

Happening Around the Presbytery

October 2, 2019

Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery

907 National Road

Wheeling, WV 26003

304-232-3490

Visit us at www.uovpresby.org

Office Hours: Mon–Thurs, 9:00 am–5:00 pm.

In an emergency after office hours, call 740-381-3074.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Mike Lenno	Karen Edwards	Matt Camlin	Homer Harden
Gene Toot	Ann Varner	R. H. "Mac" McCuen	Debbie Hale
Susan McMannis	Susan Lehosky	Sharon Willits	David Brocklehurst
Linda Turner	Ronn Moccasin	Simon Looking Elk	Dakota Partnership
Cindy Foster	Philip Keevil	Bob Shearer	Vickie Whinnery
Dave Roberts	Georgia Kurko	Domasi Partnership	All Service men & women

Pray for our presbyters, family members, and friends hospitalized or in nursing homes.

Pray for peace and an end to violence and hatred.

Please keep us informed of any prayer concerns you may have.

PRAYER FOR UOVP PASTORS. Select one of these pastors and remember him/her in your prayers this week: Brenda Dunlap, Kandy Dunn, Mike Dunn, Karen Edwards, Jason Elliott.

THE PRESBYTERY OFFICE will be closed the week of October 14. No Happenings Oct. 16.

FOR WORLD COMMUNION WORSHIP RESOURCES, go to:

https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/2019_peace-global_witness_resources/pgw19_worship-resources.pdf

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE. Your gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering join Presbyterian's worldwide to help people experience the freedom and dignity that Christ wants for everyone. Let us offer the peace of Christ at all times, in all ways. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

PRESBYTERIAN PEACE and Justice Newsletter, October, 2019, "Answer the Call to Moral Revival, Matthew 25 and More," [control+click here](#). A link to this newsletter can be found on our website. Click on the Mission sidebar, then peacemaking.

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN Church, 7 N. 4th St., Martins Ferry, OH, will have our first ever **Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 5th**. The brief worship service will begin at 1:00 p.m. outdoors in the lot behind our church facility. Everyone present will receive a printed copy of the St. Francis Prayer and a certificate commemorating the day. Donations of any sort are being collected for the Belmont County Animal Shelter such as dog food, treats, old towels, blankets, comforters, kitty litter, Clorox, as well as old newspapers. Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments.

AT THE NOVEMBER 19, 2019, stated meeting of presbytery, the Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of the General Assembly, will be in attendance. Also attending will be Elder Fern Cloud, Commissioned Pastor and Treasurer/Stated Clerk for the Dakota Presbytery, and the Chair of the Native American Consulting Committee for the denomination. The meeting will be held at the Presbyterian Church of Cadiz, OH. There will be a dinner at 5:00 p.m.

THE ORDINATION of Nancy DeStefano will be this **Sunday, October 6, 2019,** at 3:00 p.m. at Rock Hill Presbyterian Church, 56244 High Ridge Rd. (State Route 214), Bellaire, OH. A dinner will follow. We invite the saints from around our presbytery to be a part of this service and welcome Pastor Nancy into ministry among us. All are invited to this joyous occasion! We encourage Ministers and Ruling Elders, especially of neighboring congregations, to attend. We also invite you to lift up Nancy and her family in prayer during your Sunday, October 6, morning worship as she begins her new ministry.

STONE PRESBYTERIAN Church, 25 E. Cove Ave., Wheeling, invites you to their **Fall Rummage Sale** Wednesday, October 9 (5-7 pm), Thursday, October 10 (9 am-Noon), and Friday, October 11 (9-11 am).

ALTERNATES to the **224th General Assembly** in Baltimore, MD, June 20 to June 27, 2020, are needed. We still need to elect one alternate ruling elder commissioner and one alternate minister commissioner. **E-mail your nominations to the Presbytery Office as soon as possible.** Applications can be found on our website under Items of Interest. Or, if you need a hard copy or more info, contact the Presbytery Office.

A YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATE (YAAD) is needed to represent us at the **224th General Assembly** in Baltimore, MD, June 20 to June 27, 2020. **E-mail your nominations to the Presbytery Office as soon as possible.** An application form can be found on our website under Items of Interest. For more info, contact Cindy Foster 740-359-2750 or cjfooster1005@comcast.net.

URBAN MISSION invites you to their final **60th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, October 20th**, at 3:00 p.m. with a worship service – bringing together pastors and churches, community members and mission partners to celebrate what God has done, is doing, and will do through the life and ministry of the Urban Mission. In lieu of an offering, they will be collecting coats, hats, and gloves for their upcoming coat distribution. The service will be held at the 7th Street Plaza.

SPECIAL PROGRAM. We, the Powhatan/Amity United Methodist Churches, want to get the word out that we will be holding an event regarding the opioid crisis on **Saturday, October 26th**, at the Masonic Lodge, 153 Main St. Powhatan Point OH. The Rev. Dr. Barry Steiner Ball will be coming to speak about “Why It’s More Than Just Saying No, How the Brain Responds to Opioids.” We in Powhatan have had a number of deaths associated with the opioid epidemic, just as many of our other communities have faced. Our families have had to deal with countless overdoses, some have recovered while others have been lost. Dr. Steiner Ball has been both a pastor and an agent for the Drug Enforcement Agency. He comes with a vast knowledge of battling the “beast” called Opioid addiction. We at Powhatan believe this is a very important issue for our small communities. Our program will be held from 10:00 a.m. to Noon and will follow with a free light lunch. We invite pastors, congregations, businesses, families, and the community to come and hear Dr. Steiner Ball explain the daily life of the addict and all those fighting what seems to be a losing battle every day. Dr. Steiner Ball puts the addiction into everyday language that everyone will be able to understand. Dr. Steiner Ball is also the spouse of West Virginia United Methodist Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball. We ask that you plan on coming to this event and let us know that you will be staying for lunch. To RSVP, or if you have questions, please contact Pastor Michelle Lucarelli at (304) 280-0027 or email Chelle62784@gmail.com.

DAVID GAMBRELL WORKSHOP – revised Book of Common Worship: David Gambrell of the GA Office of Theology and Worship will make a presentation on the revised Book of Common Worship on **Saturday, November 2nd**, in Pittsburgh. Dr. Gambrell was the Editor of the revised Book of Common Worship, on the committee for Glory to God, and is a renowned speaker about this revised Book of Common Worship. His presentations will include Story behind the RCBW, Using it in Your Church, Preparing for Worship, Musicians’ use of the RCBW. This event will be at Unity Presbyterian Church in the Greentree suburb of Pittsburgh, near the Parkway West (Route 376) and Interstate 79. It begins with registration at 8:45, then Morning Prayer, time with David, lunch, more time with David, and worship with communion led by David. The event should be over by 3 pm. Copies of the book will be available for perusal and orders will be taken for direct shipment to you. Cost of the day includes lunch: Individual \$25, 2 or more from a church \$20 each, Students \$15. Pittsburgh Chapter of Presbyterian Association of Musicians is hosting. Send reservations to Charlotte Roederer, 144 N. Dithridge St., #307, Pittsburgh PA 15213, by October 19. Check payable to PAM Pittsburgh. Pre-registration is preferred, but if you find at the last minute that you can attend, please do so. For more info, contact Roberta Jones, 412-431-8161 or rj15211@aol.com.

BISHOP CURRY Comes to Wheeling and All Are Invited. Bishop Michael Curry: The Way Of Love **this Saturday, October 5th**, 3:00 p.m. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church of Wheeling, 200th Anniversary Celebration with Special Guest Bishop Michael Curry. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. General admission tickets for adults - \$5.00, children under 12 - \$1.00. Purchase tickets through WesBanco Arena Box Office. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, known for his sermon at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan, is coming to Wheeling to join in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church. Bishop Curry invites us to join him in **The Way of Love**. As the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we follow the Way of Jesus. His way is the Way of Love, and that love has the power to change lives and change the world. All proceeds will go to charity.

