

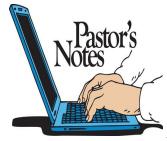
# Inside Wayside

VOLUME 60, NO. 7 July 2021

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My sisters and brothers in Christ,

One of the lessons Jesus teaches that is consistently important to me is when he says, "Unless you change and become like children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3) What I hear in his words is a challenge to the deadly seriousness with which we seem to consider

everything these days; and the invitation to a sense of wonder. In the past few days I have seen and heard children going about their lives. The children next door to us had a birthday party with a bounce house and I believe those little girls and their friends talked at the top of their voices for about 15 hours having the best time. Their parents reported that the children were tuckered out after all that. I would think so from their voices alone, but I could see little ones running up the hill and back over and over in boundless energy many times throughout the day.

I see photos on social media this week of children with parents and cousins and friends at the sea shore, at the lake, at Indians and Pirates games, on boats, in kayaks, on hikes, with cicadas in their hands, looking at snakes, making s'mores, reading, being read to, doing gymnastics, playing with pets, fishing, camping, biking, building with Legos and it is only June! At last are photos of these same young people zonked totally out on a couch with arms and legs all akimbo, worn out from a full day.

"Unless you change and become like a child..." I know, I can't imagine going full out all day, but, I remember when I did, and I remember the complete embrace of life and not wanting to miss a thing. How, as we grow older, can we keep the sense of wonder that allows the world and the people and all the good in it to be a constantly creating thing before which we stand in awe? It is a disarming way to live because it is freeing. In wonder we are permitted to be free and all that is before us is also free in itself. Even in our responsibilities and our tasks we can be full of wonder. In our sadness and in our challenges there is something different to be had with a sense of wonder.

Something there is about the kingdom of heaven that is only accessible to us with childlike wonder. I challenge you, and I challenge myself, to daily, even if only for a moment, let wonder in. See if perhaps you may cultivate what was once so natural to you as a child. And watch for the kingdom of heaven to be revealed in wonderful ways.

Grace and peace to you in all things,

**James** 

#### UPDATE ON WORSHIP AND BUILDING USE

At a meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 the Reopening Committee revisited Wayside's current plans and procedures for building use and worship. Given the most recent CDC and Commonwealth updates on the percentages of citizens vaccinated for COVID-19 and changes to mask and social distancing requirements, the committee recommended the following which was approved by the Session on June 9, 2021:

- \* Understanding that masks still provide a high measure of safety, all who wish to wear a mask while in the building and/or in worship are welcome and encouraged to do so.
- \* Persons who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 are required to wear a mask in the building and in worship until further notice.
- \* Persons who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 are not required to wear a mask in the building or in worship.
- \* Worshipers will no longer be asked to register to attend worship.
- \* Measures for social distancing in worship will be lifted.
- \* Mandatory sign-in for all building visitors shall remain in place, except at times of regular or special worship services.
- \* Congregational prayers, responses and hymn and choral singing in worship will recommence.
- \* Other practices within worship that have been curtailed may resume over the coming months at the discretion of the pastors (for example, children coming to the front for the Gospel for All God's Children). Non-contact options will be available where practical.
- \* Nursery/childcare shall resume with the requirement that all paid staff and volunteers be vaccinated for COVID.
- \* These changes apply to all weekday building use, including but not limited to clergy and staff, building visitors, IU5, AA, Al-Anon, Hands All Across Erie Quilters, Scouts, AAUW, Sewing Group, Church Committees, youth and children education and fellowship, and PW meetings and Circles.
- \* Hand sanitizer and other enhanced hygiene practices emphasized during the pandemic will continue to be made available.
- \* Online worship will continue.

These changes became effective June 10, 2021 and are subject to change as CDC and Commonwealth requirements and guidance continue to evolve.

# WAYOUTH NEWS

#### **Erie Playhouse Fundraiser**

July 9-11, 6:00-9:00



In conjunction with Erie Playhouse's production of *Into the Woods* in Wayside's backfield, WaYouth will be hosting a concession stand the nights of July 9-11 from 6:00 to 9:00 to raise money for the 2022 mission trip with the

Appalachia Service Project. Please contact Pastor Nathan if your youth or family would like to help out as we raise money for this upcoming trip and welcome our community to enjoy an evening of the arts (and you enjoy the show!).

#### <u>International Institute Urban Garden</u> <u>and Community Market</u>

Monday, August 9th, 10am-2pm

The International Institute works to help refugees find a new home and new life in the Erie area. One of their projects is an educational garden in Little Italy that trains clients in agriculture and commerce.

