

Inside Wayside

VOLUME 62, NO. 7

JULY 2023

I have been inspired over the past year by both the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study curriculum that focused on the sabbath and by Ruth Haley Barton's book, *Embracing Rhythms of Work and Rest: from Sabbath to Sabbatical and Back Again*. I knew that sabbath keeping is one of the commandments, Exodus 20:8, "Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy." But it is only in the last few years that I have sought to obey the commandment with care, and to commend sabbath keeping as crucial to life because the commandment goes on to include rest for everything, all people and creatures. Even God rested and blessed the day. In Leviticus, the idea of sabbath extends to the forgiving of debt and the restoration of lands that had been traded away. Jesus taught that God made the sabbath for people. Sabbath is an idea at the heart of Judeo-Christian faith.

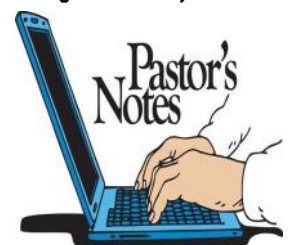
This year you good people of Wayside have graciously granted me a sabbatical from August 1 to October 31. I have designed it to be a sabbath from the normal work of ministry. I am going solo to volunteer with the Ghost Ranch Conference Center of the Presbyterian Church (USA), serving the work of the center and its participants. Anita will continue her work in Erie during that time. I am not entirely sure what I will be doing. Maybe I will be folding sheets in the laundry, or serving as host at the welcome center, and maybe as a chaplain if needed. I will be a utility person. My spiritual director gave this the name "purgation," work that is other than my usual calling so that the time and experience are a way to reset. My inspiration comes from the abbot of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Abbey in Conyers, GA. I met him when he was taking a turn operating the abbey's bookstore, his robe spotted with food from his having just worked in the dish room. I did not know he was the abbot as he talked about how he enjoyed taking up tasks he did not normally do because it was a "rest from the customary." That night, after the evening prayer, he was the one, with a sparkle in his eye, that splashed holy water on us as we departed. I later found out he had served for a decade as the representative of his order to the Vatican. He inspired me with this idea of rest from the customary.

So that is the initial focus of the sabbatical I am taking. Sabbath, a rest from the customary. I will do so with care and intentionality, that I may serve you with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. The month of October Anita and I will take a long-dreamed-of trip to New Zealand where we will camp and travel and be refreshed by the beauty of the place and the rhythm of life on the road.

The church will also have a rest from the customary. Nathan will preach about half of the Sundays and then members and friends of Wayside have agreed to preach. I will have to tune in on YouTube so I can hear from the hearts and thoughts of our friends and neighbors.

I am so very grateful for this sabbatical. It is a wonderful and generous opportunity for the refreshment of the spirit. It will be good after these weeks to return to Wayside, and to the community of loving fellowship and shared witness to the way of Jesus Christ. I know you will continue your tradition of loving your neighbors and serving those who are hungry and in need and living out your commitment to welcoming all who you meet and accepting where they are in their journey of life and faith.

Grace and peace to you all,



BUDGET BYTES from the Budget/Finance Committee

May flowers brought a May budget report that blossomed to our liking. In **revenues**, May produced a surplus of \$4,000 over projections which included an extra \$2,500 in pledged giving, almost \$800 extra in Per Capita receipts, and \$600 extra in rental receipts, among other items. Unpledged giving was just shy of its budget for the month. The year-to-date picture in total projected revenue showed us sitting just \$4,000 below budget. (By way of comparison, in April we were \$8,000 below projections, so we are moving in the right direction.)

On the **expense** side, we are happy to report that we were \$2,000 under budget both for the month of May and YTD. The utility bills have come more in line with projections, we no longer have snow plowing bills, and we saved \$1,000 on our insurance bill, thanks to the great efforts of two members of the Budget/Finance Committee (Barb Egg and Daren McCullough).

Overall receipts/expenses for May saw a \$6,000 improvement over projections due to better-than-anticipated revenue and the savings in expenses. YTD we were projected to have an overall deficit of approximately (\$36,000) whereas we showed a deficit of about (\$38,000). Yes, we had a blooming garden in May – praise the Lord – but let's remember that we still have that thorny, weedy deficit that won't miraculously disappear without our attentive planting of seeds (a.k.a. meaningful additional revenue). Let's tend our "garden" and watch what will bloom from our efforts and with God's help.

FINANCIAL REPORT

MAY REV	\$35,703.33	MAY EXP	\$53,214.77
YTD REV	\$196,116.20	YTD EXP	\$233,697.69

NOISY OFFERING

The third Sunday of each month, bring your spare change to make a joyful noise to support our monthly brown-bag lunches for the homeless.



