

## Mid-week E-News November 21 and 28, 2024



### PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO VALLEY PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a body of Christ, the Presbytery of Scioto Valley is a trusted and responsive spiritual community building connection and creating vitality across all and within

each of our diverse congregations.



### Thanksgiving Thoughts

Many of us are leaning into the preparations for Thanksgiving and soon on its heels, Advent! With a flurry of activities, prayerful planning for a busy season, I invite you to take time to reflect on the gifts God graciously gives us. Gratitude in this season is a gift we return to God and to others. Many wonderful blessings to you this Thanksgiving season. Below is a

thought from Julian of Norwich for you to ponder.

With Gratitude, Emily

*Be a gardener. Dig a ditch, toil, and sweat, and turn the earth upside down and seek the deepness and water the plants in time. Continue this labor and make sweet floods to run and noble and abundant fruits to spring. Take this food and drink and carry it to God as your true worship. ~Julian of Norwich, in Earth Prayers from around the World, eds. Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon (New York: Harper Collins, 1991), 305.*

Dear Friends,

If you missed this week's presbytery meeting, you missed a long, but good meeting! We worshipped God, heard a message about love (and the Beatles), and celebrated communion together. We listed the names of those elders who passed away during 2023 (at least the ones your churches shared with us; we are so sorry about anyone who was missed).

We approved Nick Robison (Worthington) to move from inquiry to candidate phase on his road to ordination. We voted for a lot of folks to hold positions in the many committees and commissions of the presbytery. We approved an Administrative Commission to walk with the Crestview (Columbus) church and thanked the AC that had walked with St. Andrew as they were dismissed with great thanks.



Emily Corzine, Joel Esala, and Alice Karen Hite



Emily Corzine Joel Esala, PSV Moderator

### Pre-Presbytery Meeting Matthew 25



OPC HYGIENE CONNECTION



We heard about exciting workshops coming up including dedicated Officer Training January 11, 2025, in two locations (watch for more information), Hunger Program Day of Advocacy in Advent on December 10, and PIE on March 1, 2025.

We voted on the amendments that were sent to the presbyteries by the General Assembly. We can provide a full list if you wish but know that we voted some up and some down. Now we will not have to vote on amendments from the General Assembly for a couple of years!

We installed our Moderator and Vice Moderator for 2025 (Joel Esala and Alice Karen Hite, respectively). We heard announcements including a call for peace in our country, a request for help with Overbrook's sponsoring a couple from Ukraine, First Ironton will be having a book signing and a rededication of their restored bell tower on Monday afternoon, and thanks for the coat donations for

the Kids for Coats and the donation of 140+ clean up buckets for Church World Service's PCUSA collection.

What a day! And fun afterwards at Houlihan's! If you were not there, I do hope you will join us in February!

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Kathy Nice

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### **Church World Service Buckets:**

What a response! We collected over 140 buckets, supplies, and financial contributions for Disaster Kits for Church World Service. The Church World Service truck arrives at Covenant Presbyterian Church on Friday November 22, 2024, to pick them up. If you have any remaining buckets please get them Covenant by Friday morning. We give thanks for all those who have contributed in your ways to the disaster recovery efforts after Hurricane Helene.



Thank you for your stewardship of your resources to support our siblings in Christ who continue to clean up and rebuild. For we are one in the body of Christ and we are grateful to live out our call to serve our neighbors.

In Christ, Emily

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### **Per Capita Update from Elder Bob Patterson, Presbytery Treasurer.**

The Presbytery approved an increase in Per Capita for 2025 to \$44.00 per member. Each church's total Per Capita is calculated on the number of members on the church roll as of December 31, 2023, as reported through the annual Statistical Report. More information will be coming soon.

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**First Presbyterian Church of Ironton invites all to a day of Thanksgiving, Monday, November 25, 2024.** First Ironton will be having a book signing of *The Conductor* by Caleb Franz, and a rededication of their restored bell tower on Monday afternoon. Self-guided tours begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Lawrence County Museum. At 3:00 p.m., at the historical First Presbyterian Church Mr. Franz will speak about his book and the life of

abolitionist the Reverend John Rankin at 6:00 p.m. A limited number of books will be available for purchase. For more information please call the church at 740-532-0601. The church is located at 201 N. Fifth Street.



## Celebrate *A Light to the Nations* 2024 Finale on November 24, 2024.

**"A Light to the Nations"** invites everyone to join its noon worship service on Sunday, November 24, to commemorate their final service of 2024. The service will feature a special choir from Tanzania. Since March, the group has been gathering on the fourth Sunday of the month in the Worthington Presbyterian Church chapel (773 High St, Worthington). The

service, led by Commissioned Ruling Elder Peter Okyere, extends a special invitation to immigrants and refugees in our Presbytery.

For more details, please reach out to Peter at [pokyere@wpcnow.org](mailto:pokyere@wpcnow.org). He's also ready to assist in welcoming refugees or immigrants at your church.

## "Montreat College

**Conference** is back once again, and Jacob's Porch at Ohio State and the Presbytery (PSV) are going! If you are a college student or a young adult you are invited to join us for this beautiful and refreshing conference in the mountains of North Carolina.