On Monday, August 9th, youth and families are invited to help out in the morning with harvesting, cleaning, and packaging produce, then helping to set up for the farmers market that will be held



that afternoon. Participants will have a chance to learn more about urban gardening and the resettlement experience in Erie, enjoy a lunch break with foods from parts of the world that have made their home in Erie, and participate in building community and opportunity in the city. Please contact Pastor Nathan to participate.

# Confirmation Classes

#### Starting this September for 9th graders and up

Often we have been supported and nurtured by a community of faith, but then there are opportunities for us to explore the Christian faith personally and ask, "What do I believe? What do I put my trust in?" This fall, Confirmation Classes will present that opportunity, starting in later September and going through February.

A formal schedule is in the works, but here are features of what to expect:

- → Class discussions after worship (lunch included)
- → Visits to experience other religious traditions
- → Opportunities to engage in community service
- → Developing a statement of faith (either written or in artistic medium)
- → Overnight confirmation retreat in January

If you are interested in this opportunity for discovery, please contact James or Nathan. A complete schedule will be available and an orientation will be scheduled by September.



Wayside Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School 2021

#### **REGISTRATION**

- 4 years old through rising 5th grade
- Dates: July 19-23, 2021
- 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (only snack will be provided)
- Cost is \$10/ child and no more than \$20/ family
- Scholarships are available by speaking with Nathan

All rising 6th grade and older youth are invited to be staff aides.



Student Name		
Address	Zip Code	
Home Phone	Cell Phone	-
Age	Last grade completed	
Parents' Names		
Parent's email address		
Allergies		
Special Needs		
Fee: \$10.00CheckCash	ו	
	_ (parent/guardian) give Wayside Presbyterian d above in church publications, website, and so	
Signed	Date	
T CHIPT SIZE (Circle) Child Small Ch	oild Madium - Child Large	

<u>T-SHIRT SIZE</u> (Circle) Child Small Child Medium Child Large



Your response to the call to help the border children in Erie was immediate and generous. As you are probably aware, the girls were relocated out of Erie before your donations could be delivered. All donations received from Wayside were given to Bethany Outreach Center where they will be distributed among the Erie community.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

#### **BOOK SALE SERVICE OPPORTUNITY**

The Friends of the Erie County Library are again having their annual book sale July 14-17, 2021, at the Blasco Library and need volunteers. Setup is July 14. Sale and cleanup July 15-17. Please call the church office to sign up.



This month we would like to give a "green thumbs up" to our volunteers who keep our grounds looking beautiful.

- Dave Yonkers and 23 others who participated in the grounds workday on April 24
- Dale Massing and Gregg Rabenold for their work on the Wayside vegetable garden
- Dave and Micki Loesel for planting 30 geraniums for Pentecost and keeping all the flowers neat and cared for
- Randy and Amy Valentine for stump removal and grass seeding
- David Sickles, Wayside Sexton, for his work every day maintaining all aspects of the grounds







#### Into the Woods...In Wayside's Field

An Erie Playhouse Production on Wayside Presbyterian's Property



For so many people and institutions, COVID has been a time of finding creative ways to gather and enjoy the things that bring us together as a community. One of those opportunities was presented to Wayside Presbyterian Church to provide a place for Erie Playhouse to stage its production of Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* in the backfield of our property. After verifying insurance, permits, and that our property could meet the playhouse's needs without interfering with church operations, the staff, Session, and Trustees were excited to be a part of an event that brings together community, the arts, and nature as indoor venues remain limited at best. Letters have been distributed around Wayside so neighbors are aware of the upcoming production.

The play will be held July 9, 10, and 11 (rain dates on the 12th-14th) and 15, 16, and 17 (rain dates on the 18th and 19th); the play will begin at 6:30 and conclude at approximately 8:45pm. Tickets are on sale (\$25/person) at the Erie Playhouse website (erieplayhouse.org). WaYouth will have a concession stand set up for the 9th-11th evenings to raise money for the 2022 summer mission trip.

#### **GENEROSITY THOUGHTS**

... a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.

#### Ecclesiastes 3:4

We are back to in-person worship at Wayside and if that doesn't qualify as a time to laugh and a time to dance, what does? On June 13 we gathered under the trees on Wayside's front lawn for a special Sunday service in which we honored our graduates, we were moved by the music of The Waysiders, we were gifted by meaningful messages from Nathan and James and we who were present that day were the beneficiaries of their generosity of time and talent. The Spirit moved among us as we greeted folks whom some of us hadn't seen in a very long time, and it made us aware of how God is working among the good folks at Wayside.

