

Inside Wayside

VOLUME 61, NO. 1

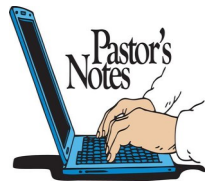
January 2022

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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.



On the front lawn of Union Presbyterian Seminary are two posts holding banners high for all who travel by on busy Brook Road to see. When I began as a student there the banners bore the opening words of Psalm 24: "The earth is the Lord's." At the opening convocation the seminary president preached from 1 Corinthians 12: 27 -31, a memorable sermon "The Lesser Gifts," about the gift of administration, as he said, tongue-in-cheek, "way down on the list of gifts, just above speaking in tongues." But he had a good message that these texts communicate: it is all one – everything is under the ownership and guidance of God. These two texts from the Psalm and from 1 Corinthians bring home the faith-based reason for changing to a unicameral, one chamber, system of leadership at Wayside. It is all one.

This is what it is about. The matters of property and money and policy and the matters of worship and stewardship and mission and spiritual formation are not separate matters. What we do with what has been entrusted for Christ's work is spiritual. Conversations which have been separated by different roles can be had meeting together. The Spirit will bring different gifts together. Different perspectives are brought to the table. Discerning the call of Christ should bring all the pieces into the work together. The conversations should be lively!

Will trustees and elders become one board – one session in which those gifts once reserved for trustees are brought to the service of the church as key to the ministry of elders? This is the decision to be made at the Annual Congregational and Corporation Meeting on **January 16 at 9:15 AM**. If you wish to read the proposal, which was presented at the October Congregational and Corporation Meeting, please contact the church office.

At the Annual Meeting we will also receive reports from committees and boards, receive the budget and act on changes to the terms of call for the senior and associate pastors. A light breakfast will be served.

After 7 years as Wayside's full-time sexton, David Sickles is moving to part time. During the school year David will work Monday – Wednesday – Friday. In the summer David will switch to a three consecutive day schedule. We are grateful for David. He is making his way into retirement years and it is expected that this new arrangement will serve both Wayside and David well. David, we are grateful for you!

But what about snow removal? When snow comes on the weekend and on Tuesday or Thursday, an arrangement has been made with the company who plows the snow from our parking lot to clear the walks and entries.

The New Year comes with promise and challenge. We are still living with the difficulties of the pandemic and with the uncertainties that always come with life. We are people of the promise of justice and compassion revealed in Jesus Christ. Together, trusting in the way of Christ, we will face the challenges. Living into the redeeming and reconciling work of Christ, we may trust the goodness and power of God.

Grace and peace to you all,

James

Wayside Multicultural Diners' Club



Doesn't that Tandoori Chicken look yummy? (It was) It's just one of the entrees from FINE RESTAURANT AND BAR (Indian cuisine), at the former Nunzis, 2330 East 38th St. And that's our next Wayside Multicultural Diners' Club outing on Wednesday, January 26 at noon. Yes, we're trying lunch so folks won't have to drive after dark. The restaurant is large and there should be ample room for good spacing.

Like we did the last time at TRIPLE "D", each will order off the menu and be responsible for their own bill. Please call the church office to make a reservation, 814-833-7653. If you have questions call me, Gary Larson at 716-307-5815.

THANK YOU FROM WEST MILLCREEK FOOD PANTRY

"Dear Parishioners and governing body of Wayside,

Thank you once again for your generous donation to West Millcreek Food Pantry. Please know all monies go directly to our clients. Money spent on food, personal items and to supplement hams and turkeys during all holidays,

God Bless your support,
West Millcreek Pantry Volunteers"

WEST MILLCREEK FOOD PANTRY Suggested Items for January

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 January 31. 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.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Once again Waysiders showed overwhelming generosity for the Deacons' Angel Tree project. Over 225 items were donated for the youth living at the Perseus House residential homes. These books, games, puzzles, sports equipment, art supplies, personal care items and much, much more will help these youth to have a brighter Christmas this year. Thank you again for your support.

Do You Know Hannah?

