

Mid-week E-News January 16, 2025



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.



Dear Friends,

I am sure many of you know the history of the church that you attend. While you may not know back more than one hundred years, you may at least know the last four decades or more. Here is my question to you...in the history of your church, what are the "sacred cows" – those are the things that no one can change because they are so set in the history of who the church is that to change them would feel sacrilegious. Go ahead, pause, and figure out what they are. Every church has them. What would happen if that sacred cow were eliminated? What would be at risk?

Some of our siblings within the PCUSA, and honestly in many denominations, have recently lost their sacred cows and much more. In the Los Angeles area, multiple Presbyterian Churches have burned to the ground from wildfires. Many within those churches also lost their homes and businesses. What would happen without their sacred cows? Will they be able to pull everything back together? I certainly pray that they do, and I hope that you will join me. Learn more about how you can help:

<https://www.pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/fires-rage-out-control-southern-california-affecting-churches-and-presbyteries>

So again, I ask you... what would happen if your church's sacred cow was eliminated? Let us hope it is not from something as drastic as a fire in the building. We will learn that sacred cows are not as important as our relationships with God and with each other. What are your thoughts?

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)



Siblings in Christ,

Many of us have seen the images from Southern California. We have family, friends, and colleagues in ministry in the area. As the Presbytery of Scioto Valley let us keep the people, churches, first responders and community leaders in our prayers while they continue to face this crisis. Below is a prayer that our Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church (USA) offered. Let's pause and lift our prayers to God.

Lord, In Your Mercy. Hear our Prayer.

Grace and Peace,

Emily Krause Corzine, Presbyter of Congregational Life and Transitions

God, our refuge and our strength, you are an ever-present help in trouble. You see the devastation caused by the California wildfires. You hear the cries of those suffering loss. You know the fear and anxiety and exhaustion of those waiting, hoping, helping as they watch the fires burn.

For those forced to abandon their homes and shelters in search of safety, we pray for your guidance to find places of rest. For those called to fight the fires, we pray for your strength to persevere. For those ministering to the injured, we pray for your wisdom and guidance to heal. For those mourning loss, we pray for your comfort. For those accompanying others, near or far, we pray for your upholding. For those still in danger's path, we pray for your protection. Now and in the days and weeks to come, we trust that you are present. You have promised that even in the darkest of valleys, you will never leave nor forsake your children.

God, our refuge and our strength, you are an ever-present help in trouble. As your incarnate presence brought hope to those in need, may the Church, your body, be the presence of help and hope in Los Angeles County and beyond.

In the name of Christ Jesus,

Amen.

<https://www.pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/rev-jihyun-oh-pens-prayer-fire-ravaged-southern-california>

For more information, stories from clergy and opportunities to help through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance see below:

<https://www.pcusa.org/disaster-assistance/active-responses/national-disaster/southern-california-wildfires>

INSURANCE UPDATES

At the November Presbytery meeting, I indicated that the Commission for Presbytery Operations (CPO) was working to help churches facing insurance issues or challenges. At the time, I said we were working to see if we could develop an "insurance pool" or "group" to help control our premiums and to help churches facing cancellation of their insurance. We then publicized these efforts for 4-6 consecutive weeks in the weekly E-News.

We have had less than a dozen churches indicate an interest in participating in an insurance pool. With only 10-12 churches interested in participating, the

possibility of creating a pool is not a viable option. Therefore, we are abandoning the idea of trying to create a pool.

We will continue supporting individual churches having issues with their insurance needs. If you are having any issues with insurance cancellations, or dramatic increases in your premiums, please feel free to contact me directly and we will work with you on a one-on-one basis. Thank you.

JIM HINES, Chair, Commission for Presbytery Operations
614-620-4975 / Jhines1116@gmail.com



MATTHEW 25

Is your church involved in Matthew 25? Do

you have stories to share? As a follow-up to our November Matthew 25 event, we would like to put together stories of what churches are doing in the

areas of the PC(USA) Matthew 25 initiative, which includes eradicating systemic poverty, dismantling structural racism, and building congregational vitality (along with the intersectional priorities of climate change, gender justice and heteropatriarchy, and militarism) to share with churches in our presbytery. Please send your brief report (a few lines is fine!) of one of your Matthew 25 projects to dagmar@psvonline.org by **January 30**, thank you!!

Celebrating 150 Years 1875-2025

Appreciate. Celebrate.

Anticipate. Second Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth, Ohio. Save the Date! February 9, 2025, Birthday

Celebration, worship and Luncheon.

June 5, 2025, Organ Concert: Dr. Jared Johnson.

June 6, 2025, Choral Concert and Reception.

June 7, 2025, Open House and Activities.

