

Inside Wayside

Vol. 64 No. 1

JANUARY 2025

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With the start of a New Year often comes a choice to make resolutions to do or be different. A good scripture for the New Year is in Romans 12:2

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

This scripture is aspirational – it is a hope that you and I might reach beyond what we can grasp right now. It is hope for continual self-improvement, with God’s help. The world as we know it is often a mess. To align our actions in response to the world will often cause us pain. Though problems in the world need to be addressed, our perspective for response and our actions in response very often require us to slow down, step back, and act from a place of consideration.

My friend from a group I regularly meet with said it well: “The big problems in our country and in our world are so large I can’t begin to know what to do. But I can act person to person, and encourage accountability for human interaction, and speak up so that people care for people. That is what everyone can do.”

I believe this is what Jesus meant when he taught the parable in Matthew 7 about the person who built a house on sand that crashed when the rough weather came as opposed to the person who built a house on rock that held firm in the heavy weather. We don’t know what stormy weather we are in for, but we know what Jesus taught about loving our neighbor in ways that reflect the kind of love for God we see in Jesus. We may not always get it right, but we can apologize when we are mistaken; work to be reconciled; lead with kindness; and build upon the rock of compassion that strengthens every relationship. No matter what storms come, this holds the greatest promise to sustain us.

Blessings, friends, in the New Year.

Thank you to the Wayside Congregation for the nice gift for Pastor Appreciation Month in October. It is lovely to be remembered and honored in such a way.





WORSHIP IN JANUARY



Sunday, January 5

Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Second Sunday of Christmas
Celebration of Epiphany
"Your Light has Come"

Holy Communion
James Preaching

Sunday, January 12

Isaiah 43:1-7
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Baptism of the Lord
"Through the Waters"

Nathan Preaching

Sunday, January 19

John 2:1-11

Second Sunday after Epiphany
"Saved from Disaster"

Ordination and Installation
James Preaching

Sunday, January 26

Luke 4:14-21

Third Sunday after Epiphany
"Release, Recovery, Freedom, and Favor"

James Preaching

OUR NEIGHBOR'S PLACE (ONP)

For more than 10 years churches in downtown Erie have provided space and volunteers to house homeless persons in temporary overflow shelter during the winter months. This year, in cooperation with Erie County and Erie United Methodist Alliance (EUMA) this ministry moved into a county building and expanded its volunteer base. It is a ministry of caring, hospitality, management, flexibility, and grace. It is a reflection of Christ's calling to care for "the least of these."

Wayside took a week, in partnership with Elmwood Avenue and Belle Valley Presbyterian Churches, to serve as coordinators and hosts. The tasks of welcoming, providing bag meals, coffee, tea and cocoa, coordinating shower use, caring for private and personal needs, and tending a diverse group, require an open and resilient heart. Behind the scenes Lois May coordinated preparing bag meals. Onsite nightly coordinators were Rev. James Bernhardt, Mark Twinem and Rev. David Edmunds. Our week, November 27 – December 3, not only had the challenge of the Thanksgiving holiday but also the huge snowfall of that weekend. That created a number of issues that the Friday coordinator had to deal with – we're looking at you, Mark Twinem! Though ONP is a long standing ministry, for Wayside and our partners, it was new with lots of unknowns. We are grateful for the gifts of time and compassion our volunteers gave!

Here is a partial list of volunteers. If you gave time but your name is not here, please forgive the oversight! Meal prep: Marilyn Russell, Amy Valentine, and Linda Pentz. Onsite volunteers: Gannon University International Students: Tushar Modugula, Kresh Raju, Onyeka Okafor, Nora Ganzil, Aja Maharjan, and Barghavi Gora; Marcia Twinem, Anita Bernhardt, Jane and Peter Gilewicz, Paul and Karen Carpenedo, Tom Gatehouse, Pam Logan, Nelly Padilla, Amy and Randy Valentine, Karen and Jim Haas, and Bill Lamont.



