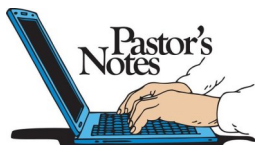




Inside Wayside

VOLUME 59, NO 2

February 2021



During the national events around January 20 on two occasions the hymn “Amazing Grace” was sung as a solo. Once, at the capitol mall reflecting pool in solemn honor for the many who have died from covid-19; and then at the inauguration ceremony. As Christians we understand that God has made a covenant of grace with humankind in Jesus Christ. “God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.” 2 Corinthians 2:19. This covenant God has made changes the world. The old ‘dog eat dog’ method of settling scores gives way to forgiveness and accountability in the light of the power and possibility of reconciliation: the broken pieces mended, the wobbly world set right on its axis. As we enter the season of Lent 2021, with Ash Wednesday on February 17, let’s focus on this covenant of grace in which we are held and the promise it has for us and our world. “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see.”

In these pages you will learn about a Lenten study on Forgiveness and how you may become part of a small group to learn and equip yourself to know and to be about forgiveness, a gift from God.

The session of Wayside is hopeful that, if virus infection numbers continue to go lower, and vaccinations continue to increase, in-person worship may resume. When that decision is made a letter will be sent out. Online worship continues, circle meetings, Sunday School and studies, and fellowship opportunities online. Members and friends continue to reach out to each other – phone calls, notes and cards make a big difference. We continue to pray for each other’s health and the health of our neighbors and our world.

Grace and peace to you all,

James Bernhardt

The Inreach Fund

This is money set aside to assist Wayside members and friends who face an unanticipated need.

To make a request, contact James or Nathan. Confidentiality is assured.

Thoughts on Hymns of Hope and Trust

One of America's best known and greatest retailer J.C. Penny descended from a long line of Baptist ministers. His business was suffering as the Great Depression had come upon the country and as his business deteriorated so did his mental and physical health.

He felt he had nothing to live for and fell into a state of deep despair, unable to see any hope in his future.

During one of his hospitalizations he heard the hymn "God Will Take Care of You" being sung in the hospital's chapel. He suddenly felt lifted from his dark world "lifted into warm, bright sunlight."

From that day he stated that he was no longer plagued with worries and anxiousness.

The words of the hymn were written by Civilla Martin wife of Walter Martin who composed the music. It is a hymn of hope and trust that states :

"Be not dismayed what e're betide, God will take care of you. Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you.

God will take care of you. Thro' every day, O'er all the way, He will take care of you, God will take care of you.

Another hymn whose words were also written by Civilla Martin gives us hope and strength as we struggle through these difficult and challenging times. "His Eye is on the Sparrow" simply states "When song gives way to sighing, When hope within me dies, I draw the closer to Him, From care He sets me free...His Eye is on the Sparrow and I Know He Watches Me."

Psalm 56:11

In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid.



ASH WEDNESDAY: February 17

Drive-Thru and Online Components

Ash Wednesday will be different this year, but this gives us an opportunity to observe this day in interesting new ways, integrating both a drive-thru component and an online worship service.

Drive-thru shifts will be at 7:30-8:30am and 4:30-5:30pm. At the drive-thru, you will receive the imposition of ashes, communion elements for the online worship service, and a stack of devotional cards that can be used for individual reflection or family discussion throughout the Lenten season (see "Lenten Devotional Cards" article). We will also have "Lent in a bag" (an article on this is also in the newsletter) for families with children or youth. The online service will be on both Facebook and the Wayside YouTube page that morning and can be watched throughout the day; the Lord's Supper will be celebrated.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL CARDS

The Lenten season presents an opportunity to slow down and re-center in the presence and love of God. For this year's Lent, Wayside is providing a stack of 48 devotional cards for families and individuals: one for each day from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. ***Devotionals will be available at the Ash Wednesday drive-thru on February 17 at 7:30-8:30am and 4:30-5:30pm.*** *Contemplate the word you select each day, trusting that it is exactly what you need for that moment. Then read the short scripture, reflection prompts, and prayer on the back of the card. Cards can be used for personal devotion time or for conversation and prayer for the whole family. This daily devotional is appropriate for all ages.*

Cards can then be displayed creatively as reminders throughout the day: on the refrigerator, in a Mason jar, or you can create a wall hanging or table arrangement with them. May each card be a reminder of God's faithfulness and the invitation extended to all of us to be a part of God's purposes.



