

Inside Wayside

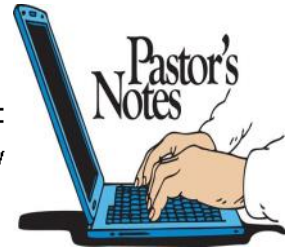
VOLUME 62, NO. 12

DECEMBER 2023

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Most of you know that Anita and I spent a month traveling in a campervan in New Zealand. Even though there was much to confirm our image of the country being a very West European/American type culture, I realized it was important daily to remember that we were strangers and visitors. It was important to remember that we viewed everything through our cultural lenses. It was important to "take those lenses off" so we could appreciate and honor the difference and uniqueness of the place and the people.



During Advent and Christmas I think we face a similar challenge. The decorations and traditions can overwhelm us with nostalgia. We may look with culturally and traditionally colored lenses when we hear and see the scriptures of the coming of the Christ child into the world. Can we ever be prepared to find new messages and meanings in those old stories?

I was glad, when in New Zealand, to see Christmas items for sale in their stores in October, which is their springtime. They are heading for the nativity celebration that occurs for them in summertime, just after the longest day of their year. No Bleak Midwinter with frosty wind. They've got plenty of sheep, but at Christmas, no cold winter's night that was so deep. How might that transform the way you experience Advent and Christmas?

Read the old stories again, and listen both for what is there and what isn't there. Fight the urge to fill in the details with all the ways others have filled them in. Imagine the story anew. Wonder who might be just out of the main frame of the simple story, making a way for Christ in the world, being useful and helpful to his parents. Picture those shepherds startled with their flocks. What makes for an experience of God? What do you do with messages that convict you? What holy moments change your direction?

In Advent we travel once again to the realm of hopeful expectation in which love comes down. I hope love will meet you where you are and guide you in pathways that lead you, and everyone with you, to life that is full of promise and peace.

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas,

James



Thank you, David Sickles!

It is with sadness and gratitude that we say farewell to our long-serving custodian, David Sickles. He has almost retired a couple of times and then chosen to stick around, but this time he is really retiring. He has been our friend and faithful worker, showing up on off hours to handle situations and work with volunteers, and only complaining enough to keep things interesting. His head is full of institutional memory that he promises we can continue to call upon. We will miss his good humor and the teasing he gave and endured.

We will have a chance to say goodbye and thanks on December 17 following 11:00 worship.

A new custodian has been hired, Mark Lockett, who will be introduced in the January newsletter. Mark will be shadowing David a few days in December. Welcome, Mark!

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve Services

When we come together to celebrate the birth of the Christ child this year, the calendar has tossed us an interesting conundrum to negotiate this time around.

Sunday, December 24, is also Christmas Eve.

The creative solution is to offer a combination of services that day.

There will not be an 8:30 AM service on December 24.

The early Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, normally in the late afternoon, will be held at 11:00 AM.

An evening Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 8:00 PM.

Sunday, December 24 Services

11:00 AM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

8:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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. There is 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.

- Men's size large boxer briefs (sizes 5-12)
- Men's white undershirts – (Sizes Med, L, XL)
- White crew socks
- Winter hats and gloves for men and women—heavy-weight please.
Think about spending your days outside all winter!
- Combs and brushes
- Sample size deodorant, toothpaste, and lotion
- Disposable razors
- Chapstick

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

Wayside Outreach Committee



BUDGET BYTES
from the Budget/Finance Committee

Two months to go. That is where we are in terms of completing our 2023 fiscal year as this report is being written. And where were we, budget-wise, at the end of October?

It was a very good month in terms of revenue with an influx of generosity which we hope will be catching in the months that remain. Substantial extra gifts were received from two families, beyond their normal pledged giving, as well as a \$1,000 over-budget increase in October pledged giving, which resulted in a surplus of \$25,000 in revenues. A third family has also made a commitment for a substantial gift to be received in November. (It should be noted that year-to-date regularly pledged giving is behind by \$21,000 and we are praying those 2023 pledged monies will continue to come in.)

Expenses showed a savings of \$2,000 in October and year-to-date we see a savings of \$18,000. We continue to manage our money wisely and we appreciate the efforts of both Session and staff to oversee this careful stewardship of our finances.

We will continue to pray for that same spirit of generosity to spread and to result in additional gifts to fund Wayside's ministry and mission and to reduce our 2023 deficit as the year comes to a close. God be with us in our efforts and in our prayers.

