

Inside Wayside

VOLUME 62, NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2023



Waysiders are gathering Saturday, **February 11** to package food to Rise Against Hunger. This meal packaging event helps hungry people and provides a good time for participants. A crew of strong folk is needed to set up prior to the event. Sign up at the table in the lobby. Set-up at 9 a.m. and packaging begins at 9:30.



tacklehunger.org

Turn Super Bowl Sunday into Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday! Drop cash into a soup pot after worship on Sunday, **February 12** to join others in our area to support Second Harvest Food Bank and help to feed the 88,670 individuals in northwest PA facing hunger.



In 2022 the elders of session spent a few months thinking and praying to discern and name what they believed were “core values” of Wayside. You would think that is an easy task. What we found is that we wanted to name experiences and practices, examples of things we value, but focusing onto what is at the heart of those things was challenging. When I name my core values, and when Anita and I together name our core values, it takes some effort and patience to actually get there.

The elders named these four core values of our life together at Wayside: Welcome, Compassion, Faithfulness, and Wonder. Over the next four months I am going to briefly explore each of those values. Since February bridges the seasons of Epiphany and Lent, linking the wonder of Christmas to the introspection leading to Easter, I am going to start this month with Wonder.

Psalm 8 is a hymn of wonder. “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars that you have established, what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?” Since we live in an era shaped by the discoveries made possible by science, the psalm writer’s wonder is expanded with the Hubbell and Webb telescopes that allow us to look with great detail into the depths of the universe, and with microscope technology to look into the tiniest constructions within life on earth. Then, as we grow in awareness of the promise and failings of human endeavors, that poet’s question echoes – what are human beings that you are mindful of them? We wonder. In our wonder we may expand our hearts and deepen our trust in the Creator and Redeemer who sustains us that we may ever more reflect the mind of Jesus Christ. Then may we grow more deeply and expansively within, and grow more broadly and expansively beyond ourselves. Wonder is that value with which we encounter mystery and engage curiosity to endeavor life in communion with the One who made us.

Let me invite you to engage in a practice of wonder. The late Father Thomas Keating brought to contemporary light the ancient practice of Centering Prayer. Find a sign-up sheet in the lobby or contact Jennifer at Wayside to indicate your interest in learning about this way of prayer.

May we be inspired by children who see things with new eyes and new perspectives, and honor the clarity of their questions and the natural hope God puts within them. May our sense of wonder be restored that we may be open to all that God is doing in the light of Christ. That we may become, as Jesus advised, like little children.



What Is Going on at the Church???

Have you ever pulled into the parking lot during the week and wondered what all the cars are there for? In addition to our regular Wayside activities, there are several outside groups that use our space for their meetings and events. Here are some of the things that may be happening at any given time.

Music Together with Ms. Mary

We have opened our doors to Ms. Mary Bowen and her classes that allow families to "discover the magic of music together." For more information about Music Together with Ms. Mary, visit www.musictogetherwithmsmary.com!

IUS Preschool

While Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit has moved their offices out of the Wayside basement, they continue to use our preschool space for morning and afternoon sessions for their early intervention preschool classes.

HAAEQG

Hands All Across Erie Quilting Guild was one of the first groups to return to Wayside following the pandemic. They continue to meet twice a month for their quilting activities. They can be found on Facebook by searching @HAAEQG.

North Coast Sewing Guild

Our huge thanks to Wayside Church for allowing the Sewing Guild to meet at this special place. This group has been meeting here at Wayside for more than 30 years. We very much appreciate using this space. And the church secretary and the custodian have always graciously accommodated our special requests. Several members of the Guild have moved away, but often comment on having a warm spot in their hearts for time spent at Wayside.

Gretchen Kelley,
Leader



Symphonic Singers

The Symphonic Singers of Erie have resumed rehearsing at Wayside. They held a Christmas concert in December and are planning another concert in May. The public is invited to attend their performances.

AA and Alanon

Weekly support groups meet at Wayside. For more information about these groups, visit <https://aaeriepa.org/> or <https://www.erie-al-anon.org/>.