PER CAPITA PROGRESS!

Waysiders, you are beautiful! In response to our recent letter asking you to fulfill your Per Capita obligation, we have witnessed an incredibly generous response. As this is being written (June 11) we have received \$1,110 so far this month, in addition to the \$1,849 collected in May. Our year-to-date total as of this date, which includes contributions made since January, is \$5,256; we now have the very real possibility of exceeding \$6,000 which is our budgeted goal for 2023. Amazing.



We extend heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed to the Per Capita Appeal and will continue to encourage additional participation. The cost is \$33 per each confirmed member of your family. Checks may be made payable to Wayside with "Per Capita" on the memo line or via the Wayside online giving portal. "Per Capita Progress" indeed.

ERIE GIVES +2 in 2023

Wayside will again be participating in *Erie Gives* (**Tuesday August 8**), The Erie Community Foundation's very successful signature event to promote giving to local nonprofits, now in its 13th year.

Your donation shows God's love by supporting our vital ministry and also enables us to use a portion of those gifts to financially help the many local missions we support. Moreover, 25% of the additional matching funds Wayside receives from *Erie Gives* are specifically earmarked for mission.

We are again adding a "+2" to encourage you to support at least two other nonprofits when you donate to Wayside, thus making an increased impact in our community.

Key details:

- Donations accepted online, by check, or gifts of securities or required minimum distribution from an IRA
- Consider giving a portion or all of your usual Wayside 2023 giving
- Consider giving a special gift to Wayside to reduce our budget deficit balance or earmark for a special purpose
- Matching funds from *Erie Gives* depend on total amount donated to Wayside (minus 3% credit card fees, if applicable)
- To contribute **online**, visit www.ErieGives.org on **August 8** from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM.
- Minimum \$25 gift per nonprofit
- Select "Wayside"
- Select at least 2 additional nonprofits to support (suggested option)
- To contribute **by check**, make payable to "The Erie Community Foundation"
- Minimum \$25 gift per nonprofit
- Checks must be accompanied by a Check Donation Form which is available for download at ErieGives.org
- Check Donation Form will also appear in Wayside's July newsletter and on the Information Table
- Write in "Wayside"
- Write in at least 2 additional nonprofits (suggested option)
- To be processed and delivered by Wayside, check and form must be received by Karen Pastewka at the Wayside office **no later than Tuesday August 1**
- Check and form may be sent directly to The Erie Community Foundation, 459 W. 6th Street, Erie PA 16507, to be received **no later than Monday August 7**.
- To contribute gifts of securities or required minimum distribution from an IRA, please contact Karen Pastewka for details at the Wayside office.
- Unless otherwise designated by you, your donation to Wayside will be applied towards your 2023 pledge (if you made one), or considered as an unpledged contribution. Again, contact Karen Pastewka if you have a unique situation and wish to split your donation amongst funds.

PLEASE SUPPORT ERIE GIVES +2 in 2023

ERIE GIVES CHECK CONTRIBUTION FORM

Please make checks payable to The Erie Community Foundation
(459 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507) and deliver with this completed
form no later than August 8, 2023.



By writing a check to The Erie Community Foundation 100% of your
donation will be given to your designated nonprofit(s).

ALL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED.

Donor First Name(s): _____

Donor Last Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Your email is collected for receipt purposes only.

Check Number: _____ Contribution Total: _____

Please list how you wish to be identified in print: _____

Example: Jayne & John Doe | John Doe | Anonymous

Does your employer match donations? ☐ Yes ☐ No Company Name: _____

Please note, the employee is responsible for completing the employer's company match paperwork.

Erie Gives Nonprofit Name (s) All nonprofits listed below must be listed on the Erie Gives website	Gift Amount \$25 minimum

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received: __ Mail __ In-Person _____ Information Verified _____ Entered _____



News from Presbyterian Women

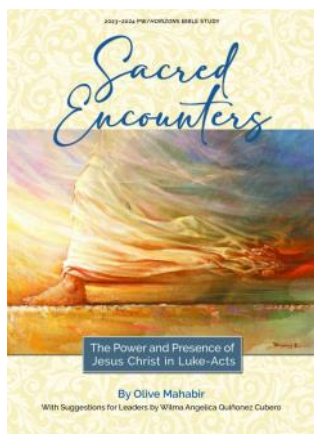


SOPHIA CIRCLE

The Sophia Circle does not meet in the summer. When we start up again in September we will be studying *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*.

