

Mid-week E-News May 25, 2023



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

Visit our new website.

Pentecost April 10 - May 28, 2023
[Presbyterian Special Offerings - Pentecost \(pcusa.org\)](https://www.pcusa.org)

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)



2023 International Peacemaker – September 15-21

Once again, Scioto Valley Presbytery is welcoming an International Peacemaker, Amira Barham. You may read about Amira below. Her itinerary will fill up quickly; if your congregation would like to host her for an event, please contact the Rev. Mary Gene Boteler, mgboteler@gmail.com

or call/text 740-704-0983. Amira will be engaged with the Israel/Palestine Mission Network on September 18

and will attend the presbytery meeting on September 19.

Amira Barham, a Palestinian Christian, was born and raised in the town of Beit Jala, near Bethlehem. With a passion for social justice, equality, and helping people, Amira obtained a Master's Degree in Social Work (MSW) from California State University Long Beach in 1999 as a Fulbright Scholarship recipient. She has worked as a social worker with many diverse and vulnerable populations in Palestine, the United Kingdom and the United States. She's worked with young unaccompanied asylum seekers fleeing war-torn and

dangerous countries, young people and adults struggling with substance misuse and criminal behavior, and vulnerable young people and women suffering gender-based violence. Most recently, Amira's work has been focused on supporting marginalized children in Palestine, mainly from refugee camps, with Sounds of Palestine. Sounds of Palestine is an organization that uses music and orchestra lessons to enhance children's self-esteem and impact positive social change and community involvement. Additionally, she is connected to Al Harah Theater, as the developer of policies for safeguarding children. Amira recently completed a postgraduate diploma in Health Action Training, which offers training on utilizing drama practice and drama techniques to enhance person-centered care and resilience, specifically in the aftermath of the pandemic to help healthcare professionals.



Gathering for Pastors and Church Professionals in Scioto Valley Presbytery (PSV). You are invited today, Thursday, May 25, 3-5 p.m., to come and join in conversation, fellowship, and complimentary appetizers with your

colleagues at the Rusty Bucket, 4109 N. High Street, Clintonville location. A member of the Nominating Committee will join the gathering to share the needs for elder nominees to our various boards of service at the Presbytery. We'd love to have your ideas for people in your congregations whom you think might be called to serve. We hope that you can join us!

Dear Friends,

As I have been helping to screen possible new pastors to serve in our presbytery, I'm noticing a few things. I wonder if you might be curious about these things.

First, there are few pastors for the number of churches that are looking for pastors. Each pastoral candidate is getting requests from nearly a dozen churches, each offering similar things: a friendly congregation, a lovely place to live/raise a family/exciting thing nearby, salary and benefits that are acceptable. So, what sets a church apart? **HOSPITALITY and AUTHENTICITY.**

Second, quite a few churches are hoping to find a professional Christian, someone who will do the work of the church FOR the congregation instead of WITH the congregation. I actually saw a ministry information form (not from this presbytery) that said the pastor would mow the church lawn while mowing the lawn of the manse. Now, for a pastor who likes yard work, which might really speak to him or her. Except that the rest of the duties included way



more work than a typical pastor could do in forty plus hours a week, so obviously the lawncare was above and beyond the regular work week?

Finally, we are so used to our own backyard that we aren't very good at selling it to others. I once moved to an area with beautiful mountain-scapes because it was so picturesque. When I moved back closer to "home" I realized that there were beautiful mountains there also! Why had I not noticed? Because I was used to the familiar, I didn't recognize what it would mean to outsiders. We need to look again at what we have to offer, so that we can clearly describe our ministry context to those applying.

We have a chance to show possible pastors the value of serving a church in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. And even if your congregation isn't searching right now, someone else's is. Let's figure out how we can support one another. Help each other to see the good things that they do, so they are reminded and can claim it as part of their congregation's identity.

God is good, and God is faithful. Let's all pray for more faithful pastors to come and serve our churches.

