

Happening Around the Presbytery

October 3, 2018

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 304-266-8154.



UOVP PEACEMAKING SUBCOMMITTEE: www.peacemakingthroughthearts.org

PLEASE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Mike Lenno	Karen Edwards	Frank Lewis	Homer Harden
John Lewis	Ann Varner	Wally Jancura	Vickie Whinnery
Alice Lucarelli	Karen Lucarelli	R. H. "Mac" McCuen	Gary Conaway
Jack Visser	Glen Baker, Jr.	Sharon Willits	Debbie Hale
Bryan Perrill	Matt Camlin	Simon Looking Elk	Ruth Ellen Bates
Mike O'Neil	Dakota Partnership	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: David Knapp, Dee Kovach, Randall Krebs, Chuck LaPlaca, Bill Lawrence.

THE PRESBYTERY OFFICE will be closed Monday, October 8th. In an emergency, please call Frank Lewis 304-266-8154.

CALLING ALL CLERKS OF SESSION! Help your denomination by participating in the **Clerk's Annual Questionnaire (CAQ) 2018!** This questionnaire informs PCUSA agencies about what congregations are doing and what their needs are. **Please complete the questionnaire by Thursday, November 15th.** [Click here to take the survey.](#)

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA) is responding to Hurricane Florence and Typhoon Mangkhut in the Philippines, China, and neighboring areas. Initial assessment in the Carolinas shows devastating flooding this is isolating communities. This truth was also evident where subsistence farmers, miners, and fisherfolk in the Philippines bore the brunt of the typhoon, which resulted in widespread destruction and substantial loss of life. While these winds and waters meant loss and destruction, the work of PDA and the financial gifts of people like you might become, as the psalmist says, "a river whose streams make glad the city of God." In the U.S., PDA is deploying teams to affected presbyteries. In the Philippines, China, and neighboring areas, PDA is supporting response partners as initial assessment and emergency response is underway. Together with God, we will help draw hope out of the chaos.

You can join in the response and encourage those in need by standing in the "GAP"—Give. Act. Pray.

Give—Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to DR000194—hurricanes and typhoons; to help address the needs of those impacted. Checks may be made payable to the presbytery and we will forward it on. Memo: DR000194—hurricanes & typhoons.

Act—Assemble Gift of the Heart cleanup buckets www.pda.pcusa.org/page/kits.

Pray—Pray for families impacted by these storms through the loss of loved ones and livelihoods; for first responders and all others who put themselves in harm's way to care for those impacted; that communities will work together and build stronger relationships and connections; and for God's sustaining grace through it all.

Prayer: The eyes of all look to You, O God, our Rock and our salvation, and our hearts as well, turn to you in sorrow as we bear witness to the suffering of your children battered by wind, sea and floodwaters as Hurricane Florence and Typhoon Mangkhut passed over, leaving death and devastation in their wake. We pray for your wounded people, as their eyes look to You that they may, in the hard days to come, find courage to face enormous challenges, relief and respite from urgent need in the outpouring of care as the world responds, comfort and the hope of peace for those who grieve the loss of family, home and safety, and faith to walk on through this valley of shadows. May we, who watch, and pray, and respond, see in their faces Your face. May we not turn away from suffering, nor forget their needs when the seasons turn. May we be

steadfast in Love, stronger than death, and thus, with those whose lives we seek to sustain, together bear witness to Your redeeming Love. In the name of the Christ, our Way, we pray. Amen. –The Rev. Dr. Laurie A. Kraus, Director, PDA

THANK YOU for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated. The mums are now decorating our front porch. The family of Pastor Bob Offerdahl.

STONE PRESBYTERIAN Church, 25 East Cove Ave., Wheeling, invites you to their **Fall Rummage Sale** Wednesday, October 10 (5-7 pm), Thursday, October 11 (9 am-noon), and Friday, October 12 (9-11 am).

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED to celebrate the **Installation of the Rev. Alan T. Jeffries** as Pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Cadiz, 154 W. Market St., Cadiz, OH, 3:00 p.m. on **Sunday, October 14, 2018**. A Reception will follow the installation. We also invite you to lift up in prayer Pastor Alan and the Cadiz congregation during your Sunday, October 14, morning worship.

BEAVER CREEK CAMP FALL FEST. Hello everyone! We are happy to announce that we are having another Fall Hike this year. On **Sunday, October 14th**, we will be starting at 1:00 p.m. or so, to give you time to get into your hiking boots and grab some lunch after church. (We are not providing lunch!) While we wait for folks to arrive, we will have some face painting, candle and t-shirt sales or taking orders (as a camp fundraiser), and socializing. After our hike, we will wonder out to vespers and relax and meditate on God's beautiful woods and listen to the creek. Those who would like to hike a little more can do so to the end of the property on the trail or wait for us to return at vespers or back to camp. We will then head back to camp, have a snack at a bake sale (as always the proceeds will go toward camp's needs), and bob for apples. Then we will sip some hot apple cider and paint a picture. Finally, we'll wrap the evening up around the camp fire roasting hot dogs and s'mores at dusk. Please feel free to bring your friends and family!

SAVE THE DATE!!! A Community Chorus from the Ohio Valley will be performing **The Messiah on December 23, 2018**, at 3:00 p.m. at Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church. All are welcome to attend. Seating is limited at a first come first serve basis. There is always a call for singers as those who wish to be part of the chorus are welcome to contact Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church Music Director Debbie Brieding at dpbar243@aol.com.

