

Inside Wayside

VOLUME 60, NO. 12

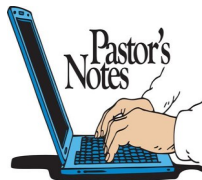
December 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ⇒ Advent Activities ... 2
- ⇒ Angel Tree ... 2
- ⇒ Food Bank News ... 2
- ⇒ Issues of Faith ... 2
- ⇒ Money Matter ... 3
- ⇒ PW News ... 4
- ⇒ December Worship ... 5
- ⇒ December Celebrations ... 6
- ⇒ December Calendar ... 7
- ⇒ Second Saturday ... 8
- ⇒ Poinsettias ... 8

Masks and Worship:

The standard in place since earlier this fall is: masks are recommended to be worn in the building at Wayside to promote good health for everyone.



The season of advent provides us a chance to live in a spirit of anticipation. Culturally, the advent expectation of the celebration of Christmas, with its gifts and gatherings and celebration, echoes the church's season of advent expectation. Culturally, we can rush our celebrations if we want. The fun meme on social media says, "according to my chocolate advent calendar Christmas is in four days." The church season of advent provides a spiritual season to practice something that is real and true; we cannot rush what we expect to arrive in its own time. In advent we hear the words of prophets who can see the coming messiah they hope for; and see it with such faith that they are sure of the messiah's coming. But they still must wait. This kind of faithful and faith-filled waiting is often referred to as living in the "already but the not yet"; living "as if". This is advent living, living the reality of the fulfillment of what we wait for while we wait for it.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, and those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined." Isaiah speaks words of already and not yet. There is hope through God's love and grace while suffering continues, and circumstances remain difficult and challenging. "Faith is the evidence of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen," Hebrews 11:1. To symbolize our hope we light candles in the dark days of advent. These lights in the dimness reflect the hope in our hearts as we live in expectation of Christ, whose coming and presence fills us with confidence and joy. I wish you a most blessed advent and a merry Christmas.

Each Saturday during Advent check your email for the weekly advent devotional which will be sent to you. Light your advent wreath, or a candle and read these devotions perhaps together with others. Let's spend time this advent living with a sense of faithful anticipation for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:
Saturday, December 24, 4:00 PM & 8:00 PM


December

Deacons' Angel Tree

As in 2020, this year's Deacons' Angel Tree will benefit the children served by Perseus House. Perseus House has several residential facilities for youth in need of comprehensive services promoting pro-social behavior and healthy lifestyles. 2021 continued to be a challenging year for these youth, ages 12-18, due to ongoing restrictions imposed by the pandemic. We are hoping that gifts provided by Waysiders will help to add a little merry to their Christmas and wrap up their year on a positive note. Wayside will be adopting 2 of these residential facilities.

Suggestions for gift ideas include: board or card games, sporting equipment (i.e. footballs, basketballs, jump ropes, frisbees, etc.), art supplies, brain teaser toys, puzzles, remote control vehicles, crafting kits, winter hats/ gloves/ scarves, plastic or inflatable sleds, puzzle books, reading books, writing journals, manicure items (nail polish, etc.) etc. Gifts can be for either males or females and should be geared towards teenagers. **Please be sure to not purchase gifts with sharp items, toy guns/arrows or any other type of violent connotation.**

To sign up to purchase gifts, please either select a tag from the Angel Tree in the church lobby or use this Sign Up Genius <https://bit.ly/31Z4YGV>. The access code is 1225. Please sign up by December 8th. Unwrapped gifts may be delivered to the church lobby through Sunday, December 12th.

If you would like to participate but would like someone else to do the shopping, please contact: Georgia Del Freo (text at 814-440-14-98 or email at georgia.delfreo@gmail.com), Carrie Bastow (text at 814-602-6893), or Daren McCullough (calls at 814-833-5544 or email at darenmccullough@gmail.com) by December 1st.

WEST MILLCREEK FOOD PANTRY

Suggested Items for December

Mac and cheese, peanut butter, cereal, baked beans, spaghetti and sauce, toilet tissue, bar soap, 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"

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Upcoming distribution for the Second Harvest mobile food pantry at the Federated Church in East Springfield is December 20. Volunteers can park behind the church at 11995 Main Street in East Springfield to begin set up at 11:00 AM. Please see Harry or Sue Hain for more information or sign up in the lobby.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

FAMILY CAROLING AND PIZZA

Join the Wayside crew on **Wednesday, December 22nd at 6:00** for pizza in the fellowship hall, then away we go a'caroling in the neighborhood. Help us spread the holiday cheer!

BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS

Jesus taught that whatever we do to the least of those among us we do to him. This season, as we anticipate the birth of Jesus, children and families are invited to an event that welcomes Jesus by providing supplies for babies and families in need in our area.

Families are invited to bring baby supplies (diapers, wipes, mittens, etc.; a list will be out soon) that we will bless as an offering to Christ on **Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30**. There will also be a time for stories, craft, and snack.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year's Christmas pageant will be during the **11:00 worship service on December 19th**. Rehearsals will be during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45) on November 28, December 5, 12, and 19. Along with acting, speaking, and reading roles for children and youth of all ages, we also want to know if your child has a talent that could be part of the program: singing, dancing, music?

You can contact Pastor Nathan or Dawn Weborg with any questions or interest.

ISSUES OF FAITH

Issues of Faith continues to meet in person at 9:45. Please join us for stimulating conversations about spirituality and social justice. Upcoming topics include:

12/5 Nada Soliman, Fulbright Scholar from Egypt, "Women in Islam"

Check out the "Wayside Issues of Faith" Facebook group for updates to the schedule as we have them.

There will not be a class on December 26.

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS

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

Ecclesiastes 3:4

We are grateful for all the folks who have submitted a Financial Commitment Card to support the ministry and mission of Wayside in 2022. Each card represents an individual example of generosity in action, a belief in the importance of the good work of this church and a thankfulness for God's blessings.

The numbers below reflect the results of the campaign as of November 19, along with the final results from last year's effort. As you can see, we have not matched or surpassed last year's total pledged amount and it must be noted that even the 2021 pledge numbers were well below expectations. However, we do rejoice that in those 2022 numbers there have been more increases, fewer remaining the same, fewer decreases and two additional new pledges.

We pray that we will yet see a substantial influx of additional 2022 pledges in the remaining weeks of the year. Let's make December a "time to laugh....and a time to dance" as we celebrate a renewed commitment to Wayside's ongoing mission.

2022 PLEDGE COMMITMENTS

Dollars pledged:	\$341,782.03
Increased:	53
Remained same:	44
New:	13
Decreased:	14
Number of pledges:	119

2021 TOTAL PLEDGE COMMITMENTS

\$379,989.01
42
60
11
21
134



BUDGET BYTES from the Budget Committee

2021, with all its ups and downs, is nearly a wrap as this is being written. We don't yet know how Wayside will end the year, financially speaking, and yet we have now begun working on the 2022 budget. However, with Covid numbers going up again, we can all use some inspirational news which we will share with you right off the top. Two families, out of the blue, who felt they had been especially blessed this year, wanted to share their good fortune with the church and recently sent in generous donations over and above their 2021 pledged commitment. These were actions straight from the heart. Such beautiful generosity mirrors the gifts our God bestows on us every day and once more confirms our belief that God truly works wonders in our midst.

Imitation is a form of flattery, they say, and we tell you the above good news story in hopes that you will be moved, in whatever way possible, to also make an extra gift to the church before year's end. We celebrate the generosity of so many Waysiders and pray that with your gifts you will help us to discern a right and holy path for the future mission of this church.

Financial Report

Oct Rev	\$41,936.91
Oct Exp	\$40,797.23
YTD Rev	\$434,644.41
YTD Exp	\$445,792.69

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.



PW NEWS



There will be no PW Christmas party this year. PW wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas!!!!

Election Day Pie Bake Sale

The PW Election Day Bake Sale was a big success!! THANK YOU TO ALL THE BAKERS AND TO THOSE WHO BOUGHT THE PIES!! PW raised \$285 selling pies only! We had a great variety of pies! Apple, Apple Crumb, Cherry, Chocolate Chip, Kentucky Derby, Cranberry, Sweet Potato, Blueberry, Pumpkin and Apple Dumplings! Wow! All the pies were gone by lunch time!

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner that supports our Presbytery Ghana Partnership was a true example of Waysiders pitching in for a good cause! The dinner crowd was small but the gifts were "mighty"! **We received \$559** which included two significant personal donations. Thank you for these gifts! They will help us with our continuing relationship with our sisters and brothers in Ghana!