RAUCOUS READERS BOOK CLUB

Our February 28th book is *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo. This book according to Super Summary, "follows Camino and Yahaira Rios, sisters living on different continents and who are unaware of one another's existence. When the plane their father is on crashes, Camino and Yahaira's lives are upended, and they are put on a path that will inevitably lead them to one another. Using her lyrical poetry, National Poetry Slam Champion Elizabeth Acevedo delivers a story of sisterhood, mourning, and coming of age that offers insight into the Dominican American community." *Clap When You Land* is a New York Times and IndieBound bestseller. It also won the Goodreads Choice Awards Best Young Adult Fiction. Come join us on February 28th at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor to discuss this book. If you have any questions, contact Mary Marsh or Karen Haas.



BUDGET BYTES
from the Budget/Finance Committee

In this February issue of the newsletter, the month of love and hearts, we are happy to report that great heart was shown by Waysiders in December to finish 2022 on a most gratifying note. You may recall that we were hoping for December revenues to come in on target, after October and November were painfully shy of projections. Thanks be to God, we did it! We projected revenues of \$43,000 and received \$45,000, with a year-end result of bringing in an astounding \$41,000 over budget, thanks to increased 2022 pledges, one-time gifts, and giving a little extra here and there. Coupled with a savings of \$17,000 in expenses YTD, we ended the year only (\$6,000) under budget, having begun the year projecting a deficit of (\$64,000). Great heart, indeed.

Challenges lie ahead in 2023, as we are beginning again with a projected deficit (\$41,000). Some expenses that we need to carefully monitor are utilities, snow removal, building repair and maintenance, as those have the potential to give us unwelcome surprises. However, we believe that Waysiders will once again show great heart to support this church which we dearly love as she carries out Christ's mission in our community and beyond. Below is the result of the Fall Financial Commitment Challenge for 2023 pledges, compared with 2022, and you will already see a substantial increase in dollars pledged. We again extend heartfelt gratitude to all who made a pledge and we pray for additional support in 2023.

	2023 PLEDGES	2022 PLEDGES
DOLLARS PLEDGED	\$398,824.05	\$365,382.03
INCREASED	42	55
REMAINED SAME	43	47
NEW	14	13
DECREASED	24	14
TOTAL PLEDGES	123	129

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dec. Rev	\$44,833.60	Dec. Exp	\$59,796.59
YTD Rev	\$525,369.17	YTD Exp	\$531,338.73

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.

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 10

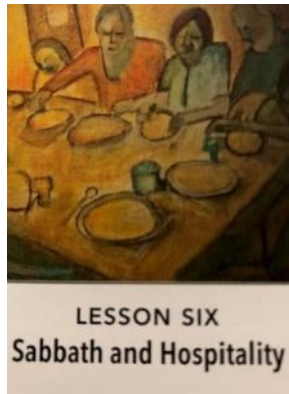


PW NEWS



SOPHIA CIRCLE

The Sophia Circle will meet on **Tuesday February 21st at 7:00 pm in the parlor**. Karen Haas will lead us in **Lesson 6 "Sabbath and Hospitality"**. The scripture lessons are Exodus 20: 8-11 and Deuteronomy 5: 12-15. The key idea, "There is something in the very nature of Sabbath that demands that it be shared. Accepting the gift of Sabbath also involves a commitment to hospitality." All women are invited to attend!



NAOMI CIRCLE

Wednesday, February 22
at noon in the parlor.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE

Thursday, February 23
at 11:30 AM in the parlor.

WAYSIDE LUNCH BUNCH

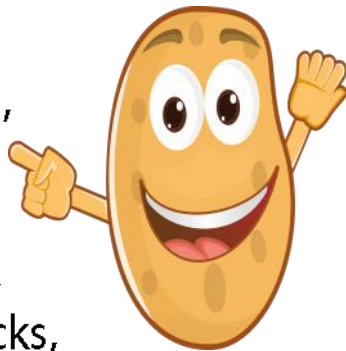
Thursday, February 9
Noon
Zem Zem Shrine Club
38th and Zuck

PW Baked Potato Dinner

We raised \$910 for Heifer international at the dinner! The children's picks were amazing!