If you want to order a study guide, please give Karen Haas \$11 by August 1st.

Enjoy summer!



LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday, July 13

Noon

Run Runners

3122 West Lake Road

RSVP to Wilma Valentz

814-838-2110



A big THANK YOU to everyone that donated to the PW Birthday Offering! We received over \$1,000. That is fantastic! This money will support the Making Miracles Group Home in Tallahassee, Florida and the Berhane Yesus Elementary School in Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia.

Elizabeth Circle

July 27 11:30 AM

In the parlor.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

PW is accepting nominations for honorary life membership. The Honorary Life Membership (HLM) program was established early last century in the Presbyterian Church to honor faithful service to the women's organization and to the church. Recipients become a part of a large group of women (and a few men) who have been recognized in this way. More than a thousand are awarded each year. The Honorary Life Membership is represented by a silver or gold membership pin that is presented along with a personalized certificate. The Honorary Life Membership pin symbolizes values held dear by Presbyterian Women. Funds derived from Honorary Life Membership support the PW Leadership Development Grant Program. Grants from this program enable individuals to engage in leadership development opportunities such as the Churchwide Gathering, Ecumenical Advocacy Days and the UN Commission on the Status of Women. **Nomination forms are on the information table and will be accepted until August 15. A list of previous recipients can be found on the PW bulletin board outside the church office.**



Wayside PW attend the Presbytery PW Spring Gathering at Irvine Presbyterian Church

The Spring Gathering at Irvine was wonderful! We had 10 women from Wayside attend. We learned a lot about the history of the Irvine church and community. We had a delicious meal and a good time seeing women from all over the Presbytery. Seventeen churches were represented at the Gathering. It was great to be with so many Presbyterian Women!



One Table Summer Picnic

Another summer picnic? You betcha. ONE TABLE is a multicultural group that has an annual picnic at Presque Isle State Park. You and your family are invited on Thursday, August 3 at the Runners' Pavilion. We gather at 5pm to eat at 6pm. We provide drinks and table service and you bring a dish to pass, perhaps a delicacy from your cultural tradition. It's a gala event with foods from around the world. If you have questions, call me, Gary Larson, 716-307-5815.

Directions to Runners' Pavilion: After entering the park itself, take your immediate first left turn (it comes up quickly). You must then stop to let exiting traffic leave the park. Drive straight ahead onto a dirt road and you'll see a building to the far right, which is Runners' Pavilion. Invite and bring family and friends. You'll meet some wonderful people.



Wayside members Nancy Cederlof, Jane Hess, Jan Pedersen, and Chris Hoyt enjoying the Memorial Day events at Fairview Cemetery.

WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

Wayside Worship is now being livestreamed each week. You can join Wayside Worship as it is happening at 10:00 (summer schedule) on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@waysideerie1070>, or tune in to the same link later to view on demand. The link is also included in the Wayside Weekly email.



Rummage Sale 2023 was a Big Success!

This year the rummage sale made over \$4,800. WOW! Presbyterian Women will use that money to fund mission work. Thank you to everyone that helped make the rummage sale run so smoothly! A special thank you to the Wayside Staff – they all pitched in to make this sale a great one! The sale is a big project and can not be done without lots of volunteer workers; this year's volunteers ranged in age from 8 to 95! Nancy is the amazing chair of the sale, but she will be the first to tell you it is the many, many volunteers that make it all come together!

So, thank you to everyone that brought in rummage, sorted rummage, worked on sale days, helped with advertising, clean-up, food for the sale workers, buying rummage and getting the left-over items taken to agencies. The following community agencies received items – Habitat for Humanity, The City Mission, Elmwood Free Store, and the Multi-Cultural Community Resource Center.

The best part of the rummage sale, besides helping Waysiders clean out their closets and community members getting great items at very reasonable prices, is the many conversations and shared laughter among the volunteers. We catch up with each other as we sort or price items. We get to talk with members we may not normally get to chat much with on a Sunday morning or maybe we meet a member or a member's friend for the first time. We laugh about items we can't identify and generally enjoy ourselves! We also speak with many community members on sale days. Plan now to volunteer for our next sale. You don't want to miss out on all the fun!



Vacation Bible School

July 24-28

9 AM-Noon

Age 4-Rising
Grade 5



Register online now at wayside-erie.org/vacation-bible-school

THE RETURN OF SCI-FI AND THEOLOGY

July 24, August 28 at 6:00pm at Lavery Brewing Company

Join people from a variety of backgrounds and interests as we once again attempt to go where no one has gone before with discussions about the intersection of science fiction and religion and spirituality.