A big THANK YOU to everyone that helped with the Thank Offering Service and who donated to the Thank Offering! It was a pleasure to have Anita Bernhardt (General Presbyter) as our Thank Offering preacher! We received over \$1600 in donations. These monies will support the Thank Offering grants to the various worthwhile projects in the US and two international projects. Your gifts are greatly appreciated!!



CIRCLE NEWS Naomi Circle

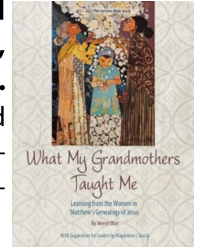
Naomi Circle will meet next on **Wednesday, December 1**, in the church parlor at noon. Our Bible study will cover the story of Rahab from the book of Joshua, chapter 2 and chapter 6: 22-25. Jane Gilewicz will be hostess.

Elizabeth Circle

The Elizabeth Circle will meet **Thursday, December 2**, at 12:00 PM at Lake Shore Country Club for a holiday meeting.

Sophia Circle

The Sophia Circle will meet on **Tuesday, December 14**, (note the change in Tuesday due to Christmas) at **7:00 in the Parlor to study Lesson 4 - Ruth and Loyal Love " ... your people shall be my people, and your God my God..." Ruth 1-2.** Gretchen Kelley will lead the lesson and Nicki Jares will provide a snack. Please contact Nicki and let her know if you will be attending. All women are welcome!!



Wayside Lunch Bunch

Thursday, December 9, 12:30 PM



5455 W Ridge Rd

RSVP to

Jean Moore 814-461-9665

Refugee Assistance Project

The Sophia Circle has taken on a new mission project. We are working with the International Institute and getting needed items to help Afghan refugees settle in as our new neighbors in Erie! We have been collecting winter pajamas, blankets, boots, scarves, hats, umbrellas, shovels, scrapers and putting together laundry baskets filled with needed supplies for doing laundry. If you are interested in helping with this mission project, please contact Karen Haas 814-397-1619.



Congratulations to Barb Sundberg for being honored with a PW Honorary Life Membership! Barb has served Wayside in many capacities and PW was very pleased to present her with this special honor!!

Reminder – There will be no Christmas Tray Cookie Sale this year. Instead, we will have a special soup sale in January! Watch for more news in the bulletin about the upcoming sale of delicious soups to go!



WORSHIP IN DECEMBER



Sunday, December 5

Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

Luke 3:1-6

"The Persistent Voice "

James preaching

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:39-55

"Come Together, Sing, and Pray "

James preaching

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Single Service at 11:00 AM

A Celebration of Jesus' Birth Through the Gifts and Talents of our Children and Youth

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

Candlelight Services at 4:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Luke 2:1-20

"The Imagination of God "

James preaching

Sunday, December 26

First Sunday of Christmas

Single Service at 11:00 AM

John 1:1-14

"Moving Into the Neighborhood"

Nathan preaching



Ritch Marsh 12/1
 Paige Garrity 12/1
 Marion Gallivan 12/2
 Kitty Menges 12/2
 Jan Underhill 12/2
 Anna Stack 12/2
 Pam Monaco 12/3
 Dave Borowski 12/3
 Tom Boyd 12/3
 Jane MacEwen 12/3
 Dylan Marsh 12/3
 Zachary Marsh 12/3
 Leona Sinner 12/3
 Otto Sinner 12/3
 Harry Anderson 12/4
 Philip Jackson 12/4
 Gregg Rabenold 12/4
 Julian Pentz 12/5
 Bob Pollifrone 12/7
 Addison Garrity 12/7

Hadley Jones 12/8
 Sophia Sidorowicz 12/9
 James Haas 12/10
 Annette Rothschild 12/10
 Karen Haas 12/10
 Nathan Feltmeyer 12/10
 Nina van Helden 12/10
 Paul Bittner 12/11
 Justin McEllroy 12/11
 Mike Reed 12/11
 Linda Pentz 12/11
 Rita Brown 12/12
 Simon Yahn 12/12
 Jill McGill 12/13
 Jill Starr 12/13
 Norma Harrington 12/14
 John Fair 12/14
 Gene Sundberg Jr. 12/15

