

FIRST MONDAY



February 2020

First Monday is a monthly posting 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 February Calendar**
3. **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 February committee meetings, please contact your committee chair.

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

MIAMI PRESBYTERY PRAYER LIST



February 2020

- 2 February** **Reily Presbyterian Church**, located at 6370 Peoria/Reily Road, Reily. Pastor Thomas Ramsey.
- 9 February** **Good Shepherd United Presbyterian Church**, located at 524 Park Avenue, Piqua. Pastor Jocelyn Sheldon.
- 16 February** **Trinity Presbyterian Church** located at 3211 Lakeview Avenue, Dayton. Pastor Joe Whitt.
- 23 February** **Monroe Presbyterian Church**, located at 57 West Elm Street, Monroe. Pastor Jeri Baker.
- 1 March** **Covenant Presbyterian Church**, located at 4115 North Main Street, Springboro. Pastor Sarah Sparks-Franklin.

The Presbytery committee or group we ask you to pray for: For the month of February please keep the Presbytery Trustees in your prayers.

Thank you.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Please keep Dayton	27	28 4:30pm - CoM	29	30	31	1
2 Groundhog Day Please keep Rely in your	3	4	5	6 9:30am - Nominating 1:30pm - Council Agenda 6pm - Network Support &	7	8 9am - Presbytery Meeting
9 Please keep Piqua Good	10	11 11am - Staff Meeting Lunch	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 9am - Leadership Council	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 Please keep Dayton Trinity	17 President's Day	18	19	20 9:30am - CPM	21	22 Washington's Birthday
23 Please keep Monroe in	24	25 4:30pm - CoM	26 Ash Wednesday	27	28	29

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 – we are only running ads month by month, so need to know if your church wants it continued).

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.

Churches are invited to share programs, job openings, and news with other churches of the presbytery. Just email print ready information to tom.oxley@miamipresbytery.org.

New presbytery office hours in 2020

The presbytery office will now be open from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Thursday. For times that the office is closed, you can still leave messages by phone at 937-258-8118 or [email Tom Oxley](mailto:tom.oxley@miamipresbytery.org) , and we will reply as soon as possible.

CINDY KOHLMANN VISITS PRESBYTERY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY Meet our General Assembly Co-Moderator February 7-9



The Rev. **Cindy Kohlmann**, Co-Moderator of 223rd General Assembly, will be the guest of Presbytery of the Miami Valley February 7-9. She will speak and preach at the February 8 stated meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley, and spend additional time in other presbytery activities.

Cindy has served two churches as a solo pastor, first at the Carlisle: New Jersey Church (which was then a congregation in our presbytery but has since departed) and in Clinton, MA. She has been serving the Presbytery of Northern New England as their Presbyter since 2010, and in 2015, she said goodbye to the church in Clinton and began serving Boston Presbytery.

In addition to serving these two Presbyteries as the Resource Presbyter, Cindy was also elected in June 2018 as Co-Moderator of the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), along with Ruling Elder **Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri**. They will continue to serve until June 2020, when the 224th General Assembly meets in Baltimore and elects a new moderator or moderators.

Cindy is married to the Rev. **Eric Markman**, pastor of the Hartford Street Presbyterian Church in Natick, MA, and has two adult step-daughters.

NEXT Church National Gathering March 2-4 in Cincinnati



Registration is open for the NEXT Church National Gathering to be held March 2-4, 2020 at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati. This year's theme is "What Do These Stones Mean? Witness, Power, and Hope" and is based on Joshua 4:1-9.

The NEXT Church National Gathering is filled with church leaders (pastors and lay people) sharing stories of their experiences of ministry, new ideas they are trying, and honest conversations about ministry today. Creative worship centers participants around God's presence, and multiple opportunities to engage in workshops and conversation about particular aspects of ministry foster new and deeper connections.

[NEXT Church](#) is a network of leaders - church members, ruling elders, youth leaders, educators, pastors, seminarians and professors - across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) who believe the church of the future will be more relational, more diverse, more collaborative, more hopeful and more agile. NEXT Church provides hopeful space for robust conversations about the theology, culture, and the practice of ministry. It supports strong, faithful leadership in a time of adaptive change, and encourages collaboration and creativity across congregations and geographies.



