

# Happening Around the Presbytery

November 6, 2019

Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery

907 National Road

Wheeling, WV 26003

304-232-3490

Visit us at [www.uovpresby.org](http://www.uovpresby.org)

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

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

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## 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	Philip Keevil	Simon Looking Elk	Dakota Partnership
Cindy Foster	Georgia Kurko	Domasi Partnership	Vickie Whinnery
Dave Roberts	Russ Brown	Cherilyn Bown	All Service men & women
Don Thompson	David Schoolcraft		

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.

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**PRAYER FOR UOVP PASTORS.** Select one of these pastors and remember him/her in your prayers this week: Alan Jeffries, Darrin Jones, Richard Kantz, Philip Keevil, Christina Kestner.

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**PRESBYTERIAN PEACE** and Justice Newsletter November, 2019, "Peace and Justice in Washington and Around the World," [control+click here](#). A link can also be found on our website. Click on the Mission sidebar tab.

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**THANK YOU,** congregations and leadership of the UOVP, for your consistent prayer support and monthly financial support. Because of your support, Laughlin Memorial Chapel currently has an enrollment of fifty students in Afterschool Jam and is accepting applications throughout the 2019-2020 schoolyear. If you know of families whose children or teenagers would benefit from our afterschool programming, please send them our way! (Applications are accepted year 'round but there are specific dates when new students will be incorporated into AJ and of course acceptance is based on enrollment.) For the fall months of September and October, we also thank First Westminster Presbyterian Church of Steubenville, Ohio, for including their congregation's gift to Chapel through the UOVP.

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**CALIFORNIA FIRES.** PDA is working with Santa Barbara Presbytery, Sacramento Presbytery, and the Presbytery of the Pacific to respond to the recent wildfires in California. PDA has deployed National Response Team members to the Presbytery of the Pacific to be embedded into the American Red Cross shelters in Pacific Palisades and San Fernando Valley, at the ARC's request, as Disaster Spiritual Care Providers. Grants are being disbursed and more deployments are forthcoming. PDA is using U.S. Wildfires account for this disaster--**DR000165**.

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**THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019, STATED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY** will be held at The Presbyterian Church of Cadiz, at 6:00 p.m. beginning with worship.

**MEET & GREET AT 4:00 P.M.** The Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of the General Assembly, and Ruling Elder Fern Cloud, Commissioned Pastor and Treasurer/Stated Clerk for the Dakota Presbytery, and Chair of the Native American Consulting Committee for the denomination will be our guests. Come at 4:00 p.m. to meet and greet them.

**DINNER** will be served at 5:00 p.m. **Make your dinner reservation by Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.** Call 740-942-2366 & leave a message; or e-mail [office@cadizpresbyterian.org](mailto:office@cadizpresbyterian.org).

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**AN ALTERNATE ruling elder commissioner** to the **224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly** in Baltimore, MD, June 20 to June 27, 2020, is still needed. **E-mail your nomination to the Presbytery Office as soon as possible.** An application can be found on our website under Items of Interest. Or, if you need a hard copy or more info, contact the Presbytery Office.

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**A YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATE (YAAD)** is needed to represent us at the **224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly** in Baltimore, MD, June 20 to June 27, 2020. **Sessions, e-mail your nomination 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 the Presbytery Office.

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**PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY. 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 the second session of this 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. On Nov. 8, participants will meet at Sri Venkateswara Temple, Monroeville, PA, to learn more about Hinduism. Future dates include Dec. 6--Judaism, Rodef Shalom, Pittsburgh; Feb. 13, 2020--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, and a good-will offering will be collected at the off-site locations. [Learn more online.](#)

**"In Each Other's Steps": Visualizing Biblical Mount Sinai:** The Seminary's next archaeology lecture will be held Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m., when Ahmed Shams, from Durham University, University of Oxford, and Royal Geographical Society, presents "'In Each Other's Steps': Visualizing Biblical Mount Sinai." Pilgrims, travelers, scholars, map-makers, and monks have traversed Sinai's deserts and mountains in the footsteps of what—since the earliest mention of Mount Sinai in the fourth century CE—they believed to be the traditional Exodus route of the Israelites. Though these visitors, in fact, traveled only "in each other's steps," they visualized the landscape in similar patterns of historic and scholarly account-writing, painting, and photography, as well as through topographic/paper icons and map-making. Drawing on 19 years of field survey conducted through his own Sinai Peninsula Research (SPR) project, Shams will discuss how these various accounts, maps, and photographs defined the patterns and boundaries of popular and scholarly knowledge of Mount Sinai and the southern Levant, or "biblical south," heading into 21<sup>st</sup> century CE. The Museum will be open from 6:30-7:15 p.m. and after the lecture. The lecture and reception to follow are free and open to the public. [Learn more online.](#)

**Preaching a Relevant Word to a Restless People:** Planning ahead, mark your calendar for Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 26, and April 23, 2020, when Donna Giver-Johnston will lead the continuing education course "Preaching a Relevant Word to a Restless People." Preachers may be reluctant to mention current events from the pulpit. But not speaking to the concerns people bring with them into church implicitly communicates that the church—and worse, God—doesn't care. Participants will discuss both resistance and sacred calling and learn ways to preach sermons that are pastorally sensitive, prophetically challenging, and particularly relevant in the world today. [Learn more online.](#)