Hannah Pentz, that is. Perhaps the last name is familiar because Hannah, a new member of Wayside, is married to Corey Pentz, a long-time member. Though the couple married in 2018, they first met at Lakewood Pre-school when they were three years old. The years passed, and in 2015 they reconnected in Pittsburgh when, as Hannah says, "We both ended up in the same place at the same time." In the meantime, she had gone to Duquesne University and was working in the American Eagle Corporate office there and Corey had gone to Pittsburgh to visit.

After meeting again after all those years, they began dating and married in 2018. The couple's son Benjamin was born April 27th, 2020 and was baptized April 25th, 2021 when Hannah joined Wayside. Hannah and Corey are expecting a baby sister for Benjamin in February. When asked about any special hobbies or interests, Hannah said, "Just being a Mom." She feels that other things will have to wait for awhile. She says they are very family-oriented and enjoy games together. "I'm very competitive," she added.

Hannah is a realtor for Coldwell-Banker. Her parents live in Lake Shore, and she has a brother and sister who live in the area also. Be sure to greet Hannah if you haven't already met her.

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:

January 2 - no class

January 9: Verna Ehret, Ph.D., Mercyhurst University,
"American Christianity and Violence"

January 16: no class

January 23: Julia Morgan, Ph.D., Mercyhurst University,
"Alternative Views of Nature"

January 30: Kurt B. Crays, MDiv., Executive Director, EUMA (Erie United Methodist Alliance, Inc.), "On Homelessness"

Check out the "Wayside Issues of Faith" Facebook group for scheduling updates!

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

Waysiders are a generous people, generous with gifts of time, talent and treasure and we would like to close out 2021 with a big "thank you" for sharing your gifts with the church.

The Session sent out a letter in early December asking folks to consider a year-end financial gift in celebration of Wayside's resilient navigation of this most eventful year. The response was heartwarming and even as this is being written the envelopes continue to come in. In December Waysiders also brought in gifts for the Deacons' Angel Tree project, helped pack bag lunches for the homeless, supported the Diaper Project for needy families, rang bells for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle effort, supported the Christmas Joy Offering for retired Presbyterian pastors, and our children and youth presented a wonderful celebration of Jesus' birth through their gifts and talents in the annual Christmas pageant. Such uplifting generosity in so many forms ... thank you.

We would also like to update the results of the 2022 Financial Commitment Campaign as of December 15. If you wish to add your pledge of support for Wayside's vital ministry and mission next year, please pick up a pledge card in the lobby or contact Karen at the church office. She (and we) will welcome your commitment with open arms and grateful hearts.

DOLLARS PLEDGED	\$365,382.03
Increased	55
Remained same	47
New	13
Decreased	14
Total pledges	129

And now on to 2022..... Happy New Year, generous Waysiders!

BUDGET BYTES from the Budget Committee

By the time you read this, we will have closed the books on 2021 and who knows how we will have ended the year, financially-speaking? Will we have ended the year in the red (most likely) or in the black (possibly, with a big influx of year-end giving). December is usually our biggest month, revenue-wise, and we are praying that the generosity of our congregation comes shining through, illuminating our hopes just as the magical lights of Christmas brighten our days.

November's revenues from pledges and non-pledged gifts showed an \$8k surplus. Year-to-date receipts in those categories showed a shortfall of just under \$2k. In terms of total revenue YTD we were \$24k shy of budget but we will be transferring in \$20k from prior years' surplus which we have mentioned before, however, as being a practice we wish was not necessary. This will bring us \$4k short of budget.

November's expenses were over budget by \$2k, forecasting a more normal pattern now that we are fully "back in business". However, YTD we showed a savings of \$28k in expenses, due to the effects of the pandemic for half of 2021 while the building was essentially closed.

Overall YTD receipts over expenses were projected to be (\$14k) whereas we ended November at (\$10k) for which we were grateful. However, while December is traditionally a BIG month for receipts, December also is a month of high expenses, which still leaves us with the guessing game of wondering how the year will end. God only knows. But no matter, December also brings the birth of the Christ Child and with that glorious event we WILL end the year on a joyful note.

