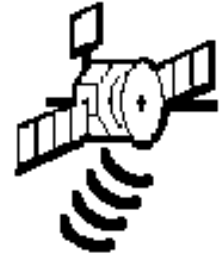


FIRST MONDAY



April, 2011

First Monday is a monthly mailing to Church Professionals and committee members in The Presbytery of the Miami Valley from the Presbytery Staff including information of events and news of interest as submitted by appropriate Presbytery entities. Publication of such information does not imply presbytery endorsement of the views and opinions expressed or implied. This month we have included:

1. **The Prayer List**
2. **The April Calendar**
3. **Tom's Thoughts on How**
4. **Presbytery News – *What's Happening Around The Presbytery***. Job listings, articles, flyers and brochures – take a close look for news affecting you and your church community!

If there are any questions about the March committee meetings, please contact your committee chair.

Submissions must usually be in by the 25th of the month or the last working day prior in order to be placed in the packet. Email submissions to Tom Oxley at the Presbytery, tom.oxley@miamipresbytery.org.

MIAMI PRESBYTERY PRAYER LIST



April, 2011

- 3 April** **New Paris Presbyterian Church** located at 6875 US Rout
40, New Paris.
- 10 April** **First Presbyterian Church** located at 1130 Highview Drive,
Fairborn; Pastor Thomas Harmon.
- 17 April** **Westminster Presbyterian Church** located at 990 Old
Springfield Pike, Xenia. Pastor Brian Maguire.
- 24 April** **Westwood Presbyterian Church**, located at 1068
Stahlheber Road, Hamilton; Pastor Joshua Long.
- 1 May** **First Presbyterian Church** located at 125 Wilson Park Drive,
Dayton; Pastor Kathy Horne.

The Presbytery committee or group we ask you to pray for: For the month of April, please keep the Committee on Representation in your prayers.

Thank you.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Please keep Blue Ball in your	28	29 4:30pm - COM	30	31 7pm - Session Record Review @	1 April Fool's Day	2
3 Please keep New Paris church in	4	5	6	7 7am - Agenda @ Panera 9:30am - Nominating 12pm - Staff Meeting/Lunch	8	9
10 Please keep Fairborn: First in	11	12	13	14 7am - Council	15 Tax Day	16
17 Please keep Xenia: Westminster	18	19	20	21 9:30am - CoPM	22 Earth Day	23
24 Easter Please keep Hamilton:	25 4:30pm - COM	26	27	28	29	30

This month, Tom asks **HOW**

I've noticed a lot of people have said something needs to be done about something. There are lots of ideas on what needs to be done to fix the economy, get everyone to work, take care of our dependence on oil, keep the planet safe and able to sustain life, stop war, etc., etc. Anytime there is a question, there is a what in response. And there are just about as many whats as there are people. The thing that seems to be missing most often is the how. Two things seem to happen when we ask somebody how they intend to do whatever it is: There is an elaborate, often impossible chain of events they expect to be put into place in order to get from where the problem is to where the problem is solved; or, the conversation ends with, "I don't know, but surely somebody can do it." Seldom does it come down to "I'll do to fix the problem."

This reminds me of the old story, about Everybody, Somebody and Nobody, where Everybody thought Somebody should do something, and Somebody thought Everybody should be able to take care of it, but in the end, Nobody took care of it.

One of the first things I learned in military leadership training was to always be prepared with a how anytime a what came up. It needed to be achievable and it needed to be realistic within available time and resources, and it needed to be flexible. And I needed to be able to take criticism and support my how as long as I saw it as the best how available. If the group of leaders discussing the what decided to take somebody else's how, then I was to lend my support completely, but also remain flexible enough that, should their how break down at a bad moment, I should not be afraid to take charge with the how I thought should be implemented and make modifications to it to fit the new what. Given that all this needed to be done quickly and with little outside discussion, the what had to be well understood and the hows had to be well thought out and supported, and the whole body had to be ready to change the how to achieve the what in the end.

