

Mid-week E-News November 2, 2023



PRESBYTERY *of* SCIOTO VALLEY

SERVING CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN OHIO

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

Don't forget, Clocks officially fall back at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023.

[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)

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley Nominating Committee is seeking applications for two (2) teaching elder commissioners, two (2) ruling elder commissioners, and one (1) young adult advisory delegate the 226th General Assembly.



226th General Assembly

June 25 - July 4, 2024, Salt Lake City, UT

[CLICK HERE FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOMINATION FORM](#)

Please complete and submit your application by: **November 8.**

WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

The General Assembly consists of commissioners elected by presbyteries.

More at: <https://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/ga/>

Youth Winter Retreat at Camp Akita

Saturday, 11-18@ 9 a.m. - Sunday, 11- 19 @ 1 p.m.

For more information contact the Reverend Steve Brand - **SBrand@pts.edu**.

[Poster, Fact Sheet and Registration Information.](#)



Presbytery Wide Spring Youth Camping Weekend in Hocking Hills Ohio; April 20th & 21st, 2024. Calling all churches with middle & high school youth!

Join us for a fun camping weekend of ministry and ziplining in the beautiful Hocking Hills. Please contact Reverend Steve Brand revstevebrand@gmail.com if your church might be interested. Once we know what churches are interested in attending, we will work out the details together.

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. At the conference you will have the opportunity to make new



friends both from Scioto Valley Presbytery and from all over the United States, dive deeper into faith and spirituality, and find out what risks we are called to take to make a difference in our world today. **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 - www.jacobsporch.com
45 E 13th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201. Cell: 412-613-0835.



Dear Friends,

I do hope that you will consider joining us in January for the book study "What Kind of Christianity" and the follow up Zoom with the book's author. He has already responded and can't wait to visit with us! So far, the responses to the survey for when to hold the study look like either Monday or Wednesday mornings...so if you want it to occur at another time, you need to cast your vote! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MXVGK9P>

I talked to the session record review team, and I was told that about 50% of our clerks brought their records for review. I cannot wait to see the final list of those who have not brought their records in. And I wonder why that is... was it an inconvenient time to get to the review locations? were the locations not favorable?

I also looked at how many of our churches did not respond to the annual survey of pastor salaries. That was submitted early in the year, usually by

email, but some by regular mail. And I wonder why some did not respond. Was the form too difficult to fill out? Did it not get to the right person for completion?

Part of me is cynical and says in answer to the above questions - people just don't care. And that saddens me. Really saddens me.

I chose to be Presbyterian. Yes, my parents baptized me as a baby in a Presbyterian church and that is where I attended Sunday school and youth group. However, as an adult, I also belonged to a Lutheran church, and my grandparents were Lutherans. I had friends who were Methodist and Roman Catholic. I made a choice to return to my Presbyterian roots when I was called to ministry. I love the theology behind what we do. I love the polity that guides us. I love the connections between churches, between presbyteries, between synods. And I am just geeky enough to love the General Assembly...enough to go and volunteer even when my presbytery was not the host!

So, it really does sadden me to think that people may not care to respond to information requests from the presbytery office. We have certain tasks that we are required to do by the Book of Order, and so we need your church's participation to do our own tasks. I wonder...are you glad to be Presbyterian? Do you know if your fellow congregants know why they are Presbyterian? Have a cup of warm soup on this chilly day...and let me know your thoughts...

In Christ's service,
The Rev. 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!

Cap City Helping Hands' (CCHH) – The Big Sort and The Big Pick-Up. The Presbytery's annual Coat Drive for Columbus City School children is underway. This weekend is **The Big Sort**, when we "dump out" the 1,000+ coat donations that have come to us in boxes, bags, and on hangers, and we sort the coats by size. Sorting the coats by size from smallest to largest along the walls of Overbrook's fellowship hall allows the volunteers to choose coats that will fit into our three categories of Elementary, Middle and High School Bags.

Volunteers will then take a Bag labeled for, say, Elementary School and walk along the sorted coats and select a variety of coats in assorted sizes and styles

for this age of boys and girls. Once the Bag has ten coats in it, the Bag is taken upstairs to await pickup by a school the next day at **The Big Pick-Up. It is FUN, so come and see this good news going on in our Presbytery:**

Friday, Nov.3, 2pm: collect coats from The Harmony Project.
Friday, Nov. 3,4pm: set-up The Big Sort at Overbrook, Rusty Bucket for dinner.
Sat, Nov. 4, 9am–12noon: opportunity for individuals, Community Partners, and Congregations to Drop Off Coats at Overbrook.
Sun, Nov. 5, 1pm – 4pm: The Big Sort.
Mon., Nov. 6, 12noon – 4pm: The Big Pick-Up, when schools come to Overbrook PC or Hoge Memorial PC to pick up their Bags of coats. All the schools in the Columbus City Schools have been invited!