In Christ's service,
The Rev. Kathy Nice, Transitional General Presbyter



At Tuesday's, May 16, 2023, Presbytery Meeting you learned of the Discernment and Design AC's discerned vision for the Presbytery. You may have noticed the new logo and tagline for the presbytery as well.

"Woven together in Christ's Service"

If you'd like to order a t-shirt for yourself you can do so directly at <https://www.bonfire.com/presbytery-of-scioto-valley/>

The Ohio State University (OSU) Campus Ministry - May 2023

One year ago, this presbytery was reminded that we have always had a heart for campus ministry at The Ohio State University (OSU) Many churches have stepped up to partner, support, and champion campus ministry at OSU throughout the years. But in the last several years, it has been harder to give it the adequate support that it takes to run a campus ministry at a university the size of OSU.

[Click here for more.](#)

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 86 churches with a membership of 12,817 (updated March 20, 2023). 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.



May 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.

Gahanna, Mifflin Presbyterian Church, Pastor David Bubb
Galloway Presbyterian Church, Pastor Thom Shuman
Grove City, First Presbyterian Church, Pastor Robert Tolar
Lancaster, First Presbyterian Church, Pastor Nathan Loudon

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.

Mark Your Calendar for Future Events....

Anti-Racism Workshop at Broad Street Presbyterian Church Sunday, June 25 at 11:30 a.m.

An invitation for any and all to join us from your churches.

Being actively anti-racist means making a commitment to a lifelong journey of learning and unlearning. Yet, for a multitude of parents, guardians, aunts and uncles, grandparents, and caregivers, questions often arise surrounding when that journey should begin and how do you appropriately broach the subject of race and racism with children of all ages.

If you have asked yourself these questions and wrestled with wanting to address this deeply important topic the "right way", this is the workshop for you!

Join writer, speaker, activist and anti-racism educator, Patricia A. Taylor, as she shares tools, resources, real-time examples, and practical applications that will leave you feeling equipped and ready to start and continue these conversations in your home in a meaningful way.

It's not a question of if, but when, and the right time is always now!

SAVE THE DATE!
Presbytery Youth Retreat

Saturday and Sunday,
November 18 – 19, 2023
Camp Akita, Logan OH

Watch for Registration Late Summer.

For info contact Rev. Steve Brand - SBrand@pts.edu



[Click here for the Save the Date flyer.](#)



**Upcoming Synod
Programs and Ministry.**

SAVE THE DATE!

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

***"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. Registration will be
limited to 20. See the brochure and
registration form. Here is the link:

**[https://psvonline.org/event/pilgrimage-
to-israel-palestine-come-and-see-go-
and-tell](https://psvonline.org/event/pilgrimage-to-israel-palestine-come-and-see-go-and-tell)**

For additional information,
contact Rev. Boteler
at mgboteler@gmail.com.



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 and Ministry Team Meetings

[Click here for the Website Calendar](#)



May

25, **3-5 p.m.** Church Professionals Gathering at the Rusty Bucket, Clintonville.
29, Memorial Day - Presbytery Office closed.

June

5, 12:30 p.m. Commission for Church Professionals Zoom Meeting.
5, 3:00 p.m. Commission for Congregational Life Zoom Meeting.
8, 1:00 p.m. Nominating Committee Zoom Meeting.
12, 3:00 p.m. Commission for Presbytery Operations Hybrid Meeting.
20, 4:00 p.m. Coordinating Team Zoom Meeting.
27, 1:00 p.m. Commission for Nurture and Outreach Zoom Meeting.

2023 Presbytery of Scioto Valley Meeting Dates

September 19, 2023, Columbus Covenant Presbyterian Church
November 28 (TBA)

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.
Website: www.psvonline.org - Presbytery Office: 614-847-0565.

[Click here to contact your Presbytery Staff and Officers.](#)

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/>

Special Offerings Season in 2023.

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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