You are Invited!

February 7-9, 2020
Presbytery of the Miami Valley

Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of 223rd General Assembly, will be our guest for the weekend. We have scheduled several opportunities to gather with her for conversation.

- ❖ **Friday, February 7**
 - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm Tour of Dayton area with members of Leadership Council.
 - 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Dinner (your expense) and conversation, with the clergywomen of the presbytery. **Please RSVP to revjeribaker@gmail.com by Wednesday, February 5.** The location for dinner is to be determined (in the Troy area) based on the number of respondents.
- ❖ **Saturday, February 8**
 - 8:30 am-9:00 am Meet and Greet prior to presbytery meeting at Springfield: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 201 North Limestone St., Springfield 45503.
 - 9:00 am In addition to the sermon message, Rev. Kohlmann will speak during the presbytery meeting on the Matthew 25 Invitation, the Hands and Feet Initiative, and the work of the Vision 2020 Team.
 - 12 noon -2:00 pm Following the presbytery meeting, you are invited for lunch and further conversation regarding the presentation topics. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, Ruling Elders and members of the Leadership Council are invited and encouraged to attend.
 - 6:30 pm-8:30 pm A casual time of dessert and conversation with Rev. Kohlmann at Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church, 4417 Bigger Rd., Kettering 45440. This is an open invitation event.
- ❖ **Sunday, February 9**
 - 10:30 am Rev. Kohlmann will lead worship at College Hill Community Church, 1547 Philadelphia Dr., Dayton 45506.

GET TO KNOW THE COMMUNITY THROUGH MAPPING

When Pastor Alexis was hired to do community outreach in a racially diverse, economically struggling neighborhood, church members told him, “This is a high crime neighborhood.” Yet he was skeptical. What if news reports placed undue importance on crimes and how much did church members’ personal experience with the community or crime generally color their perceptions? Checking city government maps of crime rates, he discovered crime to be no worse than in the surrounding areas.¹

Mapping Clarifies the Picture

Mapping can clarify the picture of a church’s neighborhood by filling out incomplete information or overturning misconceptions. It provides information visually on a geographic background and can be high tech or low. High-tech mapping combines the use of the global positioning system (GPS) with digital mapping software, which has replaced physical maps for many uses. Low-tech maps can be drawn with pencil and paper based on information provided by good, old-fashioned conversation.

Basic Mapping

Draw a basic map of the neighborhood before deciding how and where to reach out. Start by defining your community’s physical boundaries, including major streets, highways, railroad tracks, hills, and rivers. Next, look for anchor institutions—such as schools, hospitals, prisons, and military or recreational facilities—that are sources of power and decision making in the community and provide stability in moments of crisis. Finally, include gathering places, such as churches, parks, schools, service clubs, restaurants, taverns, and street corners.

The community’s people constitute a significant part of this analysis. To help you in this process, identify and gather a group to tell stories about the community. Include visual observations of the community by taking a quick drive or walk through the neighborhood, deliberately looking for the “invisible” people who are

marginalized and powerless. Finally, consider intangible forces, such as laws, cultural values, employment patterns, and job security.²

Conversational Mapping

Low-tech mapping can be informal and conversational. Paul Lichterman observed how a group of church volunteers used an informal mapping process to get to know the low-income neighborhood they served. The Park Cluster commuted monthly from their tree-lined suburban neighborhoods to the Park neighborhood, a multi-ethnic, low-income community. As they became more curious about neighborhood institutions, they began an informal process that the researcher labelled “social mapping.” Interviewees shared their stories: Ned talked about all the different thrift shops and Mary knew all about the local schools and could tell the group which ones had congregations and synagogues nearby that might be approached in the future to sponsor tutoring programs. Through their conversations, they carried around in their heads a shared mental map of the neighborhood, its resources, and its problems.³



“DOUG’S PAINSTAKING EFFORTS TO MAP ESSENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS WILL ENABLE US TO CONFRONT THE NEXT CRISIS WITHOUT SQUANDERING VALUABLE TIME SEARCHING FOR A DONUT SHOP!”