Financial Report

Nov Rev	\$44,072.67	Nov Exp	\$42,632.77
YTD Rev	\$478,717.08	YTD Exp	\$488,425.46

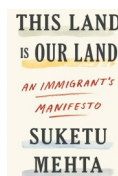
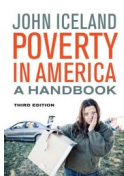
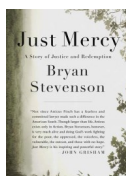
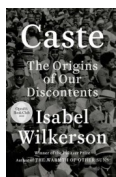
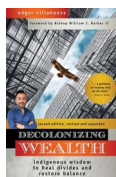
The Inreach Fund

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.

Justice and Peace Book Discussion

The churchwide Justice & Peace Committee of Presbyterian Women is hosting six book discussion groups in 2022 and you are invited to participate! The book discussions will be held on Zoom, bimonthly on the second Monday, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern). It's free to participate, but registration is required. When you register, you'll receive questions for reflection or discussion, as well as a Zoom link. For more information or to register, go to www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice.



PW NEWS

GET READY FOR SOME "SOUPER" COOKING

PW is excited to announce a Homemade Soup Sale to help raise funds for the many mission projects PW supports.

Saturday January 29th from 10-2 and Sunday January 30th following each service, two delicious soups–Broccoli Cheddar *made with vegetable broth* and Stuffed Green Pepper–will be available on a first-come first-served basis. Stop into the church kitchen and pick up a quart to take home. Donations for the soup will be gratefully accepted.



If you have any questions please contact Jane Gilewicz (814-746-0736) or Jill Abbott (814-923-7578).

Mark your calendars now! You won't want to miss the opportunity to enjoy some delicious homemade soup!

PW Baked Potato Dinner

Wednesday, January 19 at 6PM will be the PW Baked Potato Dinner and all donations will benefit the Heifer Project! We will, of course, have animal posters for our children to choose from to donate to people in need. We will supply chicken nuggets, potatoes, toppings, and dessert....we just need you!



BUSINESS MEETING

PW 1st Quarter Business meeting will be on Sunday 23rd after the 11:00 service in the parlor. A light lunch will be served. All women are welcome to attend. Come find out how you can be involved!

Presbyterian Women to Sponsor Church World Service BLANKET SUNDAY February 6th

God has blessed us with so much and one great way to show your love and share with those in need is to purchase blankets on CWS Blanket Sunday!



Each blanket costs only \$10. These blankets can be a vital resource for someone needing help after a natural disaster. They provide warmth, can be used for shelter or can help as a way to carry supplies. They definitely provide encouragement and love. Together we can help many families!

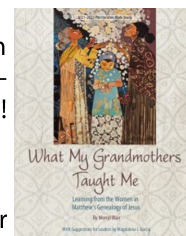
Our goal is to provide 100 blankets. Please consider making a donation to our Blanket Sunday Offering.

CIRCLE NEWS

Sophia Circle

The Sophia Circle will meet on **Tuesday, January 18th at 7:00 pm** in the church parlor. (If weather is a problem look for an email or text giving info for a zoom call.)

Judy Sinner will lead us in lesson five "Ruth and Redemption" and Jean Moore will provide a snack. All women are invited to attend! Please let Jean know if you are coming.



Naomi Circle

Naomi Circle will meet in the church parlor on **January 26**. Bring your own lunch at noon. Masks will be worn for the Bible study at 1pm. Please read Ruth, chapters 1&2 for the lesson. New members and visitors are encouraged to come. Nancy Ebinger will be hostess.

Elizabeth Circle

The Elizabeth Circle will meet **Thursday, January 27**, at 12:00 PM in the parlor.

Wayside Lunch Bunch

Thursday, January 13, 12:30 PM

Lettuce Head



2167 W. 12th Street

RSVP to

Jean Moore 814-461-9665



WORSHIP IN JANUARY

Sunday, January 2

Matthew 2:1-12

Second Sunday of Christmas

"Messages of the Magi"

Holy Communion

James preaching

Sunday, January 9

Isaiah 43:1-7

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Baptism of the Lord

"Promise and Protection"

James preaching

Sunday, January 16

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

2nd Sunday After Epiphany

"What Have You Got?"