When somebody in your church comes up with a what, ask them to think about the how, and if they would be willing to serve on the leadership group or committee that may be generated to make that what a reality. Ask them if they will be willing to bend their how, or change it completely when others have ideas to achieve the common what. Make sure they get the opportunity, and make sure they have the support they need to achieve that what. If you don't, you will find yourself left with Everybody, Somebody and Nobody. And being left with Nobody can be a very lonely experience.

Tom

And from one of my Facebook friends....

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Bobby sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replied, 'That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys.'

First Monday Job Corner: Drop us a line if there is a job opening you need to fill at your church (and please let us know if you want it continued in future months).

Director of Christian Education (interim appointment): First Presbyterian Church of Middletown is seeking an interim Director of Christian Education to lead the education programs of the Church while a formal search is conducted to fill the permanent full-time position in mid-August 2011. The interim position will lead all adult, youth and children's Christian Education programs and the Vacation Bible School. The interim appointment ends June 30. Qualified applicants may respond by submitting resume or CV with a letter of application to: sandy@fpcmiddletown.com or Interim Christian Education Director, First Presbyterian Church, 2910 Central Ave., Middletown, OH 45044

Please note that the Presbytery website also lists some area job hunting assistance. If you know of somebody in your congregation that needs some help looking for their next job, please share that information with them.

Covenant Presbyterian Church (CPC) offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group for CPC members and the general public who are caregivers for an elderly/senior loved one. Please join us at CPC in Room 213 for our support groups scheduled on the 4th Tuesdays, 12-1:15 PM with light lunch provided (April 26th with P. Barber to present re: senior massage, May 24th with presenter TBD and June 28th with presenter TBD). For information, contact group facilitator, Linda G. Butler, MSW, ACSW, LISW-S, at 937-399-7192.

This will be our 2nd Annual Convocation of Peacemakers, April 7-9, 2011: Like last year this is a "roll up your sleeves" event where we get to work on active and direct responses to specific areas of peacemaking and nonviolence. Throughout the Convocation we will also be learning more through **anti-racism training** as we practice self-examination for holistic peacemaking.

We will be getting involved in the following four areas of peacemaking and how they interact:

**Israel/Palestine, Colombia,
Gun Violence Prevention,
Becoming a "Peace Church".**

I invite you to join us in at the Stony Point Center in Stony Point, NY, this April and ask you to communicate an invitation to anyone in your congregation who might be interested. Feel free to call me or email me with any questions you might have. For more information and to register please go to: www.presbypeacefellowship.org/convocation2011. Melinda Thompson, 301-593-0994 (home) or 443-956-8597 (cell)

The **Craft for A Cause (CFC) Network** is having their 4th Annual Baby Shower. The purpose for this Baby Shower is to collect items needed by four of the programs supported by this Network.

The shower will take place at Corinth Presbyterian Church in the education building next to church. At 4269 Corinth Blvd., Dayton, just two blocks east off South Smithville Rd.

This is not your normal Baby Shower. There will be no games played (there will drawings and raffles) and no one is having a baby. So, what is the Baby Shower for? Four of the organizations we support need more than what we can make. So we have a Baby Shower each year in May.

Within the next two weeks there will be more information on this event. For now please mark your calendar and save Saturday, May 7th for our 4th Annual Baby Shower.

**Craft for a Cause Fourth Annual Baby Shower
May 7, 2011 Between 12:00pm and 1:30pm
Corinth Presbyterian Church, 4269 Corinth Blvd, Dayton**

LOUISVILLE, KY. (February 28, 2011) — The Presbyterian Committee on the [Self-Development of People](#) (SDOP) has approved grants totaling \$261, 255 to 14 self-help projects in the United States. The money is from the [PC \(USA\) - One Great Hour of Sharing \(OGHS\)](#) offering. Self-Development of People receives 32 percent of undesignated OGHS gifts. The following Middletown, OH group was awarded a grant:

Parents Helping Parents located in Middletown, OH was awarded \$15,000. This project makes transportation available to low-income families with children involved in after-school programs. Buses stop service at 6:30 p.m. in Middletown, OH, this hinders children and youth from participating in any after-school program beyond this time. There is also an issue of serving an area 2 miles from the pick-up point which means that children and youth who live within 2 miles of where they wish to go must walk. This raises multiple safety issues which the transportation will help alleviate.

