

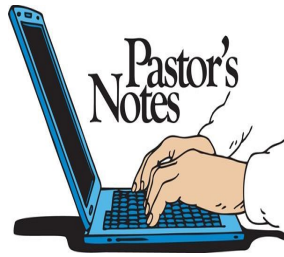
Inside Wayside

VOLUME 61, NO. 5

MAY 2022

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It is springtime at Wayside, a welcome change of season. People of our region here are particularly aware of the seasons, especially as the last few bursts of winter give out on the way to spring. We know to not become complacent, as we also know that winter will come again. But I think we humans beings think we prefer stasis, for things to not change. But some change is necessary to keep on growing and thriving.

On Easter morning the gospels tell the startling good news that death has been overcome by life. Christ is risen, upsetting the stasis of death, and sending us on the path of life. Alleluia! All during May, Nathan and I will preaching from the book of the Acts of the Apostles. In all these stories the apostles are constantly startled by the discontinuity of the Spirit, taking the faithful from the expected status quo into encounters with people they would not have expected to meet, and discovering the expanding parameters of the call of Christ leading them where they were not expecting to go. I imagine, as I read these stories, that we are witnesses to the ones who were bold enough, or uninhibited enough, to go through the door the Spirit is holding open. I also imagine that there are those who, even though encouraged to go, did not go. A lover of many things "as they are," I sometimes think I might have been one of them. And yet, how blessed it is to be led by God to new friendships and new partnerships that God is forming.

A recent excellent book by Hunter Farrell and S. Balajiedlang Khylllep, *Freeing Congregational Mission*, carries forward a theme that was also in the book, *Neighborhood Church*, (that the elders read a few years ago); the idea that we learn what the Spirit is doing by listening to others. Those stories in Acts tell of a willingness to be taught by someone else, to learn something new, and to accept parameters greater than had been permitted. The Spirit is there, going before us, and trusting the Spirit, no one needs to be afraid, and exciting opportunities await. It is a constant challenge to mainline protestants. We do new things and then we enshrine them in practices that become traditions. But we can learn to keep our walls permeable, so that we go out, and when out, we learn to let others into our heart and mind, with the possibility we will all come together for the greater good God is doing. The book of Acts reveals this rhythm over and over.

It is a new season. Growth and new life are the promises. Let us follow the way that the Spirit leads.

Grace and peace to you,

James



SUMMER IS COMING!

- * We've shared the last WOW dinner until fall.
- * The Sunday School year ends May 22 with a Fellowship Lunch after church.
- * Summer Worship begins June 5 with a single service at 10:00 AM.
- * Watch for opportunities to stay involved and connected throughout the summer!

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The May distribution for the Second Harvest mobile food pantry at the Federated Church in East Springfield is May 23. 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.



WEST MILLCREEK FOOD PANTRY

Suggested Items for May

Mac and cheese, peanut butter, cereal, baked beans, spaghetti and sauce, tuna, canned spaghetti, and soup.

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



Remember: West Millcreek Food Pantry is not funded by the Second Harvest Foodbank and relies heavily on donations received directly from volunteers like you.

Checks may be made out to "West Millcreek Food Pantry"

True Confession of a Per Capita Procrastinator

Are you a Per Capita Procrastinator? I was and here is my confession. You've all seen and read the various Per Capita reminders that appear in the newsletter or in the Sunday bulletins, right? Well, not only did I read them....I wrote them! And yet....and yet....? I had assumed that I had already sent in our family's \$33 per confirmed member because of being so involved in its promotion at Wayside. And yet....and yet....? One day in March while I was at church I asked Karen Rae just to confirm that we had indeed fulfilled our Per Capita obligation and to my great surprise and consternation, after checking her records her answer was, "No, you have not." So, there you have it. If it happened to me, a firm believer and promoter of the Per Capita Appeal, it was happening to other dedicated Waysiders.

Therefore, dear friends, here's a word to the wise: check your financial records, including your recent Giving Statement sent out by the church, or contact Karen Rae at the office to have her confirm or deny your participation. You'll find out whether or not you, too, have been a Per Capita Procrastinator. It happens to the best of us.

Are you still reading? Good. Please bear with me a moment longer. The Per Capita fee of \$33 for each confirmed member of Wayside Church is assessed to us by the PCUSA to help support the important work of the Presbyterian Church at all levels: national, Synod and mostly to our local Erie Presbytery. This year our assessment totals \$16,665.00 (based on 505 members). If you pay your \$33, you help to defray Wayside's cost of "doing business" (i.e., paying our bills) in the good and proper Presbyterian Way.

