

March 10, 2024



1208 Asbury Road
Erie, Pennsylvania 16505
814-833-7653

www.wayside-erie.org
wpc@wayside-erie.org
james@wayside-erie.org
nathan@wayside-erie.org

The Rev. Dr.
James F. Bernhardt
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Nathan Royster,
Associate Pastor

The Rev. Jim Haas,
Pastor Emeritus

Nicholas Nasibyan,
Director of Music and
Organist

Mission
Josh Heikkila
Ghana, Africa



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 10, 2024

11:00 AM

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE APPROACH GOD

CHORAL INTROIT

"God So Loved the World"

John 3:16

CALL TO WORSHIP

Penny Mechley-Porter

God of this day,

Cultivate in us a spirit of worship:

Hearts that pray,

Ears that hear,

Eyes that see,

Minds that believe.

God of this space,

Cultivate in us a spirit of worship:

Letting go distractions

And fears,

Isolation

And doubt.

God of this day,

Cultivate in us a spirit of worship:

For you are love, our new beginning,

And we will always need that.

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 475

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Nettleton

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess how we turn from your ways. Like the child in the story Jesus told, we waste our inheritance. You gave us earth for our home, but we are poor managers of it, and we hoard the bounty we take. You gave us neighbors so we will love them, but we keep to our own selfish ambitions. You gave us commandments for the good of all people, but we ignore your law and forsake your love. O God, forgive us and turn us back in repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you, that we may find true freedom in obeying your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*A WORD OF ASSURANCE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Sarah Jay

(Young people through age four may now be excused to childcare.)

CHORAL ANTHEM

"With the Lord" (from Psalm 130)
Chancel Choir

Michael Joncas

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, who we know in Word and Spirit, open our minds and senses to your re-creating power, so that we may see the world through the mind of Christ, and live in the world as a foretaste of your new creation. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 NT p. 78

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Teaching Elder James Bernhardt

"Cultivating Grace, Letting Go of Fear"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

OFFERING AND REFLECTION

*When confronted with change, or something new,
wonder what benefit there may be in it, for you, or someone else.*

***THE DOXOLOGY NO. 606**

Old Hundredth

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING**

God of grace, thank you for all we have because of you. We know you will make good use of the resources we bring, and make even better use of our lives as we give them to your service; for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

TAKING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN NO. 773**

"Heaven Shall Not Wait"

Heaven Shall Not Wait

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Everyone who is able may stand.

Bold lettering is to be read responsively by the congregation.

Bold lettering that is italicized is to be sung by the congregation.

Cover Art:

"Prodigal Grace" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

© A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1208 Asbury Road Erie, PA 16505

wpc@wayside-erie.org

Phone: 814-833-7653

www.wayside-erie.org

STAFF

- The Reverend Dr. James Bernhardt
james@wayside-erie.org
Senior Pastor
828-381-6582 (cell)
- The Reverend Nathan Royster
nathan@wayside-erie.org
Associate Pastor
814-715-6367 (cell)
- The Reverend Jim Haas
Pastor Emeritus
- Nicholas Nasibyan
nick@wayside-erie.org
Director of Music, Organist
814-490-8012 (cell)
- Karen Pastewka
steward@wayside-erie.org
Financial Secretary
814-600-4586 (cell—Thurs/Fri)
- Jennifer Lockett
wpc@wayside-erie.org
Office Administrator
- Mark Lockett
mark@wayside-erie.org
Sexton

Sunday Take Home for March 10, 2024

Questions for Reflection

In what ways am I like the lost child in Luke 15:11-24?
In what ways am I like the child who remained at home?
In what ways do I reflect the attitude and actions of the parent?

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, in all I do this day,
use me as a sign of your reconciling love.
Let me not view anyone from a human point of view,
but let me see all whom I will encounter with the eyes of Christ,
through whom I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Merciful God,
if I have strayed from you this day,
call me back to your loving embrace.
If this day,
I have harbored resentment
for the grace given to others, teach me.
Help me claim in thought and deed
the inheritance of the saints
who share with Jesus compassion
and who show forgiveness to all who lose
their way. Amen.