SDOP's grant recipients through the years have ranged from assisting low-income Hispanic women address poverty by teaching each other how to sew and selling the clothing at a modest price thus supplementing their income and improving their standard of living in Pueblo, CO to a group of ex-offenders that have received certified training in building construction, repair and maintenance and have come together and provided employment for themselves to supporting low-income mobile home residents in several mobile home parks in Miami that have organized to advocate for protection against eviction due to the sale of the mobile home park in which they live.

SDOP enables members and non-members of the [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#) to form partnerships with economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people in order to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

Grants were approved at a meeting of SDOP's national committee in Biloxi, MS in January.
For further information about [Self-Development of People](#), please contact the National Office at:

100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202-1396
Toll Free Telephone: English – (888) 728-7228 x5782 / 5791/5792
Spanish – (888) 728-7228 x5790
Fax: (502) 569-8963
Web site: www.pcusa.org/sdop



Mission and Ministry

Mission to the USA

This fall the Synod of the Covenant is inviting church leaders from Cuba and Mexico to spend six (6) weeks as staff members of particular congregations. As participants in the Mission to the U.S.A. Program, these ecumenical partners will preach, teach and become a part of a host congregation, celebrating oneness in Christ as they share their stories of faith and teach us about life in their home countries and the ongoing issues there. Visit www.synodofthecovenant.org/musa to find out how your church can host one of our mission partners!

Mobile Health Fair

38 health fairs are scheduled thus far with only a few open days remaining. Wayne County Health Authority will be present at Detroit health fairs and will provide free sport physicals for students, immediate enrollment in available services when applicable and information on all of the services available. United Healthcare Great Lakes Health Plan will be bringing Elmo (of Sesame Street) to as many of the Detroit health fairs as possible to share educational information on nutrition. Great Lakes has also committed almost 500 health kits to the Detroit health fairs!! The van will be visiting migrant work camps in the evenings and migrant schools during the days. Last year over 1,674 were screened. Free training is available to **anyone** interested in helping to volunteer with this ministry. Dates and locations of all fairs will be available soon. For more info visit www.synodofthecovenant.org/mhf

Changes in Leadership

Stated Clerk Retiring

Rev. Dr. George Baird, having served his maximum of 3 terms of 3 years as Stated Clerk is retiring in the Fall. Synod Assembly has approved 'Transitional' Stated Clerk Position Description and Terms of Call, these can be found at www.synodofthecovenant.org. Please give names of possible candidates to the Nominating Committee.

Installation

PCUSA Stated Clerk, Gradye Parsons, gave charge at Transitional Synod Executive's, Rev. Raafat Zaki, installation service.

- Go wide, Galatians 3:28
- Go Deep, Ephesians 1:17-19
- Go Long, Isaiah 58:6-9

Combined choirs from Bethany PC, Columbus, and Grace PC, Toledo inspire all.

Worship was followed by a presentation by Gradye Parsons entitled "Where are we Going?" Download presentation from the website by searching for "Gradye"

Committee moderators:

- **Raphael Francis**, Church Development and Transformation
- **Frances Jenkins**, Multicultural, Racial/Ethnic, and Justice (MRJ)
- **Ruth Dunn**, Ministries in Higher Education
- **Doris Evans**, Covenants and Connections
- **Russ Brandt**, Personnel Services

Equipping

Training Videos

The videos during the assembly can be found at on the Synod website under the Assembly tab. The Roberts Rules video may be helpful for congregational, Elder and/or presbytery commissioner training as well.

