

# Inside Wayside

VOLUME 62, NO. 11

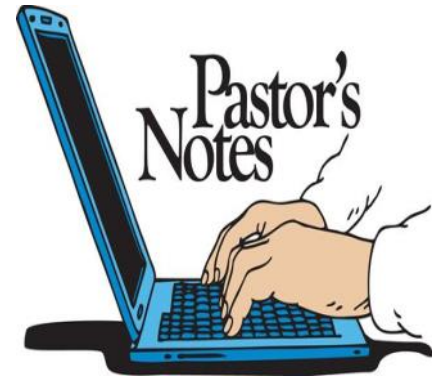
NOVEMBER 2023

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Thank you. I set out to spend 90 days “finding rest in doing what is not customary”; and I did. In volunteer service at Ghost Ranch I found a community of people serving every day to welcome people into a beautiful part of God’s earth and through art, outdoor activity, writing and prayer to grow closer to God and to know themselves better. I quickly found my place there and found affirmation in simply being myself and doing what was needed. From hands on labor to chaplaincy to being a pastoral presence, I found restoration and renewal. It was far better than I had imagined and hoped.



In our journey to New Zealand, Anita and I had an adventure of a lifetime. We traveled like two youngsters in a self-contained campervan and camped, most nights for free, all over the country. We discovered plants and birds that were new to us, hiked in tropical forests and on tall mountains beneath snowy craggy peaks. We visited cities and botanical gardens, and a movie set for Hobbiton in the Shire. We ate in pubs and cafes but mostly cooked for ourselves. We met many people along the way and found that what we believe is true, with rare exceptions, people are wonderful, helpful and kind. And we learned that two creaky, achy folks, long married, can spend time cramped together in a metal box and still get along, mostly.

Thank you. I am grateful for eight years, on December 1, seeking to walk the way of Christ with you all. Thank you for granting this sabbatical break and all it has meant and will continue to mean to me. It will be good to be back with you.

Grace and peace to you all in everything.

*James*

**BUDGET BYTES**  
**from the Budget/Finance Committee**

Because we are now in the fourth quarter of our fiscal as well as calendar year we are going to focus on our year-to-date budget status as of September 30 in this month's recap. We are basically staying within the guidelines of a budget approved by Session and acknowledged by the congregation in which we were projected to spend \$41,000 more than we expected to receive in income in 2023. We have called it a "faith budget" because we know that Wayside is a congregation of faithful Christians who are committed to our ongoing ministry and mission and who wish to provide the means to fund our ministry; that core belief has not changed.

As of September 30 we showed a YTD shortfall of \$22,000 in pledges. We hope and pray to recoup much of that from folks who took note of their shortfall in their individual 3rd quarter statement sent with the 2024 Stewardship campaign packet. We trust it will prompt all of us to keep up to date with our pledged giving. Unpledged giving YTD showed us to be \$2,000 short of budget projections. The bright spots in receipts YTD were loose offering, building rental, interest income, Per Capita appeal (\$2,000 over projections), and fund raising (\$4,000 over projections). Overall YTD receipts as of September 30 were \$17,000 short of our 2023 budget target.

How are we faring in terms of expenses YTD? As of September 30 spending was \$15,000 under projections. That enabled us to show a YTD overall receipts/expenses of \$2,000 below projections.

Although we are on target to end the year with our original deficit of (\$41,000), we continue to believe in what is possible. With God's grace and God's help, we will celebrate God's blessing of who we are and what we are about: spreading the love of Christ through the ministry of Wayside Church. Please join us in that vision with your faithful financial support.

**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**

<b>Sept. Rev</b>	<b>\$147,543.22</b>	<b>Sept. Exp</b>	<b>\$45,967.78</b>
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<b>YTD Rev</b>	<b>\$413,943.35</b>	<b>YTD Exp</b>	<b>\$402,724.91</b>
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**Scrip Orders**

Wayside has a Scrip (gift card) program that earns money for the church and saves you time. Scrip order forms that list local and online retail gift cards are available on the information table in the lobby. You order the cards from the church one week and the cards are delivered the following Sunday. Typically, orders are placed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. Through your purchase of cards, you receive full value gift cards and the church receives a small percentage of that amount. Everyone wins!! Keep in mind that you can do your weekly shopping, lunch purchases, or home improvement projects with gift cards from places like Giant Eagle, Walmart, Subway, Taco Bell, Lowes, Home Depot, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbi Jo Fye ([fye@gannon.edu](mailto:fye@gannon.edu) or 814-449-1808).