CCHH thanks all the congregations who have provided coats!
With your help, we are all making a difference in a child's life and are helping to keep them in school!

Woven Together in Christ's Service



Read the Discernment & Design report!

www.psvonline.org/presbytery-meetings-resources/

Discernment & Design Q&A

Is it appropriate to use the Church Development Fund in support of this plan?

As approved by Presbytery, the purpose of the Church Development Fund (CDF) is "to advance church development in the Presbytery, consistent with the mission of Christ within the bounds of the Presbytery in accordance with Scripture and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the mission and vision statement of the Presbytery, and the ongoing ministry strategy of the Presbytery and its Commissions."

Information gathered through Phase 1 of the Discernment & Design process identified a number of ways in which the churches of the Presbytery need assistance in developing their ministries and also ways in which Presbytery commissions need support for the work with which they are entrusted. The Discernment & Design proposal uses a variety of funding sources, including the CDF, to enhance our ministry.

There is a sufficient balance in this fund to support the initiatives of the proposed staffing and commission model for a period of years, with the understanding that in year 3 of the new structure the use of CDF funds will be reconsidered, and adjustments made, if needed.

What is the role of the Presbytery Council in the new structure?

The purpose of the proposed Presbytery Council will be to organize the life of the Presbytery through vision, planning, budgeting, and accountability. It will be the responsibility of the Council to guide the ship – to ensure that policy,

operational, and financial decisions are consistent with the mission and priority of the Presbytery.

What will happen to the Ministry Initiative Board?

All commitments that have been made by the Ministry Initiative Board will be honored moving forward, while the grant-making responsibilities of that Board will be relocated to the Commission on Ministry and the Commission on Justice, Outreach, and Education. Those commissions will have authority to make grants consistent with their responsibilities and with the priorities of the Presbytery.

Olive wood products from Palestine.

A message from Elias Ghareeb, a tour operator from Palestine. He has been a friend to many who have traveled to Palestine. The tourist industry has been hit hard. If your church is interested in Olive wood products, please let Mary Gene Boteler know and she can put you in touch with Elias.

"I am sending you this message hoping you can help with Olive wood sales at your church. As you know, no more tourists are coming to the area, and I am working here with some of the Local Artisans to sell their products and also make a living during this terrible War.

I can prepare different size of boxes that have a nice collection of Olive wood items, the size would depend on the Size of the Church. I also offer good prices for certain items when ordered by Quantities for example the Pendants or the Palm/Comfort Crosses.

If you think your church would be interested or can help, please let me know. Email Mary Gene Boteler mgboteler@gmail.com

Another option would be buying the box and getting a discount so the church can fundraise for one of their ministries. Thanks, and looking forward to hearing from you."

Celebrating PSV Congregations work at the November 28 Presbytery meeting!



The presbytery's Matthew 25 work group is gathering stories of how PSV congregations are practicing earth care and environmental sustainability. Does your church have a pollinator garden, recycling program, alternative energy system, environmental education program, etc.? If so, we want to hear from you so we can celebrate your work at the November presbytery meeting. Email your information to CNO Chair Stephen Hills at stephen.m.hills@gmail.com or Tina Johnson at tinarjohnson@gmail.com

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.

UPDATE: The sale of the Columbus St. Andrew Presbyterian Church property is proceeding. We are selling to the Columbus Assembly of God who will be using this location for a Brazilian congregation. We had anticipated closing on the sale this week, but we hit a small "speed bump" when Franklin County would NOT accept the legal description. from when we bought the property back in the early 1960's. The County insisted on a new survey and legal description. The "field work" for the survey was completed this week and the surveyor is now in the process of preparing a new legal description and getting it approved by the County. According to our attorneys, we hope to have the County's approval of the new legal description by mid-month. SO - barring any other speed bumps- we should be able to close either just before Thanksgiving or - **MORE REALISTICALLY** - early the following week (Tuesday or Wednesday after Thanksgiving). Jim Hines, Chair, Commission for Presbytery Operations.



