

## Mid-week E-News November 30, 2023



PRESBYTERY *of*  
SCIOTO VALLEY

SERVING CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN OHIO

*"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)

Dear PSV Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the entire presbytery staff, I want to apologize for the technical difficulties we experienced during yesterday's meeting of the presbytery. Due to unforeseen difficulties, those who attended via Zoom were unable to hear much of the meeting and were thus unable to fully participate. I can assure you that our tech team was working hard throughout the meeting trying to rectify the situation and every conceivable option that was available to us was tried. Unfortunately, nothing we did seemed to improve the situation.

I want to take a moment to commend our resident tech expert, Rev. Doug Browne (Columbus, Westminster) who manages all the technical aspects of our hybrid presbytery meetings. Doug does an excellent job, and we can all be proud of his ability, preparedness, wisdom, and crisis management skills. A testament to his skill is the fact that of the many problems that arise during meetings, most people are aware of very few of them because Doug is typically able to fix them before they become distractions. The problem that arose yesterday involved a critical failure of infrastructure that would have been beyond anyone's ability to rectify during the meeting.

Hopefully, next time will be better. Until then, please know that we will continue to do everything within our power as a presbytery staff to ensure the best possible hybrid meeting experience for both in-person and online participants. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at the presbytery office.

Peace,  
Bill Gause, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Scioto Valley



Dear Friends,

If you missed this week's presbytery meeting, here is what you missed! First, you missed a delightful spread of cookies and savories provided by our hosts. Pastor Steve Brand of the First Presbyterian Church of Washington Court House welcomed us. You also missed a chance to shake hands, give hugs, and share smiles with other Presbyterians from throughout the presbytery. The sanctuary was decorated for the Advent/Christmas season, it was warm, and you could feel the love of God in our midst. We worshiped God, we celebrated the Lord's Supper, and we continued to look for HOPE, the theme of this past year's messages.



We approved the Structural Design for Mission and Ministry proposed by the Discernment and Design Administrative Commission, and we dissolved their commission with the presbytery's thanks and appreciation. We will now begin the implementation of the structural design, which will be in effect on April 1, 2024. We proposed some changes to the by-laws, with the new design plan in mind, which will be brought for second read and vote in February. If you have any questions or suggestions related to the by-law's updates, please let me know as soon as you can.





We recognized Deb Patterson's retirement from active ministry, we moved two inquirers (Brittany Porch and Susan Fisher) to candidacy as they move toward ordination as Ministers of Word and Sacrament, and we approved Nikki Hogarth for ordination to a call at Dublin Pres. (Watch for details of when this will happen - most likely January.)

Board of Pensions representative Luke Choi brought to our attention the Board's Emergency Grants. There are many different grant programs available, and they are open to anyone who has even one Board benefit (so as inexpensive as the vision care program). Luke mentioned that BenefitsConnect website is down for an overhaul, which should be back up in January. In the meantime, any need for answers, call 1-800-PRESPLAN (800-773-7752).

We approved the dates of next year's presbytery meetings, elected some folks to serve in various ways in the presbytery commissions and committees, and re-elected corporate and ecclesial officers. My contract was also renewed for 2024. Final order of business was to install the Moderator and Vice Moderator for 2024 (Steve Watters and Joel Esala).

Like I said...if you missed it, you missed a lot. I hope you'll put February 20 on your calendar and be present at the next meeting. The meetings are not limited to only elected commissioners and ministers. The meetings are also open to guests...see you soon!

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

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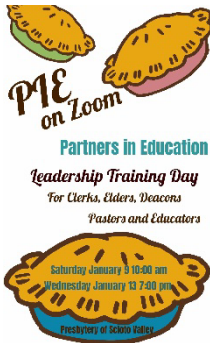
"Hello everyone! Hopefully you received our recent invitation to support campus ministry at The Ohio State University. We are grateful for all of those who we have had a chance to connect with and look forward to building new relationships in the near future.

