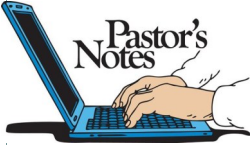


Inside Wayside

VOLUME 59, NO 3

March 2021



Dear Friends in Faith,

This is a moment in time that the answer to the question, “what are you giving up for Lent?” might evoke a sharp and angry response. Haven’t we given up enough? Good grief! Concerned that this text begins to sound cliché I almost hesitated to go there, but Micah:6:8, always an important text, seems quite timely for this Lenten season. “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

A few years ago when I was on staff for the Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference the theme was based on this passage. The leadership very creatively used the verbs for the theme, so it was “Do, Love, Walk”. In contrast to “giving up” something for Lent, these words are a call to be about the life of faith in Lent, to daily engage our faith in Christ and the way Christ has shown us.

In her sermon for Anita’s installation as the General Presbyter for Lake Erie Presbytery, Rev. Bobbi White told the story of how in a part of Kenya where she once interned the Christians practice a way of greeting that begins with a definition, “I am James, (or your name), and I am a follower of Jesus Christ.” A man told Bobbi that this was how he and his wife started the day to set the path for the day ahead. He told her it defined his actions and redefined the things that happened to him and the encounters with others. Do. Love. Walk.

Stuck as we continue to be in this pandemic, whether or not we have been fortunate to receive inoculation, we are not really stuck. We are called and we are able to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God, from within our homes, in an actual or virtual workspace or classroom, and as we lean forward in hope and envision the future, where surely God is already present and waiting for us expectantly – that we may journey there, and arrive there: Doing. Loving. Walking.

Grace and Peace to you,

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.



Transition in the Church Office

Our church administrative assistant, Katie De Pew, is leaving Wayside to take another job. Her last day was February 26. The Personnel Committee is working to review and then post the position. If you wish to send word of farewell to Katie please send to the church, wpc@wayside-erie.org and your message will be forwarded to her. If you wish further information or know someone who might wish to be a candidate for the position please contact James Bernhardt, james@wayside-erie.org.

Reopening

"When, O when shall we resume in-person worship?" This is a question that is within the prayers of many and the under the scrutiny of the church leadership. During this past year we have been led by the use of "an abundance of caution" as the rule. The elders have sought to be safe in the pandemic, to care for the health of the congregation and staff and to care about the health of the community of which we are a part. In months to come no one will regret caution that maintained safety even if for now we hurt and long for reunion. The patience of everyone is very much appreciated and highly valued as the elders seek to be guided by wisdom and knowledge. When in-person worship is scheduled everyone will be included in a mailing to announce that and to provide information to guide us.

Holy Week and Easter

At present the plan is for online worship on Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. The online format does permit a level of participation and creativity that the present situation cannot permit in-person in the same way. If there is any change to the plan, the church will know as soon as possible.

V E V		Z P J
V I P A R G		P X T Q M V
V H Z R E Y A R P		W B I L V K T U T
C E L P R U P P P		G B W A Y O U T H
N U D P C S P A U Q		O J U B J E S U S O
L F Y U N Y O L C Z		O H C R A M L O V E
X B D P T W P M Q G Y	I D N O F V W T C P N	
J N E W C A S B Y A D S E N D E W H S A Q A		
F A Q W B U C A I J H O N E D I S Y A W		
C X C N O B X Z R L C X W E C		
D P B X D E C M W		
C U A C Q S U N D B E R G		
X C K Y C O R G Y R E L M C B		
W W V V W K B N I D K M P T A K B T B		
Y M W J Y C T D R A H N R E B C E D D G I		
H P P Q M N P I H S W O L L E F A Y S A O		
D Z P T E T C M S D K W L B U L C W O W K Q Z		
E C I F I R C A S X W F F F K P Z T V J U		
L E N T Z I I Q G W F E Z W M S A F J X J		
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LENT

JESUS

PALM SUNDAY

PURPLE

EASTER

SACRIFICE

ASH WEDNESDAY

PRAYER

LOVE

WAYSIDE

WAYOUTH

WOW CLUB

BERNHARDT

FELLOWSHIP

MARCH



EASTER EGG HUNT: This Year's Eggsperience

This year's Eggsperience will be Sunday, March 28th (Palm Sunday). Families with children can come anytime between 1:30n and 2:30 to hunt for eggs on the Wayside property and receive a take-home Easter craft. We hope to see you then!

SLEDDING AT FRONTIER PARK: Sunday, March 7 @ 11am-12:30pm

Both children and youth are invited to a time of sledding and refreshments at Frontier Park on Sunday, March 7th at 11am. We will meet in the 6th street parking lot of LEAF (next to the tennis courts) for breakfast pastries and a brief devotional service before hitting the hills of Frontier Park. Hot beverages will also be available to warm up.

If there is no snow on March 7th, we will postpone to the next Sunday with adequate snow.