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

Oct. Rev	\$49,290.94	Oct. Exp	\$38,732.16
YTD Rev	\$463,234.29	YTD Exp	\$441,457.07

REQUEST FOR PRAYER FROM THE GENEROSITY TEAM

Wayside is a wonderful and vibrant church with awesome programs, worship, mission and other activities. We are an open, accepting model of God's love allowing people to be who they are and be welcome. Everything is heading in the right direction at Wayside but unfortunately we have some challenges facing us. We have new members but not enough to make up for some of the people who have stopped attending since Covid and several of our elderly financially generous donors have passed away. Due to these facts, at the beginning of October we were facing a financial deficit of about \$41,000 and we are facing the same for the coming year without significant changes to our planned 2024 budget.

We are grateful for our church community and the financial sacrifices and generosity you all already exhibit to support the Wayside mission. We understand that all of you are already giving to the best of your abilities. Therefore, we are asking for nothing specifically but a prayer from you. Pray for our Budget and Finance Committee and Session as they look at some difficult decisions. Pray for Wayside to be able to continue to thrive and serve the members and our missions in our surrounding community. Prayer works, so we would ask for you to pray for a week regarding this situation. Pray right now if you can. If you find you are able to contribute a bit more (this year or next), that would be helpful, too.

With our budget from the beginning of 2023, we had been expecting a deficit of \$41,000. Our team has been praying and the church has just received a commitment from two families to give an additional \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively to help us with our deficit. The church has also recently received a substantial gift from a third family above what they pledged. Now our expected deficit is only \$21,000! Prayer works!

The Generosity Team



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:

WOMEN'S 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

WAYSIDE DEACONS' ANGEL TREE

Wayside is once again partnering with Mercy Center for Women with an Angel Tree. There are 15 women and 23 children to share God's love with through giving this season. Each gets 4 tags with both wants and needs. Tags are on the tree in the lobby. Unwrapped, tagged gifts are due by December 10. Thank you for being a blessing to others.



FAMILY CAROLING AND PIZZA NIGHT

Join us Wednesday, **December 20** for our family caroling night. We will have pizza at 6:00, then go caroling in the Wayside neighborhood and warm up with cookies and hot chocolate afterwards. There will not be WOW Club or Primary Choir that night.



SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE DRIVE

Wayside will again help the Salvation Army with its annual Red Kettle Drive. The Salvation Army has a very long history of helping people in need with food, clothing, and shelter. Christmas is such a joyous time of the year for most of us, but it can be a very difficult time of year for those in need. The Red Kettle Drive is the Salvation Army's largest fund raiser that provides most of the revenue needed to operate their programs throughout the year.

For several years we have helped the Salvation Army by ringing the bell at one of the familiar red kettles at Walmart on West Ridge Road. This year the Outreach Committee decided to challenge all of us by staffing the red kettles at both entrances at Walmart. We like to have at least two people for a one-hour shift at each kettle. The one-hour shifts will be between 11am and 7pm on Saturday, December 16.

It's not difficult, and it's very rewarding to see the generosity of our community. We don't ask for money. We just ring the bell which gets attention and offer a friendly hello to shoppers. Of course, we thank those who donate. It can also be a great family activity. It may be cold standing outside for an hour, but it will warm your heart to see the generosity of the shoppers.

Because we are staffing both kettles, we will need 32 volunteers instead of 16.

There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby, or you can call or email the church office to sign up.

On behalf of the Outreach Committee, thank you!



Intergenerational Advent

*Art, Expression, and Worship
For a Time of Waiting*

Sunday, December 3
9:45-10:45



WOW CLUB SCHEDULE

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

December 6—Celebrating Diversity with Shayla Jones, Pt. 2

December 13—Christmas Lesson and Activities

December 20—Pizza Dinner at 6:00 and Family Caroling

December 27—OFF FOR THE HOLIDAYS

ISSUES OF FAITH

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

12/3—Intergenerational Advent Activity

12/10—Verna Ehret, Ph.D., "Transforming Darkness into Light: Exploring Violence in the Parables"

12/17—Xmas topic!

12/24—No Class

12/31—No Class

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Our children and youth will present the Good News in a single service on Sunday, **December 17 at 11:00 AM.**

Rehearsals will be held December 3, 10, and 17 during the Sunday School hour.

Contact Pastor Nathan about involving your child.



WAYOUTH EVENTS

Grades 6-12

DECEMBER 2023

Saturday, December 16 at 9:45 AM—Gather at Wayside to assemble lunches for four Erie-area homeless shelters. From there, we will take one bunch of those meals and the collected items from the Angel Tree and the Baby Shower for Jesus to the Mercy Center for Women, where we will have lunch with residents and host a Christmas program. Please contact Pastor Nathan if you plan to attend.

