

Inside Wayside

VOLUME 61, NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 2022

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"Let's not get tired of doing good, because in time we'll have a harvest if we don't give up. So then, let's work for the good of all whenever we have an opportunity, and especially for those in the household of faith."

Galatians 6:9-10

A friend wanted to meet for a meal but later called back to say the restaurant was now not opened on the days we were available. This is part of a trend extending from the pandemic and the so-called "great resignation." That disappointment reminded me how grateful I am for the church. There is a way in which the persistence of the fellowship of the church in its worship and service and spiritual seeking represents the persistence of God. I hear how folks keep on keeping on in acts of love and compassion, both with church-initiated mission and also from the deep personal motivation of faith. I see you in worship, maybe not all of you at once, but over the space of time, and with caution as Covid is still around, and participating online, too. I see how you continue your generous ways, supporting the church's work and extending Wayside's ministry to people near and far. I see you loving and supporting one another as we make our way in life—celebrating milestones and achievements and living with illness, grief, and disappointment. There are many things at this point in time that are different than they were just a couple of years ago, and we cannot know what is coming next. The fellowship of the church remains steadfast over all the centuries and through many changes. Thanks be to God for you all, and for the church of which we are part.

With great gratitude we welcome Nicholas Nasibyan to leadership of the music program of Wayside. When we sing hymns in church I can hear how Nicholas is leading us with his playing. His awareness of the words and tune and of the people singing is a delight. His work directing a children's ensemble and an adult ensemble in his audition showed that he engages with those he is leading. I am sure all the choirs will appreciate Nicholas. See the choir schedules on the calendar for September.

On September 11 Wayside resumes the 8:30 and 11:00 worship schedule and Sunday School begins for the fall. Check out the newsletter and look for ongoing communication about Sunday offerings. Also on September 11 we will celebrate and dedicate the major renovations and enhancements of The Legacy Project and the Technology and Sound System improvements. The generosity of many people have made the completion of these projects possible. Thanks be to God!

The One Table multicultural, multi-faith fellowship is leading a Story Circle on September 18 from 4-6 pm at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul. This is a sharing of stories about journeys on the path of life. Everyone is welcome to be part of One Table. Check with Jean Moore or Gretchen and Hal Kelley or me to learn more.

Watch for information about a midday Mental Health Forum, 11:30-1:30 on September 29 at First United Methodist Church of Erie. This is an initiative by several churches in Erie, and what is hoped to be the first of many gatherings leading to better understanding and better lives for our loved ones, friends, and neighbors who live with mental illness.

Grace and peace to you all!



ERIE GIVES + 2 RESULTS



This just in, hot off the press: Waysiders again came through with their support of our church's ministry and mission through Erie Gives with a preliminary total of \$151,800! Karen Rae reported that she also witnessed an increase in our +2 efforts to support other local nonprofits. Thank you for your participation and your overwhelming generosity.

Unofficial overall support from the community to Erie Gives topped 2021 totals both in number of donors (11,184) and dollars collected (\$7,940,822), making it twelve years in a row that these numbers have increased. Way to go, Erie! A final report will appear in next month's newsletter.

BUDGET BYTES from the Budget/Finance Committee

How did we fare in revenues, as of the end of July? We aimed low, it being summer, but were pleased to receive \$3,000 more than anticipated. Year-to-date figures presented an even better picture: we were a "whopping" (as Karen Rae put it) \$29,000 ahead of budget. These YTD revenues included increases in pledges, in unpledged gifts, in loose offering, in Per Capita receipts, and \$5,000 in unbudgeted special one-time donations.

July's expenses showed a savings of almost \$15,000 on paper when comparing budget projections verses reality. Some of this savings, however, was due to having already paid out the July 1 payroll on June 30, as we explained last month. YTD we showed \$14,000 in savings.

When we compared overall revenue to expenses we were doing much better than anticipated. YTD we had projected to be at (\$99,000) – ouch! However, we found ourselves at (\$56,000) – still an ouch but a better ouch than predicted. Let's compare that to 2021 when we were at (\$83,000) and 2020 we were at (\$69,000), a glass-half-full way to look at it.

One caveat which we must always add every month: our 2022 budget projects a year-end deficit of (\$64,000). Therefore, while we rejoice in the blessing of finding ourselves better off than we thought we would be at the end of July, we must continue to remember the big picture. Please pray for continued Wayside generosity and the careful monitoring of our expenses.