The conference includes keynote speakers, conversation groups, hiking, and worship along with hundreds of other college students from across the country. The cost to attend is \$150, which covers housing, food, and travel. Scholarships are available. **Contact Taylor Barner at 412-613-0835 or [taylor@jacobsparch.com](mailto:taylor@jacobsparch.com) for more information and/or to register before December 1st."**

## ADVOCACY IN ADVENT: A Lame Duck Lobby Day! December 10, 2024

Come and join with the leaders of the Hunger Network in Ohio and your Presbytery Matthew 25 work team at this special event. This is an opportunity to better understand how the state legislative process works and how we as Christians can provide input into the decisions.



**ADVOCACY IN ADVENT: A Lame Duck Lobby Day! DECEMBER 10, 2024, 8:45 - 3:00.** Join people of faith and good conscience to learn about issues of the Lame Duck Legislature (that period after an election, before the new legislators take their seat where ANYTHING can happen!) Not only do we learn about the issues but can lift up and amplify the voices of hungry neighbors in Ohio and remind our public officials they are called to be Public Servants!  
<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/f83cd714-bde8-4291-9e6a-ab2337db4744>

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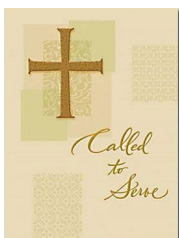


**It was a JOY to spend this past weekend at the PSV Youth Retreat!** Seventy-two of us from throughout the presbytery (mostly youth and about fifteen awesome adult leaders and chaperones) got together at Camp Akita to worship, have discussion in small groups, play some fun games, do trivia, eat s'mores around the bonfire, and grow in faith together! Friendships were deepened, new connections were made, honest and meaningful conversations were had, and God's love was evident through it all.

A special thanks to each person who made this weekend possible - especially all the people on the Leadership Team who gave of their time, gifts, and hearts. I am grateful for the loving, authentic community we created together and already looking forward to next year's retreat!

"We need Joy as we need air. We need Love as we need water. We need each other as we need the earth we share." - Maya Angelou

In Christ's Love & Joy, Rev. Lanie Sipes (Second Presbyterian, Newark)



**November Prayer List for Scioto Valley Presbytery 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.

**South West pastors and congregations.**

Portsmouth, First Presbyterian Church - Pastor Ron Johnson  
Portsmouth, Second Presbyterian Church - Pastor Allison Bauer

Sedalia, Midway Presbyterian Church - Worship Leader  
Washington Court House Presbyterian Church - Pastor Steve Brand  
Waverly, First Presbyterian Church, Pastor Jane Johnson

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

[PSV Calendar](#)

## **Future Workshops and more!**

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**Download Christmas Joy Offering Resources Early!**

[Christmas Joy Resources](#)

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[Presbytery Website Calendar view for future events.](#)

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**Regarding Ruling Elders: A Monthly Series for Serving Faithfully  
Participating in the governing responsibilities of the church  
Marissa Galván-Valle - November 15, 2024**

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is known as a connectional church. In the PC(USA), being connectional reflects a distinctive feature of our governance and ecclesial identity. This concept is rooted in the shared life and mutual accountability across the various councils of the church — sessions, presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly. This manifests itself in several ways:

Shared Power and Accountability

[More about Ruling Elders](#)

**2025 - Coming Events - Mark your calendar now!**

**January 11, 2025. Presbytery of Scioto Valley Church Officers Training.** Registration is now open for the Presbytery **Church Officer Training** on Saturday, January 11, 2025. We will have check-in starting at 9:00 a.m., and the event will finish by 11:30 a.m. Classes for elders and deacons will be held at **two locations** - Gahanna Mifflin Presbyterian Church and Chillicothe First Presbyterian Church.

[Church Officers Training - Sign Up Here.](#)

**March 1, 2025 - PIE (Partners in Education) Event!**

We are excited about this year's **PIE (Partners in Education)** Event on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Columbus, starting with registration at 9:00 a.m. and ending by 2:30 p.m. Our keynote speaker will be the dynamic **Dr. Corey Schlosser-Hall, the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Deputy Executive Director of Vision, Innovation and Rebuilding.** We will also have eight workshops, including "Making Your Church More Visible", "Real Talk from Young Adults", "Anti-Hunger Advocacy", and "Prayer Practices for Lent". The cost for the event is \$20 which includes lunch. More information is coming soon, but please put this on your calendar and spread the word!

**February 22, 2025, Faith and Finance, February 22, 2025**

[Learn more about the Faith and Finance Event.](#)

**The Presbytery of Scioto Valley includes 83 churches with a membership of 12,175 (updated March 6, 2024).** 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 Presbytery staff is in the office and available by email or phone at 614-847-0565, office hours Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. [www.psvonline.org](http://www.psvonline.org)

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

[Click here to view the Presbytery Structure](#)

[Read about the Core Values](#)

[Click here for the Meeting/Event Calendar.](#)

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**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, Matthew25 programs, and more from our presbytery.

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[Click here for Presbytery Calendar.](#)



The Synod of the Covenant  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Be sure read the latest news..  
[SOC@SynodoftheCovenant.org](mailto:SOC@SynodoftheCovenant.org)

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