DAN MEREDITH of Soli Deo Gloria – Alone to God be the Glory Music Ministry will be bringing **musical worship** to Limestone Presbyterian Church, 5704 Waynesburg Pike Road, Moundsville, this **Saturday, October 5**, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday worship, **October 6**, at 9:30 a.m. Dan brings music and messages that worships the Lord and challenges the heart. We invite everyone to join us for a spiritually uplifting time. There will be a dinner at 6:00 p.m. prior to Saturday’s concert. Dinner is free of charge--RSVPs would be appreciated. Text or call Larry Kline at 304-281-3196.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Toronto, OH—October 26 & 27, 2019—150th Anniversary Celebration. They will come together to worship, celebrate, and give thanks to God as they mark the 150th anniversary of the church. On Saturday, they will have a dinner including entertainment and a speaker. Then on Sunday, they will have a special worship service and an evening of fun and fellowship at Black Iron Farms (the Crawford Farm). For more info: www.torontopresby.org.

PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S church bulletin insert for Reformation Sunday, Oct. 27, written by the Rev. Kenneth J. Ross, a former PHS employee, is [now available for download](#) from the PHS website.

PCUSA STORE. Exploring and Explaining the World's Religions. Books for Understanding Our Non-Christian Neighbors" now available: [What Do Our Neighbors Believe? Second Edition: Questions and Answers on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam](#) examines the three belief systems by asking the same questions of each one. New to this edition are sections that explore current ethical questions and issues, including the deliberate use of misinformation about Islam to bolster power and generate fear and the recent rise in anti-Semitic hate crimes. [Read an excerpt.](#) [Save 35% and Preorder Now](#)

[Truth over Fear](#) addresses the manipulation of religious misunderstanding and intolerance by providing practical guidance on how to share simple facts about Muslim beliefs and practices, take the first steps in dialogue with Muslim neighbors, and move beyond dialogue to shared ministry and community building. [Read an excerpt.](#) [Save 35% and Buy Now](#)

MORE FEATURED RESOURCES: Check out these additional primers to world religions, all perfect for group or individual study: [What Christians Can Learn from Other Religions](#), [World Religions in America, Fourth Edition](#), and [The Witness of Religion in an Age of Fear](#).

Additional resources for understanding Islam include [The Search for the Truth about Islam](#) and *Islam and Christianity* in the Being Reformed series, which includes a [Leader's Guide](#) and [Participant's Book](#).

For those who have already done some studying of world religions, these books offer a deeper dive: [Hagar, Sarah, and Their Children](#); [The Emergence of Judaism](#); [Jesus, Judaism, and Christian Anti-Judaism](#); [Judaism When Christianity Began](#); [Approaches to Auschwitz, Revised Edition](#); and [Competing Fundamentalisms](#).

[Preaching without Prejudice: A Three-Volume Lectionary Commentary](#) includes the following volumes that are designed to help preachers avoid incorporating misunderstandings and stereotypes into their sermons: [Preaching the Gospels without Blaming the Jews](#), [Preaching the Letters without Dismissing the Law](#), and [Preaching the Old Testament](#).

NEW FOR ADVENT 2019. "We think of the Christmas season as something that has a beginning and an end. We celebrate the "holidays," and then we go back to business as usual.... But that's not the gospel. It's not a moment in time to be celebrated and then largely forgotten. The good news is about transformation. Jesus told us that the kingdom of God is at hand. He came to change your life forever. He came to bring you hope for your despair, and peace for your anxiety, and love so that you can stare down death." —from *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes*, by Cynthia M. Campbell.

The season of Advent is coming soon. To help you through times of study and devotion, we have three new books at PC(USA) Store. The first, [Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes: An Advent Study](#), is ideal for group study and uses each of the four sessions to look at the four Gospels as a house that your study group can visit throughout Advent. [Read an excerpt](#) of Presbyterian pastor Cynthia M. Campbell's book study to see if it's right for your group.