LENT IN A BAG FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

For At-Home Devotional and our Sunday Morning Children's Meet-Up

For the journey of Lent, Wayside is offering children and their families "Lent in a Bag." For each week, a different physical object is pulled out with an explanation, reflection question, and prayer. These objects will also be the basis for our discussion and lesson for our Sunday morning meet-ups at 9am for the season of Lent.

The bags will be available at the Ash Wednesday drive-thru, but alternative arrangements can be made by contacting nathan@wayside-erie.org

WAYOUTH FOR FEBRUARY

A fellowship for 6th-12th graders

February 3 at 5:30—Online Gathering

*Personal Reflection: Peace with self and others

February 17, 4:30-5:30—Helping with Ash Wednesday Drive-Thru, followed by devotional and prayer time.

WOW CLUB FOR FEBRUARY

A fellowship for 2nd-5th graders.

During Covid, WOW Club is meeting virtually. Each week features a story and lesson, games, and time to share. The group will be meeting via Zoom on February 10th and 24th at 4:00PM.

If you do not receive emails that share the Zoom link for these meetings, please contact nathan@wayside-erie.org

Want to be more connected to God and to the others at Wayside during Lent?

If you miss your Wayside friends or the spiritual connections of worshipping together, if you are lonely or feel isolated or long for personal connections from others outside of your quarantine group, I encourage you to consider participating in a 6-week Wayside Lenten study.

Wayside is offering and encouraging everyone in the church to participate in a 6-week bible study during Lent. We are offering different options on various days and times of day to accommodate as many people as possible. Unfortunately, it will still need to be virtual but even spending time with people via zoom or on the phone is spiritually uplifting.

Our study this year will be based on the book "[Forgiveness: A Lenten Study. Marjorie Thompson](#)" Even if you can't attend or attend every week, I would encourage you to buy the book (available from <https://www.christianbook.com/>).

The study groups will occur: Tuesday mornings 10 am hosted by Nathan Royster, Thursdays 7 pm hosted by Karen Haas, Friday 7pm hosted by Gregg Rabenold, Tuesday 7 pm hosted by James Bernhardt.

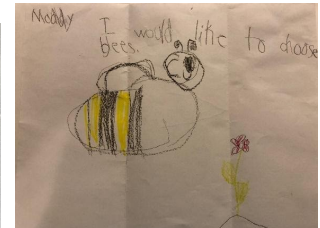
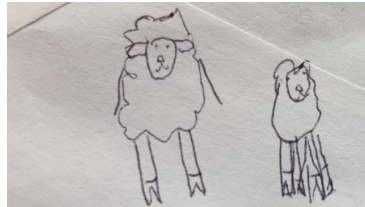
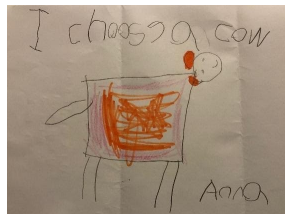
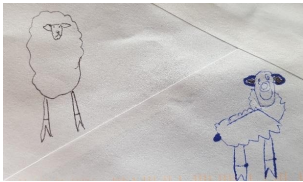
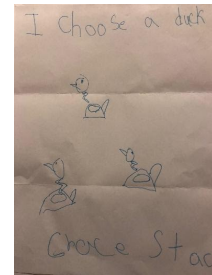
I know you're busy, but it is only 6 weeks and I am also sure that if you make the time, the experience will be incredibly rewarding. Please email Gregg.rabenold@gmail.com or nathan@wayside-erie.org if you would like to participate or if you have any questions.

Wayside Children Select Animals to Donate to Heifer International

Wayside Presbyterian Women, along with a few individual donors, will donate a total of \$725.00 to purchase animals for Heifer International. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicines, school, food, and a sustainable livelihood. The children selected the following animals to be purchased:

The top animals selected were **bees** (4 sets \$120), **sheep** (1 -\$120), and a **flock of chicks** (4 sets-\$80). Other animals selected were **goat** (1-\$120), **heifer** (1 share \$50), **ducks** (1 \$20), **pig** (4 shares \$40), **alpaca** (1-\$150), and **water buffalo** (1 share \$25).