How can we respond to such gracious gifts from God? For starters we can: volunteer to help with Vacation Bible School, invite a friend to church, offer to be a worship leader for either the online or in-person service, share a snack at Fellowship Time after church, participate in *Erie Gives* 2021 in August with our financial contributions. Let's all laugh and dance as we celebrate the generosity of God with our own gifts of time, talent and treasure.

#### **BUDGET BYTES from the Budget Committee**

Wayside has a faith budget, let's just say this up front. We may worry and fret about the ups and downs of our financial situation and it is right to closely monitor our finances. We need sound financial planning and thank goodness for all the folks in our church, both paid staff and volunteers, who understand how to do this. Likewise, we believe that it is necessary to sustain the mission of Wayside by continuing to encourage and promote a spirit of generosity, financial and otherwise. However, when it comes down to it, we must trust in God's wisdom to see us through and we must believe, as Shawn Babcock always says, "Don't worry, it will work out."

We say this as a preface to this month's report, as of the end of May. May's <u>receipts</u>, both pledged and unpledged, were right on target. However, year-to-date we budgeted receipts of \$204k, whereas we have received only \$185k, leaving us \$19k shy of budget.

May's <u>expenses</u> were almost \$13k under budget but that was mainly because our insurance bill normally received and paid in May will appear in June this year, taking up \$12k of May's surplus. YTD expenses were budgeted at \$248k while we spent \$215k which looks fantastic but again, that insurance bill will greet us in June, changing that bottom line somewhat.

Finally, looking YTD at <u>receipts compared to expenses</u>, in June the budget has projected a deficit of (\$66k) and in July it goes up to (\$97k) .... yikes, you say! However, thanks be to God, *Erie Gives* is on the horizon in August, so take heart, all.

Proverbs 16:9 says: "In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps" and Proverbs 19:21 says, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD'S purpose that prevails". Let's continue to prepare, plan and be proactive but let's also remember to have faith in God's providence. "It will work out."

#### Financial Report

May Rev \$32,690.06 YTD Rev \$185,236.48

May Exp \$39,032.56 YTD Exp \$215,255.86

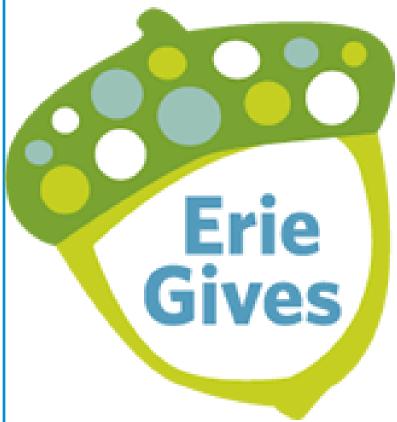
#### The Inreach Fund

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.

#### ERIE GIVES + 1, 2... AUGUST 10, 2021



You all know by now about Erie Gives, the annual community-wide fundraising event for charitable entities in our region, spearheaded by the Erie Community Foundation. As we explained in detail in the June newsletter, donations may be made online, by check, or with a gift of stock or required minimum distribution from your IRA. You may send in your checks (accompanied by the Erie Gives Check Contribution Form) to the church office by August 2 or mail them directly to the Erie Community Foundation's office by August Otherwise, please go online at 9. www.eriegives.org on August 10 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m..

So, what do we mean by Erie Gives +1, 2...? We hope and pray that you will choose Wayside as one of the charities you support this year. Wayside needs your financial contributions to continue God's mission...that is a given. You have most generously supported Wayside over the past several years of Erie Gives' existence and an added benefit has been the matching funds we have received from Erie Gives as a result of these gifts. However, the +1, 2... means that we also hope and pray that you will choose one or more additional charities to help when you pledge your commitment to Wayside. By doing so, we can make an increased impact on the lives of those in our community who need our assistance, as well as furthering God's work through our beloved church. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

#### Key points to remember:

- Erie Gives +1, 2…
- Checks (accompanied by the Erie Gives Check Contribution Form) to Wayside by August 2;
   by August 9 to Erie Community Foundation, 459 W. 6th St, Erie 16507
- August 10 online 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. at www.eriegives.org
- Questions? Contact Karen Pastewka, Wayside Financial Secretary

#### **ERIE GIVES CHECK CONTRIBUTION FORM**

Please make checks payable to The Erie Community Foundation and kindly deliver to the Foundation (459 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507) with this completed form no later than August 9, 2021.



