



The Lake Erie Breeze

May 31, 2017

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 21

In This Issue:

Headlines for new items will be in green and highlighted. Newer items will tend to be toward the top of the Breeze. Headlines for old items will be in red.

*Upcoming Events

- ❖ Thursday, June 8, 8:30 AM, Venango Pastors gathering, First Church, Oil City
- ❖ Tuesday, June 13, 4:00 PM, Committee on Ministry, Titusville
- ❖ Tuesday, June 20, 4:00 PM, Presbytery meeting, First Church, Meadville
- ❖ Monday, June 26, 10:00 AM, Worship Committee, Corry
- ❖ Monday, June 26, 2:00 PM Warren/McKean pastors gathering, Warren Church
- ❖ Thursday, July 6, 12:30 PM, Erie Pastor's Gathering, TBA
- ❖ Tuesday, July 11, 4:00 PM, Committee on Ministry, Titusville
- ❖ Thursday, July 13, 8:30 AM, Venango Pastor's Gathering, Oil City, First Church
- ❖ Friday, July 22-29, New Wilmington Mission Conference, Westminster College
- ❖ Tuesday, August 15, 2:00 PM, Congregational Life Committee, Corry
- ❖ Thursday, August 17, 9:00 AM, Christian Education Committee, Corry
- ❖ Monday, September 11, 2:00 PM, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Redeemer Church, Meadville



"Empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit through Scripture, our confessions, and conscience the Presbytery of Lake Erie journeys with congregations, ruling elders and teaching elders as we live, grow, fellowship and witness to the work of God through Jesus Christ in today's changing world. Recognizing that we are called to serve all of God's children, we do this through shared prayer, worship, training, evangelism, and mission to strengthen the dynamic Body of Christ."

You are Invited



The Presbytery of Lake Erie

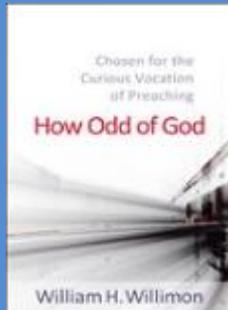
Requests the pleasure of your company
to celebrate

The Installation of
The Reverend Chris Weichman
as

Pastor of the
First Church of the Covenant
250 West 7th Street
Erie, PA

On
Sunday June 11th
at 6pm

*RESOURCE CENTER REVIEW



How Odd of God Chosen for the Curious Vocation of Preaching by William Willimon

The word 'election' is about a central gospel idea: that in Jesus not only does God choose to be God for us but chooses us to be for God. The calling of the disciples in the Gospels is a story of election, of how God chooses to transform the world by choosing us to be messengers and agents of that transformation. So it is, says William Willimon, that election becomes not just the content of our preaching but the means as well. God chooses preachers. How unlikely—how odd—is it that God should entrust the proclamation of the gospel to us? This unpredictable, electing God reaches out to save the world and then leaves it in the hands of preachers to get the word out? Through us, through our stammering tongues and faltering hearts, the preached word becomes the Word of God. If you wonder why you drag yourself into the pulpit every Sunday, if you worry that your sermons aren't reaching past the front pew, then read this book and be encouraged. God chooses; God chooses preachers.

This book is available for check out at the Resource Center. Hours are 9-1 Monday and Tuesday and 9-12:30 Wednesday and Thursday.

Mission Trip Opportunities!

Two mission trip opportunities are currently open to neighboring Presbyterian Churches. Consider participating in one (or both!!):

1. The Presbytery of Lake Erie is hosting a mission trip to address flood recovery in West Virginia on July 16 to 22. An attachment is included in this email with further information. Or contact Rev. Jamie Fowler (fowler676@gmail.com)
2. The Mission Committee of the First Presbyterian Church in Meadville is sponsoring a

A cookie and punch reception will follow the service.

*Mission Trip

The Presbytery of Lake Erie is hosting a mission trip to address flood recovery in West Virginia on July 16 to 22. Deadline to register is JUNE 1. The nonrefundable \$50 deposit can be sent directly to the Presbytery of Lake Erie, with 'mission trip' marked in the memo. An attachment is included in this email with further information. Or contact Rev. Jamie Fowler (fowler676@gmail.com)

*Open Space Time

During the next Presbytery meeting on June 20th at the First Presbyterian Church, Meadville our Open Space Time will focus on ways to connect and learn. Associate pastor from Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community, Mike Holohan will share his story about his new church, innovations in ministry and what the Holy Spirit is calling you and your church to be or do!