Ignite. Inspire. Equip

The 21st century church is navigating uncharted waters - don't miss the Transformation/Small Church Conference, May 5-7 in Perrysburg Ohio. More information, visit www.synodofthecovenant.org

Catch the Building Spirit

Presbyterian and Catholic Churches Partnering Together
with Dayton Ohio Habitat for Humanity

Once again the Catholic Churches and the Presbyterian Churches are teaming up to build a Habitat House in Dayton in 2011. This will be our 18th year working together.



This is last year's house on Stratsburg Avenue in Dayton.

This year we will again be building on Stratsburg Drive in Dayton. We plan to have our Blitz week starting on the Saturday of the Memorial Day weekend, May 28 and running through Friday, June 3.

Any churches that are interested in participating either with labor or financing

Please contact: Hank Baust, Presbyterian Coordinator for "Catch the Building Spirit"

hbaust@woh.rr.com

or call (937) 429-0360.

You may also sign up directly at the Dayton Ohio Habitat Website and receive email information on the upcoming build. <http://daytonhabitat.volunteerhub.com/Events/Browse.aspx>

To find out more about the builds at our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/ctbsd Dayton/>

Mission to the USA is alive and flourishing in the Synod of the Covenant!

MISSION TO THE USA

September 28 – November 9, 2011

MEXICO AND CUBA

If your congregation has an interest in the Mexico or Cuba or you would like to host a church leader from one of these countries, you might want to learn more about the

2011 MISSION TO THE U.S.A. PROGRAM.



In the fall of 2011 the Synod of the Covenant is inviting four (4) church leaders from Cuba and six (6) church leaders from Mexico to spend six (6) weeks as staff members of particular congregations.

As participants in the Mission to the U.S.A. Program, these ecumenical partners will preach, teach and become a part of a host congregation, celebrating oneness in Christ as they share their stories of faith and teach us about life in their home countries and the ongoing issues there.

Mission partners are not just guests or visitors. They come here as missionaries to us. In our abundance, we usually think about what we have to give to others. Mission to the U.S.A. gives us an opportunity to think about what we might receive from those whose faith may have been shaped by their culture or by persecution, poverty, or politics.

The goals of the Mission to the U.S.A. Program are to:

- Educate members of participating churches about another part of the world and the challenges facing Christians there,
- Provide a fresh perspective on the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- Help U.S. Christians acquire a deepened understanding of the global nature of Christ's church;
- Challenge U.S. Christians to greater faithfulness in our own country

Any church in the synod is welcome to apply.

Download FAQ's and application to learn more.

<http://www.synodofthecovenant.org/index.php/ministries/musa>

For more information contact the program coordinator:

Karen Nottelmann 231.652.1056 musa@synodofthecovenant.org

Committee members:

Eileen Best, Presbytery of Lake Michigan

James Bohren, Presbytery of the Miami Valley

Janet Bohren, Presbytery of the Miami Valley

Rev. Leland Platt, Presbytery of Scioto Valley

Rev. Les Sauer, Presbytery of Scioto Valley

Rev. Lynn Shetzer, Presbytery of Muskingum Valley

Gordon Shull, Presbytery of Muskingum Valley



Frequently Asked Questions

Synod of the Covenant Mission to the U.S.A. - September 28 – November 9, 2011

(contact Karen Nottelmann – knottelmann@aol.com – 231-652-1056)

What is Mission to the USA?

The Mission to the U.S.A. Program of the Synod of the Covenant is a short-term opportunity for churches to be on the receiving end of hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Individual congregations host a Christian leader from an ecumenical partner denomination for six weeks. The "mission partner" becomes a missionary to that congregation, serving on the staff as a parish associate.

The goals of the Mission to the USA Program are to:

- Educate members of participating churches about another part of the world and the challenges facing Christians there,
- Provide a fresh perspective on the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Help U.S. Christians acquire a deepened understanding of the global nature of Christ's church,
- Challenge U.S. Christians to greater faithfulness in our own country.