We also have the latest addition to N. T. Wright's Advent for Everyone series. In this [volume on Matthew](#), Wright provides his own interpretation of the Scripture as well as reflections and questions for devotion or discussion. Both study groups and individuals can use this through the four weeks of Advent. [Read an excerpt](#).

Finally, there's a special new 365-day devotional available at PC(USA) Store. [The Courage to See](#) pairs selections from over 200 works of great literature with Scripture to create a devotional experience for all book lovers! You can start reading the devotional at any time, and Advent presents a unique opportunity to begin this spiritual journey. Literary greats such as Wendell Berry, Jane Austen, Willa Cather, Harper Lee, Toni Morrison, Henri Nouwen, Marilynne Robinson, J. K. Rowling, and Barbara Brown Taylor are just a few whose work is used. Start using this devotional for free with these [first five days of devotions](#).

And don't forget that when you shop for these titles (and more!) at PC(USA) Store, you save 35%! [Start building your Advent book collection today](#).

PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY. Dear Friends, When I have the opportunity to introduce the Seminary but have only a few minutes to do so, I often begin by saying, "Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is rooted in the Reformed tradition." I then explain that our home is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and that we have been connected to the Presbyterian denomination (known by a number of different names) throughout our 226-year history. Our home in the Reformed tradition and connection to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are central to our identity and commitments. I then go on to describe the relationship Pittsburgh Seminary has with a number of other denominations and ecclesial families. We are an approved Methodist seminary in our region, we now have an Anglican/Episcopal studies track, we are in conversation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we have faculty and students from the United Church of Christ, from Baptist, Orthodox, and Pentecostal denominations, and more. Each of these relationships has to do with the clear value of learning together and openness to learning from each other. A core commitment of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is theological hospitality. The theme of hospitality has been in my mind as I have learned from the Benedictines over the last few years. When staying in a Benedictine monastery I think mainly of physical hospitality—the open door, a word of welcome, an available bed, the provision of meals. I often see posted, usually somewhere near the door, part of the first lines from chapter 53 in the Rule of St. Benedict: "All guests who present themselves are to be received as Christ, who said: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me"" (Matt. 25:35). But I've come to realize that the hospitality offered is much deeper than a room,

meals, and the invitation to join the monks in prayer. As Joan Chittester, O.S.B., writes in her commentary, *The Rule of Benedict: Insight for the Ages*, "Benedictine hospitality is not simply bed and bath; it is home and family." She notes that hospitality should include "an acknowledgement of the gifts the stranger brings" and should be understood as a call "to let down the barriers of our souls so that the God of the unexpected can come in." We are called to see Christ in the stranger, including the theological stranger. If we do, we have the opportunity to learn together of the breadth and depth of God's love and grace. - David Esterline, President and Professor of Cross-cultural Theological Education.

Building Trauma-Informed and Resilient Communities: Continuing the Conversation. Join instructor Taunya M. Tinsley **Oct. 4** for "**Building Trauma-Informed and Resilient Communities**," designed for ministers, community leaders, and mental health professionals serving populations or communities that have been historically underserved and/or have experienced trauma. During this event, participants will increase their understanding of various forms of trauma; learn the key principles of a trauma-informed approach; and develop practical and evidence-based skills to build trauma-informed and resilient communities. CEs and CEUs are available. This event is co-sponsored by University of Pittsburgh Center for Bioethics and School of Social Work and Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute, with support from Desert Ministries Inc. and its founding director, the late Rev. Dr. Richard M. Cromie '61. This workshop will be held at Homewood Community Engagement Center (622 N. Homewood Ave., Pittsburgh). [Learn more online.](#)