### WOW CLUB SCHEDULE

WOW Club is Wayside's fellowship  
for 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders,  
meeting Wednesdays from 4:00-6:00

### **NOVEMBER**

- 1 Saints Lesson
- 8 Notes for Homeless Meals
- 15 Bowling and Pizza Snack (no choir)
- 22 NO WOW CLUB FOR THANKSGIVING
- 29 Art Project on Gratitude

### WAYOUTH EVENTS

Grades 6-12

### **NOVEMBER 2023**

#### **November 4-5**

Presbytery Overnight at Fairview  
Presbyterian Church

#### **November 18 or 20**

Thanksgiving Preparation for First-  
Year Immigrant Families at Interna-  
tional Institute

#### **November 19**

Youth Mental Health Event During  
Sunday School

### ISSUES OF FAITH

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

11/5 **Elizabeth Pyne, Ph.D.**, Director of Catholic Studies, Mercyhurst University,  
"Dangerous Forecasts: Far-right Environmentalism and a Planet on Fire"

11/12 **Chuck and Deb Monts**, Mission in Malawi

11/19 Intergenerational Event—**Kimberly Morrow** on Childhood Anxiety

11/26 (**no class** Thanksgiving)

### RAUCOUS READERS NOVEMBER BOOK

The Raucous Readers, Wayside's book club and open to all, will meet on **November 28 at 7 PM in the Parlor** to discuss *Visionary Women: How Rachel Carson, Jane Jacobs, Jane Goodall and Alice Waters Changed the World* by Andrea Barnet.

This is the story of four visionaries who profoundly shaped the world we live in today. Together, these women – linked not by friendship or field, but by their choice to break with convention—showed what one person speaking truth to power can do. Jane Jacobs fought for livable cities and strong communities; Rachel Carson warned us about poisoning the environment; Jane Goodall demonstrated the indelible kinship between humans and animals; and Alice Waters urged us to reconsider what and how we eat.

Please join us for the discussion and a light snack...all are welcome. Contact Mary Marsh ([mmarsh43@gmail.com](mailto:mmarsh43@gmail.com) or 814-392-3241) with questions.



# REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE

## WINTER OUTREACH

Winter is approaching and once again, Wayside will be helping out at Our Neighbor's Place Overflow Shelter, which is located at First Church of the Covenant for one week each month from November through March. In past years our participation at the shelter was limited to providing meals for homeless men and women in downtown Erie. While that help is still needed, we have recently received word that our help is also needed in other ways.

Below is a list of items that are often needed by people who come to the shelter. We are asking that Wayside members consider buying one or more of these items. Beginning November 5, there will be a box located in the church lobby where you can place the items you have purchased. They will be taken to Covenant and distributed to those in need during the cold winter season.

- Winter hats men & women—for very cold weather
- Winter gloves men & women—for very cold weather
- Men's underwear (ONLY boxers)—Med, Large, XL
- Women's underwear (ONLY briefs, no bikini, etc)—sizes 5-12
- Men's white undershirts—Med, L, XL
- Men's white crew socks—all sizes
- Combs and brushes
- Sample size toothpaste
- Sample size deodorant—men's and women's
- Razors
- Sample size body lotion
- Chapstick
- Depends for Men—Med, Large and XL
- Feminine Pads and Tampons

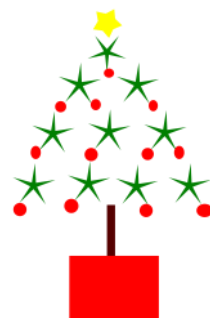


Thank you for your support of this continuing need in our community!

Wayside Outreach Committee

## ANGEL TREE

Wayside is once again supporting Mercy Center for Women with an Angel Tree. Watch for the tree and tags in the lobby this month. There are 10 moms and 16 children to share God's love with through giving this season. Unwrapped, tagged gifts are due by December 11.