Thanks to the children for helping select these awesome animals that will help change lives



Blanket Sunday Update

We are off to a good start, but we have a long way to go! To date we received donations for 41 blankets. **That means we have 59 blankets to go to meet our goal of 100.** Please consider donating to Blanket Sunday. You can make a check out to Wayside Presbyterian Women and mail it to church (mark Blanket Sunday in the memo area) or use the e-giving portal for Wayside - Category Presbyterian Women - subcategory - Blanket Sunday. Thank you for considering this worthwhile mission project!

What others are saying about CWS Blankets:

"When you are staying in a temporary shelter something as simple as a CWS soft blanket to keep you warm can provide you with a little piece of comfort and dignity" Rev. Terry Kukuk Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley.



GENEROSITY THOUGHTS

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Share with those in need. Romans 12:12-13



What does it mean to be generous? Is it being kind... big-hearted... giving... charitable... unstinting? Yes, it does signify all that and more.

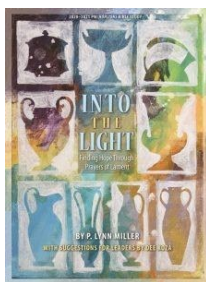
Waysiders, you have demonstrated your understanding of that attribute during all the challenges we faced in 2020 and the Generosity Committee feels blessed to be serving among such faithful people. Our Generosity theme for last year was found in the above Scripture verses and you have lived those words. You have been *joyful in hope* (symbolized by our anchor of hope), *patient in affliction* (that's certainly been difficult, hasn't it?), and *faithful in prayer*. You have shared with those in need, as evidenced by your support of time, talent and treasure for our church's ministry and mission and we are grateful for your sustained commitment to living out those words. Thank you.

In the coming year we are asked to continue to be a generous people, as many challenges remain. We pray that as followers of Christ we all resolve to intentionally cultivate generosity in its many forms. We encourage our congregation to keep its eyes and ears open for opportunities to listen to one another's beliefs, ideas, concerns and needs, and then to act out our faith's call to respond in Christian compassion. God's blessings be upon all of us in the days ahead.

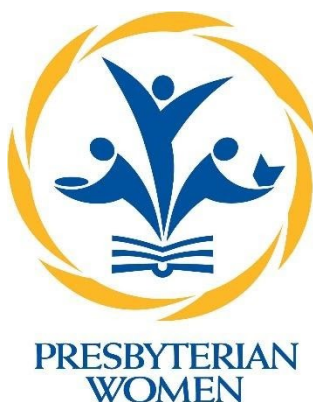


Thank you so much to everyone for your generous response to this year's Deacons' Angel Tree project. Our COVID-adapted project was a success. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to help children both at Community Shelter Services and at Perseus House. Through your donations, we were able to give families at Community Shelter Services \$1630 in gift cards. Additionally, numerous games, books, sports gear, puzzles, hat, gloves, etc were donated to the 17- youth at two of Perseus House's residential facilities. A \$550 check also was sent to Perseus House consisting of the remaining donations so that they may purchase other items to support the youth. Both agencies were extremely grateful.

Thank you again!



The Sophia Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. via zoom on Tuesday February 16th. We will be studying Lesson 6 - Lament Over the City. The focus Scripture is Lamentations 5:1-22, Luke 23:26-31. The main idea is the destruction of the constructed environment is cause for lament. All women are welcome to join us. Email Karen Haas karenhaas79@gmail.com if you want a zoom invite.



Presbyterian Women recently mailed a 2021 Program Booklet and a request to contribute \$20 or more to help fulfill our challenging mission budget. **Donations can be made out to Wayside Presbyterian Women** and mailed to the church or you can give on the church's e-giving portal (category Presbyterian Women and subcategory extra giving). **All contributions are greatly appreciated!**

Presbyterian Women will hold their 1st Quarter Business Meeting via zoom on Sunday February 7th at 1:00 pm. All women are welcome to join in!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://eriesd-org.zoom.us/j/8942999182>

Meeting ID: 894 299 9182 - One tap mobile +16468769923,,8942999182# US (New York)

Presbyterian Women's 2021 Churchwide Gathering will be held August 5–8, 2021 in St. Louis, Missouri!

The theme for the Gathering is **"Rejoice in Hope"** based on Romans 12:12–13, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers."

Save the date! More info to follow. Hopefully, several Wayside Presbyterian Women will be able to attend this event!