Hmm, is there anything else I may have forgotten? Stay tuned.

THANK YOU!

The Session wishes to thank the Waysiders who have responded to our recent request for financial help to lower this year's (\$64,000) deficit budget with an increased 2022 pledge and/or a special donation. As of April 20 the value of these gifts totaled \$16,988. Increased pledge/donation cards are on the Information Table in the Lobby and we remain grateful for any much-needed additional support. Thank you for your willing generosity.

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS

The Generosity Committee would like to send out several May bouquets of thanks to the following folks for showing us what the generosity of time and talent looks like:

- The small but mighty group of Deacons who prepared a funeral lunch for the family and friends of Naomi Foust
- Those who helped with the grounds clean-up to beautify our church
- The participants (children and adults) in the special musical "Peace in the Kingdom", as well as Dawn Weborg, director, Katie Potocki, choir helper and WOW assistant, Nicki Jares, choir assistant and t-shirt creator
- Those who prepared the delicious meals for Wednesday night dinners this year
- In addition to James and Nathan, those who helped make our Lenten Holy Week a meaningful experience, beginning with Palm Sunday (ushers passing out palms, "parade" of worshipers, Ron May and the bells, Dawn and the Chancel Choir), daily early-morning Zoom prayers, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, Saturday's children's Egg-sperience, and culminating with a glorious Easter Sunday of joyful celebration

BUDGET BYTES

from the Budget Committee

The weather outside as this is being written is sunny and bright, mirroring most of this report. Rain is expected later in the day, (naturally, it's spring in Erie) and so there will be a brief shower later in this article. For now, however, here's the sunshine.

As of the end of March, year-to-date we are \$6k above budget in pledges received and \$3k above budget in unpledged donations. In total revenue we had projected to end the first quarter at \$126k yet we happily sit at \$136k, putting us \$10k ahead of budget.

In terms of overall expenses YTD the budget shows us underspent by \$10k but that is a bit deceiving. The Session-designated mission funds for this quarter had not been dispersed as of the end of March (waiting for Session approval in April) and a bill for organ tuning and repair was not received in March. These expenses will be reflected in next month's report.

The bottom line (revenue vs. expenses) projection was to finish March at (\$18k) and yet we remain in the black at \$11k. That's encouraging weather, isn't it?

And now for those showers: we must not forget that in spite of this current trend, our budget forecasts revenues of \$484,000 but expenses of \$548,000 in 2022, giving us a projected deficit of (\$64,000) at the end of the year. Until we substantially reduce our deficit, we must keep our umbrellas handy.

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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mar Rev \$32,518.20 YTD Rev \$136,116.95

Mar Exp \$41,546.26 YTD Exp \$125,112.06



CARWASH

- . Sunday, May 22
- . During Sunday School and 11:00 Service
- . Donations benefit WaYouth Mission Trip to North Carolina in June



Conversation continues with
Janelle Newman
May 1 and May 15
12:30 PM
Light lunch is provided.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



JULY 18-22

ISSUES OF FAITH

Issues of Faith will meet through May 22. Please join us at 9:45 on Sundays for stimulating conversations about spirituality and social justice. Upcoming topics include:

- May 1--Christopher Strzalka, MD, Julia Hospice and Palliative Care Center

Join and follow the "Wayside Issues of Faith" group on Facebook for speaker updates.

Meet Susanna

Susanna Merwin, one of our newest members, lives in the Glenwood neighborhood and moved to Erie from Cincinnati to be nearer her daughter Abby and nine-year-old grandson, Aedyn. She worked part-time at the Achievement Center upon arriving in Erie but retired several years ago and is "really enjoying the rhythm of retirement life."



Say Hello and Welcome



Richard Knight is one of Wayside's newest members. His five-year-old grandson Vincent, who enjoyed Vacation Bible School last summer, comes along also. Richard moved to the area from Naperville, Illinois near Chicago in 2006 as part of a job re-location in the hospitality and entertainment industry, and he retired in 2011. Richard and his wife Betty, who is Catholic, live in Fairview.

Welcome, Staci

While she has just now become a member of Wayside, Staci, who grew up in the Catholic Church, is already well known to many here as the daughter-in-law of Barb and Dan McGill which means she has a number of in-laws and young nieces in the congregation. Staci and her husband Brian have a son Aiden who will be 9 years old shortly. Staci works in Human Relations at the local VA Hospital. Perhaps you've also experienced her musical talent when she's played the cello as part of worship several times.