## HOMELESS MEALS

*November 18, 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](mailto:nathan@wayside-erie.org).

## MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

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



## WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

### **Sunday, November 5**

Matthew 23:1-12

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

"A Christ-Shaped Way"

Holy Communion

James Bernhardt

### **Sunday, November 12**

I Chronicles 16:23-36

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Chuck Monts

### **Sunday, November 19**

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Amy Gilewicz

Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering Sunday

### **Sunday, November 26**

Matthew 25:31-46

Reign of Christ Sunday

"When No One is Watching"

James Bernhardt





# PW NEWS



## SOPHIA CIRCLE

**Sophia Circle to meet on Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00 pm in the parlor.**

Please note for just this month, we have changed our meeting date to the second Tuesday instead of the third Tuesday. We will study Lesson Three: *A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ*. The scripture lesson is Luke 8:43-48. The main idea is that Jesus calls us out of the shadows and claims us as his own.

Judy Sinner will lead us in our Bible Study and Marilyn Russell will provide our snack. All women are welcome to attend!

*Touch of Faith, Yongsung Kim*



## ELIZABETH CIRCLE

The **Elizabeth Circle** will not meet in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

## WAYSIDE LUNCH BUNCH

TBA

RSVP to Jean Moore  
814- 461-9665

## Annual Spaghetti Dinner for Ghana Partnership

Please plan to attend our **annual Spaghetti Dinner with all the proceeds benefitting the Ghana Partnership on Wednesday, November 1st at 6:00 pm.** The Ghana Partnership has regularly kept in touch via zoom meetings and emails. Currently in Ghana they are continuing work on a Land Development project in Yendi. They are redeveloping a building and making it into a 10-store complex. The Church would run two stores (Bookstore and Agricultural Supply Store) and rent out the other 8 stores. This will provide an on-going source of income for the Yendi Congregation and the Presbytery. Our Presbytery Ghana Partnership just sent \$9,000 to help with this project. In addition, they also sent 6 new motor bikes. These motorbikes allow Pastors to visit and care for their congregations, which are spread over long distances, and challenging road conditions. **Our financial contributions help make this support possible!** Please make plans to attend this delicious dinner and support our wonderful partnership!



Yendi Store Complex Building Site



New motorbikes for Pastors



# PW NEWS



## Bakers Needed

The Wayside Presbyterian Women will again have an Election Day Bake Sale at the church on Tuesday, November 7. Please support our mission project to assist Armenian refugees who are being forced to flee their homes in Artsakh.

### Election Day Bake Sale

We need pies, cookies, muffins, and breads. Items can be brought to the church on Sunday, Monday, or early Tuesday morning. Cookies should be packaged in groups of six. Please do not send pies that must be refrigerated as they can not be displayed.

Church members may come to shop even if it is not your voting spot. Call Pattie Pora with any questions.

## Christmas Cookie Trays

**Thursday 12/7** – Sugar cookie baking at church 9-noon.

Bring your cookie dough (drop it off if you aren't baking), rolling pin and cookies.

**Saturday 12/9** – 9-11 am cookie drop off (thanks for baking!!)

11:00 am – cookie tray assembly

**Sunday 12/10** – After church services -Cookie Tray sale \$20 per tray (At this great price it's a good idea to preorder your tray!)

Check out the information table in the lobby for preorders and volunteer opportunities! THANK YOU.

Questions? Call Jane Gilewicz 814-746-0736 or Jill Abbott 814-923-7578



## CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

All Wayside women are invited to a Christmas Brunch in the parlor Sunday, December 3 following the 11:00 worship service. Please sign up in the lobby.



### SAVE THE DATE!!

**Presbyterian Church-wide Gathering is August 8-11 in St. Louis!**

We are hoping several women from Wayside will want to attend! Please see Karen Haas for more information.