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS

We call this space "Generosity Thoughts" and it can cover a variety of topics related to generosity. We are thinking of the continued generous actions of many Waysiders:

- all the volunteers who made possible Wayside's Vacation Bible School in July, under Nathan's direction;
- the Wayside gardeners who continue to harvest the fruits of their labor and share them with the congregation;
- those responsible for the lovely farewell send-off to our dear friends Elisabeth, Bedasa, and Mikal before they left for Colorado;
- all those who throughout the summer helped as church openers, worship assistants, served Communion, provided music, ushered, worked the Sound Board, etc., thus enhancing our Sunday worship experience.


Thank you all for your generous offerings of time and talent.

We also want to thank everyone who generously shared their treasure with pledged and unpledged gifts, support of the Per Capita appeal, and with participation in Erie Gives +2 (full report on that next month).

Finally, we would like to preview the upcoming Fall Commitment Campaign during which we all will have the opportunity to be generous in our financial commitment to Wayside's mission in 2023. The Scripture verse we have chosen is:

"Each should use whatever gift one has received to serve others." (1 Peter 4:10)



Our accompanying logo will be  and Commitment Sunday will be October 16. Please stay tuned for further details in the exciting weeks ahead. It's all generosity in action!

PLUGGING AWAY AT THE PER CAPITA

The Per Capita Appeal continues to plug away at meeting its revised 2022 goal of \$7,000 to help defray the cost of our Per Capita assessment from the PCUSA of \$16,665. We have already raised slightly over \$5,000 which is wonderful because it is \$1,000 over the original budget goal. Thank you to all those "Per Capitors" who have already given. We are once again putting out this quick reminder to those of you who have not sent in your \$33 per each confirmed member of your family. Keep those contributions coming, check out our progress in the Lobby, and thank you!

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

July Rev	\$22,469.10	July Exp	\$36,219.57
YTD Rev	\$256,005.63	YTD Exp	\$311,652.08



On behalf of Community Shelter Services, I would like to thank you for your generous mission grant.

Each night, we provide about 200 homeless individuals—of all ages—with a safe place, a nutritious meal, and a warm bed. Community Shelter Services works with individuals, families with children, and veterans to assure they have the tools, and programs available to them to help get them back on the right path.

Sincerely,

Katie Confer
Development Director



Community
Shelter
Services

Thank you for your generosity in remembering SafeNet with your donation.

One of the hardest things to do is to identify that you are in an abusive relationship. And it's even harder to remove yourself from that situation—especially when there are children and/or pets involved. SafeNet empowers all individuals to reclaim their lives by providing the tools to assist in taking that first step in stopping the cycle of physical violence or emotional abuse.

Sincerely,

Robyn Young
Executive Director

SafeNet
reclaim your life

To Everyone at Wayside Presbyterian Church,

We are dearly blessed by your caring and generous hearts! With 80-90 kids registered each week this summer, we will most definitely apply your gift toward supplies, materials, and snacks for them. We 100% appreciate all you do!

Most Gratefully,
Kelly Stolar
Executive Director



Grace and peace to you through Jesus Christ, who makes us one.

On behalf of Presbyterian Mission, thank you for your gracious and faithful support of \$3,455.00 for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

The support of your congregation makes a difference in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ locally, nationally and around the world.

Yours in Christ,
Lynne Foreman
Mission Engagement Advisor



MHEDS is truly blessed to count you and your parishioners as part of our great support network. In November of 2021 MHEDS began welcoming hundreds of refugees from Afghanistan along with others from all over the world. In March of 2022, we began welcoming Ukrainians who were displaced as a result of the Russian invasion.

Because of your kindness and generosity, MHEDS has been able to bring mental health screening on site for our patients. We are also adding dental hygiene. Almost 90% of our patients are insured through the Medicaid program. Over 90% of our staff are hired from within the diverse communities we serve.

Sincerely,
Patty Stubber
Chief Executive Officer



Sunday School Returns to Wayside

Sundays, 9:45-10:45, starting September 11

Sunday School is back at Wayside Presbyterian Church this fall! We continue to live out the invitation for all ages—from nursery to pre-school and elementary, through older youth through adults—that our “love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight” as we explore who we are as children of God and followers of Jesus Christ.

CHILDREN OF ALL AGES WILL GATHER FOR A GROUP OPENING. As children come in around 9:45, there will be a gathering time with music, story, and prayer. We are also inviting children to bring a small offering to these gatherings that will be committed to a special service project or benefit.

We can't wait to see you this fall!