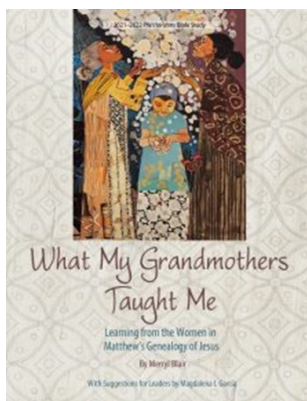
PW NEWS



CIRCLE NEWS

Sophia Circle

The Sophia Circle will meet on **Tuesday May 17 at 7:00 in the church parlor**. Jean Moore will lead us in **Lesson 9 "What Are These Women Doing in a Place Like This?"**



This final lesson summarizes what the grandmothers of our faith have taught us and imagines what they may have taught Jesus. Through stories of outsiders and marginalized people we see the kingdom of God, in which the last are made first.

Mary Marsh will provide a snack. Please let Mary know if you are attending. All women are welcome to attend!!

Naomi Circle

The Naomi Circle will meet on Wednesday, May 25, at noon in the Parlor.

Elizabeth Circle

The Elizabeth Circle will meet on Thursday, May 26, at 11:30 AM in the Parlor.

PW to sponsor Fellowship Luncheon on Sunday May 22



Presbyterian Women will sponsor a luncheon to celebrate a great Sunday School year directly after church on May 22. No reservations are needed. Donations will be accepted to cover the costs of the meal. We will be serving sandwiches, an assortment of salads, and dessert. Please plan on joining us for good food and fellowship! All are welcome!

PW Second Quarter Meeting Update

PW voted to donate \$500 to purchase needed supplies for the International Institute and \$500 to The Ukrainian Relief Fund (The Synod is matching all gifts.) We also voted to designate the proceeds from the May Election Day bake sale to the Ukrainian Relief Fund.

Wayside Lunch Bunch

Thursday, May 12, 12:30 PM

The Colony Pub and Grille

2670 W 8th St

RSVP to

Jean Moore 814-461-9665

Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering 2022

May 8, 2022

This year the PW Birthday Offering will go to two mission projects:

Mission at the Eastward (MATE)

McCleary House Transitional Housing, Farmington, Maine

The Birthday Offering grant will help renovate McCleary House for people experiencing homelessness. This transitional home will provide a warm and healthy place to live for 3-4 families or 6-8 individuals. The renovated home will provide a safe space for individuals to begin the psycho-social, educational and vocational work needed to move forward with their lives.

Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lares, Puerto Rico

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand, Lares, Puerto Rico

Following Hurricane Maria in 2017 and the January 2020 earthquakes in Puerto Rico, the Presbyterian Church in Lares has become the go-to location in the community for food, purified water and personal items. Because the church's kitchen is small, dated and not code compliant, upgrades are needed to continue providing this ministry. With funding from the Birthday Offering, all appliances, wiring, lighting and plumbing will be replaced and the facility will be made ADA accessible. Solar panels and a heavy-duty generator will be installed to provide uninterrupted electrical service and water availability.



Please look for the Birthday Offering **envelopes in the pews** or give via our church e-giving. On e-giving go to **give now** and scroll down. Select under **Funds – Presbyterian Women- subcategory Birthday Offering**.

Thank you for your donations to the annual PW Birthday Offering. Whether you give a dollar for each year of your life, or any amount you choose, your donations will be a blessing to the two great mission projects selected. Thank you!!

The Rummage Sale is Coming!!

Your help is needed to:

- Set up
- Sort daily, beginning June 13
 - Cashier--day of sale
- Clean up--Saturday at 1:00

Donations will be accepted beginning June 6!

We are unable to accept:

Children's Car Seats, Computers, TV's, Phones, Disposable Plastic Cups & Containers, Knives, Large Exercise Equipment

Contact Nancy Fye to volunteer: 814-838-3607 or tfye@roadrunner.com



SAVE THE DATE

Presbyterian Women of the Lake Erie Presbytery invite the women of our churches to attend a

PW Summer Celebration Luncheon

Thursday July 14th at noon

Cross Creek Resorts - Titusville

Please come and enjoy in person:

- * The fellowship of women from our Presbytery**
- * PW updates**
- * Presentation of \$200 Mission Grants**
- * Door prizes**
- * A delicious meal in a beautiful location**

The cost per person is \$15. More details to follow.

Mark your calendars!

Plan to join in on the fun!



WORSHIP IN MAY

Sunday, May 1

Acts 9:1-20

Third Sunday of Easter

"Lord of the Reluctant"

Holy Communion

James preaching

Sunday, May 8

Acts 9:36-43

Fourth Sunday of Easter

"Rise!"