## Presbyterian Women will celebrate our Annual Thank Offering on November 19

Since 1988, Presbyterian women have shown deep gratitude for God's blessings by giving to the Thank Offering. This year PW's grant recipients span from Africa to synods across the U.S. God's love is inspiring the givers, it has directed the organizers, and will bless each beneficiary. Giving thanks to God and working together in community, their light will shine in otherwise darkened places.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, the bulletin cover will feature the 2023 Thank Offering recipients. Thank Offering envelopes will be in the pews on November 19th and 26th. **Checks may be made out to Wayside Presbyterian Women.** You may also give on Wayside's E-giving site. (Select Presbyterian Women as the Fund and Thank Offering as the Sub Fund) Please consider donating to the Thank Offering. Thank you!!



Wayside Church, with Presbyterian Women taking a leadership role, is in the beginning stages of applying to be a **Co-Sponsor with MCRC.**

### What is the role of Co-Sponsors?

The most important component is that Wayside will share the workload with MCRC to help establish a refugee family in Erie. We will be responsible for getting their housing ready (furniture, basic bathroom, bedrooms, kitchen, & laundry supplies) and all the steps needed to welcome the family to their new home. The commitment is for 9-12 months and will involve helping children get enrolled in school, setting up for healthcare and helping the family find employment. We will listen and learn about the experience and challenges newcomers face to build compassion and learn what they need to feel welcome in our community.

### What can you do?

Right now, we are establishing a core team to be the main contacts for leading our Co-Sponsorship. Karen Haas will be the team leader. We need 6-10 people to volunteer to be a part of this team. Your commitment might be to be a shopper (purchase needed items) or help with teaching them English/attend a school function or you might be willing to help drive them to an appointment. We will work with you and how you would like to participate. Each core team member will need to get clearances and attend training with MCRC. We have 4 volunteers committed and we would love to have 2-6 more volunteers. Please contact Karen Haas with any questions.

This is an exciting opportunity for Wayside to really engage with a refugee family and work closely with MCRC to show our support for Erie as a welcoming community.



Nov 1	Bethany Hurley	Nov 6	Jakob Weborg	Nov 20	Mindy Scholl
Nov 2	Blake Kopac	Nov 7	Ron Craig	Nov 20	Kay Lascek
Nov 3	Gary Larson	Nov 8	Adalyn Mays	Nov 20	Ethan Potocki
Nov 4	Kathy Wolford	Nov 9	Grace Garrity	Nov 21	Tim Lewis
Nov 4	Bob Scholl	Nov 10	Grace Lewis	Nov 21	Renee Callahan
Nov 4	Evelyn Weaver	Nov 10	Noelle Latimer	Nov 22	Nolin Hurley
Nov 4	Neil Kruse	Nov 10	Bob Sinner	Nov 24	Kevin Egg
Nov 5	Gary Behn	Nov 13	Ashton Zimmerman	Nov 25	Linda Lorah
Nov 5	Marcia Twinem	Nov 16	Randy Valentine	Nov 27	Haile Martin
Nov 6	Jennifer Eddy	Nov 17	Linda Jackson	Nov 29	Corey Pentz
Nov 6	Deborah Pora	Nov 17	Terri Wallwork	Nov 29	Eliza Paris



Nov 1	Tom and Leslie Momeyer
Nov 1	Jill and Jerry Gomes
Nov 3	Lisa Read-Rzepecki and Ripper Rzepecki
Nov 7	Harry and Marilyn Anderson
Nov 19	Joe and Robin Steger
Nov 19	Elaine and Jim Garts
Nov 28	Tom and Vaska Lewis

## Looking Ahead to December . . .

December 13, 6:30 PM—Baby Shower for Jesus

December 17, 11:00 AM—Children's Christmas Pageant; no early service

December 20, 6:00 PM—Family Pizza and Caroling Night

December 24, 11:00 AM, 8:00 PM—Christmas Eve Services; no early service



### Baby Shower for Jesus

*A family holiday event and gift drive benefiting  
the Mercy Center for Women*

**Wed., Dec. 13, 6:30-7:30**

*Cookies, lessons, crafts, and collecting items  
for women and children at the Mercy Center*

#### **Suggested Donations:**

##### WOMENS GIFTS:

Daily planner/Calendar/Journal  
Kitchen Towels/Oven Mitts  
Dish Sets or Glassware  
Hair/Makeup Products  
Feminine Hygiene Products

