

## Mid-week E-News January 23, 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.



**From the World Council of Churches on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.** *The church is one, spread abroad far and wide into a multitude by an increase of fruitfulness. As there are many rays of the sun but one light, and many branches of a tree but one strength based in its tenacious root ... in the same manner the church, shone over with the light of the Lord, sheds forth her rays over the whole world, yet it is one light which is everywhere diffused, nor is the unity of the body fractured. Her fruitful abundance spreads her branches over the whole world.*

- Cyprian of Carthage [c. 210-258], *On the Unity of the Church*, 5

**Let us pray.** God of heaven and earth, grant to your Church to overcome the scandal of our divisions, so that we may bear witness to your life of communion, in the unity of our profession of faith and in the love of mutual service. Through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

### **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.](#)

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Dear Friends,

Did you know that the list of county fairs for Ohio was recently released for 2025? Of course, I am interested so I can go check out the animals, and my husband is interested in the fair food!



Why should you be interested? Often the visitors to the county fairs are the people you wish were in your church! They are often families with young children who are looking for cheaper outings for their families. They are often involved in 4H or scouting activities that bring them to the fair, which means they might be the kind of people to get involved in your church mission activities too. How can your church use county fairs to connect with your community? First, what is it that your church does to support the community? Make a banner or a display about that including how people can get involved. Next, what is it that your church offers to those young families? Make a display of the activities you offer (Sunday School, VBS, after school care, etc.) and how people can find out more. Finally, ask how your new displays can be at the fair...can they be on a bulletin board where people will walk by? Can they be in a booth that your people can staff to offer popsicles to those on a warm day? Can they be on sandwich boards that you wear to advertise and will the fair board permit that with a fee paid?

Sometimes we miss what is under our noses. We all want to know when the fair is, and many of us attend. We had not thought of using the fair as a way to look for new church attendees. Maybe we need to think beyond boxes, and certainly not expect people to just show up without an invitation. Let us start thinking more about how we might be invited! MORE COW BELL Please!

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)

My position is funded by the generous donations of members and churches who fund our per capita budget. Together we can do more!

My normal schedule is Sunday through Thursday.

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## **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](mailto:Jhines1116@gmail.com)

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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](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org) by **January 30**, thank you!!

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**Super Bowl Sunday Tamale Benefit. A Benefit for Mid-Ohio Workers Association's (MWA) Winter Survival Campaign.**

We invite you to join MWA and sponsor our Super Bowl Sunday Tamale Benefit. Order your tamales today.! Join us in organizing our annual Winter Survival Campaign of supplemental food, blankets, advocacy to prevent utility shutoffs and winter clothing distribution as well as our "Operation Winter Watch" program to reach elderly and shut-in members.

Call to find out more 614-262-0567. Order by February 3, 2025.

Suggested Donation: One Dozen - \$20, Half-Dozen - \$10.

Choices: Chicken, Black Bean (Vegan) Chile & Cheese (Vegetarian)

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**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.

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## 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](#)

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### Friday, February 28, 2025. **Would you like a preview of the Good Futures Accelerator?**

The event is 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](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org) and let us know which presentation you plan to attend. Thank you.

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### **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, ministry innovation, chair yoga, and downsizing your life. **Please put this on your calendar and spread the word!**

## Register for the PIE event.



**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.

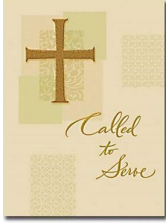
Read the letters from **Mark Hare and Jenny Bent**, mission co-workers serving in Costa Rica. [Mark Hare and Jenny Bent](#)

**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 South East 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.

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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.

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[Click here for Presbytery Calendar.](#)

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**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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[Visit the General Assembly Website.](#)

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

[Presbyterian Disaster Relief Information](#)



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