Mothers' Day

James preaching

Sunday, May 15

Acts 16:6-15

Fifth Sunday of Easter

"What Got You Here Won't Get You There "

Nathan preaching

Sunday, May 22

Acts 16:16-34

Sixth Sunday of Easter

"How Big Is Our Gospel?"

Nathan preaching

Sunday, May 29

Acts 1:1-11

Seventh Sunday of Easter

"Where We Set Our Gaze"

James preaching:



| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| May 1 Jennifer Garcia | May 11 Karen Latimer | May 23 Matt McCullough |
| May 2 Molly Allen | May 12 Rich Pulling | MacKenzie Jewell |
| Jim Richardson Jr. | Mark Twinem | Grace Stack |
| May 3 Kristin Babb | Emma Sidorowicz | Maddy Stack |
| Lily Babb | May 14 Eliza Porter | May 24 Hal Kelley |
| Thomas Rush | May 15 Greg Morrow | Dawn Weborg |
| May 4 Kathy Englert | May 16 Jordan Babcock | Bethany Lavery |
| Missy Grimm | May 17 Anthony Villella | Heather Lewis |
| May 5 Aaron Pentz | May 18 Jim Tingley | May 25 Lily Olsen |
| Mitzi Moore | May 19 Leslie Youngo | May 26 Mitchell Hoyt |
| Madeline Pora | Ginny Pollard | Tyler Marsh |
| May 6 Vaska Lewis | Ashley Buseck | May 28 Owen McCullough |
| Annamarie Sheriff | Mary Yonkers | Vince Sidorowicz |
| Noel Sundberg | May 20 Abigail Stack | Louise Martin |
| May 7 Chloe Olsen | May 21 Sandy Reed | Isaac Sundberg |
| David Wallwork | Bobbi Jo Fye | Matt Schneider |
| May 8 Lori Miller | Lisa Watkins | May 30 Roger Taft |
| May 9 Michael Cross | Kallan Fuchs | May 30 Max Hutzelman |
| Lois May | May 22 Amy Valentine | May 31 Donna Bittner |
| Ben Kocan | Henry van Helden | |
| Flori Porter | Henry Mullett | |
| Kelly Fremer | | |



| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| May 4 Ron and Lois May | May 25 Greg and Lori Miller |
| May 10 Brian and Jessica Zimmerman | Jonathan and Erica Jewell |
| May 12 Christian and Angelle Sundberg | May 27 Bill and Nicki Jares |
| May 18 Vic and Shawn Babcock | Tim and Diane Feltmeyer |
| May 19 Jim and Barb Richardson | May 30 Lindsay and Christopher Kopac |
| May 21 Gary and Maggie Christensen | May 31 Chris and Kathy Wolford |



MAY 2022



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|--|--|---|-----------|--|
| Online Worship 1 8:30 Early Worship 9:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Time 12:30 Script Project | 2 5:45p Mother-Child Banquet 6:30p AA | 3 | 4 5p Generosity | 5 9a Yoga 1:30 North Coast Sewing Guild 7p Al-Anon | 6 | 7 |
| Online Worship 8 8:30 Early Worship 9:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Time | 9 6:30p AA | 10 10a Prayer Shawl Ministry | 11 10:30a Carrie T. Watson Garden Club 7:30p Session | 12 9a Yoga 7p Al-Anon | 13 | 14 8:30a HAAEQG Sew-in |
| Online Worship 15 PW Birthday Offering 8:30 Early Worship 9:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Time 12:30 Script Project | 16 6:30p AA | 17 Election Day Bake Sale 7p Sophia Circle | 18 | 19 9a Yoga 7p Al-Anon | 20 | 21 11:00a Allman Memorial |
| Online Worship 22 8:30 Early Worship 9:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Luncheon 12:00 WaYouth Car Wash | 23 11:00a Mobile Food Distribution 6:30p AA | 24 1:00p Newsletter Collating 5:30p HAAEQG | 25 12p Naomi Circle | 26 9a Yoga 11:30a Elizabeth Circle 7p Al-Anon | 27 | 28 |
| Online Worship 29 8:30 Early Worship 9:30 Chancel Choir 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Time | 30 Office Closed 6:30p AA | 31 | | | | |

ATTENTION PARENTS OF SENIORS

Please email a photo and a short bio of your senior to Jennifer in the office, wpc@wayside-erie.org by May 20th.

We will be recognizing our graduates June 12.

Has your information changed? Maybe you got rid of your landline or changed internet and email providers? Call or email Jennifer in the office to change or confirm your contact information.

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.