Wayside Presbyterian's fellowship
for 2nd-5th graders
4:00-Snack and Choir Practice
5:00-Program Activity

JANUARY

- 1-NO WOW CLUB; NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 8-Church Blessing
- 15-Trip to Orthodox Church of the Nativity
- 22-Cook Dinner
- 29-Kim Hill, Mindfulness and You

Young Adult Group Launch
Friday, January 10 at 5:30

*A time for connection and fun
with other young adults*

The group's kickoff will be a cooking class exploring delicious and easy vegetarian options with Pastor Nathan and registered dietician Jessie Lake.

Over dinner, we will have a group discussion for what participants would like to see in a monthly young adult fellowship.

Jessy Brinling Lake is a seasoned dietary professional with a Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics and a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) certification, specializes in providing expert nutritional guidance and support to individuals seeking to enhance their health and well-being.



Wayside's 5th-12th grade fellowship
Monthly Gatherings and Lunch:
Every 2nd Sunday of the Month, 12:15-1:30

JANUARY

- 12-Monthly fellowship
- 25-Escape Room and Dinner

FEBRUARY

- 2-Sunday Supper for Homeless at Covenant
- 9-Monthly fellowship

ISSUES OF FAITH

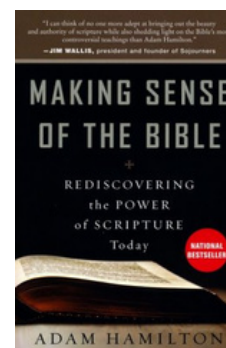
Issues of Faith meets Sundays at 9:45 for stimulating conversations about spirituality and social justice.

JANUARY

- 5 Intergenerational Epiphany Event
- 12 Katie Potocki, Adia Kirkham, and Nathan Royster
"Experiences With Christian Camping"
- 19 Tyler Titus, Founder and Board Chair, Compton's Table
- 26 Jenny Tompkins, Penn Future
"Advocating for Pennsylvania's Environment"

MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

I hope you will consider joining me for a study of Adam Hamilton's book Making Sense of the Bible, with a different time than originally planned: Sundays at 9:45 am in the church parlor beginning January 26 for six weeks. Anyone who wishes is welcome to participate. Please sign up in the church lobby, or contact Jennifer in the office. The book is widely available at local book stores or online with many used options available. For more information ask James Bernhardt.



WAYSIDE MULTICULTURAL DINER'S CLUB

The WAYSIDE MULTICULTURAL DINER'S CLUB, will meet at Habibi, 127 West 14th St. (Near Amtrak train station) at noon on Saturday, January 18. Habibi means "beloved". Middle Eastern food is served. Each of us will order off the menu and be responsible for paying our own bill.

We need to have reservations called into the Wayside Presbyterian Church office by Thursday, January 16, (814-833-7653). If you have questions, you may contact me, gslarson1@yahoo.com or phone 716-307-5815.

"The fellowship is warm, the food tasty,
and the gift worth giving."

Gary Larson

Soup Sundays

January 19

- Help in the kitchen at 9:30 AM on January 19.
- Volunteers needed to deliver soup to Emmaus Soup Kitchen between 9-11 AM on January 20.



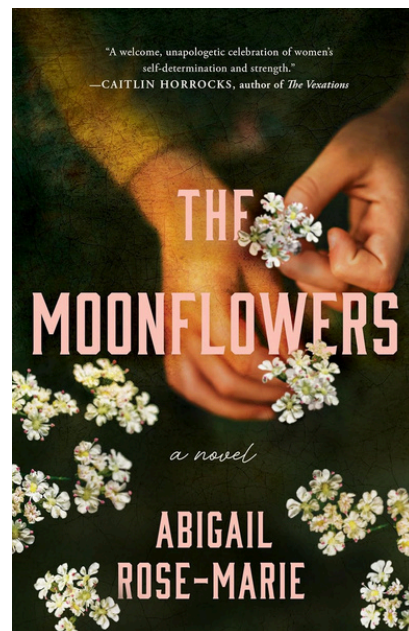
RAUCOUS READERS

The Raucous Readers will convene in January to begin another year of good reading. Our meetings (4th Tuesday of the month at 7 PM) are open to anyone who enjoys reading and then discussing a varied selection of books . . . consider yourself invited for any month or for the year!

The January selection is The Moonflowers by Abigail Rose-Marie. In a powerful and poignant novel, an artist unravels her mysterious family history and its generations of women who depended on each other to survive.

