

## Mid-week E-News September 14, 2023



PRESBYTERY *of*  
SCIOTO VALLEY

SERVING CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN OHIO

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

[Visit our 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)

### **PRESBYTERY MEETING**

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley is September 19, 2023, beginning at 3:30 pm.

[Presbytery Meeting Update.](#)

**Your Discernment & Design Team** has been meeting throughout the summer and is now finalizing its recommendations regarding the staffing plan, commission structure and budget for the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. We have listened to you in our effort to discern where God is leading, and we look forward to sharing our design recommendations when Presbytery meets on September 19, 2023, at Columbus Covenant Presbyterian Church. We continue to ask your prayers as we do the work you have set before us.





## **Installation Service for the Reverend Andrew Smith.**

The members of Unity Presbyterian Church located at 6969 E. Livingston Avenue, Reynoldsburg 43068 invite you to share in the joy of the Reverend Andrew (Andy) Smith's installation as the pastor of our church.

**This celebration will be held on Sunday, September 17,** at 2:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary, followed by a picnic at the church. Please join us for this special time for Pastor Andy and

the Unity family.

**Please read the entire invitation.**

Dear Friends,

I have been asked a few times recently how churches (big and small) can revitalize, grow, and become more sustainable into the future. I need to give you the bad news first: there isn't a magic pill or a special prayer, or even a book with guidelines that will solve this problem.

Now to the good news: we need to do some challenging work. I know...you thought the good news was going to be easy! (Remember, no magic pill!)



I read an article that was interesting (<https://justiceunbound.org/a-mega-change-is-needed/>) and connects well to what I had been reading in Graham Standish's latest book, *Preaching to Those Walking Away*. We need to recognize what is attracting people to the churches where they are going. We also need to recognize that a considerable percentage of people are not connected to any church.

What sets us apart from others? Is that good or harming our attendance? What do we offer that people at home might want to be involved with? Sometimes getting the answers is hard. Sometimes, it is dealing with what to do to move us toward the answers that is hard. We are all in this together. All mainline denominations are shrinking. I looked at our church membership numbers over the past five years, and not one of our churches is growing considerably. Not one.

If you want to hear from Graham about what he and the session of Calvin Church (Zelionople, PA) accomplished in church revitalization, register, and join us for his September 26 program (hosted at Worthington Presbyterian church, \$5 for lunch). Read the article I mentioned. Maybe challenge your session to attend a mega church one week and come back with ideas. It's not all about the music, friends! Let's see if we can figure out a way forward together!

In Christ's service,  
The Reverend Kathy Nice, Transitional General Presbyter, Presbytery of Scioto Valley, 614-847-0565 (office) or 614-507-2626 (mobile)

*My position is funded by the generous donations of members and churches who fund our per capita budget. Together we can do more!*



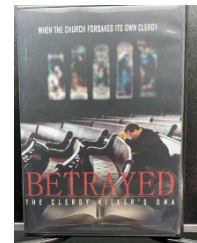
**Women clergy in the presbytery** are invited to participate in a monthly gathering where those gathered share matters of the heart and offer spiritual support for one another. The group meets in various homes the fourth or fifth Tuesday from 3:30 p.m. -5:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating, please contact Susan

Warrener Smith for further information. Her email is [susanwarrenersmith@gmail.com](mailto:susanwarrenersmith@gmail.com)

**Movie Screening and Discussion for Pastors**  
**When the church forsakes its own clergy.**  
(Zoom registration link)

**September 21, 2:00 PM** ([bit.ly/PSVSept21](https://bit.ly/PSVSept21))

The anxiety in today's church culture has created an environment which fosters the growth of Clergy Killer dynamics. Together, let's learn to identify how this happens and then let's support one another as we reduce the anxiety in our setting.



**This workshop is for Pastors, CRE's, worship leaders, and those who are responsible for planning or overseeing worship in our churches. September 26, 2023, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Worthington Presbyterian Church in Hazleton Hall, enter double doors on the north side of the building. (lunch included, \$5 per person requested)

***Preaching to Those Walking Away. N. Graham Standish***

will present an in-person workshop for those wrestling with leading churches during this time of Nones and Dones and the Spiritual but Not Religious, Graham will use material from his newest book, "*Preaching to Those Walking Away*", to guide us to find ways to speak to others in this new era.