What is required of the pastor in hosting a mission partner?

The first requirement is that a pastor from the congregation attends both orientation and debriefing meetings held near the Detroit airport at the beginning and end of the six weeks. This is not only an essential gesture of hospitality, it is vitally important for a staff representative from the congregation to be fully aware of expectations of both the mission partner and the church. The cultural orientation may also be helpful for initiating conversations and preventing misunderstandings. To ease the pastor's load, we recommend and insist on a well formed committee of congregational representatives to plan and carry out plans for a mission partner's stay with a congregation. The depth of involvement in the mission partner's stay by a pastor differs in different congregations, depending on the committee, the pastor's interest and time available, and the size of the congregation.

What will an ecumenical mission partner do in our congregation?

Your mission partner could do a variety of things while staying with your congregation. Functioning as an adjunct member of your church staff he or she may be asked to preach, teach, assist with hospital calls, attend meetings and visit with members of the congregation. The mission partner's purpose is to share his or her story of faith with the congregation and to be a "missionary," bringing the gospel to the host congregation from the perspective of someone from another part of the world. Your ecumenical mission partner may be asked to speak to community groups such as the Rotary Club, school groups, and may visit other local churches. You are encouraged to take your mission partner to presbytery meetings and other church-wide events. It is also important to include the mission partner in decisions about what he or she would like to do and allow some flexibility for rest and preparation time.

What does our congregation need to do to host an ecumenical mission partner?

- Complete the application and send it to the MUSA coordinator by April 1 then wait for notification that you have been accepted.
- Form a committee to assist with planning the visit so that no one person is burdened by the project.
- Arrange for housing. Mission partners live with members of the congregation during their six-week stay. Generally, we suggest that no more than two families serve as hosts, as changing host families can be stressful for your guest.
- Provide office space that includes access to a phone, office equipment and a computer.
- Plan the mission partner's schedule.
- Provide transportation for all activities. If the mission partner has an international driver's license and insurance coverage and the church has a car available, he or she may drive in the U.S. This is a rare occurrence. Usually, members of the host congregation provide all transportation or, if public transportation is available, the mission partner can be oriented to that system.
- Contribute toward airfare (\$250 to \$1000, depending on church's ability to pay) and provide a gift of \$100 cash spending money for each week the mission partner serves (\$600.00).
- Plan other activities such as receptions and worship services and advertise throughout the congregation, synod, presbytery and local community before the mission partner's arrival.
- Learn about your partner's country and denomination prior to arrival, preparing the congregation for the experience.

How much will it cost our congregation to participate in the program?

To participate in the program, your congregation is asked to contribute between \$250 and \$1000 toward the cost of airfare to and from the U.S. Every congregation must gift their mission partner with \$100 a week over the six week period to cover personal expenses. We also ask that the church allow the mission partner to communicate with home by phone at least twice during the visit, or secure access to a SKYPE account for communication. Cost could be as little as \$850 and as much as \$1,600, depending on the size of your congregation and on your ability to pay, plus incidental expenses.

Will the ecumenical mission partner be a clergy or lay person?

Mission partners can be either pastors or lay persons, male or female. They will be Christians, affiliated with an ecumenical partner denomination that has (or is working toward) an official relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). If you have a preference, please state that on your application.

Will the mission partner have health insurance coverage during his or her visit?

Yes, the Synod of the Covenant will provide incidental health insurance coverage in the unlikely event that emergency medical care is needed. Coverage does not include dental work or pre-existing medical conditions.

Will the mission partner speak English?

Yes! Every mission partner is expected to speak English and have good writing skills in English. However, your congregation may have trouble understanding a strong accent and the mission partner may not always understand our slang or idioms. One previous mission partner suggested having a member of the congregation serve as an English tutor, if necessary.

From which countries will the ecumenical mission partners come and will they be Presbyterian?

In 2011 the invitations are being offered to partner denominations of the PC(USA) in Mexico and Cuba. They will most likely be Presbyterian, but not always.