We will purchase:

- 1 Alpaca,
- 2 honey bee hives,
- 1 water buffalo,
- 1 pig,
- 1 share of a heifer,
- 4 packages of chicks,
- 1 goat, and
- 2 shares of a sheep.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKET SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH

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 to carry supplies. They provide encouragement and love. Together we can help many families! Our goal is to provide 100 blankets. Please consider donating to our Blanket Sunday offering.

Offering envelopes will be in the pews February 5th and 12th. Checks can be made out to Wayside Presbyterian Women or use the e-giving portal for Wayside - Category Presbyterian Women - subcategory - Blanket Sunday.

What others are saying about CWS Blankets:

"To all the volunteers, the donors of Church World Service: God bless you! You are touching the hearts of people you will never meet. You are bringing hope to people that are hopeless and bringing hope to people that feel so disenfranchised. God bless you, God keep you! Keep doing what you are doing because you are making a difference." —Shirlyn Thomas, co-pastor at God's Kingdom and Restoration Ministries in Galveston, TX



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ANNUAL MISSION FUNDRAISER AND PROGRAM BOOK

In mid-January Presbyterian Women mailed out our 2023 Program Booklet and a request to contribute \$20 or more to help fulfill our challenging mission budget. We hope you will join us in our many activities scheduled throughout the year. **Donations can be made out to Wayside Presbyterian Women** and mailed or dropped off at the church office or you can give on the church's e-giving portal (category Presbyterian Women – sub category mission fundraiser.) **All contributions are greatly appreciated!**



PW HOMEMADE SOUP SALE – SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19TH

Our great chefs —Jane Gilewicz and Jill Abbott—will be making **Vegetable Beef Soup** (Mary Marsh's famous recipe) and **Sausage Potato Soup** (Jane is modifying Kylie Sundberg's delicious recipe) for a Mission Fundraiser. The soup can be picked up before and after both services on February 19th. You can reserve your soup by signing up in the lobby. A quart container will be available for a \$12 donation. **All proceeds will support PW mission projects.** Please plan on enjoying some yummy soup and help PW raise money for mission.

WOW CLUB SCHEDULE

*WOW Club is Wayside's fellowship
for 2nd-5th graders,
meeting Wednesdays at 4:00-6:00*

FEBRUARY

- 1 Script Project Speaker on Racism
- 8 James—Lesson on Death, Hope, and Faith
- 15 Trip to Dusckas-Martin Funeral Home (5:00-6:00)
- 22 Burn palm fronds, Ash Wednesday Art Project
with Jessie MacDonald (Ash Wed. Worship at 7:00)

ISSUES OF FAITH

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

FEBRUARY

2/5 **Rev. Keith Sundberg**, "The Five Christs of the New Testament"

2/12 **Nicholas Nasibyan**, music director, Wayside Presbyterian Church.

2/19 **Shayla Jones**, Youth Quality Improvement Specialist, The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center

2/26 TBD

WAYOUTH SCHEDULE

*WaYouth is Wayside's fellowship for 6th-12th graders,
engaging in:*

- Deepening relationships
- Deepening faith
- Loving and serving others

FEBRUARY 11, 9:30am-noon: Rise Against Hunger

The entire family is welcome this morning to come help out with this high-energy service opportunity in which we pack over 10,000 meal packs for international hunger relief. Team up with the whole congregation to make this possible.

FEBRUARY 25, 9am-1pm: Mount St. Benedict Visit

This visit to the monastery at Mount St. Benedict will take a look at the life and work of this community of nuns and explore how we can apply their spiritual practices and way of living into our lives. The time will conclude with lunch with the sisters.