**[Register here by September 20](#)**

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## INTERESTED IN LEARNING SOMETHING NEW? "OWLS" ANNOUNCES ITS 2023 SEASON OF COURSES . OWLS (Older,

**Wiser, Lifelong Scholars)** is accepting enrollment for its 28<sup>th</sup> season of diverse and unique 2-day and 1-day courses for seniors who want to learn new things and make new friends. Supported by Ohio Living Westminster-Thurber, these 8 courses will take place during the month of October in the new Heritage Pointe building at 655 Neil Ave. Tuition for a 2-Day course is \$30.00 per course, and for a 1-day is \$15.00. Optional lunch (\$16.00) and snacks are also offered. **For more information, on the courses, dates, faculty, and registration forms go to: [www.owls.coursestorm.com](http://www.owls.coursestorm.com)** or call (614) 579-2557.



Older  
Wiser  
Lifelong  
Scholars



## Cap City Helping Hands (CCHH) Coat Drive - 3 Ways You Can Help!

**1. Buy a New or Gently Used Kid's Jacket.** When CCHH receives donations, we purchase coats at local thrift stores and Costco. We have learned from our social worker advisor that a coat with a tag from Volunteers of America is like a new coat to many kids, because these are the stores where their families shop and the kids easily "fit in" with their classmates in these coats. So don't be shy about shopping thrift! At under \$10 each, these are often the "best" coats in the eyes of our school kids!

**2. Does Your Congregation Have a Costco Membership and Credit Card?** CCHH needs this in the name of a 501c3 to purchase coats at Costco and not pay sales tax. Contact for CCHH is Patti Nussle at [nussle@columbus.rr.com](mailto:nussle@columbus.rr.com)

**3. Are You Coming to the Presbytery Meeting on September 19?** CCHH will be at the meeting to accept any coat donations. We will also have Coat Collection Boxes for your congregation to take and set up in your church. To remind people that clothing a child is the work of God in the world, we have one church that puts their Coat Collection Box at the front of the sanctuary during the month of October - wow!

Thank you to congregations who have contributed coats recently, Grove City, First, Delaware Concord and there may be others of which we are not aware. Thank you all!

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## **Worthington Presbyterian Church. Job Posting for Part-time Interim Coordinator of Children's Ministry at Worthington Presbyterian Church.**

Please note we estimate the position to average 24-hours/week, knowing the time will fluctuate week-to-week given church programming. We will gladly consider someone who is currently working PT and is interested in filling out their time. To view the job description click below.

[Interim Coordinator of Children's Ministry](#)

***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.



***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.



### **September 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.

Jacob's Porch, Campus Ministry, Pastor Taylor Barner  
Delaware, Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Pastor Patricia Stout  
Delaware, West Berlin Presbyterian Church, Pastor Robert Gustafson

Iberia Presbyterian Church, Pastor Deb Bergman  
Marion, Lee Street Presbyterian Church, Pastor Scott Schnapp  
Marysville, First Presbyterian Church, Pastor Diane Flynn

**Share your story/news?** Congregations, Commissions and ministry teams are encouraged to submit items of interest to [dagmar@psvonline.org](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org)



Dear Community: The Presbyterian USA Self-Development of People (SDOP) Scioto Valley grant program deadline submittal is **October 15, 2023**.

[Go to Forms: SDOP Brochure and Grant Application.](#)



**"Do you believe in prayer? Come on down..." Jesus (Matthew 26:40). We meet by phone each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.** 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 the Reverend Don Pendell.

***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.

**Mark Your Calendar for Future Events....**



### **Youth Winter Retreat at Camp Akita**

**Saturday, November 18@ 9 a.m., through Sunday, November 19 @ 1 p.m.** For more information contact the Reverend Steve Brand - [SBrand@pts.edu](mailto:SBrand@pts.edu).

[Upcoming Synod Programs and Ministry.](#)

[SOC@SynodoftheCovenant.org](mailto:SOC@SynodoftheCovenant.org)



## Commission and Ministry Team Meetings

[Click here for Website Calendar.](#)

### September

19, 3:00 p.m. Presbytery Meeting, Columbus, Covenant Presbyterian Church.

26, 1:00 p.m. Commission for Nurture and Outreach Zoom Meeting.

28, 3:00 p.m. Church Professionals Fireside Chat, Rusty Bucket, Clintonville.

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### 2023 Presbytery of Scioto Valley Meeting Dates

September 19, 2023, Columbus, Covenant Presbyterian Church.

November 28, 2023, Washington Court House, First Presbyterian Church.

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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.

Website: [www.psvonline.org](http://www.psvonline.org) - Presbytery Office: 614-847-0565.

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

**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.

[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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