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**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.



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**Jesus Christ Emmanuel**

**J**ourneying to Bethlehem, a long and tiring trek.  
**E**very bed was full that night, no matter where they checked.  
**S**table is empty, someone said, a place to lay your head.  
**U**ntil a baby was born in there, a manger for a bed.  
**S**omeone special and holy, the angels all said.

**C**hristened Emmanuel, a name chosen by God.  
**H**ow noble for one born in a situation so odd.  
**R**emembered now in **prayers** and churches all around the world.  
**I**mmortalized in stories and songs learned by every boy and girl.  
**S**acrificed upon the cross to forgive us all our sins.  
**T**he Son of God who was born for us, who died and was born again.

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A Merry Christmas to you from the staff of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. Emily Corzine, Bill Gause, Kathy Nice, Bob Patterson, Dagmar Romage, John Wyckoff. The Presbytery office will be closed for the Christmas holidays December 23, 2024 to January 6, 2025.

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

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Dear Friends,

Many of us grew up studying the Westminster Catechism, and we usually can recall what question 1 is...What is the chief end of humanity? and the answer is...Humanity's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy God forever. The dictionary says glorify is to praise or honor someone to an extreme degree, and enjoy is taking delight or pleasure in. So, the ultimate purpose of humanity is to praise God to an extreme degree and take delight in God forever. Praising God to an extreme degree does not mean we have to sing louder (although we can), raise our hands when we pray or sing (although we can), or delivering or sitting through a longer sermon (!!!).



Praising God to an extreme degree might mean we take it more seriously to allow praises to flow to God (just like at our Thanksgiving tables, when we said special thanks!) Praising God to an extreme degree allows us to take delight in God! Finding joy in loving God is an ambiguous thing to describe. It is one of those things the kids say is "iykyk" – if you know, you know. Some people describe joy as a feeling of bubbles inside us, like when kids would blow bubbles and get so excited seeing the rainbow of colors on the bubble as it floated toward the ground. Others describe joy as a state of happiness that does not quit, like a big, long smile.

During Advent, we have one candle that is pink – the candle for joy. The practice of using a rose (or pink) candle was to acknowledge the shift in our season of waiting from that of penitence (sorrow, regret, repentance) to the focus on celebration (to celebrate that Christmas is near). It is that time in the season when we also should remember our call to praise God and take joy in knowing we are God's own. We can, and should, allow that joy to displace all the grouchiness that might be invading us after dealing with stores being crowded, to-do lists not getting done, and the sadness of loss being so overwhelming.

As we close in on Christmas Eve services and Christmas Day, we pray that you will find joy beyond measure, joy that drives you into praising God to an extreme degree and delighting in knowing whose you are! Merry Christmas from us to you!

In Christ's service,

The Rev. Kathy Nice, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Scioto Valley

[knice@psvonline.org](mailto:knice@psvonline.org) 614-847-0565 (office) or 614-507-2626 (mobile)

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**Please join us in helping an Afghan Family by participating in the Very Afghan Holiday Online Auction!** Columbus Overbrook is hosting an online auction to raise money for the Noori family. Hakimullah Noori was an interpreter for the US Military in Afghanistan. When circumstances changed and the US presence in Kabul ended, Hakimullah and his wife and five children found themselves in imminent danger and were spirited to safety here in Columbus. They have adjusted remarkably well in their time here, but because the family does not have reliable transportation, Mr. & Ms. Noori's employment options are limited to places where they can walk. We would like to help them purchase a vehicle to expand the family's earning potential and help them get to the places they need to go. As one might imagine, five children eat a lot of groceries and need a lot of school supplies, clothing, shoes, and trips to dentists and pediatricians. A reliable vehicle will help this lovely family to meet their needs more effectively. Please consider bidding on any of the items in our auction (including Lower Bowl Bluejackets Tickets, Handmade Quilts, A Framed OSU National Championship Sports Illustrated, homemade delicious goodies, and so much more!) or if you don't want to bid or don't win the item on which you bid, you can always make a donation, either through the auction site or directly to Overbrook. Thank you!

Link: <https://new.biddingowl.com/OverbrookPresbyterianChurch>

Bill Gause, Senior Pastor, Overbrook Presbyterian Church  
4131 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43214  
Office: (614) 261-1040, Cell: (864) 986-9382

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## **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](mailto: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.

### **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.\*\*](#)

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### **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!**

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### **Job Posting for Sunday school Church Children's Educator at Highlands Presbyterian Church, Columbus. OH (Northwest Side).**

The Sunday school Church Children's Educator oversees the Sunday school program for children from preschool through eighth grade. This is an approximate five hours per week commitment which includes planning and Sunday morning in classroom time. \$17.00-\$19.00 an hour.

- Experience as a church Sunday school educator or similar role preferred.
- Must be able to prepare a curriculum with a Christian focused agenda and consult with senior leaders about goals.
- Must be able to work with a wide age range of students as well as varying levels of biblical knowledge.
- Be friendly and encouraging mentor to our children.
- Be able to conduct the class independently.

Send your resume to [rcarr@aca.aaa.com](mailto:rcarr@aca.aaa.com)

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### **Commission for Presbytery Operations Update, Jim Hines, Chair.**

At the 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](mailto:jhines1116@gmail.com).

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

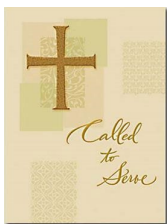
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### **Per Capita Update from Elder Bob Patterson, Presbytery**

**Treasurer.** The Presbytery approved an increase in Per Capita for 2025 to \$44.00 per member. 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.

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### **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 Ofosuhene  
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

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**Coming soon: Faith and Finance, February 22, 2025**

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

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**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](http://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](#)

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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)

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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.

[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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