When will the Mission to the USA program take place?

The dates of the 2011 program are September 28 –November 9, 2011.

When will the mission partners arrive?

The mission partners will arrive at the Detroit airport a day before the program begins. The first day is a time of rest and orientation with the Synod MUSA committee. A pastor from your congregation, and at least one layperson, will be asked to meet your mission partner near the Detroit airport for a one-day orientation session on September 28, prior to returning with him or her to your community. Before departing six weeks later, your mission partner, along with the pastor and a layperson, will attend a debriefing meeting in the Detroit area on November 9. Attendance at orientation and debriefing is critical to the success of the program and is not optional. A pastor from the congregation MUST attend, even if your congregation has hosted in the past.

Is every congregation that applies to the program guaranteed a mission partner?

No. Depending upon how many churches apply, it may be that not every church will have an opportunity to host this year. Congregations that applied last year and did not receive a mission partner, and those that have not previously hosted, are generally given first priority. Every attempt is made to accept and include churches of all sizes and from all parts of the Synod. The Mission to the U.S.A. Committee prayerfully strives to match mission partners and congregations in ways that will benefit all participants.

Can we join with another congregation to host a mission partner?

We prefer that congregations plan to host a mission partner by themselves so that the experience will be a rich one, allowing for plenty of interaction and relationship building with the partner. However, two smaller congregations may consider co-hosting. In that case, the congregations should complete a joint application. We do not recommend that more than two congregations share one mission partner.

Will we be obligated to provide mission support to the mission partner's home church?

Definitely not! While some congregations form a lasting partnership with their mission partner, this is not an expectation of the program. The partner is to be a part of your congregation for six weeks and may not raise funds during the stay. He or she is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to you! Congregations that choose to form a partnership or offer financial support, once the program has ended, are encouraged to use parameters set up by the World Mission Unit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

When will we know if we will have a mission partner assigned to us?

You must apply before April 1, 2011. The Synod Mission to the U.S.A. Committee will meet after that date if we have received the personal information forms from the mission partners by that time. If all goes well, congregations will then be notified no later than mid-May. You may call or email the coordinator anytime you have questions, or by June 1 if you haven't heard anything. Final assurance that you have a mission partner takes place when his or her visa is secured.

Application
Synod of the Covenant 2011 Mission to the U.S.A. Program
Program Dates: September 28 – November 9, 2011
Applications must be returned to the address below by April 1, 2011

Name of Church _____

Address _____ City _____ State and Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Church email _____

Name of your presbytery _____

Name of pastor _____

Pastor's email (required) _____

How long has the pastor been serving this congregation? _____

Name of associate pastor(s) _____

Name of lay contact person _____

Address _____ City _____ State and Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Who will serve as the primary contact for this program? _____

Has your congregation hosted an Ecumenical Mission Partner in the past?

Yes ___ No ___ If yes, when? _____

How many attend worship on Sunday morning? _____

Please specify the category under which you wish to apply:

___ Small Church – up to 100 in worship (\$250 contribution toward travel expenses plus \$100 per week gift of cash for mission partner's personal expenses- \$850 total)

___ Mid-sized Church – up to 350 in worship (\$500 contribution toward travel expenses plus \$100 per week gift of cash for mission partner's personal expenses- \$1100 total)

___ Large Church – over 350 in worship (\$750 contribution toward travel expenses plus \$100 per week gift of cash for mission partner's personal expenses- \$1350 total)

___ Full Supporting Church (willing to pay up to \$1000 toward mission partner's round-trip travel - in addition to \$100 per week gift of cash for personal expenses – up to \$1600 total)

Any church can apply under any category. Do not let finances prohibit participation. If you need financial assistance, talk to the program coordinator.

Please complete the following questions on a separate sheet.

Please attach the answers to these questions.

