

Mid-week E-News December 7, 2023

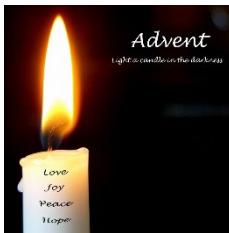


PRESBYTERY *of* SCIOTO VALLEY

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.

This week is the week we focus on **HOPE**. The first candle lit on an advent wreath is referred to as the Prophecy Candle in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

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.



Dear Friends,
Coming at you with lots of information!
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 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>.

Finally, I can report that the 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.

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!*

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 FB page.

[Register Here.](#)



Commission for Nurture and Outreach (CNO). Pre-presbytery event on earth care/climate change.

The CNO sponsored event was the first pre-presbytery event to be

held as a hybrid meeting in person and on Zoom. Approximately 30 people participated, about half in person at the First Presbyterian Church in Washington Courthouse and the other half online. Thanks to Kathy Bubb and Pastor Steve Brand for facilitating the session on Zoom.

Zuriel Houser, a representative from the national organization, Interfaith Power and Light, was the keynote speaker. His presentation sparked considerable discussion about how churches could shift to solar power, thus saving money and the planet as well. Michael Ayers and Pastor Trip Porch from Indianola Presbyterian in Columbus provided a description of Indianola's challenging path toward installation of solar panels. They urged churches in our presbytery to take advantage of incentives in federal legislation to become the first to adopt solar power in their communities. In such a way they will serve as an example of what can be done to help save the planet. Zuriel emphasized the urgency for all of us to act now.

Churches across the presbytery can achieve economies of scale in their adoption of solar power by working together. If your church is considering solar power, please contact CNO members Tina Johnson or Steve Hills. For more technical questions, contact Zuriel Houser from Interfaith Power and Light, or Michael Ayers from Indianola Church. Contact information is below:

Tina Johnson: tinarjohnson@gmail.com Steve Hills:

stephen.m.hills@gmail.com (614-364-5300) Zuriel

Houser: zurielcdc@gmail.com Michael Ayers: 614-325-8807

The second half of the pre-presbytery session focused on the actions of individual churches to take other approaches to earth care, namely tree planting and pollinator gardens. Rebecca Mastroianni from Granville Presbyterian described an interesting and extensive initiative for planting trees in and around Granville. The tree planting led to other unexpected community engagements. Her presentation may well inspire other churches to undertake similar earth care projects.

Waverly Presbyterian and Boulevard Church - Columbus have both been engaged in projects to convert portions of their churches' property to pollinator

gardens. This is part of a movement across the country to counter the negative effects of climate change on insects and pollinators. The gardens preserve native plants and provide crucial habitat for wildlife. In addition to these benefits, Waverly's conversion of land to a sustainable garden will provide considerable saving in upkeep of grass around the church property. For more information on pollinator gardens, contact the following: Mike Milam from Waverly Presbyterian milamjm@yahoo.com or Jan Place from Boulevard Church janplas4@gmail.com

Presbytery Cap City Helping Hands Ministry Helps Keep Kids in School at West High

West High School's Holiday Store is not just a place where the students can buy Christmas gifts. It is also a key part of the school's positive behavioral intervention program, which aims to reward kids for good behavior and encourage the kids to stay in school and graduate.



The Presbytery's Cap City Helping Hands ministry collects gifts all year long to stock the Holiday Store in December. Thank you to the individuals and congregations who have given so generously this year! We have an inventory of 1,500 gifts, including a special selection of 400 pieces of jewelry donated by PW!

If you have a knack for wrapping gifts, or just want to spend time interacting with delightful urban teens, come join us at the Holiday Store at West High. The Holiday Store is open during the school's lunch hours from Dec. 11 through Dec 14. Contact Patti Nussle at 614-209-5600 or Natalie Alter at 614-806-7144 for more information.

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.





"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

Porch and funds are allocated to general and specific budgets annually, while also designating the remainder of our funding for OSUKirk-specific endeavors.

As such, should you feel led to support campus ministry at OSU financially, please direct any contributions to Scioto Valley Presbytery with the memo "OSUKirk". While Jacob's

Porch is the general campus ministry, OSUKirk is where funds will be disbursed. We hope this will help to avoid any confusion about how to support our OSU campus ministry and its students. Thank you!"

In Christ, Taylor Barner, Campus Minister

Jacob's Porch- www.jacobsporch.com

45 E 13th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201. Cell: 412-613-0835.

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

Update from the 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.

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.



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



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 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.

[View the 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

[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.

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 Revennaugh 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 (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....TBA



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

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.
14, 2:00 p.m., Nominating Committee Zoom Meeting.

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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