Holly Skala 12/17
 Jacob Weaver 12/17
 Gregory Yahn 12/18
 Britt Daehnke 12/19
 Jay Shaffer 12/19
 Natalie Thompson 12/20
 Dave Yonkers 12/21
 Mark Smith 12/21
 Claire Christensen 12/23
 Aadele Foster-Williams 12/23
 Chuck Pora 12/24
 Nicholas Leslie 12/25
 Quinlyn Daehnke 12/25
 Regan Daehnke 12/25
 Hilary Gehrlein 12/27
 Blossom McBrier 12/29
 Daren McCullough 12/29
 Melissa Buseck 12/30
 Kylor Skala 12/30
 Lola Miranda 12/30



Bob and Denise Pollifrone 1-Dec
 Paul and Monica Mullett 5-Dec
 Dan and Deborah Pora 7-Dec
 Dale and Lindsey Kirkpatrick 13-Dec
 Tim and Peggy Glass 18-Dec
 Joe and Kristy Lee Stack 18-Dec
 A.P. and Mollie King 22-Dec
 Steve and Maggie Hutzelman 26-Dec
 Greg and Kimberly Morrow 28-Dec
 Jeff and Amy Brinling 28-Dec
 Kevin and Brooke Weaver 29-Dec



DECEMBER 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 WAYSIDE Presbyterian Church <i>Be welcome here.</i>			1 12p Naomi Circle 4p WOW 5p Generosity 5:30p Primary Choir 6p Dinner 6:30p WaYouth	2 9a Yoga 12p Elizabeth Circle 1:30p North Coast Sewing Guild 6:30p AI-Anon	3	4
5 Online Worship Holy Communion 8:30 Early Worship 9:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship 12:15 Confirmation Class	6 6:30p AA 7p Outreach	7	8 4p WOW 5:30p Primary Choir 6p Dinner 6:30p Baby Shower for Jesus	9 9a Yoga 12:30p Lunch Bunch 6:30p AI-Anon 7p Chancel Choir	10	11 9a-5p Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive
12 Online Worship 8:30 Early Worship 9:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship 12:15 Confirmation Class	13 5p Trustees 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p AA	14 10a Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p Sophia Circle	15 4p WOW 5:30p Primary Choir 6p Dinner 6:30p WaYouth 7:30p Session	16 9a Yoga 6:30p AI-Anon	17	18
19 Online Worship Single Service 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Chancel Choir 11:00 Christmas Pageant 12:00 Fellowship 12:15 Confirmation Class	20 11a Mobile Food Pantry, East Springfield 6:30p AA	21	22 4p WOW 5:30p Primary Choir 6p Dinner 6:30p Caroling 7p Cocoa & Cookies	23 6:30p AI-Anon	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 4p Christmas Eve Service 7:15p Chancel Choir 8p Christmas Eve Service	25 
26 Online Worship Single Service 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship	27 Office Closed 6:30p AA	28 1:00p Newsletter Collating	29 No WOW activities	30 6:30p AI-Anon	31 Office Closed	

SECOND SATURDAY PROJECT: SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS

Help the Salvation Army by ringing bells for donations on Saturday, December 11. Donate one hour of your time with a friend, spouse, or child at the **WALMART** on West Ridge Road.



Shift hours are between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Please sign up at the information table in the lobby or call the office.

POINSETTIAS

Help us decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season. You can call the office or sign up at the Information Table in the lobby to purchase a Poinsettia for the sanctuary. Poinsettias are \$15.



WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1208 Asbury Road Erie, PA 16505 Phone: 814-833-7653
email: wpc@wayside-erie.org www.wayside-erie.org

STAFF

- The Reverend James Bernhardt Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
james@wayside-erie.org 828-381-6582 (cell)
- The Reverend Nathan Royster Associate Pastor
nathan@wayside-erie.org 814-715-6367 (cell)
- Dawn Weborg Music Director
- David Sickles Sexton
- Karen Pastewka Financial Secretary
steward@wayside-erie.org
- Jennifer Lockett Office Administrator
wpc@wayside-erie.org

Newsletter Collators:

Jane Hess, Rita Herold, Louise Martin, Jan McEllroy, Linda McFarland, Annette Rothschild, Wilma Valentz

Many thanks to you all for your help!!

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.

Be welcome here.