*Adapted from Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion
Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville, 2012.*

WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 10, 2024

WELCOME!

"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.

Be who you are and be welcome here.

FOR OUR CHILDREN

Childcare is available during the entire worship hour for infants and preschool children. Children are invited and welcome to stay in the service, in whatever manner befits their person: they should feel free to squirm, whine, dance, sing, cry, pray, or otherwise make themselves known. Children's worship activity bags are available for children remaining in the worship service. Please return them following worship.

AUDIO AND VISUAL ASSISTANCE

A hearing enhancement system is available for those who have a need. An usher will be happy to provide you with a receiver this morning. Large print bulletins are also available.

Thanks to all those who helped with the worship service today:

Church Opener:	Matt McCullough	SNE Greeter:	Neil Kruse
Slides: 8:30:	Ed Snyder	11:00:	MacKenzee Jewell
Worship Assistant:	Penny Mechley-Porter	Fellowship Time:	Karen Sidorowicz
Ushers: 8:30	Tim Feltmeyer		
11:00	Bobbi Jo Fye, Sarah Jay, Jonathan Jewell, Barb Sundberg		

A reminder to those scheduled to help next week, March 17:

Church Opener:	Matt McGill		
SNE Greeter:	Lisa Read	11:00 Greeter:	
Slides: 8:30:		11:00:	Austin Jewell
Worship Assistant:	Steve Porter	Fellowship Time:	Kruse Family
Ushers: 8:30:	Colleen Loeslein,		
11:00:	Paul Carpenedo, Chuck Lytle, Matt McGill, Dave Sundberg		

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 10-MARCH 17

Sunday, March 10	8:30 AM	Celebration of Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Celebration of Worship
	12:15 PM	Confirmation Class
Monday, March 11	9:30 AM	Stronger Seniors
	6:30 PM	AA
	6:30 PM	Symphonic Singers
	6:30 PM	Sanctuary Bells
Tuesday, March 12	7:30 AM	Online Lenten Prayer Practices
	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Wednesday, March 13	9:30 AM	Stronger Seniors
	4:00 PM	WOW Club
	5:00 PM	Primary Choir
	5:15 PM	Lenten Prayer Practices
	6:00 PM	Fellowship Dinner
	6:30 PM	Lenten Book Study
	7:00 PM	Session
Thursday, March 14	9:00 AM	Yoga with Cathleen
	12:00 PM	Lunch Bunch
	6:00 PM	AI-Anon Newcomers
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Friday, March 15	7:00 PM	Lenten Book Study at Rabenolds'
Saturday, March 16	8:30 AM	HAAEQG Sew-In
	9:30 AM	Mercy Center Easter Event
Sunday, March 17	8:30 AM	Celebration of Worship
Noisy Offering	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Celebration of Worship
	12:15 PM	Confirmation Class

TODAY'S WORSHIP

We are glad you are worshipping with us today. Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad that is on the aisle end of your pew! This is a way to be known to others and share information with the church. Our deacons like to deliver homemade bread to guests; please leave your address.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Today's flowers are given by Dave & Micki Loesel in memory of Dave's parents Louise & Richard Loesel, and Micki's sister Marty Eichenlaub. If you would like a bouquet, please come to the front following the second service.

ISSUES OF FAITH

Today Mark Smith's sister, Judy Hyde, is sharing her missionary experience. Next week Lena Surzhko-Harned, Ph.D., Penn State Behrend, will be providing an "Update on Ukraine."

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, March 12, at 10 AM in the Prayer Room. We welcome anyone who likes to knit for a worthy Wayside ministry.

LUNCH BUNCH

The Wayside Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on Thursday, March 14, at The Colony Pub and Grille, 2670 W 8th St.

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

Do you know some kids who like to sing and act? WOW Choir has begun rehearsing their spring musical, "The Story-Tellin' Man," by Ken Medema. Any elementary and middle school students are welcome to participate. Invite your friends and neighbors to come at 4:00 Wednesday for a quick snack or at 4:15 for rehearsal! They will present the musical on May 5.