June 8, 2025, Worship, Communion and Luncheon.



The Commission on Justice, Outreach and Education (CJOE) Church Officers Training. February 8, 2025.

Almost sixty church members from seventeen churches attended the Church Officer Training event at Mifflin Presbyterian Church in Gahanna last Saturday! **A second event has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 8, 2025, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Chillicothe, OH** (with registration starting at 9:00 am). All

elders and deacons are encouraged to attend. You can sign up for the event below.

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

February 22, 2025 - Faith and Finance Event

Here's the link to the Presbyterian News Service story, just published: <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/regional-educational-forums-tackle-financial-challenges-changing-church>

[Register Here for the Faith and Finance Event](#)

Would you like a preview of the Good Futures

Accelerator? Friday, February 28, 2025, at the Presbytery office, in Overbrook PC Fellowship Hall. The Good Futures Accelerator is a gamified (read FUN), dynamic, and proven course that allows congregations to align money and mission by exploring how to creatively use their buildings and property to further align their mission and build financial resilience. The process aids in discerning how to steward God's land and properties for community benefit, develop social enterprises as part of your Gospel mission, and diversify economic models for a new era.

Dr. Corey Schlosser-Hall, deputy executive of vision and innovation (PCUSA), will be in town for PIE and has offered to show our churches this new tool. **Presentations are on Friday, February 28**, in the Fellowship Hall of Overbrook Presbyterian Church. **Afternoon presentation, Noon to 2 p.m., lunch will be provided. The evening presentation, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., dinner will be provided. You MUST pre-register** so we order the right quantity of food. The event is at NO CHARGE to you. Please register by emailing dagmar@psvonline.org and let us know which presentation you plan to attend. Thank you.

The Commission on Justice, Outreach and Education (CJOE)

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

"Visions and Dreams" PIE (Partners in Education) Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Columbus with registration at 9:00 am. The event lasts until 2:30 p.m. 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.

Please put this on your calendar and spread the word!

Register for the PIE event.

Presbytery Coat Box

Thank you to all who have continued to give new and gently used youth coats for Columbus City Schools. Our Presbytery's Coat Box, which is located just outside the Presbytery office, has received 40-50 coats in just the past few weeks. And, since our fall coat drive, we have had schools ask for more coats, and have delivered fifty-six more coats to Columbus International School, Marion Franklin HS, and Hubbard Elementary. Thank you!



OWLS are known for being wise. I am sure you have heard or used that kind of expression to describe a person. At **Ohio Living Westminster-Thurber** - we embrace lifelong learning. It is at the center of who we are. And learning is a hoot!

The **OWLS school** is offering the **2025 Wisdom**

Wednesday series. I want to encourage you to join a class or two. See the attachment below to see the opportunities that are available to you and to register. These classes are done virtually.

Owl School - Wisdom Wednesday Series for 2025.

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.

Read the letters from Mark Hare and Jenny Bent, mission co-workers serving in Costa Rica. [Mark Hare and Jenny Bent](#)

Employment Opportunities

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. Send your resume to rcarr@aca.aaa.com

First Presbyterian Church of Gallipolis has an opening for an Administrative Assistant. This is a 20-hour per week position, with the possibility of full-time through position sharing with another organization. Please send your resume with cover letter to First Presbyterian Church, 51 State Street, Gallipolis, OH 45631, 740-446-1030. Email in PDF format to secretary@gfpc.org. The Presbyterian Church (USA) welcomes and affirms all – minorities strongly encouraged to apply.

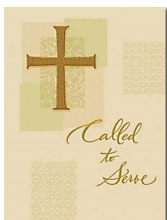
Per Capita Update from Elder Bob Patterson, Presbytery

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

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training, provided by LeaderWise. This is our Boundaries Training offering for 2025 and complies with G-3.0106. **Here is the registration link for you to share with your presbyteries: [Synod of the Covenant – LeaderWise](#).**

The dates are as follows: March 1 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. May 12 & 13 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. May 19 & 20 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. September 17&18 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. October 9&10 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



January 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 Southeast pastors and congregations.

Amesville-New England Parrish, Worship Leader.

Athens, Alexander Presbyterian Church, Worship Leader.

Athens, First Presbyterian Church, Pastor Robert Martin.

Bremen-Bethel Presbyterian Church, Pastor Larry Hoffmann.

Gallipolis, First Presbyterian Church, Pastor Ann Moody.

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

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



[Visit General Assembly Website.](#)

[PCUSA Church Store - Lenten Resources.](#)

[Presbyterian Disaster Relief Information](#)

Presbytery of Scioto Valley | 4131 N. High Street, Suite B | Columbus, OH 43214 US

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