ISSUES OF FAITH

Issues of Faith meets Sundays at 9:45 for stimulating conversations about spirituality and social justice. Upcoming topics include:

9/11—**Robert von Thaden**, Ph.D., Mercyhurst University, on **white supremacy and Christianity**

9/18—**Angelle Sundberg**, RN, BSN, AHN St Vincent's Hospital. **“Grassroots Diversity, Equity and Inclusion movement at St Vincent's Hospital.”**

9/25—**Palestinian Peace Activist**

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

Not sure what to do in between worship services?



THE IN-BETWEEN TIME

A simple time for scripture, connection, and prayer



*Sundays at 9:45-10:45am in the church library.
Light refreshments provided.*

WOW Club at

Wayside Presbyterian Church

WOW Club is Wayside's fellowship for 2nd-5th graders that meets Wednesdays 4:00-6:00. The first hour is a choral rehearsal, then the second hour is a group activity that could range anywhere from fun and games to field trips to service projects, all while learning what it means to come together as a community in the love of God.

Sept. 14 Kick-Off Day for WOW Club

Sept. 21 Hike at Asbury Woods

Sept. 28 Get-to-Know Event with
Nicholas Nasibyan

WAYOUTH AT WAYSIDE

WaYouth is the fellowship for young people in 6th-12th grade. This year's schedule will include a monthly gathering and a monthly event that will include service, spiritual growth, and relationship-building for the group. Families with 6th-12th graders will be receiving a full schedule for the Sept.-Dec. season in the mail.

FOR SEPTEMBER:

Sept. 14th: Youth fellowship kick-off after worship until 2:00. Lunch included.

Date TBA: Presque Isle Clean-Up Day with Lunch and Devotion, 10am-12:00pm

Get to Know

NICHOLAS NASIBYAN
WAYSIDE'S MUSIC DIRECTOR

An Ice Cream Social for
Families of Children
Up Through 5th grade

Wednesday, September 28
5:00-6:00pm





PW NEWS



WAYSIDE LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday, September 8



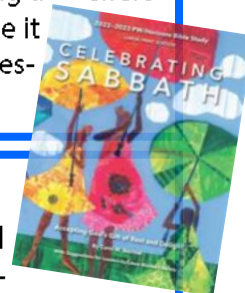
12:30 PM

RSVP to Jean Moore

814- 461-9665

SOPHIA CIRCLE

The **Sophia Circle** will meet on **September 20 at 7:00 in the Parlor**. We will start off our new Bible Study "Celebrating Sabbath" with **Lesson One: Sabbath and Celebration**. The Scripture Reading is Matthew 11:28-12:13. The key idea is "As the Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus invites all of us who are weary to celebrate a Sabbath that is more 'yes' than 'no'." All women are invited. If you haven't tried joining a circle - we welcome and encourage you to give it a try! Contact Karen Haas with any questions.



ELIZABETH CIRCLE

The **Elizabeth Circle** will meet for lunch and discussion on Thursday, **September 22 at 11:30** in the church parlor.

NAOMI CIRCLE

Naomi Circle meets every third Wednesday at **noon** in the church parlor. This **September 21** we will begin the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for 2022-23, "Celebrating Sabbath – Accepting God's Gift of Rest & Delight." Please bring a sandwich (coffee & dessert provided) and join us for daytime fellowship and discussion.



SUPPORT ERIE CROP WALK

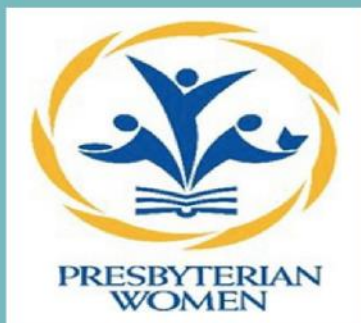
BAKED POTATO DINNER

Wednesday, September 21 at 6 PM

Bring your favorite topping to share;
we'll provide everything else!
Chicken nuggets will also be available.

Sponsored by:





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN of Lake Erie Presbytery FALL GATHERING



***Saturday October 1st
10:00 AM - 1:30PM
(REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:00)***

***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

Keynote speaker: Rev. Katherine Randall. Katherine and her husband Rob are co-pastors at Bradford Presbyterian Church. Katherine has some wonderful insights into the issues we are all facing as church members in the 21st century. She will share ideas on the challenges and opportunities created by the pandemic.

Highlights of the day:

- Breakfast/Registration and optional card making for mission from 9-10am
- Video from the PW of Ghana
- Fun filled workshop!
- Keynote Speaker
- Presbyterian Women's business meeting
- Songs, prayer, and fellowship with women from all over our presbytery

Register by 9/19 by calling First Covenant at 814-456-4243.

Please provide your church name and attendees.