##### ALL AGES:

Hats/Scarves/Gloves  
Socks/Underwear

##### INFANT GIFTS:

Diapers and Wipes  
Musical/Interactive Toys  
Cloth/Sensory Books  
Multi-Cultural Dolls

##### AGES 7-13 GIFTS:

Backpacks/Wallets/Purses  
Crafts/Art Supplies  
Coloring Books

##### AGES 4-6 GIFTS:

Children's Books  
Legos/Blocks/K'nex  
Board Games

### *Hanging of the Greens*

*Sunday, November 26*

*Following the 11:00 a.m. service.  
Join us for pizza lunch as all  
ages come together to decorate  
for Advent.*



## Christmas Poinsettias

**Order in the lobby--\$15**

**Take home following Christmas Eve services.**



# November



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 MTWMM 9:30a Stronger Srs. 4p WOW Kids 5p Generosity 5:30p Primary Choir 6p PW Spaghetti Dinner	2 8a Outside Event 1:30p North Coast Sewing Guild 6p AIA non New-comers 7p Chancel Choir	3	4 Presbytery Youth Overnight at FPC
5 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Celebration of Worship	6 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p AA	7 PW Election Day Bake Sale MTWMM	8 MTWMM 9:30a Stronger Srs. 11:00a Garden Club 4p WOW Kids 5:30p Primary Choir 6p WOW Dinner 7:30p Session	9 9a Yoga 12:30p Lunch Bunch 6p AIA non New-comers 7p Chancel Choir	10 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	11
12 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	14 MTWMM 10a Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p Sophia Circle 7p Asbury Pointe HOA	15 MTWMM 9:30a Stronger Srs. 4p WOW Kids 6p WOW Dinner	16 9a Yoga 6p AIA non New-comers 7p Chancel Choir	17	18 8:30a HAAEQG 9:30a Bag lunch packing
19 Thank Offering Noisy Offering 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Intergenerational Event 11:00 Celebration of Worship	20 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p AA	21	22 9:30a Stronger Srs. No WOW	23 6p AIA non New-comers  OFFICE CLOSED	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Celebration of Worship 12:00 Hanging of the Greens	27 9:30a Stronger Srs. 11a Mobile Food Pantry 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p AA	28 MTWMM 1p Newsletter Collating 5:30p HAAEQG 6:30 Book Club	29 MTWMM 9:30a Stronger Srs. 4p WOW Kids 5:30p Primary Choir 6p WOW Dinner	30		



### THANSGIVING DINNER

Join us Wednesday, November 15 at 6:00 for our Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner. Turkey and all the trimmings will be prepared by our Wayside cooks.

## *Going South for the winter?*

We want to stay in contact while you are away for the winter months. Our bulk mailings, like newsletters, are not forwarded under your USPS forwarding request and are returned to us postage due. Please contact the office to let us know your "away" address and the dates you will be gone.

### WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1208 Asbury Road Erie, PA 16505  
email: [wpc@wayside-erie.org](mailto:wpc@wayside-erie.org)

Phone: 814-833-7653  
[www.wayside-erie.org](http://www.wayside-erie.org)

### STAFF

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • The Reverend James Bernhardt   | Senior Pastor/Head of Staff |
| <a href="mailto:james@wayside-erie.org">james@wayside-erie.org</a>     | 828-381-6582 (cell)         |
| • The Reverend Nathan Royster  | Associate Pastor            |
| <a href="mailto:nathan@wayside-erie.org">nathan@wayside-erie.org</a>   | 814-715-6367 (cell)         |
| • The Reverend Jim Haas  | Pastor Emeritus             |
| • Nicholas Nasibyan  | Director of Music           |
| <a href="mailto:nick@wayside-erie.org">nick@wayside-erie.org</a>       | 814-490-8012 (cell)         |
| • David Sickles  | Sexton                      |
| • Karen Pastewka   | Financial Secretary         |
| <a href="mailto:steward@wayside-erie.org">steward@wayside-erie.org</a> | 814-600-4586 (Thurs/Fri)    |
| • Jennifer Lockett   | Office Administrator        |
| <a href="mailto:wpc@wayside-erie.org">wpc@wayside-erie.org</a>         |                             |

# *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.