*Wee Kirk 2017 Northeast Conference

Shenango Presbytery is hosting Wee Kirk Conference October 9-11 at the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mt. Pleasant, PA. This time is filled with speakers and seminars that will prove to inspire, equip, motivate, and encourage small Presbytery churches. Applications will be available at the June 20th Presbytery Meeting or online at www.wee-kirk-ne.org. There are \$50 scholarships available through the Presbytery Office.

*Loving Search for God Weekend Retreat

Fr. William Meninger, a Trappist Monk and author will lead a retreat in Erie to guide one to an elevated sense of love, insight, and experience of God. Friday September 15th. 4 pm to 8:30 pm and Saturday September 16th, 8:30 am to 8:30 pm at Mount St Benedict Monastery, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie, PA. Cost is \$95 includes program and four meals. For more information and to register: <http://www.stgeorgeerie.org/news/weekend-retreat>.

Church Photos Needed

The Presbytery of Lake Erie website is getting a new look. As we work to make these changes, we would like your help. If you have a picture of the outside of your church building, please share it with us. We would like to get a photo of all 58 churches in the Presbytery. You can email pictures to Melinda @ adminasst@pbylakeerie.org.

Would you Like to Attend Kaleidoscope?

Would you like to attend the national stewardship conference called Kaleidoscope but you don't have the finance to participate? If so there may be funds available through a Church Financial Literacy Grant Application. Want to know more? Contact David Oyler at david@pbylakeerie.org.

Simple Gifts in Concert

Fairview Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Simple Gift Duo on Thursday June 8th at 7pm, 4264 Avonia Rd. These two women and their twelve instruments create a variety of music from Irish jigs, American reels, Klezmer freilachs, to original compositions. The cost is a free will

mission trip to La Gonave Hospital in Haiti. We're looking for a surgeon, a nurse anesthetist, nurses and others willing to work. The trip will be led by Helen Jacobson, who has worked at the hospital as a nurse practitioner for 14 years. It will be a week-long trip in November of 2017. Does such an endeavor interest you? Do you know someone else who might be interested? If so, please contact Mary (1-814-333-2161) at the church office.

Coordinating Committee and Presbytery meetings for 2017:

For planning purposes the Coordinating Committee and Presbytery meetings have been announced for 2017:

Coordinating Committee meetings

Tuesday, August 29, 3:00 PM, Girard

Tuesday, October 24, 3:00 PM, Ripley

Presbytery meetings

Tuesday, June 20, 4:00 PM, First Church, Meadville

Tuesday, September 19, 4:00 PM, Pleasantville

Saturday, November 18, 10:00 AM, First Church of the Covenant, Erie

***Prayers for Your Colleagues in Ministry**

I Thessalonians 5:17 encourage believers to 'pray without ceasing.' In your unceasing prayers for others you are encouraged to pray for your colleagues in Lake Erie Presbytery as well as beyond. The eNews this year will carry the prayer list which has also been distributed to the churches of this presbytery. Pray without ceasing for these partners in ministry.

June 11
Barb Sundberg
Presbytery Financial Administrator
Lake City Church
Commissioned Ruling Elder Deb Rimmer

June 18
Oil City, First
Rev. Ronee Christy, Pastor
Elaine Garts
Resource Center Director

June 25
Emmanuel Church, Erie
Rev. Rick Cepris, Pastor
Rev. James Moelk (MAL)

July 2
Girard Church
Rev. Nicola Vitiello, Pastor

donation and is looking to be a wonderful time.