Workshop: **"Worshipping with Our Bodies"**

Britney Knight, an accomplished dancer, and Associate Pastor at Covenant will teach us dance and body movements. These movements will encourage us to use our whole selves to praise God. Britney understands we will vary greatly in our ability to move around. Do not worry, it will be fun!

We will follow designated Covid Protocols.

Cost for lunch is \$7. You can mail a check or pay at registration. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant.

Please contact PWLEP moderator Karen Haas (814-397-1619) karenhaas79@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.



The Crop Walk is on Sunday, September 25! Get ready to walk!

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walking events held in cities and towns across the United States, raising funds to support the global mission of Church World Service (CWS), a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. Twenty five percent of the funds raised are returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts. Last year **\$16,000** was distributed to local Erie County groups addressing hunger. The Erie County CROP Walk was #1 raising funds in Pennsylvania and #11 in the nation. WOW—let's help make this year another great fundraising year for Erie County!

Crop Walk Sunday is September 25th. This year the walk will be held at Presque Isle–Beach 1. Walkers will gather in the parking lot at Runner's Pavilion.

Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn't have to be this way. **Ending hunger is possible, and it is possible in our lifetime. You can help make it happen!** Please consider joining other Wayside parishioners by walking and/or donating or raising funds to help neighbors near and far, getting meals to those who need them now while ensuring sustainable food security for tomorrow.

To streamline our accounting and banking procedures, we are asking that you donate to CWS electronically by visiting <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/wayside-presbyterian-church-erie-pa> and selecting one of the **Donate** buttons, or you may elect to join Wayside's team by selecting **Join the Team** button. If donating online is not possible for you or your donors, we will be accepting cash and check donations at a CROP Walk table in the Wayside lobby prior to and after the 11:00 services on Sundays, September 4th, 11th, and 18th.

Checks should be made out *Wayside Presbyterian Church* or *CWS*, however, please be advised that checks made out to Wayside will not be cashed until the end of October, and checks to CWS will not be cashed until the end of the year.

This year, **Presbyterian Women would like to encourage you to walk by purchasing a CROP Walk t-shirt for all walkers!** Please sign up in the lobby at the Crop Walk table so we know what size to order for you. Please plan on wearing your shirt to church on CROP Walk Sunday September 25th.

Please support the CROP Walk. Your donations will help families who are not getting enough healthy food to eat and clean water to drink. Let's walk to help end hunger!

Food,
fellowship,
and fun for all
ages!



You are invited!

WAYSIDE'S BLOCK PARTY JUBILEE

September 17, 2022
3-6 PM
Wayside Presbyterian
Church

1208 Asbury Road

Cost: Suggested donation of \$5
per person/\$20 per family
(non-Wayside guests and
children under 5 are free)

EXPLORING
HOW
SCI-FI IS IN
CONVERSATION
WITH
SPIRITUALITY,
JUSTICE, &
OUR CURRENT
REALITIES

SEPTEMBER
5, 12, & 19
@ 6:30 PM

THEOLOGY
AT LAVERY BREWING CO.

Join Pastor
Nathan for this conver-
sation in partnership
with the Episcopal
Cathedral of St. Paul
and Nuns and Nones.



WEST MILLCREEK FOOD PANTRY

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER

Mac and cheese, peanut butter, cereal, baked beans, spaghetti and sauce, tuna, toilet tissue, bar soap, canned spaghetti, and soup.

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

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



Feeding the Community

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

WAYSIDE GARDEN

Thanks to our faithful gardeners, vegetables are available in the kitchen. Donations for garden produce benefit the West Millcreek Food Pantry. We were recently reminded of the impact of the food pantry on individual families as they expressed their appreciation for our continued support.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The September distribution for the Second Harvest mobile food pantry at the Federated Church in East Springfield is September 26. 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.

HOMELESS MEALS

September 17, 9:30-10:30

To help prepare and assemble bagged lunches to feed the hungry in Erie, contact Pastor Nathan at nathan@wayside-erie.org.



WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER



Sunday, September 4

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

Psalm 1

"There Is a Way"

James preaching

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Sunday, September 11

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration and Dedication of The Legacy Project and Technology Improvements

Psalm 51:1-10

"To Be an Example"

James preaching

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Sunday, September 18

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Nathan preaching

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; 9:23-24 "Blessed Are Those Who Mourn"

Sunday, September 25

16th Sunday after Pentecost

James preaching

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 "The Life That Really Is Life"