SAVE
THE
DATE

MISSION CAMP
JUNE 18-23

RISING 6TH GRADE-
2023 GRADUATES

Camp
Lambec



Mindful Parenting

*Moving from Reactive to Responsive,
from Anxious to Present*

Wednesdays at 6:30
March 1-April 5 in Parlor Room

For Lent, join other parents in exploring practices that can help to draw us to a place where we are not provoked by the stresses of parenting and life, but responding from our own cherished values. We will engage in exercises and group discussions and get to know other parents.

NO READING REQUIRED, but if you want reading material,
please contact Pastor Nathan.



Directory Update

We are past due for a new printed directory, but first we need to update our database. Please complete the following information for each adult and **all children under 18** in your household, whether they attend or not. Adult **children over 18 should complete their own form.** Please only include email addresses that are regularly used. If you prefer not to be included or for any specific information (email, cell phone, etc.) to be unpublished, please note that. Birth and anniversary years and school grades are only for our records and will not be published, but allow us to identify age groups for specific communication and for denominational reporting.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Spouse's First Name _____ Last Name _____

Please include even if they are not a member or regular attender.

Mailing Address

Address Line 1 _____

Address Line 2 _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Seasonal Address (dates used _____)

Address Line 1 _____

Address Line 2 _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email _____ Spouse

Email _____

Home Phone Number (if any) _____

Your Cell Phone Number _____

Receive texts? Yes No

Spouse Cell Phone Number _____

Spouse receive texts? Yes No

Your Birthdate _____ Spouse Birthdate _____

Anniversary Date _____

If you have children who have graduated from high school, please include them on a separate form.

Child 1

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Birthdate _____ Grade in School _____

Child Email and/or phone _____

Child 2

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Birthdate _____ Grade in School _____

Child Email and/or phone _____

Child 3

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Birthdate _____ Grade in School _____

Child Email and/or phone _____

Child 4

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Birthdate _____ Grade in School _____

Child Email and/or phone _____

Child 5

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Birthdate _____ Grade in School _____

Child Email and/or phone _____

May we include your information in the printed church directory? _____

If we acquire any photographs from church events with you or your family members, may we have your permission to publish them to our Web site or our social media sites? _____



WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 5

Isaiah 58:1-9a
Matthew 5:13-20

5th Sunday after Epiphany
"You Are"

Holy Communion
James Preaching

Sunday, February 12

Matthew 5:21-27
Deuteronomy 30:15-29

6th Sunday after Epiphany
"You Have Heard, But I Say"

James Preaching

Sunday, February 19

2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Transfiguration of the Lord
"A Simple Message"

Nathan Preaching
Baptism of Malcom Stancliff

Wednesday, February 22

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes
Holy Communion

Sunday, February 26

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Matthew 4:1-11

1st Sunday in Lent
"No Easy Way Out"

James Preaching

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 prayer room.
Light refreshments provided.*

Happy Birthday

2/2	Kerry Moyer	2/9	Leslie Weber	2/18	Greg Sbrocco
2/3	Sheila Kocan	2/9	Nathan Royster	2/20	Emma Lewis
2/3	Claus Fuchs	2/10	Brian Zimmerman	2/20	Richard Decker
2/3	Grace Melaragno	2/10	Nicholas Jones	2/22	Logan Mitten
2/3	Maely Gehrlein	2/12	Ashley Behn	2/24	Brian Buseck
2/3	Isla Hu	2/12	Lisa Read-Rzepecki	2/24	Ellen Gruber
2/4	Tim Feltmeyer	2/13	Genna Feltmeyer	2/25	Edythe Endean
2/4	Evan Grimm	2/13	Hillary Skala	2/26	Beckie Jackson
2/5	Brooke Weaver	2/14	Sheldan Moelk	2/26	Ashley Lewis
2/5	Georgia Del Freo	2/15	Jared Stern	2/26	Katie Potocki
2/5	Leanne Keibler	2/15	Annabelle Pentz	2/26	Maxwell Wallace
2/7	Jackie Tingley	2/15	Cindy Yahn Grode	2/28	Brian McGill
2/7	Colin Hurley	2/16	Leslie Momeyer	2/28	Paul Carpenedo
2/8	Lindsay Kopac	2/16	Vincent Knight	2/28	Elaine Brinling
2/8	Ryan Marsh	2/17	Jared Parker	2/29	Oliver Paris
		2/18	Pat Fish		