Support the 2017 Mission Trip to Ghana

Will you be part of sending a little bit of Lake Erie Presbytery to Ghana and bringing a little bit of Ghana back home? The team will visit the Wapuli Health Clinic, the Tamale Youth Resource Centre, the Bimbila Chapel Congregation and other communities where the Ghana Partnership is engaged. The emphasis will be on building relationships, on listening, loving and learning. Are you able to give or raise funds for the expenses of the trip, for medical equipment for the Health Clinic, or for our Ghanaian Partners' participation? Contact Donna Cammarata with questions donna.camm@gmail.com 814-873-4860. Send donations to Presbytery of Lake Erie, 2816 Elmwood Avenue, Erie, PA 16508 (designate 2017 Ghana Trip).

Water Justice Theological Conference

"For those who call the Great Lakes home, it is imperative that we think globally and act locally to sustain one of this region's most valuable natural resources – its access to fresh water". The Water Justice Theological Conference will be held on June 8, 2017 at The Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul, 134 W. 7th Street, from 9 -2:30. You may call Diane at ICM at (814) 454-2411 or email www.icmeriecounty.com to register. The cost is \$25/per person, lunch and snacks included. See attached flyer for more details.

Christian Education Workshops

Dawn Sears the Director of Christian Education at 1st Presbyterian Church in Warren will be offering three workshops in conjunction with her completion of her Christian Education Certification. These workshops are geared toward adults who have an interest in the faith journey of their church and its members. Workshops are free of charge. See attached flyer for more specifics and to contact Dawn.

Wiggles n Worship

There is a new and exciting interactive worship service for children 5 years and under, along with their parents at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church at 32nd and Greengarden. Every Wednesday from 2-3pm starting on June 7th. Pastor Kristen from Mount Calvary and Pastor Emily from First Presbyterian in Waterford look forward to worshipping with you!

Garland's 200th Anniversary

Garland will be holding a celebration in honor of their 200th Anniversary. Festivities will be from June 16th through June 25th. There will be food, fun, and music as they travel through the years displaying what the church was like over these past 200 years. Please see attachment for more specifics.

Congratulations to Graduates in Our Pastor's Families!!

It is the season for graduations. A number of pastors in the Presbytery of Lake Erie are celebrating graduations. Take the time to extend your congratulations to them.

Mark Townsend, son of **Rev. Gregg Townsend**, is graduating from NEHS this year. He will be attending Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI in the

Rev. Harvey Boal (HR)

July 9
North Warren
Rev. Buddy Ward, Pastor
Moderator of Presbytery
Rev. John Dietz

July 16
Utica
Commission Ruling Elder Tina Kaye
Presbyterian Homes
"Bobbie" Gray, Director

With Sadness...

The recent death of a key former leader has had an impact on the Presbytery of Lake Erie.

- Bill Sesler, long time ruling elder and Sunday School teacher at First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, died May 22. He had a keen interest in public affairs and did a splendid job of linking his Christian faith to public action. His nephew Scott Sesler serves as comoderator of the Administrative Committee of the presbytery.



*Prayer Concerns

- Ellie Dyke, mother of **Rev. John Dyke**, died on May 29 after a long period of declining health. Ellie had been a long time member of the Warren Church. Please remember John in your prayers in the death of his mother.
- The father of **Rev. Chuck Cammarata** died on May 28 in Pittsburgh. Please remember Chuck in your prayers as his family mourns the death of his father.
- **Jeff Fowler**, husband of **Rev. Jamie Fowler, Hasson Height and Pleasantville**, is undergoing chemotherapy treatments in Indianapolis, IN for several weeks. Jamie has taken a medical leave to be with him. Pray with the Fowler family along with the two congregations she serves as Jeff works his way toward full health.
- Pray for Ruth Mills, wife of **Rev. Bill Mills, Honorably Retired**. Ruth continues to deal with the impact of Alzheimer's on her life, though she is resting comfortably at home.
- Pray for the continuing conversations around racism and violence that the power of God might be brought to these

Fall. He will major in Communication with an emphasis in film and media production.

Evan Fowler, son of **Rev. Jamie Fowler, Hasson Heights**, graduated in December with a Bachelor of Science degree in turf science from Penn State University. Evan currently works for the Kansas City Royals in maintaining and improving the management of the turf on the major league baseball field.

Second Lieutenant Travis Jensen, son of **Rev. Brian Jensen, Meadville**, graduates from The Basic School of the United States Marine Corps.