1 Timothy 6:6-19



September 1	Jan Anderson	September 14	Bella Fried	September 22	Gladys Smith
	Hope Garrity		Jason Eddy		Stephanie Sheriff
	Jim Perkins	September 15	Diane Feltmeyer	September 23	Barb Egg
September 3	Rebecca McGuire	September 16	Vanessa Fremer		Alivia Garrity
	LeRoy Sundberg		Ken Reitinge		Todd DeBello
September 4	Rachel Swanson		Joe Steger		Tom Sesler
September 5	Jana Babb	September 17	Kathrine Swanson	September 24	Barb Foutz
	Betsy Deimel		Seth McCullough		Kelsey Grode
September 6	David Jackson	September 18	Jill Weber		Lynn Bowen
September 7	Jessica Day		Penny Porter	September 26	Susan Speakman
September 8	Jami Sundberg		Joe Stack	September 28	Harlie Yahn
September 9	Judy Sinner	September 19	Mary Watkins		Erin Gleason
September 10	Dale Massing	September 20	Justin Grimm		Logan Thompson
September 11	Ethan Craig		Amanda Garrity		Gabbie Parker
September 12	Lillian Marsh	September 21	Collin Bowes	September 29	Melissa Grimm
	Tim Keibler	September 22	Keith Sundberg		Tim Glass
September 13	David Abbott		Jane Hess	September 30	Kimberly Hutzelman
	Grayson Jewell				Charlotte Weaver



September 1	Steve and Diana Day	September 13	Justin and Missy Grimm
September 2	Evan and Mary Watkins	September 17	Ryan and Jillian Starr
September 3	Scott and Carrie Bastow	September 18	Michael and Vanessa Paris
September 4	David and Linda Jackson	September 22	Melissa and Mark Buseck
	Randy and Amy Valentine	September 24	Dave and Denise Borowski
September 11	Bill and Janet Coyne	September 25	Rod and Barb Foutz
September 12	Pat and George Fish	September 29	Steve and Diane Briggs
	Ken and Debbie Smith		



SEPTEMBER 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Be who you are and be welcome here.</i>				1 IU5 Preschool 1:30p North Coast Sewing Guild 7:00p AIA non	2	3
4 10:00a Celebration of Worship 11:00a Fellowship	5 Labor Day Office Closed 6:30p AA	6 IU5 Preschool	7 IU5 Preschool 9:30a Stronger Srs. 5p Generosity	8 IU5 Preschool 12:30p Lunch Bunch 7p Chancel Choir 7:00p AIA non	9 IU5 Preschool	10
11 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Celebration of Worship 12:00 Fellowship Adult Mission Trip to Kentucky	12 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p AA	13 IU5 Preschool 10a Prayer Shawl Ministry	14 IU5 Preschool 9:30a Stronger Srs. 10:30a Carrie T Watson Garden Club 4p WOW Kids 5:30p Primary Choir 6p WOW Dinner 7:30p Session	15 IU5 Preschool 7p Chancel Choir 7:00p AIA non	16 IU5 Preschool NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 8:30a HAAEQG 9:30a Bag lunch packing 3-6p Block Party
18 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Celebration of Worship 12:00 Fellowship	19 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p AA	20 IU5 Preschool 7p Sophia Circle	21 IU5 Preschool 9:30a Stronger Srs. 12p Naomi Circle 4p WOW Kids 5:30p Primary Choir 6p PW Baked Potato Dinner	22 IU5 Preschool 11:30a Elizabeth Circle 6:00p AIA non New- comers 7p Chancel Choir 7:30p AIA non	23 IU5 Preschool	24
25 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Celebration of Worship 12:00 Fellowship CROP WALK	26 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p AA	27 IU5 Preschool 1p Newsletter Col- lating 5:30p HAAEQG 7p Book Club	28 IU5 Preschool 9:30a Stronger Srs. 4p WOW Kids 5:30p Primary Choir 6p WOW Dinner	29 IU5 Preschool 6:00p AIA non New- comers 7p Chancel Choir 7:30p AIA non	30 IU5 Preschool	

Grateful thanks . . .

My "retirement" send-off on June 5 was a bittersweet day. I am very grateful for the many years at Wayside, the friendships, support, and the many gifted musicians with whom I have had the privilege to work. I look forward to my new journey and to where it will lead. Heartfelt thanks for the many cards, gifts, and well-wishes from all of you.

Gratefully blessed,
Dawn



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
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- The Reverend Nathan Royster Associate Pastor
nathan@wayside-erie.org 814-715-6367 (cell)
- Nicholas Nasibyan Director of Music
- David Sickles Sexton
- Karen Pastewka Financial Secretary
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- Jennifer Lockett Office Administrator
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Newsletter Collators:

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

Many thanks to you all for your help!!

*Be who you are
and be welcome here.*

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.