WAYOUTH SCHEDULE

Along with the sledding event on March 7th, WaYouth will have opportunity to help with this year's *Eggsperience* by stuffing eggs and hiding them for children's egg hunt. An email will go out to families and youth to decide on the best time for stuffing eggs, but we will also meet at 12:30 on March 28^h to hide eggs for that day's hunt.

WOW CLUB

Along with the sledding event on March 7th, WOW Club will have a Zoom meet-up on Wednesday, March 17th at 4:00.

PALM SUNDAY DRAMA

For the church's Palm/Passion Sunday service (March 28th), Pastor Nathan is looking for children, youth, and families to willing to record dramatic presentations of the events of Holy Week at home. Costume distribution will be on Wednesday, March 17th at 5:30pm at Wayside. Please contact Pastor Nathan by Monday, March 8th if you would like to participate.

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS

As this is being written, I am thinking about the *generosity of time, talent and effort that was reflected in yesterday's Wayside Ash Wednesday observance. Even though as a congregation we were separated because of the pandemic's ongoing disruption, our staff and many volunteers, young and not as young, generously contributed to offering us a meaningful way to observe this most holy of days. The carefully thought-out distribution of ashes, Communion juice, creatively presented Lenten devotion cards, and prayer card occurred in frigid, snowy weather in our parking lot. The online service, filled with beautiful music and thoughtful prayers and messages enabled us to share a special worship experience in the warmth of our homes, together in spirit if not together in our sanctuary.*

Thank you for embodying what it means to *give in addition to our financial gifts. We are thankful for your living examples of generosity.*

The Generosity Committee

"GINNY STORIES"

As many of you know by now, we are grieving the loss of our dear Ginny Sundberg. Ginny touched so many lives at Wayside and far beyond. The family told their own stories directly to Ginny via several Zoom gatherings last December. Because there will be no opportunity to share other "Ginny stories" with the family at the funeral home due to the ongoing pandemic, we want to capture those stories in writing while they are fresh in your mind. If you have a recollection (or recollections) about Ginny to share, please send them to mmarsh43@gmail.com or mail them to me, Mary Marsh, 6680 Knollwood Drive, Fairview PA 16415. Feel free to pass along this request to anyone whom you think might want to contribute to the project. If possible, please send your stories to me by March 31. Your collective memories of Ginny will mean so much to our family, now and in the years to come. Thank you.

Sophia Circle Lament

The book of Lamentations consists of five distinct poems, corresponding to its five chapters. The first four poems are written as acrostics. Chapters 1, 2 and 4 each have 22 verses, corresponding to the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Chapter 1 uses standard alphabetic order. We wrote our lament for lesson 6 based on the "Lament Over the City" theme (we were thinking about our city of Erie) and following the acrostic and alphabetical order style of Lamentations.

With these hands Lord we pray for:

Acknowledgement of our divisiveness

Bold action

Children of our city

Dependence on you, O God

Empathy for the suffering

With these hands Lord we pray for:

Faith in our community

Gratitude for gifts of the spirit

Healing

Initiative to change

Justice for all and joy in our hearts

With these hands Lord we pray for:

Kindness

Listening to and loving our neighbor

Mercy

Now rather than later

Open hearts

With these hands Lord we pray for:

Peace

Quality of life

Respect for differences

Strength to move forward

Trust in you

With these hands Lord we pray for:

Understanding

Visions for a unified city

Welcoming hearts

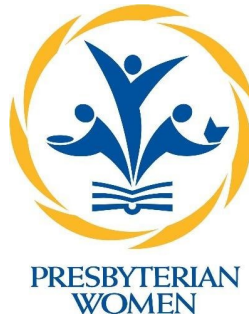
Xtra patience

Yearning for guidance

Zest for life

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.

The Sophia Circle will meet via zoom at 7:00 pm on Tuesday March 16th, Rita Brown will lead us in Lesson 7 ""Creation Laments" . All women are welcome to join us! Please contact Karen Haas if you'd like to be sent a zoom invite.



PW “Mission Giving and You”

In late January PW sent out a “Mission Giving and You” Fundraising request along with our annual PW Program. **We are happy to report that to date 45 women made donations and we received over \$2,000.** Thank you for a great response ladies!! There is still time to give. Please send a check made out to Wayside Presbyterian Women or give on the church e-giving portal - select the category Presbyterian Women – subcategory extra giving. Your donations help PW fulfill their mission projects!

PW Program Corrections

We apologize for some errors in our pink 2021 PW Program Booklet, please make the following corrections:

Nicki Jares – correct telephone number is 840-4477.

Please also add the following names to the Elizabeth Circle:

Nancy Ebinger 833-0791, Jane Hess 838-1803, Barb Jones 454-7623, Linda McFarland-Boyd 323-6798, and Marilyn Spensley 833-0216.

Please add Nancy Ebinger to the Lunch Bunch.