Each month comes with **recommended** reading or viewing options, but they are not required to have a great conversation.

July 24: "Finding Purpose in a Better World" with Katie Gordon from Nones and Nuns; Recommended reading: *A Psalm for the Wild-Built* by Becky Chambers

August 28: Parable of the Sower with Melinda Hall from the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul



WORSHIP IN JULY

Single Summer Service at 10 AM through Labor Day

Sunday, July 2

Genesis 22:1-14

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

"Unreasonable Voices"

Holy Communion

Nathan Preaching

Sunday, July 9

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

"Yokes and Burdens"

James Preaching

We welcome new members

Sunday, July 16

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

"Good Ground"

Nathan Preaching

Sunday, July 23

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

"So Many Weeds"

James Preaching

Sunday, July 30

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

"With and Without Us"

James Preaching

Worship in the front yard



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Jul 02	Elly Fox	Jul 10	Bob Mitchell	Jul 19	Don Worthington
Jul 03	Dan Taylor	Jul 12	Tanner Babb	Jul 19	Douglas Weber
Jul 03	Rand Garrity	Jul 12	Maxwell Melaragno	Jul 19	Colton Martin
Jul 03	Kyra Marsh	Jul 12	Mason Melaragno	Jul 19	Ray Reade
Jul 04	Georgi Harrington	Jul 13	Helen Smith	Jul 21	Gwen Smith
Jul 05	Kristen Taylor	Jul 13	Cole Daehnke	Jul 21	Miranda Lish
Jul 06	Sandra Olsen	Jul 14	Steve Day	Jul 26	David Johns
Jul 07	Scott Taylor	Jul 14	Avery Zimmerman	Jul 26	George Vilushis
Jul 07	Barb McGill	Jul 15	Lars Weborg	Jul 26	Ken Smith
Jul 07	John Egg	Jul 15	Bruce Kern	Jul 26	Peggy Glass
Jul 08	Stephany Wismer	Jul 15	Brittany Shaffer	Jul 28	Mary Lou Edgett
Jul 08	Cade Sbrocco	Jul 16	Peggy Jenkins	Jul 29	Anna DeBello
Jul 09	Sally Cage	Jul 17	Julie Lewis	Jul 29	James Edgett
Jul 09	Angelle Sundberg	Jul 17	Joseph Thompson	Jul 31	Carol Christie


Happy Anniversary

Jul 01	Paul and Karen Carpenedo	Jul 14	Jalane Waka and Bedasa Chefa
Jul 02	Kurt and Kitty Menges	Jul 15	Tim and Hannah Stancliff
Jul 02	Joseph and Natalie Thompson	Jul 19	Bob and Janet Mitchell
Jul 06	Mike and Sandy Reed	Jul 23	TJ and Nancy Dolan
Jul 08	Alex and Michael Mitten	Jul 24	Kyle and Carlee Pentz
Jul 12	Douglas and Jill Weber	Jul 26	Karen and Brian Latimer
Jul 12	Mark and Marcia Twinem	Jul 29	Bill and Jenny Martin
Jul 12	Terry and Sandra Olsen	Jul 30	Gregg and Sallee Rabenold
Jul 14	Carol Christie and Tom Eckard	Jul 31	Bob and Mindy Scholl
		Jul 31	Rand and Amanda Garrity



July 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10a Summer Worship	3 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p AA	4 Office Closed 	5 9:30a Stronger Srs. 5p Generosity	6 1:30p North Coast Sewing Guild 6p Alanon Newcomers	7	8
9 10a Summer Worship Receiving New Members	10 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p AA	11 10a Prayer Shawl Ministry	12 9:30a Stronger Srs. 7p Session	13 12p Lunch Bunch 6p Alanon Newcomers	14 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	15 8:30a HAAEQG Sew-In 9:30a Bag Lunch Packing
16 10a Summer Worship	17 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p AA	18 MTWMM	19 MTWMM 9:30a Stronger Srs.	20 6p Alanon Newcomers	21	22
23 10a Summer Worship	24 9a-Noon VBS 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p AA 6p Pub Theology	25 9a-Noon VBS MTWMM 1p Newsletter Collating 5:30p HAAEQG	26 9a-Noon VBS MTWMM 9:30a Stronger Srs.	27 9a-Noon VBS 11:30a Elizabeth Circle 6p Alanon Newcomers	28 9a-Noon VBS	29
30 10a Outdoor Worship	31 9:30a Stronger Srs. 11a Mobile Food Dist. 6:30p AA					

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

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



New Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs—8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Friday—8:30 AM-2:00 PM

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.