THE 2018-2019 PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG is now available. Get your congregation involved today! This year's catalog is full of old favorites and new ideas to inspire giving in your congregation. **EXPLORE THE CATALOG**

CONTINUING EDUCATION for pastors, clergy, and ministry leaders at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary:
Preaching the Seasons, a hybrid class (online and in-person) with James Platt OCT 5, NOV. 2, DEC. 14, 2018 JAN. 25, MARCH 1, AND APRIL 5, 2019. www.pts.edu/Preaching-Seasons-2018
African American Preaching and the Power of Story: Black Sermon as Dynamic Discourse, an online class with Brian Wells OCT 15 – NOV. 9, 2018. www.pts.edu/Black-Sermon-2018
The Art of Transitional Ministry, Week 2, with Paul Rhebergen, Jan Nolting Carter, and Danny Morales. NOV. 5 – 9, 2018. www.pts.edu/TM2-2018
Parables for the Future: Scenario and Strategic Planning, an online class with James Downey JAN. 21 – FEB. 15, 2019. www.pts.edu/strategic-planning-2019

PRESBYTERIANS TODAY. A copy of the new **2018 Advent Devotional, God Lifts the Lowly**, based on Mary's Song of Praise (Luke 1:46-53) is in the presbytery office for your perusal. Copies can be ordered by calling 800-533-4371 and ask for item 17116-18-007; or online at www.pcusa.com/2019advent. 1 copy \$4.50; 2-9 copies \$3.50 each; 10-99 copies \$2.50. Shipping/handling is 10% of order, or \$5.25 minimum.

A MEMORIAL MOMENT for the Rev. Robert Offerdahl was given at the September 25, 2018, Stated Meeting of Presbytery by Ruling Elder Alcinda James: Robert Offerdahl returned safe in the arms of Jesus, September 6, 2018, after a six month struggle for Bob. Bob had weathered his body failing him many times: mostly with his heart, the mechanical part that kept his body going so that his Spirit could carry out the work that God had for him to do. He had been through open heart surgery many years ago, and bounced back in a surprising short time. Then he needed a pacemaker implanted to maintain a normal rhythm, which brought him back to 'Bob' normal pace. Eventually, he needed a heart defibrillator placed in his chest because (in my opinion) the mechanical part could not keep up with the spiritual part. And according to all his family and friends, Bob bounced back surprisingly fast again. So in March of this year when the doctors said, "Bob, it is time for you to slow down," Bob had no idea how to do that. So while in the hospital he shared Christ with everyone that cared to him. While during the hospital stays, and when he was forced to stay home, he called me to ask, "Who do I need to pray for from church, or presbytery, or Dakota?" He continued to send good speakers to feed his congregations, he attempted to put together worship services, and he continued to feed me information for Presbyterian friends of Wellsville gatherings, even when he was being transported to Cleveland Clinic one time. Then in August, he heard his wife Fran tell me, "Cindy, you need to have someone fill the pulpit, like pulpit supply." Bob was not happy with Fran. But Bob agreed to rest for a few

weeks. Even when in August the sessions of Oak Ridge and Yellow Creek said they wanted him to take the rest of the year off; he felt that he would be able to come back by October. Bob did not return to us physically, but he will never leave us spiritually, and he is safe in the arms of Jesus. Sing one of Bob's favorite hymns: *To God Be the Glory* by Fannie Crosby.

I SHARED Alcinda's memorial moment with a Dakota friend of Bob's. He wrote back: "Thank you for sharing this with me, as I greatly appreciate it and all the posts that you sent regarding brother Bob. I have been fortunate enough to connect with Fran, and she had kept us up to date on all that was happening with him. Our regret was that we could not be there physically but we continue to remember his family and your congregations in our prayers. We remembered him in our Sunday morning service on September 8 and there were tears shed when I shared that he had begun his spiritual life, and had passed from the physical life. But as several of us shared stories of his work and his words to our congregation, we were blessed with the knowledge that he is at peace. We sang two hymns from our Dakota hymnal that he had expressed he liked, and then we sang the hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* as a way to acknowledge his good works, and the reward that awaited him. We will undoubtedly have a remembrance for him at our Presbytery meeting which is the first weekend in October and will be hosted by our Cedar Presbyterian congregation. One final thought I have is that in reading your message I was witness not to how he died, but how he continued to live – by blessing all of us as family and friends, and to the glory of God our Father. Thanks again for your updates, and we will continue to keep your congregations in our prayers. Mike" (Mike HornedEagle is the Commissioned Pastor of Cedar Presbyterian Church in South Dakota.)

PCUSA STORE. NEW FOR ADVENT 2018: Advent is a time of active waiting when we anticipate God's work in our world. During this time we also do our own work, as we are called to do in Mark, to "prepare the way of the Lord" (1:3). The new resources on PCUSA Store for Advent 2018 give guidance for this journey. New [downloadable study packs](#) provide adult and youth groups with the opportunity to engage in a community experience of Advent throughout four weekly sessions. You can also deepen your individual devotional practice or enrich your adult group study when you preorder the [new Advent resource](#) by N. T. Wright, available at the end of this month. Preachers and worship leaders will find renewed inspiration with the [first volume](#) of the new lectionary-based Connections series, which begins its commentaries on the first Sunday of Advent. And we haven't forgotten the little ones! Young children in your congregation can begin to understand the season of Advent by following the journey of the three wise men in [Home by Another Way](#), by Barbara Brown Taylor, which is also perfect for preachers planning children's sermons for the season. Browse to find which Advent resources are perfect for you, your church study group, or your congregation by clicking here: [Browse New Advent Resources and Best-Selling Advent Books](#)