#### ALL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED

Donor	Name(s):			
Addre	SS:	City:	State:	Zip:
Phone	:	Email:		
Check	Number: Cor	ntribution total: \$		
	e list how you wish to be identific	Example: John &	Jane Doe   John	Doe   Anonymous
	note, the employee is responsible			
	Erie Gives Nonprofit Name All nonprofits below must currently be liste	ed on the Erie Gives website.		Gift Amount \$25 minimum
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Receiver	: ○ Mail ○ In Person	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	Entered	

## Second Sunday Worship



June 13 outdoor worship with music by The Waysiders

Two more front lawn services are planned for July 11 and August 8. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and join us! In case of rain, service will be in the sanctuary.

Presbyterian Women received \$1,199 for

the 2021 Birthday Offering. THANK YOU for your generous donations! "Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the



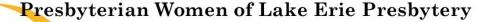
Lord has comforted

the people and will have compassion on the suffering ones." Isaiah 49:13

#### 

There are multiple opportunities for you to participate at Wayside as we continue to reopen. As always, sign-up sheets are available at the information table, but we have also added an online option for those who may need to check their calendar and to ease congestion in the lobby. These are included in the Wayside Weekly email and can be found under the "Participate" tab on the Wayside website at <a href="https://www.wayside-erie.org/">www.wayside-erie.org/</a> sign-up-forms/. As restrictions continue to ways to join in as they arise.

\*\*\*\*\*



Fall Gathering – Saturday October 16th 10:00 am-1:30 pm

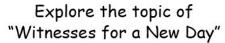
First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

#### "Witnesses for a New Day?"

"You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen..." Isaiah 43:10









with Keynote speaker- Rev. Katherine Randall. Katherine and her husband Rob are copastors at Bradford Presbyterian Church. Katherine was ordained to pastoral ministry in 2000 and served church communities in Louisville, KY and Simpsonville, SC prior to being called to serve in Bradford. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Katherine appreciates being part of the broader connections of the Presbyterian Church (USA), serving in a variety of ways. Currently, she serves as the adjunct staff person for the Montreat Middle School Conference and on the Committee on Ministry of the Lake Erie Presbytery.

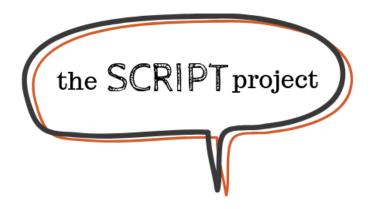
In addition to the keynote speaker Rev. Katherine Randall, you may enjoy the following highlights during the Gathering \* an early morning hands-on mission project from 9:00-10:00 am \* You can register anytime until the event starts at 10. \* There will be a choice of break-out sessions \*Presbyterian Women's business meeting \*song \* prayer and \* fellowship with women from all over our presbytery.

\*\*\*\*\*\* You will not want to miss this outstanding program!! \*\*\*\*\*\*

Rev. Katherine Randall has some wonderful insights into the issues we are all facing as church members in the 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking also about issues surrounding the challenges created by the pandemic.

You will have several opportunities to show mercy and be a neighbor through donations to special mission projects and by sharing a favorite mission project of your church!

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday October 16th Hope to see you there!



Many of us are interested in examining the "script" by which we live our lives, and understanding the "script" by which others are living theirs. Many things are part of each person's and each culture's scripts that became part of our own before we were born. For some of us, our position and life path are helped by this. For others, their lives are constrained by this. This is key to issues of race and growing in our understanding and making changes.

Join with others to participate in The Script Project to convene this fall for six weeks. James Bernhardt will coordinate. Janelle Newman will be our guide. Day and time for meeting will be determined by the participants. We will be in conversation with people in our community and with each other on the way to adjusting our script, with the Spirit's help. Make known your interest through the church office or on the Participate tab on the Wayside website.

#### **PW Annual Rummage Sale**

August 27-28; donations will be accepted August 12-26.

#### Wanted:



Furniture







#### We are unable to accept:













Help is needed to sort and set up and to work sale days. Call Nancy Fye at 814-838-3607 with any questions.



Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

#### WORSHIP IN JULY



Sunday, July 46th Sunday after PentecostHoly CommunionMark 6:1-13"No Baggage"Nathan preaching

Sunday, July 117th Sunday after PentecostWorship on Front Lawn2 Sam 6:1-19"With Singing, Dancing, and Abandon"James preaching

Sunday, July 18 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6 "Finding the True Shepherd" James preaching

**Sunday, July 25** 9th Sunday after Pentecost

John 6:1-21 "We Should Wonder" James preaching

# wayside Welcomes Bedasa to Eriel

After more than five years of prayer and advocacy, Bedasa was able to join his wife Elisabeth and daughter Mikal in Erie. A group of Waysiders was on hand at Erie International Airport to welcome him on June 15 as he arrived from Egypt.