Digital Mapping

The recent emergence of wiki-platforms such as OpenStreetMap (OSM; OpenStreetMap.org) offers a place where interested persons can contribute to a single map, from assets such as grocery stores, banks, and thrift shops to hazards such as unshoveled sidewalks, reported crime incidents, and potholes. For church leaders willing to engage the newer forms of technology, wiki platforms offer churches a powerful community planning tool.⁴

Computer maps such as Google Maps are called geographic information systems⁵ and wiki-platforms such as OSM represent an open source version of Google Maps and are free for anyone to use or modify. Users can create overlays to the basemap provided by OSM, plugging in information they find useful for themselves. OSM applies the concept of crowdsourcing to mapmaking, operating in a manner comparable to Wikipedia, an encyclopedia whose contributors write and edit articles, subject to the review of other contributors who are part of the community. Church leaders could use online maps in at least two ways: for crisis response and for the mapping of communities too poorly resourced to have their own self-designed maps.

- **Crisis Response.** Mapping proved invaluable to aid workers in crisis response after the 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti. Given Haiti's poverty, humanitarian aid workers found themselves hampered by only knowing where the major roads were. Here "citizen geographers" from around the world proved invaluable, developing a base map for humanitarian aid workers in the field.
- **Community Assistance.** Churches could work with low-income neighborhoods to develop collaborative maps to benefit residents. For example, commercial map makers have shown little interest in mapping the Kibera community of Nairobi, Kenya, a massive and impoverished section of the city, despite the fact that it is home to hundreds of thousands of people. Users of OSM created Map Kibera, which now serves as a comprehensive guide to data that matters for residents, such as water points, toilets, clinics, schools, pharmacies, places of worship, and non-governmental organization offices.⁶

Collaborative Mapping

If collaborative mapping could work for Kibera, it could make a difference for the resource-starved communities that many US churches serve. Such communities often lack features that middle- and upper-middle-

class neighborhoods take for granted, including high-quality schools; jobs that pay a living wage; banks that offer reasonably priced, non-predatory loans; and supermarkets with adequate selections of fresh foods. In order to improve the situation, churches could collaborate with local resident groups to create a map with features such as food banks, thrift shops, transportation points, and grocery stores offering fresh produce. Such data could not only help service providers but also public policy advocates seeking to bring change.

Sponsor a Mapping Party

Church leaders hoping to raise awareness of collaborative work might consider sponsoring a mapping party. Use the event to train volunteers in developing digital maps. Volunteers could learn how to download aerial photos and alter them using web browser-based editing software. Volunteers who prefer to explore the neighborhood themselves could go out for a walk, a bike ride, or drive around the community using GPS units to mark their location and notepads to write down the information, coming back later to record the data on a computer.

Collaborative mapping requires teamwork but not high-end technology. However, those with a technical bent can use wiki-platforms such as OSM to create a specialized, self-generated community map. Whether high-tech or not, mapping provides a way for community members to develop a sense of place through visually representing different aspects of the community in relation to its geography. When undertaken with others, mapping provides one more basis for building community.

1. "The Several Forms of Community Mapping," *Best Practice Briefs* No. 3 1998-1999, Michigan State University, <http://outreach.msu.edu/capablecommunities/documents/CommunityMapping1.pdf>.

2. Carl S. Dudley, *Community Ministry: New Challenges, Proven Steps to Faith-Based Initiatives* (Bethesda, MD: Alban Institute, 2002), 22-50.

3. Paul Lichterman, *Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge America's Divisions* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005), 179.

4. Tina Nabatchi and Matt Leighninger, *Public Participation for 21st-Century Democracy* (Hoboken, NJ: Jossey-Bass, 2015), 272-73.

5. "GIS: Geographic Information System," National Geographic, June 21, 2017, <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/geographic-information-system-gis/>.

6. Sterling Quinn, "OpenStreetMap and Its Use as Open Data," <https://web.archive.org/web/20180609162822/https://www.e-education.psu.edu/geog585/node/738>.