James preaching

Sunday, January 23

Luke 4:14-31

3rd Sunday After Epiphany

"Closer Than You Think"

Nathan preaching

Sunday, January 30

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

4th Sunday After Epiphany

"As You Wish"

James preaching



Barry Stamm	2-Jan	Sarah Larson	12-Jan	Maia Edwards-Borowicz	23-Jan
Michael Paris	2-Jan	Maureen Schneider	12-Jan	Jack Bestwick	25-Jan
Shelby Sheriff	3-Jan	Dale Cage	13-Jan	Debbie Smith	27-Jan
Joseph Turner	4-Jan	Rob Harcourt	13-Jan	Laura Knoll	27-Jan
Claire Bowes	5-Jan	Rachael Sbrocco	14-Jan	Vincent Keibler	27-Jan
Jeffrey Boyd	5-Jan	Aidan Kirkpatrick	14-Jan	Angela Sbrocco	28-Jan
Erica Jewell	6-Jan	Stacy Fox	14-Jan	Mya Jeglinski	28-Jan
Lorah Momeyer	7-Jan	Dale Kirkpatrick	15-Jan	Richie Fremer	28-Jan
Denise Borowski	7-Jan	Robin Steger	15-Jan	Jaida Fried	29-Jan
Shirley Diller	8-Jan	Karen Carpenedo	16-Jan	Lucas Starr	29-Jan
Christine Boyd	8-Jan	Dick Reese	19-Jan	Nolan Jeglinski	29-Jan
Michele Reed	10-Jan	Trevor Grode	20-Jan	Jackie Cross	30-Jan
Ellie McGill	10-Jan	Suanna McGuire	20-Jan	Samantha Momeyer	30-Jan
Elana Dolan	11-Jan	Greg Miller	21-Jan	Meredith Thompson	30-Jan
		Lorie Marsh	22-Jan	Devin Johns	31-Jan



Jill and David Abbott	2-Jan
Colin and Bethany Hurley	6-Jan
Ed and Jan McEllroy	9-Jan
Bruce and Nancy Kern	31-Jan



JANUARY 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Online Worship Holy Communion 8:30 Early Worship 9:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship	3 6:30p AA 7p Outreach	4	5 4p WOW 5p Generosity 5:30p Primary Choir 6p Dinner 6:30p WaYouth	6 9a Yoga 1:30 North Coast Sewing Guild 6:30p AI-Anon	7	8
9 Online Worship 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship 12:15 Confirmation Class	10 5p Trustees 6:30p AA	11 10a Prayer Shawl Ministry	12 4p WOW 5:30p Primary Choir 6p Dinner 6:30p WaYouth 7:30p Session	13 9a Yoga 6:30p AI-Anon	14	15 8:30a HAAEQG Sew-in
16 Online Worship 8:30 Early Worship 9:15 Congregational Meeting 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship *Confirmation Retreat	17 *Confirmation Retreat 6:30p AA	18 7p Sophia Circle	19 4p WOW 5:30p Primary Choir 6p PW Baked Potato Dinner 6:30p WaYouth	20 9a Yoga 6:30p AI-Anon	21	22
23 Online Worship 8:30 Early Worship 9:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship 12:00 PW Meeting 12:15 Confirmation	24 6:30p AA	25 1:00p Newsletter Collating 5:30p HAAEQG	26 12p Naomi lunch 1p Naomi Bible Study 4p WOW 5:30p Primary Choir 6p Dinner 6:30p WMFA	27 9a Yoga 12p Elizabeth Circle 6:30p AI-Anon	28	29
30 Online Worship 8:30 Early Worship 9:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship 12:15 Confirmation Class	31 6:30p AA					

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

DINNERS

Our Wednesday evening Fellowship Dinners are served at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to take the night off from cooking and join your Wayside family for good food and fellowship - *no reservations necessary*.

If you would be interested in cooking one of the Wednesday evening dinners, please contact Bobbi Jo Fye at 814-449-1808 or e-mail her at fye@gannon.edu.

Individuals are free to cook a meal of their choosing and the cost of the dinner is covered by freewill donations and the church.



SCRIP ORDERS

Purchasing gift cards through our Scrip cards program is a great way for you to contribute to Wayside. Stop by the Information Table to place your order.

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.