

**March 8, 2026**



**1208 Asbury Road  
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**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**



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP  
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 8, 2026

11:00 AM

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE APPROACH GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Isaiah 55)

Matt McGill

All who thirst, come to the waters!

Even if you have no money, food, wine, and milk are free for the taking.

**Why spend money on something that's not bread?**

**Why pour my efforts into things that do not satisfy?**

Listen carefully; eat what is truly nourishing.

Incline your ear to God and listen closely so you may live.

**For God is making an everlasting promise of unfailing love.**

Seek the Lord; call upon God.

Turn away from evil, abandon unloving thoughts.

**Return to the Lord that God may have mercy.**

**Our God will abundantly pardon.**

For as the rain and the snow come down and do not return  
until they have watered the earth, bringing life and nurture,

**So shall God's Word not return empty, but shall accomplish the Lord's purposes.**

OPENING PRAYER

\*HYMN NO. 494

"Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"

Quebec

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy, we are dying of thirst. You give every good gift out of grace, but we talk about what we have earned. You made us to live in peace with each other, but our fears isolate and divide us. You show us the way to abundant life, but we insist that we know better. Forgive us, Lord, and quench our thirst with your grace, that we may be vessels of your healing and compassion through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*A WORD OF ASSURANCE

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### **A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN**

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

Teaching Elder Nathan Royster

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

"Hosea"  
Chancel Choir

Priory/Norbert  
arr. Craig S. Kingsbury

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Speak your life-giving Word to us, holy God, so that the hunger and thirst of our spirits and our world, may at last be satisfied, and the peace you intend will come to us all. Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

James Bernhardt, Dan McGill, Margery Taylor  
The Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

John 4:5-42 NT p. 94

### **SERMON**

Teaching Elder James Bernhardt  
"To Do the Will of the One Who Sends"

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### **A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

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

### **OFFERING REFLECTION**

*The world, near and far, is hungry and thirsty for good news.  
Imagine showing and telling good news, maybe without words.  
Then praying for God-given courage to do it and say it.*

### **\*THE DOXOLOGY NO. 606**

***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.***

Old Hundredth

### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING**

**Holy God, like the sheep of a pasture, we are the ones you shepherd and care for.  
As we have been fed by your mercy, guide us to share nourishment with the world  
by doing your will, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## TAKING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN NO. 340

"This Is My Song"

Finlandia

\*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:

Siemiradzki, Henryk, 1843-1902. Christ and the Samaritan Woman, 1890, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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## **Sunday Take Home for March 8, 2026**

### ***Question for Reflection***

Jesus says, "those who drink of the water that I give them will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." John 4:14  
How is Jesus like water? Where do you find the things that are most necessary in your life?

### ***Household Prayer: Morning***

God my maker, hold me this day with the same hand  
that shapes the mountains, and that cradles the deep.  
Keep my heart soft and nimble,  
and make my faith strong and firm.  
Renew me, re-form me, re-create me  
into the image of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

### ***Household Prayer: Evening***

We come to you now, loving God,  
Weary from the day's journey,  
Thirsty for rest, hungry for peace.  
Renew us in your love and restore us  
by your grace, until we find our rest at last  
by the river of the water of life. Amen.

*From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion,*  
Westminster John Knox Press, 2013. Used by permission.

WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MARCH 8, 2026  
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:

<b>Church Opener:</b>	Matt McCullough	<b>Fellowship Refreshments:</b>
<b>Greeters:</b>	Kruse Family	<b>Worship Assistant:</b> Matt McGill
<b>Worship Slides:</b>	<b>8:30</b> Ed Snyder	<b>11:00</b> Jewell Family
<b>Ushers: 8:30</b>	Tim & Diane Feltmeyer	
<b>11:00</b>	Sarah Jay, Jonathan Jewell, Barb Sundberg	

A reminder to those scheduled to help next week, March 15:

<b>Church Opener:</b>	Matt McGill	<b>Fellowship Refreshments:</b>
<b>Greeters:</b>	Marilyn Russell	<b>Worship Assistant:</b> Matt McGill
<b>Worship Slides:</b>	<b>8:30</b> Nelly Padilla	<b>11:00</b> Bobbi Jo Fye
<b>Ushers: 8:30</b>	Collen Loeslein, Mac Pollard	
<b>11:00</b>	Paul Carpenedo, Matt McGill, David Sundberg, Chuck Lytle	