Wayside PW Donations

At the beginning of each year, we contribute any money that exceeded our budgeted amounts. This past year due to the pandemic we were not able to hold our scheduled Rummage Sale and Christmas Cookie Tray Sale. We did receive donations from our annual "Mission Giving & You" request and an additional extra-giving request, but no excess funds were available. In the fall, PW voted to use reserve funds and contribute \$300 to the following 6 organizations: Daystar Awareness Prison Ministry, Vision for the Poor, Mercy Center, The Refuge, Ghana Partnership with Lake Erie Presbytery and The Red Cross NWPA. PW will continue our efforts to be a mission driven organization!

This month Sophia Circle studied Lamenting Life -sometimes it is life, rather than death, that is cause for lament. The focus scripture was Job 3:1-4, 9-19, 24-26. Here is our lament:

I am living in the dark night of the soul.
Life seems chaotic and I am uncertain and weak.
Listening God, be patient with me
and hear my sorrows.
I am a child of God. Hold me in your love.

Our group also was moved by a quote that Mary Marsh shared with us.
I am God's child, safe in God's care.
God's truth, God's love is everywhere.
No earth-born strife, no ocean wild
can conquer me. I am God's child.



Birthdays of the Month

Kerry Moyer	2-Feb
Claus Fuchs	3-Feb
Maely Gehrlein	3-Feb
Grace Melaragno	3-Feb
Tim Feltmeyer	4-Feb
Evan Grimm	4-Feb
Georgia Del Frio	5-Feb
Leanne Keibler	5-Feb
Brooke Weaver	5-Feb
Colin Hurley	7-Feb
Jean Huckelbery	8-Feb
Lindsay Kopac	8-Feb
Ryan Marsh	8-Feb
Carol Stamm	8-Feb
Nathan Royster	9-Feb
LESLIE Weber	9-Feb
Brian Zimmerman	10-Feb
Ashley Behn	12-Feb
Genevieve Feltmeyer	13-Feb
Hillary Skala	13-Feb

Sheldan Moelk	14-Feb
Cindy Grode	15-Feb
Jared Stern	15-Feb
Leslie Momeyer	16-Feb
Jim Allman	17-Feb
Jared Parker	17-Feb
Hayley Coyne	18-Feb
Pat Fish	18-Feb
Greg Sbrocco	18-Feb
Emma Lewis	20-Feb
Logan Mitten	22-Feb
Cindy Clark-Wilcox	23-Feb
Brian Buseck	24-Feb
Edythe Endean	25-Feb
Beckie Jackson	26-Feb
Ashley Lewis	26-Feb
Katherine Potocki	26-Feb
Maxwell Wallace	26-Feb
Elaine Brinling	28-Feb
Paul Carpenedo	28-Feb
Brian McGill	28-Feb



Marion & Robert	
Gallivan	3-Feb
Gary & Linda Behn	14-Feb
Mark & Gwen Smith	14-Feb
Hadley & Barbara	
Jones	20-Feb

Greetings Waysiders,

As this crazy year of 2020 found me turning 90, I have to say that your cards, calls, and short visits confirmed how very blessed I am to have been so remembered on my 90th birthday. You have really touched my heart and I thank you all so very much for your kindness.

Warmest Regards,

Annette Rothschild

(Originally meant for the January news.)





WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

February 7 5th Sunday After Epiphany Holy Communion
Isaiah 40:21-31
Mark 1:29-39 "Tikkun Olam – Healing the World"

February 14 Transfiguration Sunday
Mark 9:2-9 "That's How the Light Gets In"

February 17 Ash Wednesday
"What Rises From the Ashes"

February 21 Lent 1
Genesis 9:8-17
1 Peter 3:18-22 The Baptismal Covenant

February 28 Lent 2
"What We Owe to Each Other"
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 and Mark 8:31-39

ISSUES OF FAITH

Please join us for Issues of Faith this month as we continue to explore issues about faith, social justice, and human relationships.