1. How does your congregation believe it will benefit from participation in the Mission to the U.S.A. Program?
2. What program or mission efforts in your congregation would mesh with the Mission to the U.S.A. Program and how would hosting a mission partner strengthen those programs?
3. Does your church or presbytery have a partnership with any ministry or congregation in Cuba or Mexico? If so, please share that information.
4. Describe your congregation's understanding of its mission in your community and in the world.
5. Tell us about your worship style. How are children or youth included in worship?
6. Describe your programming for youth and children.
7. In what specific opportunities and activities in your congregation and in your community would you offer participation to your visiting ecumenical leader? How would you make him or her feel useful and accomplish the goals of this program?
8. How would your church initiate study sessions about the country and church of your ecumenical mission partner prior to his/her visit?
9. Do you have a preference for a male, female, clergy or lay person? Why?

Please return this completed form by April 1, 2011 to:

E-mail: knottelmann@aol.com

Or

Karen Nottelmann, Program Coordinator
Synod of the Covenant Mission to the U.S.A.

5569 Front Street
Newaygo, Michigan 49337
Phone: 231-652-1056 Fax: 231-652-1056
Synod of the Covenant Fax: 419-754-4051

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 1, 2011

Peace by Piece



Covenant Gathering 2011

Covenant Gathering 2011

July 3, 4:00 pm to July 8, 11:00 am

Michindoh Conference Center

Hillsdale, MI 49242

For more information:

www.covenantgathering.com

www.michindoh.com

Email:

covenantgathering@comcast.net

Phone: 269-429-1916

A week of learning, laughter and worship presented by members and churches of PCUSA Synod of the Covenant and Synod of Lincoln Trails

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. "

John 16:33



Join other Christians for Covenant Gathering 2011 at beautiful Michindoh Conference and Retreat Center in southern Michigan, close to the Ohio and Indiana borders as we find God's peace within ourselves and let it flow like ripples into our families, our churches, our communities and the world. **Covenant Gathering** is a little bit *conference*, a little bit *vacation* with facilities for all abilities!!



Adult class options include the PW *Horizons* 2011-2012 Bible Study on Beatitudes...Hands on Mission: Building a Prayer Path... Bible 101... A Taste of John Ortberg... Peacemaking with Sara Lisherness, director of Compassion Peace and Justice for the General Assembly Mission Council... Photography as a Spiritual Discipline... Church Transformation...I'm not crazy; I'm grieving. ...The Art and Christian Symbolism of Ukrainian Eggs.

Children and Youth have age appropriate educational and fun activities. The whole community worships together, and enjoys delicious meals, evening programs, and afternoon options on many topics...and a lovely lakefront and beach!



Check us out at www.covenantgathering.com, and join us this summer.

Photo Show
First Presbyterian Church
15 N. Chillicothe Street
South Charleston, Ohio

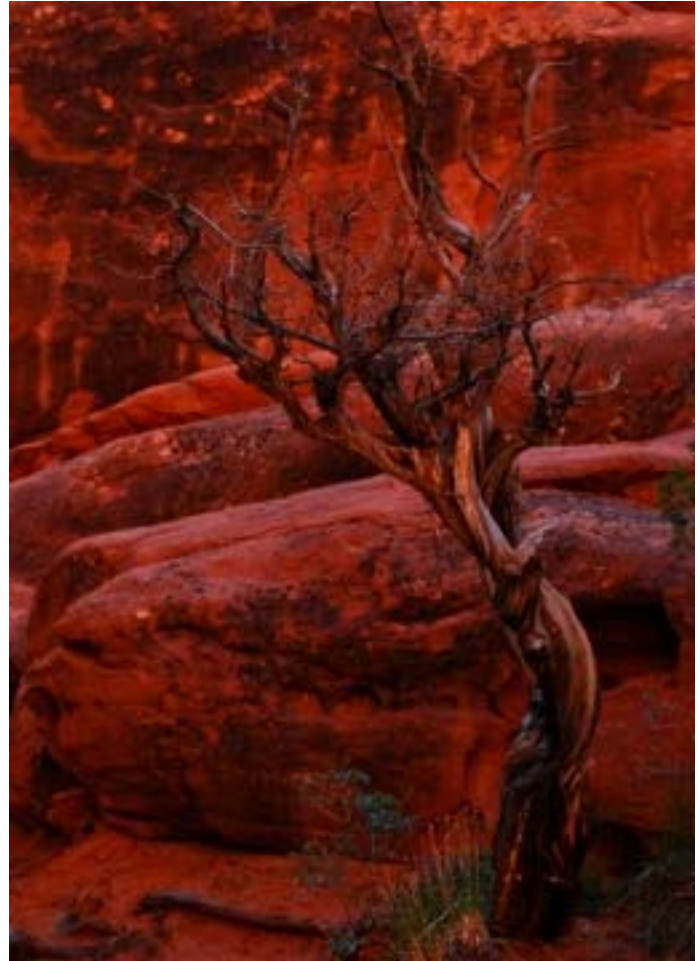
You are invited a Photography Show on **Sunday, April 3rd** (from 6:30 to 8:00 pm). This is a reception-styled event with refreshments in the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church of South Charleston.