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 8-MARCH 15

Sunday, March 8	8:30 AM	Celebration of Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Celebration of Worship
	12:15 PM	WaYouth Second Sunday Gathering
Monday, March 9	6:30 PM	AA
	6:30 PM	Sanctuary Bells
	7:00 PM	Symphonic Singers
Tuesday, March 10	9:30, 4:15	Music Together with Ms. Mary
Wednesday, March 11	9:30 AM	Music Together with Ms. Mary
	4:00 PM	WOW Club
	5:15 PM	Primary Choir
	6:00 PM	Fellowship Supper
	6:30 PM	Mark Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Session
Thursday, March 12	9:00 AM	Yoga with Cathleen
	6:00 PM	Alanon Newcomer's Group
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Friday, March 13	7:00 PM	Club 50
Sunday, March 15	8:30 AM	Celebration of Worship
<b>Noisy Offering</b>	9:30 AM	Soup Sunday
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	9:45 AM	Membership Class
	11:00 AM	Celebration of Worship

### 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

The sanctuary flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Dave & Micki Loesel in loving memory of his parents Louise & Richard Loesel & her sister Marty Eichenlaub. If you would like flowers to take home, please come to the front at the close of the 11:00 service. If you would like to sponsor flowers for 2026, please sign up in the lobby.

### ISSUES OF FAITH

Issues of Faith meets Sundays at 9:45 for stimulating conversations about spirituality and social justice. Today James & Anita Bernhardt are sharing pictures and stories from India. Next week Dr. Michael DeSanctis will share "The Holy Week Journey With Christian Artists" with us.

## MARK BIBLE STUDY

Join us as we conclude our study of Mark's Gospel with Jesus in his last days Wednesday nights at 6:30 in the Issues of Faith classroom. This study will cover chapters 11-16 and will run from February 25-March 25.

## UPCOMING WAYOUTH EVENTS

Wayouth is Wayside's 6th-12th grade fellowship. Along with gathering Sundays at 9:45-10:45 are the following events:

- TODAY at 12:15-1:15: 2nd Sunday Gathering; preparing Easter eggs for Eggs-perience and discussing Easter
- March 28 at 10:00-11:30: Hosting an Easter party at the Mercy Center for Women

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

You're invited to join a conversation about church membership with Pastor James at 9:45 on March 15. Just drop him a text at 828-381-6582 or an email at james@wayside-erie.org with interest and questions.

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING COIN FISH

One Great Hour of Sharing is a Presbyterian Church (USA) special offering that benefits Presbyterian missions dealing with disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and displaced persons. Children and youth can participate in this crucial work by taking and filling a fish coin box and returning it by Easter (April 5). The fish reminds us of a child's simple offering that helped meet the needs of thousands.

## WEST MILLCREEK FOOD PANTRY

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

## NOISY OFFERING

Next week is our monthly noisy offering to support our bagged lunch ministry to local shelters. Thank you for your generous support!

## 3RD SATURDAY BAG LUNCH MINISTRY

Wayside will be preparing bag lunches for Erie homeless shelters at 9:30-10:30am on Saturday, March 21. Please sign up in the lobby or contact Pastor Nathan if you can help.

## EASTER GARDEN FLOWERS

Sign up in the lobby to order daffodils, tulips, or lilies to adorn the sanctuary for Easter. You may take the plants home after the service on Easter Sunday. Plants are \$18 each.

## SOUP SUNDAY

Soup Sunday, preparing nutritious soup for Emmaus House, will be on March 15 at 9:30. Anyone can help. This is the final date for this season.

## EARTH CARE LENTEN MOMENT

Pray: "God, we stand in awe of your gift of Creation. Teach us to be responsible recipients of this gift. Illuminate our role in stewarding it well. Amen." Source: PCUSA's "Tread Lightly" Lenten calendar. For full calendar see Earth Care bulletin board.

## HOLY WEEK AT WAYSIDE

- March 29—Palm Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 AM
- April 2—Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 PM
- April 3—Good Friday Worship 7:00 PM
- April 4—Easter Eggs-perience for children and families 10:00-11:30 AM
- April 5—Easter Celebration 8:30 & 11:00 AM

## SUMMER SAVE THE DATES

- June 14-20: Camp Nazareth with the Episcopal Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania for those who have completed 2nd-12th grade.
- July 20-24: Faith Day Camp at Wayside for those who are 4 years old through rising 5th graders

## FOUR WAYS TO GIVE

1. In person: We receive the offering as part of our worship service.
2. By mail: Mail your check to Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1208 Asbury Rd, Erie, PA 16505
3. Scan the code at the right:
4. Online: Go to [wayside-erie.org](http://wayside-erie.org). Click "Giving" at the top of the page.



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