MERCY CENTER EASTER EVENT

On Saturday, March 16, Waysiders in 6th-12th grade and their families are invited to help out with the Mercy Center for Women's Easter event. We will be providing crafts and games and helping with an Easter egg hunt. Contact Pastor Nathan if you plan on helping.

EASTER FLOWER GARDEN

Help decorate the church for Easter by purchasing flowering plants for the sanctuary. Prices are \$15/plant for lilies, tulips, or daffodils. Sign up at the Information Table or contact the church office. Last day to order is March 17.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Through your donations to One Great Hour of Sharing, Presbyterian Mission Agency is able to serve people in our community and around the world by alleviating hunger, rebuilding after crises or catastrophe, and working with communities to overcome oppression. There will be envelopes in the pews March 17 and 24; you may also give online at <https://www.wayside-erie.org/giving/> --Fund: Mission Giving; Sub-Fund: One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you for your generosity.

NOISY OFFERING

Next Sunday, March 17, will be our Noisy Offering to support Wayside's homeless lunch ministry. Gather up your loose change to make a joyful noise! Special thanks to the McDowell football team for packing the lunches this month!

EASTER DINNERS

West Millcreek Food Pantry is again putting together food for an Easter dinner for families they serve in our community. The Outreach committee has a donation to begin this effort this year. If every Wayside family would consider a gift of at least \$10.00 we can again meet their need for ham and potatoes. Please write "ham" or WMFP in the memo line of your check, or on the website, under Giving, find Mission Giving and sub fund "West Millcreek Food Pantry." All money must be in by March 17. Please help us bless more families, our neighbors, with a gift of this dinner, as Christ has blessed us.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

The Maundy Thursday service will be in the church fellowship hall at 7 PM on Thursday, March 28. This service will have readings, Communion, and a ministry to share with each other on this holy night.

EGGS-PERIENCE

On Saturday, March 30, young children and their parents are invited to attend Eggs-perience from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Our annual Easter Party will have a lesson, craft, games, and a snack. Guests are welcome; there are cards on the information table to give as invitations.

PRESBYTERY YOUTH RETREAT

6th-12th graders mark your calendar for April 5-7 for a presbytery-wide retreat at Lamppost Farms in Columbiana, OH. Stay tuned for details.

SPRING SPEAKER: FAITHFUL RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

On Saturday, April 13, Wayside, in partnership with Covenant and the Episcopal Cathedral, will host Avery Davis Lamb from Creation Justice Ministries. The morning session, 10:00-1:00 at Covenant, will be "Scripture and Our Calling to Creation Justice"; lunch is provided. The evening session, 6:00-7:30 at St. Paul's Cathedral, is "Hospitality in a Time of Climate Crisis." Mr. Lamb will then preach and lead Issues of Faith Sunday morning at Wayside. There are cards in the lobby to invite your friends and neighbors, and don't forget to share on Facebook!

TALENT AUCTION

The Wayside Talent Auction is coming on April 20, from 3:00-6:00 PM. We are accepting donations of time and talent, as well as donation baskets. All proceeds will benefit Wayside operating costs and One Great Hour of Sharing. See the table in the lobby for more information and to sign up. Plan now to attend the auction to bid on the talents of your fellow Waysiders!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School for 4-year-olds through rising 5th graders will be July 29-August 2. Registration opens May 1! *"God So Loved the World": Caring for ALL of God's Creation.* Pick up a save-the-date card to share with friends and neighbors.

LOST AND FOUND

Missing a drink container? Can't find your child's sweater or jacket? Check the table in the lobby today for lost and found items! The regular lost and found location is in the coat room.

FRIENDLY FACES WANTED

Do you have a friendly face or enjoy meeting new people and greeting fellow Waysiders? Sign up to be a greeter at the 11:00 Celebration of Worship.

WEST MILLCREEK FOOD PANTRY

The suggested donations for this week are **spaghetti** and **sauce**. Non-perishable items such as diapers, feminine hygiene products, toiletries, and pet foods are always appreciated. Checks can be made out to "West Millcreek Food Pantry;" there is an envelope for donations in the lobby.