Bread For The World – April Offering of Letters

Please get ready in April to participate in an offering of letters to our legislators that will urge them to support legislation that addresses hunger issues. An article will appear in the April Newsletter and you will also receive notification via church email. This year because of the pandemic we are asking that you download the letters, (you also could handwrite your letter) print them out – **add a personal comment** and then mail your letters. The letter you download will include the address for your legislator (If Mike Kelly is not your Representative please write and send to Glen Thompson).

Hunger issues are more relevant than ever because of the pandemic. Getting enough food is a problem for many Americans, and people all over the world, especially for families living in poverty. Please make the decision to take the extra effort and write letters this year.

PW - Heifer International Project

The children did a great job selecting animals! Two more pictures were submitted. It is great to see the children learning about such a life changing mission project!



We Met Our Goal!!



Presbyterian Women set a goal of donating 100 blankets. It took a few weeks, but we are excited to share that we exceeded our goal! Your generosity is amazing! **We were able to donate enough to purchase 130 blankets!!** The blankets we donate represent our compassion for our brothers and sisters. With the blankets we send our love and our witness to the presence of God's divine nature in our world. THANK YOU for your fantastic support!

An important update on the 2021 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

Dear Presbyterian Women, now is the time in our Gathering journey to swerve.

"Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the uncertainty of vaccination distribution, the current state of the virus (including new variants that are more contagious), the Administration Committee, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc., regrettably, has canceled the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, which was to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, in August 2021."

Birthdays of the Month

Alice Edwards 1-Mar
 Kent Jacoby 1-Mar
 Heidi Utley 2-Mar
 Austin Jewell 3-Mar
 Isaiah Pentz 3-Mar
 Reed Catrabone 5-Mar
 Jan McEllroy 5-Mar
 Tom Momeyer 5-Mar
 Pattie Pora 5-Mar
 Harry Eighmy 9-Mar
 Lee Gehrlein 9-Mar
 Andrea Jacoby 10-Mar
 Mary Marsh 10-Mar
 Patrick Callahan 11-Mar
 Colin Potocki 11-Mar
 Gary Christensen 13-Mar
 Eva Duska 13-Mar
 Jill Gomes 13-Mar
 Bethany Baney 14-Mar
 Hannah Hutzelman 14-Mar

Barb Richardson
 Chris Hoyt
 Joan Moore
 Justice Severance

Anita Bernhardt
 Mackenzie Pora
 Karen Sundberg
 Roman Bojewski
 Cheryl Sealy
 Staci McGill
 Emily McGuire
 Kylie Sundberg
 Jennifer Taylor
 Carrie Bastow
 Ramon Watkins
 Mardy Marsh
 Betsey Miller
 Joey Kocan
 Nolan Martin
 Nathan Latimer
 Jeff Brinling

14-Mar
 16-Mar
 16-Mar
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 24-Mar
 24-Mar
 25-Mar
 26-Mar

Matt McGill 26-Mar
 Jill Wallace 27-Mar
 Aaron Garrity 28-Mar
 Scott Jackson 28-Mar
 Christian Sundberg 28-Mar
 Barbara Trisket 30-Mar
 Pam Weaver 30-Mar
 Mike Anderson 31-Mar
 Caroline Bond 31-Mar
 Sami Wismer 31-Mar



Jim & Mardy Marsh

1-Mar





WORSHIP IN MARCH



March 7 - Lent 3

Exodus 10:1-17 (selected)

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 The Foolishness of People and God

March 14 - Lent 4

Numbers 21:4-9

John 3:14-21

God's Healing of the World

March 21 - Lent 5

Jeremiah 31:31-34

John 12:20-33

The New Covenant

March 28 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Philippians 2:5-11

BUDGET BYTES from the Budget Committee

Last month's Budget Bytes included a rather detailed accounting of how we ended 2020, financially speaking. We told you that by God's grace we began last year with a deficit budget of (\$11K) and ended the year in the red by only (\$539). Amazing news, indeed.

This month's article, in contrast to last month's, will present a very brief picture of our financial position as of the close of January. Our 2021 budget is unbalanced again, this time carrying a (\$20K) deficit, which includes the necessity of using a \$30K transfer in from prior years' surplus funds. This means that we are projecting the need to use old savings to supplement our current year's operations, as our 2021 pledge campaign total was not enough to meet this year's projected expenses.

But fear not, as you read the observation from Karen Pastewka, our Financial Secretary, in her recent report to the Trustees and Session: "However, one thing we have learned over these last several years: Waysiders are always up for a challenge."

May we be up for this 2021 challenge, pandemic or not, trusting in God to lead the way. Wayside's ongoing ministry and mission depend on it. *"So be strong and take heart, all you who put your hope in the LORD!" (Psalm 31:24)*



FINANCIAL REPORT

Jan Rev \$61,114.00

Jan Exp \$48,678.80

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

WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.wayside-erie.org

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The Reverend Nathan Royster
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Dawn Weborg

David Sickles

Karen Pastewka

steward@wayside-erie.org

wpc@wayside-erie.org

Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
828-381-6582 (cell)

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 April

*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 833-
7653 or wpc@wayside-erie.org.**

DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER:

March 12, 2021