Surviving to Thriving: How Communities and Individuals Can Escape Generational Poverty. The Seminary's Metro-Urban Institute Urban Leadership Series kicks off **Oct. 7** with Tammy Thompson presenting "**Surviving to Thriving: How Communities and Individuals Can Escape Generational Poverty.**" Thompson is the executive director of Circles Pittsburgh and will share information on how Circles uses a nationally-known, proven, and innovative way of connecting people across socioeconomic lines in an effort to move people and families out of poverty. This series is aimed at equipping organizations and individuals with the tools to address issues in urban communities. The free sessions are held on the first Monday of the month beginning at 6:00 p.m. with networking and hors d'oeuvres and a 6:30 p.m. presentation. Additional upcoming dates include Nov. 4, Dec. 2, 2019; Feb. 3, March 2, and April 6, 2020. [Learn more online.](#)

The American Religious Landscape: Conversations and Community Series. The Pew Research Center reports that the number of Christians in the U.S. is in decline, while people of other religions and those who identify as "none" are on the rise. Being an effective faith leader and a good neighbor involves knowing how to navigate this changing landscape socially and theologically. Join us for a five-part introduction to this work and to some of the faith traditions represented in our region. The November, December, and February sessions will be held at houses of worship in the Western Pennsylvania area. Attend the entire series or just one session. On **Oct. 10**, retired PC(USA) pastor Jim Gilchrist will lead the first session, "**Religion and the U.S. Context: Part I.**" Future dates in the series include **Nov. 8** (Hinduism, Sri Venkateswara Temple, Monroeville, PA); **Dec. 6** (Judaism, Rodef Shalom, Pittsburgh); **Feb. 13** (Islam, Muslim Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, Monroeville, PA) and **March 13** (Religion and the U.S. Context, Part II, PTS). This series is free; a good-will offering will be collected at the off-site locations. [Learn more online.](#)

Pub Talks: Practices of the Common Good. The Seminary's Continuing Education Program will co-sponsor two upcoming pub talks, including the **Oct. 13** event at Full Pint Wild Side Pub (5310 Butler St., Pittsburgh). Through the Pub Talk series speakers share new perspectives and engage attendees in new practices to deepen their faith, challenge their thinking, and send them out to work for the common good. During the October event, PTS alumnus Emiola Oriola, program manager for the Office of Interfaith Dialogue and Engagement at the University of Pittsburgh, will speak about Interfaith Dialogue and the intersection of faith, poetry, and difference. The Pub Talks are hosted by Sanctuary Faith Community, a new worshipping community of the PC(USA) founded by PTS alumna Laura Bentley. [Learn more online.](#)

Seminary to Release Advent Devotional and Resources. We're putting the finishing touches on our 2019 Advent Devotional and Resource Kit! We invite you to follow along with the daily messages and to access the kit, which contains music, sermons, a video, reflections by faculty, and more. Look for information in next month's Communiqué.

INTER-PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP FORMATION (IPLF) PRESENTS: FALL 2019 ELDER TRAINING WORKSHOPS.

Continuing education and life-long learning are hallmarks of Presbyterian leadership and are expected of our congregations' leaders. Elders who are session members, Pastors, and those Commissioned to leadership are reminded and urged to attend one or more of these Saturday afternoon workshops. **Each of these free workshops will be held at Redstone Presbytery Center, 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg, PA 15601. To register or if you have questions, contact Nancy at Washington Presbytery 724-222-1500 or office@washingtonpresbytery.org.**

Advanced Scripture Study: Isaiah. Students will 'dig deeper' into the structures, context, and language of this 'major' prophetic book, building a foundation for later study, teaching, and preaching. **Saturday, October 12, 2019, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.** Instructor: Rev. Dr. Jerome Creach.

Nurturing and Forming Elders. The office of Elder is Presbyterianism's unique contribution to the Church. This workshop will draw upon Scripture, tradition, and current practices to consider how these under-shepherds are grown in grace, knowledge, and service. **Saturday, November 9, 2019, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.** Instructor: TBA

Preaching Beyond the Lectionary. The Revised Common Lectionary is not the preacher's only available tool. In this workshop, participants will explore and experiment with other helps that can lend variety, creativity, and freshness to sermon planning for each year. **Saturday, December 14, 2019, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.** Instructor: TBA
