

Mid-week E-News December 14, 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)



The Advent candles represent the fragile light of hope amidst the deep dark of the season. As Christ's Advent, or "coming" draws nearer, a new candle is lit each week, combining with the candle of the passing week. Christ, referred to as the **"Light of the World"** is seen in direct contrast to the bleak darkness of sin. Think of the lighting of the weekly candle. as a spiritual contemplation of your role in the story that is about to unfold.

Week 2: This week is the week we focus on **FAITH**. The second candle lit on an advent wreath is referred to as the Bethlehem Candle as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Their experience of preparation was surely nothing like that of today when one looks forward to the birth of a child. Joseph and Mary undoubtedly wanted to be sure their son would have the necessary food, clothing, and shelter for life in this world. But, while they were getting ready for Jesus' birth, they were interrupted by a Roman census. By law Joseph had to go to Bethlehem, his ancestral town, and he brought Mary with him. It is an understatement to say the 90-mile journey was probably an annoyance they could have done without, as Mary was nearing the end of her pregnancy.

[The Perfect Gift.](#)

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present, and future — who have pointed us to God.

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!!



All Presbyterians in the Scioto Valley Presbytery are encouraged to come to this annual event! Our Synod Executive, the Rev. Chip Hardwick, will provide the keynote "Reaching Outside of Ourselves". Training for elders and deacons for both larger (morning) and smaller (afternoon) churches will be offered, as well as training for clerks.

Other workshops include Earth Care, Oral History, Havening - CPR for the Amygdala, and Service Projects for Families, Youth and Kids. PIE is an amazing opportunity to connect with people from around the presbytery while developing new skills and learning new information to help you in your faith and ministry. The cost for the event is \$15, including lunch. Register by January 13. Parts of the event will be live streamed on the Covenant Presbyterian Church Columbus Facebook page.

[Register here by January 13.](#)

Commission for Presbytery Operations (CPO) Purpose: To provide organizational support to the daily operation of the Presbytery, to hold the Presbytery accountable to its members and to comply with all state-mandated not-for-profit organizational requirements.

Updates from the Commission for Presbytery Operations
Jim Hines, Chair

Electronic Payments. The Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) is now able to accept electronic payments. In response to numerous requests, we now can accept electronic payments. We have set up a ZELLE account that will allow you to make electronic payments for events like the PIE event, etc. directly to PSV. To use the electronic payment method, you will need to download the ZELLE app to your phone or computer. Once you have the app, you can make payments directly to the Presbytery. If you have questions, please email [**jhines1116@gmail.com**](mailto:jhines1116@gmail.com)

Search Committee for new Associate General Presbyter. The search is on for our new Associate General Presbyter. The position has been posted on Church Leadership Connection (CLC) part of the General Assembly and is being communicated to the mid-level council leaders' group. The search committee is composed of representatives from the CPO-HR team and representatives from the Commission for Congregational Life (CCL). If you or someone you know is interested in applying, please go to CLC <https://clc.pcusa.org/mdp/11109/view/> to indicate your interest. Currently, the search committee plans to start reviewing applicants in January with an ambitious goal of having a candidate ready for the February Presbytery meeting.

Per Capita for 2024. At the November Presbytery meeting, the Presbytery approved the 2024 Presbytery budget. The budget was approved with NO increase per capita which will remain at \$40 per member for the coming year". Your financial support makes a difference. A vital part of the connectional church. We are grateful beyond measure!

Bob Patterson, Presbytery Treasurer. REMINDER for 2023 year-end financial giving. I want to pass on the following information to you: 2023 remittances must be received in the Presbytery office by Friday, January 5, 2024. Payments received after that date will be credited to the 2024 financial year.

Dear Friends, this past weekend and week have been full of activity. I was able to attend the Newark Second Presbyterian Polar Express Experience (see picture) on Friday evening, chatted with Tiny, the alpaca, and her person, Commissioned Pastor Deb Bergmann (Iberia Pres) at the Polaris Fashion Place on Saturday (see picture), worshiped with the folks at Christ Pres (Columbus) on Sunday, and then helped at the holiday store at West High School (Columbus) where the Cap City Helping Hands provides the students with a shopping place where they spend the "cowboy bucks" they earned from attendance and good grades. (see picture)



Todd Tracy, Lanie Sipes,
Kathy Nice



Deb Bergmann & alpaca Tiny
with Kathy Nice



W. High School Holiday Store

This flurry of activity was a delight! I enjoy getting to see our various churches and mission groups in action!

I will begin using my last two weeks of vacation beginning Friday (nothing like waiting for the last two weeks of the year!), but that does not mean I will not be worshiping in our churches. I will be at Plain City this coming Sunday (December 17) to hear their cantata, at Fredericktown First on Christmas Eve daytime, and then at Jersey Presbyterian church for their final worship service on December 31.

