportunity**

**Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church**, located at 2930 West Broad Street, Columbus is looking for a pro-active, efficient sexton who processes a respect for our religion and the cultural beliefs of others. This candidate will ensure that all publicly accessible areas are clean in the church. The job requires making minor repairs, changing light bulbs, vacuuming, sweeping and scrubbing floors, sanitizing surfaces, and restocking supplies. Work hours are 9-2 M-F. Starting salary is \$16.00/hour with 11 paid holidays. Apply by contacting Natalie Alter at [Alinefromnat@aol.com](mailto:Alinefromnat@aol.com) with the subject line word Sexton.

**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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