Tig Costello has arrived in Darren, Kentucky, commissioned to paint a portrait honoring her grandfather Benjamin. His contributions to the rural Appalachian town and his unimpeachable war service have made him a local hero. But to Tig, he's a relative stranger. To find out more about him, Tig wants to talk to the person who knew her grandfather best: Eloise Price, the woman who murdered him fifty years ago. And thus begins the story.

Please join us on January 28 at 7 PM in the Parlor for our discussion led by Cathleen Norris. You may contact Mary Marsh (814-392-3241 or mmarsh43@gmail.com) to indicate your interest or with any questions.



BUDGET BYTES

from the Budget/Finance Committee

As we approach 2025 we bring you our November 2024 budget report. You'll have to be patient and wait until the next newsletter to see how December went and how we finished up the year, budget-wise. Let's hope that Old Man Winter doesn't come around again with another blockbuster in December to cause more disruptions!

November's revenues were short by \$3,000, whereas year-to-date figures showed us holding on to a \$2,000 surplus. How did November break down in terms of those revenues? Pledges were short by \$4,500 (and YTD by \$3,000). Unpledged giving was \$1,000 over budget (and YTD by \$2,000). We gave "thanks" in November that we still maintained that overall revenue cushion of \$2,000.

For expenses, most committees either maintained their budget goals or were underspent. Two areas where we were overspent were Office Supplies (only by \$350 for November but YTD by \$1,700) and Building and Grounds (due to unforeseen boiler repairs of \$2,400). However, B & G has managed YTD to accrue \$6,000 in savings, even with the unexpected cranky boiler surprise, largely in part due to \$8,000 in heating savings. For the month we overspent by \$1,000 but YTD we showed a savings of \$12,000. Fingers are being crossed that the aforementioned snow doesn't come back to eat up too much of that savings with extra snowplowing.

Overall revenues vs. expenses showed a (\$5,000) loss for November; YTD we were \$14,000 ahead of budget projections. Initial hopes in October were to finish the year showing a deficit of (\$8,000), down from our original projected deficit of (\$27,000) which would have been quite an improvement. However, because of those uncooperative boilers and a shortfall of revenues in November, new projections at the end of November were to end the year with a deficit of (\$13,000), providing that December's revenues and expenses follow budget projections. We are praying that December brings us the blessing of good surprises so that we end the year better than anticipated.

FINANCIAL REPORT				The Inreach Fund	
November Rev	\$29,278.62	November Exp	\$41,358.85	<p>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.</p>	
YTD Rev	\$492,372.62	YTD Exp	\$487,545.91		

CONGREGATIONAL AND CORPORATION MEETING, 9:30 AM, JANUARY 19, FELLOWSHIP HALL

The Annual meeting of the Wayside Congregational and Corporation Meeting will be held on Sunday January 19 at 9:30 in the church Fellowship Hall preceded by breakfast that begins at 9:15. At this meeting we will receive the annual report, act on recommended changes to the terms of call for the pastors, receive the budget for 2025, elect deacons and elders to their respective boards for the classes of 2027, and elect elders and deacons to the Endowment Committee.



PW 1ST QUARTER BUSINESS MEETING

Presbyterian Women will hold their 1st Quarter Business meeting on Sunday, January 12, in the parlor after the 11:00 service. A light lunch will be served. Please come and help us get our year off to a great start! All women are welcome!

SOPHIA CIRCLE

The Sophia Circle will meet on Tuesday January 21st at 7:00 pm in the parlor. Gretchen Kelley will lead in Lesson 5 - "Air Quality." The main idea is that the wind itself often signals a holy moment, and is related to both our breath and God's, both our spirit and God's. Jill Abbott will provide our snack. All women are encouraged to attend! Please contact Karen Haas with any questions.



"Mother Tree" by Lorraine Roy

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ANNUAL MISSION FUNDRAISER AND PROGRAM BOOKLET

PW will be mailing out at the end of January or early February our annual program booklet and mission fundraising request. Please keep an eye out for this important mailing. We hope you will join us for many PW activities this year and will give generously to our mission efforts.