Elly Fox	7/2			Bill Jares	7/19
•					
Rand Garrity	7/3	Tanner Babb	7/12	Colton Martin	7/19
Kyra Marsh	7/3	<b>Mason Melaragno</b>	7/12	Ray Reade	7/19
Dan Taylor	7/3	Maxwell Melaragno	7/12	Douglas Weber	7/19
<b>Georgi Harrington</b>	7/4	Mac Pollard	7/12	<b>Don Worthington</b>	7/19
Kristen Taylor	7/5	<b>Axel Swanson</b>	7/12	<b>Gwen Smith</b>	7/21
Sandra Olsen	7/6	Cole Daehnke	7/13	<b>Meredith Mullett</b>	7/22
Mary Larson	7/7	Helen Smith	7/13	Aiden Lowry	7/24
Barb McGill	7/7	Steve Day	7/14	Peggy Glass	7/26
Sarah Reed	7/7	<b>Avery Zimmerman</b>	7/14	David Johns	7/26
Scott Taylor	7/7	Bruce Kern	7/15	Ken Smith	7/26
Julia Grandinetti	7/8	<b>Brittany Shaffer</b>	7/15	Lucas Buseck	7/27
Cade Sbrocco	7/8	Lars Weborg	7/15	Mary Lou Edgett	7/28
Stephany Wismer	7/8	Peggy Jenkins	7/16	Rick Weaver	7/28
Sally Cage	7/9	Polly Momeyer	7/16	Anna DeBello	7/29
Angelle Sundberg	7/9	Julie Lewis	7/17	James Edgett	7/29
Fletcher Swanson	7/9	Joseph Thompson	7/17	Michael Borowski	7/31
Robert Mitchell	7/10	Lindsay Jeglinski	7/18	<b>Carol Christie</b>	7/31

### July Anniversaries

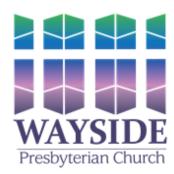
Paul & Karen Carpenedo	7/1		Jill & Anthony Fosco	7/21
Kurt & Kitty Menges	7/2		TJ & Nancy Dolan	7/23
Joseph & Natalie Thompson	7/2		Kyle & Carlee Pentz	7/24
Mike & Sandy Reed	7/6		Kathy & Kent Englert	7/26
Terry & Sandra Olsen	7/12		Karen & Brian Latimer	7/26
Mark & Marcia Twinem	7/12		Bill & Jenny Martin	7/29
Douglas & Jill Weber	7/12		Gregg & Sallee Rabenold	7/30
Jack & Judy Bestwick	7/14	~	Rand & Amanda Garrity	7/31
Carol Christie & Tom Eckard	7/14		Bob & Mindy Scholl	7/31



## **July 2021**



	**	T			T	7/JI: W 7/J "
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
WAY Presbyteri	SIDE	Be Welcon	ne here.	1 1:30 Sewing Guild 7p Al-Anon	2	3
4 Independence Day	5 Office Closed for Independence	6	7 7p Session 5p Generosity	8 7p Al-Anon	9	10
Online Worship 10a Celebration of Worship 11a Outdoor Fel- lowship	Day 6:30p AA		sp deficiosity			
					Erie Playhouse	Erie Playhouse
11 Online Worship 10a Outdoor Cel- ebration of Wor-	12 IU5 5p Trustees 6:30p AA	13 IU5	14 IU5	15 IU5 7p Al-Anon	16	17
ship 11a Outdoor Fel- lowship					*August Newslet- ter Deadline*	
Erie Playhouse				Erie Playhouse	Erie Playhouse	Erie Playhouse
18 Online Worship 10a Celebration of Worship 11a Outdoor Fel- lowship	19 9a-12 VBS 6:30p AA	20 9a-12 VBS  Part for law for the first law for for law for the first law for the f	21 9a-12 VBS 7p WMFA	22 9a-12 VBS 11:30 Elizabeth Circle 7p Al-Anon	23 9a-12 VBS	24
25 Online Worship 10a Celebration of Worship 11a Outdoor Fel- lowship	26 6:30p AA	27	28	29 7p Al-Anon	30	31
		*Newsletter Collating*				



#### **Newsletter Collators:**

Wilma Valentz, Jane Hess, Louise Martin, Jan McEllroy, Annette Rothschild, Helen Smith

Many thanks to you all for your help!!

#### WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Dawn Weborg Music Director

David Sickles Sexton

Karen Pastewka Financial Secretary

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wpc@wayside-erie.org

#### **WELCOME STATEMENT**

"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.

