

Mid-week E-News December 12, 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.



The Presbytery office will be closed for the Christmas holidays starting December 23, 2024, and will reopen on January 6, 2025.



"I will light candles this Christmas.

From "The Mood of Christmas" by Howard Thurman

Candles of **joy**, despite all the sadness.
Candles of **hope** where despair keeps watch.
Candles of **courage** where fear is ever present.
Candles of **peace** for tempest-tossed days.
Candles of **grace** to ease heavy burdens.
Candles of **love** to inspire all of my living.
Candles that will burn all the year long.
"

[Impact of the Christmas Joy Offering: Read Judi's Story](#)

Dear Friends,

Anyone who has seen or participated in the birth of a child knows it certainly is not a "silent night." Lots of groans, some screams, lots of heavy breathing (some by the partner whose hand is being squeezed by the laboring party) make the birth space anything but quiet. Even after the child is born, in today's hospital setting, there are people moving around, cleaning the child, cries from the infant, beeps by equipment, chatting by those in attendance, cries from the parents as they see their first glimpse of the miracle. Our pretty Christmas cards certainly do not have the right picture when they show a simple barn with the star overhead.



There is a difference, though, between quiet and peace. Quiet is a lack of noise. Peace is a feeling that permeates our whole being and can quiet our internal noise. Someone who is at peace can be in the middle of a cacophony of sound and be unphased. Doesn't that sound like something you would like to experience right about now?

Jesus has already given you peace (John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.) We blithely go through the motions most Sundays when we pass the peace. Do we really take time to think about what we are supposed to be sharing with each other? Do we allow peace to be felt in our bellies before we pass it along to others who need to also feel that same reassurance?

Jesus gave us the best gift of all when he sent the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to teach us and remind us of all that Jesus taught. I pray that you will pay attention to the leading of the Holy Spirit and find that source of all peace that the world cannot take away from you. Happy Christmas preparations!

In Christ's service,

The Rev. Kathy Nice, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Scioto Valley
knice@psvonline.org 614-847-0565 (office) or 614-507-2626 (mobile)

The Commission on Justice, Outreach and Education (CJOE)

Happy Advent! Happy New PCUSA Website!

Check out the new denominational website at <https://pcusa.org>

We hope you'll find it to be a fresh, new update. If you can't find what you need right away, we may be able to help. Contact Dagmar, Kathy or Emily for support.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Volunteer Work Trip Planning Team. If you are interested in being part of the planning team for a Presbytery-wide PDA volunteer work trip in 2025, please contact Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, emily@psvonline.org. The Commission for Justice, Outreach, and Education (CJOE) is forming a group within the Presbytery to

plan, recruit volunteers, and engage this opportunity in 2025. Watch this space for more information once details are in place and how you can volunteer. Be part of the planning process, contact Emily.



Cap City Helping Hands West High School Holiday Store.

West High School Holiday Store This is the week students at West High School in Columbus look forward to all year! The Holiday Store, stocked with donations from Presbyterians like you, is open for business. Students use their hard-earned "bucks" to purchase Christmas gifts for their family and friends. Our hope is that the Holiday Store helps

keep kids in school and thereby addresses one of the root causes of poverty which is a lack of education.

Yesterday at the Holiday Store more than two hundred students went through and selected gifts. Notably, one honor roll student used all his "bucks" on one item, which was the 6-foot Christmas tree in the middle of the classroom/Store. He said he would come back at the end of the day to take it apart and carry it home. He was so proud to be able to provide a Christmas tree for his family this year. Thank you for all the donations that make the Holiday Store a success!

January 11, 2025. 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. Please share this flyer [Church Officer Training](#)

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

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

"Visions and Dreams" PIE (Partners in Education) will be Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Columbus with registration at 9:00 am. The event lasts until 2:30 pm and the \$20 cost includes lunch from Freedom a la Carte. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Corey Schlosser-Hall, Presbyterian Mission Agency's Deputy Executive Director of Vision, Innovation and Rebuilding. Eight exciting workshops will be offered,

four in the morning and four in the afternoon, including Matthew 25 issues, children and youth ministry, a youth adult panel, making your church more visible, chair yoga, Lenten prayer practices and more. Registration will open on January 6. Please share the flyer by clicking here: [PIE 2025](#)

Please put this on your calendar and spread the word!

Commission for Presbytery Operations Update, Jim Hines, Chair.

At last week's Presbytery meeting, I mentioned that the Commission for Presbytery Operations was working to see if we could put together an "insurance pool" for the churches in our Presbytery.

We are aware that several churches have learned that their insurance is being cancelled for no apparent reason or that their premiums are going up significantly. To date, we have been addressing these issues on a "one-off" basis – working with individual churches to help with their insurance.

To put together an "insurance pool" to benefit all the PSV churches, we need to collect information on each church (age, type of roof, boilers, etc.). We also need to know if you have written policies for "Sexual Harassment" and for "Child and Youth Protection" since one of our primary insurance carriers requires this a condition of providing insurance coverage.

IF YOU INTERESTED in joining an "insurance pool," would you please complete and return the attached survey form. Please send it either to Dagmar in the PSV offices or directly to me at jhines1116@gmail.com.

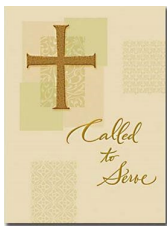
If you have any questions regarding this program or your insurance needs in general, please contact me at jhines1116@gmail.com or at 614-620-4975.

Per Capita Update from Elder Bob Patterson, Presbytery Treasurer.

The Presbytery approved an increase in Per Capita for 2025 to \$44.00 per member. The Per Capita is made up of: Presbytery of Scioto Valley \$29.76, Synod of the Covenant \$3.40, and General Assembly \$10.84.

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.

Commission on Ministry



December 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.

Metro East pastors and congregations.

Columbus, Christ Presbyterian church, Pastor Pam Patterson
Columbus, Korean Presbyterian church, Pastor Joon Won Lee

Columbus, Ramseyer Presbyterian church, Pastor Justice Ofosuene
Gahanna, Mifflin Presbyterian church, Pastor Lisa Eye
Lithopolis, Bloom Presbyterian church, Worship Leader
Pickerington, Prince of Peace Presbyterian church, Worship Leader
Reynoldsburg, Unity Presbyterian church, Pastor Andrew Smith
Westerville, First Presbyterian church, Pastor Nancy Dumford
Westerville, Central College Presbyterian church,
Pastors Malcolm Davis and David Redding

Coming soon: 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 working in the office and we are available by email or phone at 614-847-0565. Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

www.psvonline.org

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

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

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

[Read about the Core Values](#)

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

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.

[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)

[Visit General Assembly Website.](#)



[Presbyterian Disaster Relief Information](#)



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