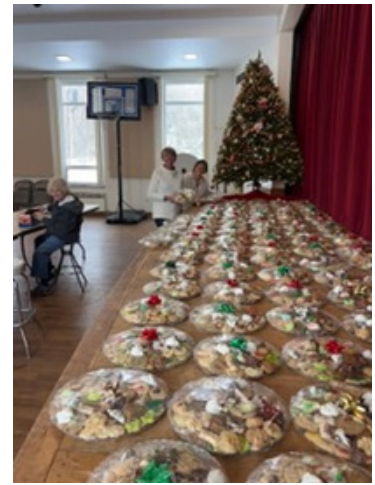
PW BAKED POTATO DINNER TO BENEFIT THE HEIFER PROJECT

The PW Baked Potato Dinner will be Wednesday, January 15 at 6 PM, and all donations will benefit the Heifer Project! We will, of course, have animal posters for our children to choose from to donate to people in need. Dessert, potatoes, and chicken nuggets will be provided. Please bring a topping to share!



PW CHRISTMAS COOKE TRAY SALE

This year's sale was a great success. THANK YOU to everyone who baked, helped prepare the trays, and purchased trays. All that happened even with our large amount of snow! The trays were beautiful. We raised \$1800 for PW mission projects! PW donated several trays to our Wayside neighbors--Westlake Middle School, the Fire Department, and Millcreek Streets Department. Trays were also donated to MCRC by our Wayside Co-sponsorship Team. The bakers and tray assembly workers had great fun helping on this project. So many smiles and great fellowship. We hope everyone enjoyed the cookies!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN TO SPONSOR CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKET SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2ND

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 definitely 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. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Presbyterian Women held a delightful Christmas Brunch after church on December 8th. The women who attended had a delicious meal and lots of great fellowship in a festive holiday environment. The chairs- Chris Hoyt and Dawn Weborg- had the tables set up so beautifully! They challenged us with a Holiday Word Scramble. Luckily a few women were very good at this and received chocolate as a reward for their efforts! Poinsettias were distributed for our annual delivery. What a great celebration of PW's year together!



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

WAYSIDE/MCRC COSPONSORSHIP UPDATE

The Dahye Family continues to make progress. Here are some updates:

- Haroun continues to do well at his job.
- Haroun and Karen Haas went to parent teacher conferences for all the children. It was particularly fascinating to be at Erie High School. The school is very large, and it was most helpful that Halime and Ahmat went with them. Both Pfeiffer Burleigh and Erie High provided Arabic translators. The teachers talked to Haroun about the progress the children were making and areas that need improvement. It was a very positive experience. Kudos to the Erie School District for handling parent teacher conferences so well.
- A Wayside Church member donated a turkey to give the family for Thanksgiving. We cooked the turkey and took lots of side dishes, so the family had a somewhat traditional Thanksgiving dinner.
- Even though the family arrived in February of this year, this past big snowstorm was the first time they have experienced so much snow. They were surprised and prefer not to have so much snow! We finally were able to get them a shovel to help clear out the snow by their apartment.
- The Sophia Circle will be giving Christmas gifts to the family. One gift is a memory game made with pictures of events throughout the year. We are hoping they will have fun and learn some vocabulary.
- With the snow it has been difficult to get to the family for English lessons. We hope as weather permits to do this twice a week. If you are interested in helping with this, please let Karen Haas know.
- The family is VERY thankful for all the things Wayside Church does for them. They are always asking us to pass on their thanks.



We celebrate you . . .