Available to you. 120 *Hymns of Faith* hymnals are available from First Presbyterian Church Pataskala. Hymnals can be picked up at the church Wednesday or Thursday, 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Please call the church office at 740-927-4796 to arrange the pick-up time.

ORGAN AVAILABLE

As the team continues to close the St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, we have learned that the buyers (another church) are not interested in the ORGAN. Consequently, we have a **Johannus Organ** available to anyone needing a new organ for their sanctuary. As the former members of St Andrew can attest, this organ is a fine musical instrument and would be an asset to another church.

The former music director of St. Andrew **suggests that it would need to be professionally removed from St. Andrew and professionally transported and installed in its new home and should be provided with regular servicing by a qualified technician. Given the high quality of this organ he believes that such actions would be appropriate, and that the organ will serve its new congregation well.**
Please contact Jim Hines at 614-620-4975 (cell)

Share your story/news? Congregations, Commissions and ministry teams are encouraged to submit items of interest to 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.



"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, when prompted enter code 783190#.** The group is led by the Reverend Don Pendell.

November Prayer List for Scioto Valley congregations and Pastors.

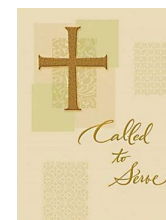
Throughout each month we lift in prayer some of our congregations and their pastors. During the year we hope to pray for every one of our congregations and their pastoral leaders.

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



One of the ministries of the Presbytery Commission for Church Professionals (CCP) is to support the minister members in our Presbytery by celebrating their ordination anniversaries. This month we recognize and lift up in prayer the following ministers who are celebrating the anniversaries of their ordinations to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the month of November.

The Reverend Phyllis A. Heffner HR - 11-2-1980.



The Reverend Judith Birdsall HR – 11-3-1985.
The Reverend Tiffany Komasa – 11-8-2015.
The Reverend Joon Won Lee – 11-8-1998.
The Reverend John J. Manos HR – 11-11-1956.
The Reverend. Mark Pierce – 11-16-1986.
The Reverend Mark L. Gauen – 11-23-1986.
The Reverend Kevin W. Heckathorn – 11-28-1999.
The Reverend Karen Stahr Bloom HR – 11-29-1992.
The Reverend Deborah A. Lewicki HR – 11-30-1997.

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.

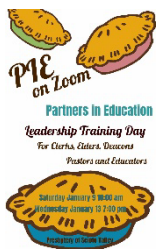
Given Issue 1 on the election ballot next week, we might remember our church's stance on abortion. In 2002, the PCUSA General Assembly approved by a vote of 348-38, that women and pregnant people are full moral agents, created in the image of God, and it supports their moral capacity to decide whether to continue or end any given pregnancy. It also denounces attempts to prevent people from receiving essential health care and rejects attempts at all levels of government to reduce, limit or eliminate access to contraceptive and abortion care.

Source; [HomeNews](#) Resolution rejects government attempts to limit access to contraceptive and abortion care.

Churches who wish to help women with contraceptive and abortion care should consider partnering with Ohio's Jubilee Fund Network at: FAITHCHOICEOHIO.ORG.

The network provides practical support to abortion seekers -- including transportation, hotel stays, childcare stipends, language interpretation, care packages & all-options counseling. For more information contact Samantha Allen at: samantha@faithchoiceohio.org

Mark Your Calendar for Future Events....



Save the Date for 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!!



SOC@SynodoftheCovenant.org

Commission and Ministry Team Meetings

[Click here for Website Calendar.](#)

Don't forget, Clocks officially fall back at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 5. November Meetings

- 2, 2:00 p.m. Mediation Training, Presbytery Office.
- 6, 12:30 p.m. Commission for Church Professionals Zoom Meeting.
- 6, 3:00 p.m. Commission for Congregational Life Hybrid Meeting.
- 7, 2:00 p.m. Commissioned Ruling Elders, Presbytery Office.
- 8, 9:45 a.m. Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Westerville, First PC.
- 14, 4:00 p.m. Coordinating Team Zoom Meeting.
- 15, 3:00 p.m. Commission for Presbytery Operations Hybrid Meeting.
- 18-19 Presbytery-wide Youth Winter Retreat.
- 21, 1:00 p.m. Commission for Nurture and Outreach Zoom Meeting.

23 Give Thanks - Presbytery office closed for Thanksgiving Day.

November 28, 2023 Presbytery Stated Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, Washington Court House, Ohio.

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.](#)

[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 to others.

If it matters for others, it matters to God.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/>

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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