

## **PRESBYTERY PRAYER PARTNERS**

### **May 2017**

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley encourages all our congregations to pray for each other throughout the year. Over a two-year period, a week will be designated for each of our churches and other organizations. Items listed below have been sent to us from the churches and organizations on our prayer list for the weeks shown. Sharing prayers with each other works!

**Note: The person who prepares your worship bulletins and/or church newsletters may request this information in a Word document from [bbsnyder22@gmail.com](mailto:bbsnyder22@gmail.com). It is also available on the POV website.**

**Week of May 7                                      Princeton Presbyterian Parish                                      Rev. J. H. Vanlal Hruaia**

The United and First Presbyterian Churches make up the Princeton Presbyterian Parish since 2015. At this time joint services are being held on an alternating basis at each church with a Contemporary Service on the third Sunday. The New Directions Committee comprised of members from each congregation plan and execute joint activities. Some of these activities held on a monthly basis are Family Fun Day on the third Sunday, a Free Community Meal on the second Saturday, a joint Bible Study on the first Sunday, and a Movie Night when there is a fifth Sunday in the month.

In working together the joint Sessions meet on a quarterly basis. We earnestly seek your prayers for our Parish to be an outreach in our community and for us to encourage and be a witness to all age groups.

**Week of May 14                                      [www.Transparent Church](http://www.TransparentChurch.com)                                      Rev. Larry Jackman**

POV has endorsed a “new worshipping community” of online gatherings of Christians, of seekers and of those who question. The purpose is to bring worship and community into places of isolation. This community was born of two overwhelming images. The first was that of a visitor in one of our churches. He was there on a laptop image and he was looking over the church by way of the camera view. Yet he was 200 miles away, in a hospital bed and completely unable to move. His life has been that bed for more than 10 years. He is a good and faithful man—just completely isolated. He is a metaphor for a number of isolating circumstances.

The second image, also about 10 years old now, was POV’s discussion of a New Church Development. That was going to be a completely traditional church start somewhere that met our goals and identity as Presbyterians. It did not happen, but if it had it would have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. It would have meant more bricks and mortar, a demand to raise money, a pressure to recruit members quickly, etc.

So, before the 1001 Worshipping Communities was even a part of the scene, an idea was born that we could begin a ‘church’ online for almost no money at all. It took a while, but the community is now started. We have a grant of less money than it would take for one person to do lunch daily at McDonalds for a year or so. That is likely to end up being more money than is actually needed. That would be the cost of having a church and a body of believers in support of each other and the world around them.

Development of the community began in January of 2017. Components that will come to pass are in sequential order: Bible discussion group, prayer gatherings, and 30 minute worship

gatherings. Eventually, the addition of “church basement” meetings—like 12 Step Meetings—are a part of the longer term vision.

Pray for the experiment and for those who are early joiners. Visit the experiment at [www.Transparent.Church](http://www.Transparent.Church) or on Facebook at ‘Transparently the Church’. Celebrate with us the capacity to generate community, worship together and penetrate the isolation of our world. When you visit know that you are in a place where, “everybody knows your name”. You are known and will be loved, by us and by God. And....there is nothing you can do about it.

**Week of May 21**

**Camp Pyoca**

**Rev. Jake Hofmeister, Exec. Director**

2016 marked our 64<sup>th</sup> year as a ministry of Whitewater Valley and Ohio Valley Presbyteries. It was also the Rev. Dr. Jacob Hofmeister’s second full year as Executive Director of this exceptional ministry. The year posited strong program offerings, including very successful summer camp and retreat seasons. Pyoca’s second annual High School Conference, keynoted by Rev. Mihee Kim-Kort, was a resounding success with over 70 high school attendees and 15 church staff and volunteers. The Rev. Jorge Sayago-Gonzalez led worship and music for the second year in a row for this fantastic event.

Pyoca’s 2016 program highlights include:

- This past summer, we hosted a total of 664 campers and volunteers.
- 253 of the residential campers and volunteers were split among the following rental camps: Southport Presbyterian Church’s Becomers Camp, Gemini Mission Camp, and Orchard Park Presbyterian’s programs including Camp Friendly, Jr. High Leadership, and EPIC.
- 252 campers and volunteers attended the four weeks of Pyoca summer camp programs, including our new Transform-Serve camp which focuses on volunteering, justice, and service at Pyoca and in the broader community.
- Pyoca hosted 1,344 overnight retreat guests and 762 day-use retreat guests, totaling 2,106. That’s an increase of almost 250 retreat guests from 2015.
- 92 volunteers from various work groups visited Pyoca, donating their time and effort to improve the camp facilities.

Please pray for:

- Volunteers and staff working to build our two new cabins.
- The Advisory Council and Master Planning team.
- The 2016 summer staff.
- All the campers and families.
- The staff of Whitewater and Ohio Valley Presbyteries and for their work to support Pyoca.

**Week of May 28**

**Fairview, Princeton**

**Rev. Larry Langer, Moderator of Session**