I have a list of churches to visit for January and I am starting to fill up February dates. If you have something specific coming up that you would like me to be present for, please let me know (the sooner the better). If you have any pressing questions that can't wait until 2024, please email me, text me, or call. I will try to respond to emergencies through the end of 2023.

God's blessings to you and your family through this holy season!

In Christ's service,

The Rev. Kathy Nice,

Transitional General Presbyter, Presbytery of Scioto Valley

614-847-0565 (office) or 614-507-2626 (mobile)

HELP - Nominating Committee is seeking nominees.

With the new structure approved at the November 28 presbytery meeting, our Nominating Committee has asked for your help. They are seeking nominees for the new Presbytery Council, which is the visioning team, planning for the future of the presbytery and guiding its overarching strategy. If that sounds like something you are excited about (or if you know someone who is always dreaming of how we can be better together), the form to use to express your interest is

here: <https://bit.ly/2024council>. Don't delay...nominating committee wants to present the slate of those to be elected at the February presbytery meeting!

We also need to fill some vacancies on other committees and commissions, including the nominating committee. If you would like to be considered, here is the form we are using to gather information about your interest: <https://bit.ly/2024interest>.

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.

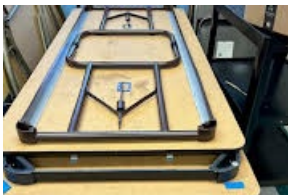
The Presbytery of Scioto Valley includes 86 churches with a membership of 12,817 (updated March 20, 2023). Surrounding the metropolitan center of Columbus, Ohio, the Presbytery extends northward to Marion, east to Newark, west to London and southward to the Ohio River. The southern portion of the presbytery 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.

The **First Presbyterian Church (FPC) of Logan Ohio** is hosting its 26th "Good Neighbor Gift Market" (GNGM) through the month of December. The church is looking forward to this year's fund-raising event and re-connecting with the many non-profit organizations throughout the community supported by the gift market. Last year's GNGM collected \$4763 for 12 organizations from their on-line Catalog and in-person gift market. To date this annual event has raised more than \$130,000 since it started in 1997. The GNGM is accepting orders from both the on-line Catalog. **To place an order or request a catalog: On-line: <https://loganfpc.org/> Email: loganfirstpres@gmail.com. Phone: 740-385-2242**

[Click here for the online Catalog](#)



FREE- to good neighbor church- 8 six-foot metal frame folding tables -and portable/movable storage cart. Contact Dublin Presbyterian church office if interested at 614-793-8694 or dpc@dublinpresbyterian.org.

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. 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.



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 December.

The Reverend Keith Jones – 12-1-2007

The Reverend Amy Miracle – 12-1-1971

The Reverend Dr. Edward K Lewis Sr. 12-5-2021

The Reverend Philip L. Bougher HR – 12-8-1974

The Reverend Dallas M. Dryburgh – 12-8-1991

The Reverend Mathias Akih – 12-13-2006

The Reverend Laurence E. Miller Jr. HR – 12-17-1967

The Reverend Jane Johnson – 12-19-1999

The Reverend Dr. Janet A. Hufford – 12-21-2003

The Reverend Larry L. Wickliff HR – 12-28-1969

The Reverend Carol R. Weiss HR – 12-29-1967



"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.

December 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.

Wilkesville, First Presbyterian Church, Pastor John Pelletier

Fredericktown, First Presbyterian Church,

Pastors Nancy Revenaugh and Pam Gillett

Granville, First Presbyterian Church,

Pastors Karen Chakoian and Wendy McCormick

Newark, Hanover Presbyterian Church, Pastor Heather Thum-Gerber

Pataskala, Jersey Presbyterian Church, Pastor Dallas Dryburgh

Johnstown Presbyterian Church, Pastor Kevin Heckathorn

Mt. Vernon, First Presbyterian Church, J. Ross Slaughter

Commission for Nurture and Outreach. 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

Book study for "What Kind of Christianity" will begin on **Wednesday, January 10, at 10 a.m.** This book was given the 2023 Award of Excellence by the Religion Communicators Council. The author will be joining us at the end of our study (right after Easter) to share his thoughts and hear our feedback. This is our first study related to the Matthew 25 effort of dismantling racism at the presbytery level. If you want to purchase a copy of the book to join us, the PC(USA) store has them on sale right

now: <https://www.pcusastore.com/AdvancedSearch/DefaultWFilter.aspx?SearchTerm=PFBL> (\$15 instead of the usual \$30). Zoom links will be sent out to all who answered the survey, and will appear in newsletters closer to the January 10.



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 - Presbytery Office: 614-847-0565.

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

December 2023

The Presbytery will be closed for a Merry Christmas, December 26-28, 2023.

Open again January 2, 2024. Happy New Year!

January Meetings TBA

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.](#)