Mark your calendar

Presbytery overnight **January 13-14**
at First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

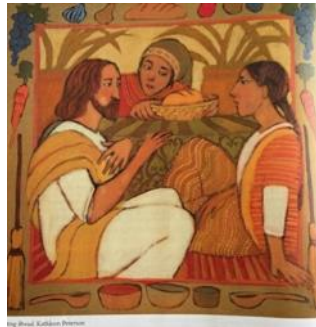


PW NEWS



SOPHIA CIRCLE

The **Sophia Circle** will meet on **Tuesday, December 19, at 7:00 pm** in the parlor. Christ Hoyt will lead in Lesson 4 "Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus." The scripture is Luke 10:38-42. The main idea is that Jesus calls us to value the role of each person in the community of faith. Marcia Twinem will provide our snack. All women are encouraged to attend! Please contact Karen Haas with any questions.



ELIZABETH CIRCLE

The **Elizabeth Circle** will hold a Christmas lunch on **Friday, December 8 at 11:30 am** at Lake Shore Country Club. There will not be a gift exchange.

WAYSIDE LUNCH BUNCH

December 14

**Contact Jean Moore
for more information**

814- 461-9665

PW ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE A GREAT SUCCESS!

A big THANK YOU to the many bakers and baked goods buyers! Thanks also to those that just made donations to the cause or gave extra for their purchases. **We raised over \$1,100 to donate to the Armenian refugees from Artsakh.** The money will be sent to an organization Nicholas recommended that will match our donation. Thank you for your generous support of this worthwhile mission project.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to **Jane and Peter Gilewicz** for being presented with PW Honorary Life Memberships. Jane and Peter have served PW and Wayside in many capacities and PW was very pleased to present them with this special honor.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S THANK OFFERING

November 19th was our annual PW Thank Offering Service. Thank you to Amy Gilewicz for her excellent sermon! Thanks also to everyone that helped lead the service and to those that gave generously to support the Thank Offering mission projects. We are happy to report that we received over \$1,300 for the thank offering. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

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



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 cooling racks.

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

PW JUSTICE AND PEACE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

PW at the churchwide level is again sponsoring a book discussion group. For 2024 they have selected six books. You can sign up to attend via zoom one or more of the book discussions. The first group discussion is on **January 8th - *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot**.

Register at presbyterianwomen.org/justice or scan the QR code on the PW bulletin board flier. These book discussions are an excellent way to talk about key issues of Peace and Justice with PW from all over the US. If you have any questions, contact Karen Haas.



THE SPAGHETTI DINNER FOR GHANA WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!!



We raised \$800 for the Ghana Partnership with the Lake Erie Presbytery. A big THANK YOU to Mary and Ritchie Marsh and Barb and Dan McGill for chairing this event. The spaghetti was delicious, and a wonderful, generous group came to enjoy this dinner. Thank you to everyone that supported this mission project!



MEET THIS NEW YOUNG FAMILY



Both Emily and Neil Kruse grew up in this area and graduated from Fairview High School. They and their children, Tommy, 3, and Ella, 2, now live in Lakeshore. They are expecting their third child in April.

Both parents are engineers. Neil works for Finish Thompson, and Emily has chosen to be a stay-at-home mom for now. In their spare time, they enjoy hiking, volleyball, and time with family.

The Kruses were attracted by the community nature of Wayside and knew some of the Pentz family and some of the Sundberg family before they joined the church. Say, "Hello" to them, and welcome both the

adults and the little Kruses to Wayside.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The November distribution for the Second Harvest mobile food pantry at the Federated Church in East Springfield is December 18. 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.



WAYSIDE MULTICULTURAL DINER'S CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sophie at "Royal Chop Stix Asian Cuisine" is eager to welcome our group on Thursday, December 7 at 5:30 pm. This is the restaurant located at 3444 West Lake Road. Each will order from the menu.

It is helpful for Sophie to know an approximate number attending so please contact the Wayside Presbyterian Church office at 814-833-7653 by 4:30 pm on Tuesday, Dec. 5 with your reservation or contact Gary Larson 716-307-5815.

The word going around is if we have all been good little boys and girls, we can expect a visit from Jolly Old Saint Nick himself. It's going to be great food and a night of fun.



How does a weary world rejoice?

WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

Sunday, December 3
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Luke 1:1-23

1st Sunday in Advent
"We Acknowledge Our Weariness"

Holy Communion
Nathan Preaching

Sunday, December 10
Isaiah 40:1-11
Luke 1:24-45

2nd Sunday in Advent
"We Find Joy in Connection"

James Preaching

Sunday, December 17

3rd Sunday in Advent
Children's Musical Pageant

Single Service 11:00

Sunday, December 24
Isaiah 9:2-7
Luke 2:1-20

4th Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve Candlelight
"We Make Room"

Single Morning Candlelight 11:00
Evening Candlelight 8:00 PM
James Preaching

Sunday, December 31
Luke 2:21-38

1st Sunday of Christmas
"The Place of Ritual"