HAPPY
Birthday

Jan 2 Barry Stamm	Jan 11 Elana Dolan	Jan 23 Maia Edwards-Borowicz
Jan 2 Michael Paris	Jan 12 Jim Garts	Jan 27 Debbie Smith
Jan 3 Shelby Sheriff	Jan 13 Rob Harcourt	Jan 27 Vinnie Keibler
Jan 4 Joseph Turner	Jan 14 Jane Gilewicz	Jan 27 Thomas Kruse
Jan 5 Claire Bowes	Jan 14 Rachael Sbrocco	Jan 28 Angela Sbrocco
Jan 5 Jeffrey Boyd	Jan 14 Stacy Fox	Jan 28 Richie Kuzmin-Fremer
Jan 5 Susanna Merwin	Jan 15 Robin Steger	Jan 29 Jaida Fried
Jan 6 Erica Jewell	Jan 16 Karen Carpenedo	Jan 29 Lucas Starr
Jan 7 Lorah Momeyer	Jan 19 Dick Reese	Jan 30 Jackie Cross
Jan 8 Shirley Diller	Jan 20 Trevor Grode	Jan 30 Samantha Momeyer
Jan 8 Christine Gonos-Boyd	Jan 20 Suanna McGuire	Jan 30 Meredith Thompson
Jan 9 Sarah Larson	Jan 21 Greg Miller	Jan 30 Rob Lish
Jan 10 Ellie McGill	Jan 22 Lorie Marsh	Jan 31 Bob Chambers

HAPPY
Anniversary

Jan 1 David and Julie Lewis
Jan 2 Jill and David Abbott
Jan 6 Colin and Bethany Hurley
Jan 9 Ed and Jan McEllroy
Jan 31 Bruce and Nancy Kern



January 2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>Music Together with Ms. Mary</p> <p>holds music classes for children in our building for more information visit: musictogetherwithmsmary.com</p>		1	2	3	4
		Office Closed	9a Yoga w/Cathleen 1:30 p North Coast Sewing 6p Alanon Newcomers 7p Chancel Choir		6p Alanon Speaker Series
5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30a Early Worship 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Celebration of Worship 12p Taking Down the Greens 6:30p Bible Ambassadors	9:30a Stronger Seniors 6:30p AA 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p Symphonic Singers	MTwMM	MTwMM 4p WOW Club 5:15p Primary Choir 6p Fellowship Dinner 7:30p Session	9a Yoga w/Cathleen 6p Alanon Newcomers 7p Chancel Choir	7p Club 50
12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30a Early Worship 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Celebration of Worship 12p PW Bus. Mtg. 12p WaYouth Gathering 3p Symphonic Singers Concert 6:30p Bible Ambassadors	9:30a Stronger Seniors 6:30p AA 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p Symphonic Singers	MTwMM	MTwMM 4p WOW Club 5:15p Primary Choir 6p Fellowship Dinner	9a Yoga w/Cathleen 6p Alanon Newcomers 7p Chancel Choir	Newsletter Deadline
19	20	21	22	23	24
Noisy Offering Soup Sunday 8:30a Early Worship 9:15a Congregational Meeting 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Celebration of Worship and Installation of Officers 6:30p Bible Ambassadors	9:30a Stronger Seniors 6:30p AA 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p Symphonic Singers	MTwMM 7p Sophia Circle	MTwMM 4p WOW Club 5:15p Primary Choir 6p Fellowship Dinner	9a Yoga w/Cathleen 6p Alanon Newcomers 7p Chancel Choir	
26	27	28	29	30	31
8:30a Early Worship 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Celebration of Worship 6:30p Bible Ambassadors	9:30a Stronger Seniors 6:30p AA 6:30p Sanctuary Bells 6:30p Symphonic Singers	MTwMM 11a Newsletter Collating 5:30p HAAEQG 7p Raucous Readers Book Club	MTwMM 4p WOW Club 5:15p Primary Choir 6p Fellowship Dinner	9a Yoga w/Cathleen 6p Alanon Newcomers 7p Chancel Choir	
					18
					8:30a HAAEQG 9:30a Bag Lunch Packing
					25
					TBD--WaYouth Escape Room & Dinner

TAKING DOWN THE GREENS

Plan to stay after the 11:00 service on January 5 to take down the Christmas decorations from the sanctuary and throughout the church. We are grateful for all the help we had decorating in November and look forward to another time of working together in January! Pizza will be provided.

WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

STAFF

The Reverend James Bernhardt
james@wayside-erie.org

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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
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Director of Music; Organist
814-490-8012 (cell)

Mark Lockett
mark@wayside-erie.org

Sexton

Karen Pastewka
steward@wayside-erie.org

Financial Secretary
814-600-4586 (Thurs/Fri)

Jennifer Lockett
wpc@wayside-erie.org

Office Administrator

*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.