Happy Anniversary

2/3	Marion & Robert Gallivan
2/14	Gary & Linda Behn
2/14	Mark & Gwen Smith
2/18	Tim & Peggy Glass



FEBRUARY 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 IU5 Preschool 9:30a Stronger Seniors 4p WOW Kids 5p Generosity Committee 5:30p Primary Choir 6p WOW Dinner 7p Deacon Meeting	2 IU5 Preschool 9a Beginner Yoga 1:30p North Coast Sewing Guild 6p Al-Anon Newcomers 7:30p Al-Anon	3 IU5 Preschool	4
5 Blanket Sunday 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Celebration of Worship	6 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p AA 7p Symphonic Singers 7p Outreach	7 IU5 Preschool 9:30, 10:30, 12:30, 4:30 MTWMM	8 IU5 Preschool 9:30a Stronger Seniors 4p WOW Kids 5:30p Primary Choir 6p WOW Dinner 7:30p Session	9 IU5 Preschool 9a Beginner Yoga 12p Lunch Bunch 6p Al-Anon Newcomers 7p Chancel Choir 7:30p Al-Anon	10 IU5 Preschool Newsletter Deadline	11 9:30a Rise Against Hunger
12 Souper Bowl of Caring 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Celebration of Worship	13 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p AA 7p Symphonic Singers	14 IU5 Preschool 9:30, 10:30, 12:30, 4:30 MTWMM 10a Prayer Shawl Ministry	15 IU5 Preschool 9:30, 10:30, 12:30 MTWMM 9:30a Stronger Seniors 4p WOW Kids 5:30p Primary Choir 6p WOW Dinner	16 IU5 Preschool 9a Beginner Yoga 6p Al-Anon Newcomers 7p Chancel Choir 7:30p Al-Anon	17 IU5 Preschool	18 8:30a HAAEQG Sew-In 9:30a Bag Lunch Packing
19 PW Soup Sale 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Celebration of Worship	20 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p AA 7p Symphonic Singers	21 IU5 Preschool 9:30, 10:30, 12:30, 4:30 MTWMM 1p Newsletter Collating 7p Sophia Circle	22 IU5 Preschool 9:30, 10:30, 12:30 MTWMM 9:30a Strong Srs 12p Naomi Circle 4p WOW Kids 5:30p Primary Choir 6p Pancake Dinner 7p Ash Wednesday Service	23 IU5 Preschool 9a Beginner Yoga 11:30a Elizabeth Circle 6p Al-Anon Newcomers 7p Chancel Choir 7:30p Al-Anon	24 IU5 Preschool	25 9a-1p WaYouth visit to Mt. St. Benedict
26 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Celebration of Worship	27 9:30a Stronger Srs. 11a Mobile Food Pantry, E. Springfield 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p AA 7p Symphonic Singers	28 IU5 Preschool 9:30, 10:30, 12:30, 4:30 MTWMM 5:30p HAAEQG 6:30 Raucous Readers Book Club				

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The February distribution for the Second Harvest mobile food pantry at the Federated Church in East Springfield is February 27. 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.



ONLINE GIVING

Scan the code below with your phone camera to contribute to your pledge, PW, memorial funds, mission offerings, and more!



WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1208 Asbury Road Erie, PA 16505
email: wpc@wayside-erie.org

Phone: 814-833-7653
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)
- The Reverend Jim Haas Pastor Emeritus
- Nicholas Nasibyan Director of Music
nick@wayside-erie.org 814-490-8012 (cell)
- David Sickles Sexton
- Karen Pastewka Financial Secretary
steward@wayside-erie.org
- Jennifer Lockett Office Administrator
wpc@wayside-erie.org

*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.