**Seminary Releases Advent Devotional and Resources:** The Seminary is pleased to offer our 2019 Advent Devotional. This free online resource provides a devotional for each day of Advent based on the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s daily lectionary. The devotionals are written by members of the John S. McMillan Planned Giving Society and Board of Directors and can be accessed in various ways: [Read and listen online or print and share.](#) Download our free Android or Apple app. Visit the store and search for "Devotions - Advent & Lent." Request your printed copy. Call 412-362-5610 or e-mail [reception@pts.edu](mailto:reception@pts.edu). Additionally, other downloadable [Advent resources](#) include the Big Book of Advent (multiple devotions per day), Lessons and Carols service, sermons and Advent reflections, a look at the art of Advent—perfect as a multi-week Sunday School lesson—and a children's sermon. Plus, get the "What is Advent?" video, guitar sheet music perfect for the youth in your congregation, and a customizable PowerPoint presentation.

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**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](mailto:office@washingtonpresbytery.org).

**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. **This Saturday, November 9, 2019,** 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Instructor: Rev. Jane Johnson

**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: Rev. Sue Washburn

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**SPIRITUALITY AND SELF-CARE. CONTINUING ED.**

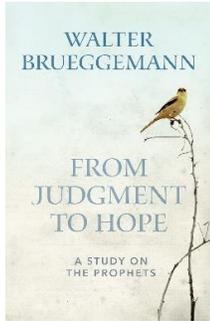
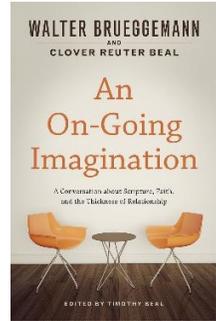
This Fall, our Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation Program (IPLF) will offer a pair of introductory workshops to familiarize elders with **Ignatian Spiritual Exercises** and **Gestalt Pastoral Care**. The Rev. Dr. Clarejean Haury will conduct these workshops, each designed to give an overview of the particular discipline, its practices, and the schools of thought from which each has come. The two will be offered on **Saturday, November 23, 2019,** at the Washington Presbytery Center, 89 Lively Road, Eighty Four, PA. Ignatian Spiritual Exercises will be the morning seminar, 9:00 a.m.–12 Noon. Gestalt Pastoral Care will be the afternoon seminar, 1:00–4:00 p.m. Each will include practice and application experience for participants. These are separate and stand-alone seminars. You may register for one or the other or both, by phone or e-mail to: Washington Presbytery, 1-724-222-1500, [office@washingtonpresbytery.org](mailto:office@washingtonpresbytery.org).

**Ignatian Spiritual Exercises.** Reformations of the 1500s not only brought the Protestant Churches into the world but also the Society of Jesus (aka Jesuits) under the reforming spiritual leadership of Ignatius of Loyola. Ignatius and Jean Calvin

were students in the University of Paris at the same time! The life experiences of the young soldier, Ignio (his Spanish name), funneled him toward a life of deep contemplation and deep spiritual experience of the unconditional love of God through Christ. Ignio's personal experience of God's love eventually produced a pattern of Spiritual Exercises to guide others toward "Encountering the Unconditional, Creative, Inviting Love of God." (O'Brien, Kevin S.J., "The Ignatian Adventure," p. vii, Loyola Press, 2011). This pattern follows the Scriptures, with daily readings and a variety of prayer forms. These Spiritual Exercises help us learn to weave our own life narrative into the life story of Jesus Christ so that the two become more vividly interconnected.

**Gestalt Pastoral Care.** Gestalt Pastoral Care was created by the Rev. Tilda Norberg, United Methodist clergy from Staten Island, in the late 1960s. GPC combines Christian spiritual healing practices such as prayer, laying on hands for blessing, anointing, worship, communion, washing feet or hands, with Gestalt psychology practices of self-discovery. Gestalt Pastoral Care ministers invite seekers to bring their religion or spiritual beliefs to the work of healing. They pray with and for those who come, and suggest experiments that might help a person discover something in him or herself. Discovery is the key word. GPC ministers do not claim clairvoyance or knowing what God might have in mind. They do not direct or instruct but listen and suggest. As Spiritual Directors, or maybe better "spiritual companions," they join a person in asking for God's blessing.

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**PCUSA STORE.** New from Walter Brueggemann: Beloved writer and biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann never ceases to inspire and challenge his readers. His [two newest books](#) continue this tradition and you save 35% at PC(USA) Store! Learn more about them below.

Intimate, provocative, and challenging, [An On-Going Imagination](#) offers an enlightening introduction to Brueggemann's work that will reawaken us to the fascinating strangeness of biblical tradition and its incredible power to help us imagine new ways of seeing and being in the world. [Read an excerpt.](#)

In this collection of studies, Walter Brueggemann explores the Major, Minor, and Persian Age prophets, highlighting the common themes of judgment and hope found in the prophets' messages. With questions for reflection at the end of each chapter, [From Judgment to Hope](#) is suitable for individual or group study. [Read an excerpt.](#)

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