The current name and design of PCUSA campus ministry at OSU is officially OSUKirk, which functions as its own entity within the broader ecumenical community of Jacob's

Porch. OSUKirk has its own unique structure and its own board of directors, which exist within the structure of Jacob's

Porch but separately in regards to governance and financial operations. OSUKirk remains committed to supporting Jacob's

In Christ,  
Taylor Barner, Campus Minister -  
Jacob's Porch- [www.jacobsporch.com](http://www.jacobsporch.com)  
45 E 13th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201  
Cell: 412-613-0835



**Partners in Education (PIE)**  
**Saturday, January 20, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
**2070 Ridgecliff Road, Columbus, OH 43221**  
**Leadership Training for:**  
**Clerks, Elders, Deacons, Educators and more!!**

[Register Here.](#)

**FRIENDS!**

The first Christmastide videos of the Presbytery's Public Domain Hymn project are available!

While many of our congregations across the USA have been without regular musicians for years, it was during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic that this became more widely problematic. To ease this burden, the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks has embarked on a project to bring all of the Public Domain hymns in our denominational hymnal, *Glory to God*, to our congregations for a small donation.

We've started with the hymns for Christmas and will move on to the other public domain hymns in the new year. Working with a church musician, hymns were recorded in MIDI format and then imported into editing software so that lyrics and backgrounds could be provided. Each hymn is available with white lyrics on a black background, or with white lyrics on a colored background.

We are asking for a nominal donation of \$3 per hymn (whether black & white or with a colored background) to help offset the cost of producing the videos. Full information is available via our website, and you can find it here:

**<https://sites.google.com/a/plainsandpeaks.org/presbytery-of-plains-and-peaks/public-domain-hymn-project>**

***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.



Iberia Presbyterian Church pastor Deb Bergmann invites you to use this reverse calendar (see link below) to prepare a donation to your local food pantry during Advent.

**[View Reverse Advent Calendar.](#)**



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

Books to be Offered to Colleagues by D. Paul La Montagne, recently retired. On a first ask first served basis. Contact me at [DyPxLaMo@earthlink.net](mailto:DyPxLaMo@earthlink.net) to ask, and to arrange transfer of the physical book. None of these books are collector's quality. They have been read, are somewhat worn, but are in good shape for reading.

### [Book List](#)



**HELP WANTED!** Please join us in prayer and publicity about two positions for which the Synod of the Covenant is seeking amazing candidates.

#### **1/ Director, Cultivating the Gift of Preaching**

#### **Initiative**

[Equipping Preachers | Synod Of The Covenant \(synodofthecovenant.org\)](#).

#### **2/ Commissioned Ruling Elder/Commissioned Pastor**

**Coordinator.** Contact Chip Hardwick at 248-729-2415 (main), 309-530-4578 (cell) [chip@synodofthecovenant.org](mailto:chip@synodofthecovenant.org)

[CRE Coordinator Job Description.](#)

[Director Job Description.](#)



#### **"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.

## November 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.

Oak Hill Presbyterian, Horeb and Bethel Presbyterian, Pastor Linda Plummer  
Oak Moriah and Sardis Presbyterian, Pastor John Birkner  
Portsmouth First Presbyterian Church, Pastor Ron Johnson  
Portsmouth Second Presbyterian Church, Pastor Allision Bauer

***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....

**Calling all college students!** Have you heard about Montreat College Conference? Every year college students from across the nation gathering the mountains of Western North Carolina for four days of worship, fellowship, and sabbath. We invite you to join Rev. Taylor Barner and Jacob's Porch at the Ohio State University for this incredible conference taking place January 2-5, 2024. **Register today by contacting Taylor directly via email/phone before November 25th.** We look forward to meeting you! Taylor Barner, Campus Minister, Jacob's Porch - 45 E 13th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201. Cell: 412-613-0835. [www.jacobsporch.com](http://www.jacobsporch.com).



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

## Commission and Ministry Team Meetings

[Click here for Website Calendar.](#)

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.](#)

### December 2023

4, 12:30 p.m. Commission for Church Professionals Zoom Meeting.

4, 3:00 p.m. Commission for Congregational Life Hybrid Meeting.

5, 1:00 p.m. Commissioned Ruling Elders, Presbytery Office.

5, 4:00 p.m. Coordinating Team Zoom Meeting.

7, 2:00 p.m. Mediation Training, Presbytery Office.

11, 3:00 p.m. Commission for Presbytery Operations Hybrid Meeting.

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### 2024 Presbytery meeting dates (locations TBA)

February 20, May 21, August 20, November 19

[Special Offerings Season in 2023.](#)

**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

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



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