Single Service 11:00
James Preaching

Happy Birthday

Dec 1	Ritch Marsh	Dec 9	Sophia Sidorowicz	Dec 17	Holly Skala
Dec 1	Paige Garrity	Dec 10	James Haas	Dec 17	Jacob Weaver
Dec 2	Marion Gallivan	Dec 10	Annette Rothschild	Dec 18	Gregory Yahn
Dec 2	Kitty Menges	Dec 10	Karen Haas	Dec 19	Britt Daehnke
Dec 2	Jan Underhill	Dec 10	Nathan Feltmeyer	Dec 19	Jay Shaffer
Dec 2	Anna Stack	Dec 10	Nina van Helden	Dec 20	Natalie Thompson
Dec 3	Pam Monaco	Dec 11	Paul Bittner	Dec 21	David Yonkers
Dec 3	Dylan Marsh	Dec 11	Justin McElroy	Dec 21	Mark Smith
Dec 3	Zachary Marsh	Dec 11	Mike Reed	Dec 22	Dexter Hu
Dec 3	Leona Sinner	Dec 11	Linda Pentz	Dec 23	Aadele Foster-Williams
Dec 3	Otto Sinner	Dec 11	Dottie Lytle	Dec 24	Chuck Pora
Dec 3	Thomas Boyd, Sr.	Dec 12	Rita Brown	Dec 25	Quinlyn Daehnke
Dec 4	Harry Anderson	Dec 12	Simon Yahn	Dec 25	Regan Daehnke
Dec 4	Philip Jackson	Dec 13	Jill McGill	Dec 26	Mark Diehl
Dec 4	Gregg Rabenold	Dec 13	Jilliann Starr	Dec 27	Hilary Gehrlein
Dec 5	Julian Pentz	Dec 14	Norma Harrington	Dec 29	Daren McCullough
Dec 7	Bob Pollifrone	Dec 14	John Fair	Dec 30	Melissa Buseck
Dec 7	Addison Garrity	Dec 14	Tim Stancliff	Dec 30	Kylor Skala
Dec 8	Hadley Jones	Dec 15	Gene Sundberg	Dec 30	Lola Miranda
Dec 8	Alex Rzepecki				

Happy Anniversary

Dec 1	Bob & Denise Pollifrone
Dec 7	Dan & Deborah Pora
Dec 8	Richard & Betty Knight
Dec 18	Joe & Kristy Stack
Dec 22	A.P. & Mollie King
Dec 22	Chuck & Dottie Lytle
Dec 26	Steve & Maggie Hutzelman
Dec 28	Jeff & Amy Brinling
Dec 29	Brooke & Kevin Weaver



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Celebration of Worship 12:00 PW Christmas Brunch	4 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p AA	5 MTWMM	6 9:30a Stronger Srs. 4p WOW Kids 5p Generosity 5:30p Primary Choir 6p Fellowship Din- ner	7 9a-Noon Sugar Cookie Workshop 1:30p North Coast Sewing Guild 6:00p A-Anon New- comers 7p Chancel Choir	8 11:30a Lunch Bunch	9 9a-Noon Cookie Drop-Off
10 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Celebration of Worship PW Cookie Tray Sale	11 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p AA	12 10a Prayer Shawl Ministry	13 9:30a Stronger Srs. 9:30 MTWMM 4p WOW Kids 5:30p Primary Choir 6p WOW Dinner 6:30p Baby Shower for Jesus 7:00p Session	14 12:00p Lunch Bunch 6:00p A-Anon New- comers 7p Chancel Choir	15	16 9:45a WaYouth Bag Lunch Packing & Mercy Center Event 11a-7p Red Kettle Bell Ringing
17 No Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Christmas Pageant 3p Symphonic Sing- ers Concert	18 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p AA	19 1p Newsletter Col- lating 7p Sophia Circle	20 9:30a Stronger Srs. 6p WOW Pizza Din- ner 6:30p Christmas Caroling	21 6:00p A-Anon New- comers 7p Chancel Choir	22	23
24 No Early Worship 11:00 Christmas Eve Service 8:00p Christmas Eve Service	25 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30p AA	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 6:00p A-Anon New- comers	29	30
31 No Early Worship 11:00 Celebration of Worship						

Dear Wayside Friends,

Bob and I would like to thank you for the treats, cards and calls following Bob's shoulder replacement surgery. He is recovering well.

We are most grateful for everything.

thank you

Fondly,
Bob & Mindy Scholl

WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Phone: 814-833-7653
www.wayside-erie.org

STAFF

- | | |
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| • Jennifer Lockett | Office Administrator |
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December Service Times

Please note the following changes and additions to service times for the Christmas season:

- **Christmas Pageant** December 17 in a single service at 11:00 AM
- **Single Service at 11:00** on December 17, December 24, and December 31.
- **Christmas Eve Services** at 11:00 AM and 8:00 PM on December 24.
- **December 31**, single service at 11:00 AM

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.

*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.