The Photography of Bill and Sue Reisenweaver will be on display. The show is being offered as a gesture of gratitude to God and to the congregation for providing Pastor Bill with a sabbatical last fall.

Photographs from Bill and Sue's travels have been printed, matted and framed for a special display that evening. These have come out beautiful (credit going the Lord who made such gorgeous places, not to the photographers)!

At the end of that evening, the display of ***photos will be sold by silent auction*** for you to take home! The receipts will go into the stained-glass window restoration fund of the church. That evening everyone will be offered a ***free gift*** to take home as well!

This promises to be a wonderful event of fun and fellowship, so please feel free to bring guests with you.





PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202

Big Tent Registration Now Open!

This summer, thousands of Presbyterians will gather from across the country to celebrate the mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Registration for the Big Tent Conference opened February 28 and already dozens have begun to respond.

The Big Tent (June 30-July 2) combines nine national church conferences under one roof, bringing together events such as:

- Clergywomen's Leadership Institute/Young Women's Leadership Development
- Evangelism and Church Growth Conference
- Healthy Ministry Conference
- National Elders Conference
- National Multicultural Church Conference
- Peacemaking Conference
- Presbyterian Communicators Network National Conference
- Racial Ethnic and Immigrants Convocation, and
- World Mission Matters

Children and youth are vital participants of Big Tent too! There will be children and youth programs, and older youth will have the option to participate in a Pathways event that will run in tandem with the Big Tent.

The Big Tent conference is scheduled to take place in Indianapolis, Indiana. It is our hope that these plans can be maintained, due to the excellent accommodations and arrangements provided by the Convention & Visitors Association, the hospitality community, and local Presbyterians. However, immigration legislation under consideration in Indiana's state government, may cause the event to be moved. In 2010, the General Assembly instructed its agencies to "refrain from holding national meetings at hotels in those states where travel by immigrant Presbyterians or Presbyterians of color or Hispanic ancestry might subject them to harassment due to legislation similar to Arizona Law SB 1070/HB2162." We are hopeful that Indiana legislators will reject this legislation quickly, so that our plans can continue, but this is uncertain. Big Tent meeting planners will make a final decision regarding location by May 2, 2011. Until this time, participants are encouraged to register for the conference, but to delay making travel arrangements until the meeting location has been finally determined.

Three spirit-filled days of Presbyterian celebration are planned for the Big Tent, including:

- Worship, led by Mark Labberton and J. Herbert Nelson
- Keynote speaker: Serene Jones
- Your choice of nine partner conferences
- An exhibit hall showcasing the newest ministry resources from the PC(USA)
- Time to reconnect with Presbyterians from across the country

We look forward to seeing YOU at the Big Tent!

GRADYE PARSONS
STATED CLERK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LINDA VALENTINE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GENERAL ASSEMBLY MISSION COUNCIL