February 7, Maria Garase, Ph.D., Chair, Criminal Justice Department, Mercyhurst University.
"Restorative Justice and Incarceration"

February 14, TBD

February 21, Tori Troncone, Second Harvest Food Bank, "Hunger in Erie"

February 28, Jay Breneman, Ph.D. student, educator, and former County Council member,
"Community Health - opportunities after the pandemic"

The link is:

<https://mercyhurst-edu.zoom.us/j/99547307610?pwd=bUI0NGgzbmZzQ3lFMVE0YTBtY2M1UT09>

Meeting ID: 995 4730 7610

Passcode: wayside

BUDGET BYTES from the Budget Committee

February is the month of love with Valentine's Day coming up, but truly 2020 was a year of love for the mission and ministry of Wayside Church. Through a year of challenge and physical separation due to the pandemic, Waysiders showed heart in their love for one another and for those in the greater community who desperately needed our attention.

Because this is an accounting of our financial response in 2020, let us focus on that aspect. For a more detailed explanation (even longer than this article!) please refer to Wayside's Annual Report as presented online at the Congregational Meeting in January. We began the year with a deficit budget of (\$11K) and ended the year in the red by only (\$539). That is an amazing statistic and this is how it happened.

December, traditionally a month of high receipts, showed a shortfall of \$20K, giving us a shortage of (\$24K) in total receipts for the year. In just the major line items of pledged and unpledged gifts, we collectively received \$479K in 2020 versus the budgeted \$499K. Additionally, almost \$9K in pledges were postmarked 12/31/20 but not included in that figure because we had not physically received those monies by that date. We run on a cash basis and could not therefore include it in our year-end accounting, although members are able to declare those contributions on their year-end statement for tax credit purposes. If that's too much detail for you, here's what that simply means: if we had been able to include that \$9K figure in our total receipts, we would have seen a 2020 shortfall of only (\$11K) in receipts, or 2%, during a pandemic. That's impressive.

Let's look at the other side of the equation: expenses. All departments/committees, except for Outreach, were under budget due to the nature of the year: the building itself was basically closed, if not the ongoing work of the church. We had a savings of \$7K in building expenses which even included an unanticipated expenditure of \$8K for safety/sanitary expenses due to COVID-19. Significant savings of \$6K were seen from unused continuing education and car allowances for our pastors and a salary savings of \$12K came from Nathan's late start. Furthermore, the fact that Outreach was not down (total Mission Giving for 2020 was \$49K) is a good thing because it reflected our support of those in need both within our Erie community and in the world beyond. Our total savings in expenses for the year was \$34K.

That's the long and short of it for 2020, financially speaking. However, the true picture is one of a God who has blessed Wayside's work in so many unanticipated ways during a year of trial and heartache as well as joys. Our 2021 Budget with a projected deficit of (\$20,824) was approved at the Congregational Meeting. We have our work cut out for us, as the saying goes. Let us resolve to faithfully follow and serve our Lord and Savior, confident that we are safe in God's hands wherever and however we are lead in the year to come.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dec Rev	\$36,427.89
YTD Rev	\$515,378.28
Dec Exp	\$42,032.43'
YTD Exp	\$515,917.02

Please remember
to keep your pledge up to date.
Thank you.

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Associate Pastor

Music Director

Sexton

Financial Secretary

Administrative Assistant

Newsletter Collating Team:

Sally DeWitt, Shirley Diller, Jane Hess, Louise Martin, Jan McEllroy,
Annette Rothschild, Helen Smith, Wilma Valentz

WEST MILLCREEK FOOD PANTRY

Requested items for March

*Tuna, canned spaghetti, spaghetti and sauce, mac & cheese,
peanut butter, cereal, baked beans and soup.*

*All non-perishable items including diapers, feminine hygiene
products and pet food are always welcome.*

*Remember: West Millcreek Food Pantry is **NOT** a member of
the Second Harvest Foodbank.*

All donations are received directly from volunteers like you.

Checks may be made out to

"West Millcreek Food Pantry"



WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

Are temporarily postponed until further notice.



Fellowship Meal

WELCOME

***"I will show love to those who were called unloved and, to those who were called 'not-my-people',
I will say 'you are my people' and they will answer, 'you are our God'." (Hosea 2:23)***

Wayside Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) is a place where the mind is nourished as well as the spirit, and where we affirm the dignity and worth of every person. As we are all created in the image of God, we believe discrimination is incompatible with Christ's Gospel of unconditional love. While we celebrate our Presbyterian identity, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. We invite conversations that move us to seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit.

Be who you are and be welcome here.

**If you would like to receive your newsletter
(in color) by e-mail, please contact Katie at
833-7653 or wpc@wayside-erie.org.**

DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER:

February 18, 2021