Mary Bernhardt, daughter of **Rev. James Bernhardt, Wayside**, graduates from Elon University in NC with degrees Psychology, Spanish and Neuroscience. In August she begins graduate study toward a PhD in Cognition and Brain Science at Georgia Tech University in Atlanta. Her parents are hoping to have her at home in Erie for some of the summer.

Tyler Domske, son of **Rev. Ronee Christy, Oil City First**, graduated with his Doctor of Ministry degree from Dubuque Seminary. He serves a church in Pittsburgh Presbytery.

Congratulations to all these graduates within our clergy families! If there are other names that should be added to this list please provide the information to Melinda Wingenbach in the presbytery office.

Piano Available to a Good Home

Ruling Elder Donna Fannin, Harborcreek, is looking for a good home for her piano as she and her husband move. It is an upright piano, in very good condition, and relatively new. If interested please contact Donna at 814-450-0669.

Photographers Needed!!

The Presbytery of Lake Erie is searching for 3 or 4 volunteer photographers to help us populate the new presbytery website with pictures. Perhaps you are the 'unofficial photographer' for your congregation already. Or you would like to help out by taking pictures at a presbytery meeting or other presbytery related activity. Are you interested in learning more? Contact David Oyler (david@pbylakeerie.org) for more information. The church is strongest as we use all our gifts for the common good!

*Good News about Your Generosity in 2017!!

We are already 6 months into 2017! And it is good to celebrate the financial faithfulness of the congregations of Lake Erie Presbytery! At the end of May a total of \$51,239 has been received through general mission giving in the first five months of the year – about on schedule with what is anticipated. Five churches have already fulfilled their pledge for the year! Thanks! About \$11,500 is needed per month to reach the mission goal for the year. YOUR GIFTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN TELLING THE STORY OF THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST! Mission travel and energy efficiency grants are funded through your mission gifts. Children are fed and ecumenical campus ministry is engaged. Thank you!

On the per capita side there is additional good news of financial faithfulness. About \$19,100 is needed each month to meet budget expectations. During the first five months of the year a total of \$129,346 was received, including 19 churches that have already been able to fulfill

difficult conversations.

- Pray for wisdom to engage radical missional thought in each of our communities. The time to act for the Kingdom of God is NOW!

Please note: The presbytery office is seeking to complete a significant overhaul of the eNews.

1. If you do not receive the eNews please contact (adminasst@pbylakeerie.org). We will make every effort to update/correct the oversight.
2. If you know of someone who you believe should be receiving this eNews you are encouraged to invite them to send along their email address.
3. If you no longer desire to receive the eNews please inform Melinda and she will remove your name from the list.

Thank you for your patience as we seek to undergo this upgrade.



Please remember to visit our website at:

<http://www.pbylakeerie.org>

Contact Us

Presbytery of Lake Erie

2816 Elmwood Ave.

Erie, PA 16508

Phone: 814-868-4891

Fax: 814-866-0856

DAVID OYLER, GENERAL PRESBYTER

david@pbylakeerie.org

GREG GILLISPIE, STATED CLERK:

revgreggillispie@gmail.com

MELINDA WINGENBACH:

adminasst@pbylakeerie.org

MARSHA MACKINNON:

webmaster@pbylakeerie.org

their total per capita commitment for the year. This is slightly ahead of budget expectation which is normal this time of year. Thank you for your faithful support – even paying advance when possible! And thank you for making all payments before the end of the year!

Synod of the Trinity Grants

The Synod has recently updated their grant applications. Grants available: Peacemaking Grant; Mission Travel Grant; Student Study Grant; Partnership Grant (formally “Network”); Innovation Grant (formally the “New Initiative Grant,”); New Worshipping Communities Grant (for 2nd and 3rd level New Worshipping Communities applying for PMA funding). Applications can be found on the Synods website, <http://www.syntrinity.org/>.

Good News about Special Offerings!!

A number of churches in the Presbytery of Lake Erie receive various denominational offerings throughout the course of the year. Some churches receive one of them; some receive all four. The four offerings include:

- One Great Hour of Sharing (traditionally the largest offering)
- Pentecost Offering
- Peace & Global Witness Offering
- Christmas Joy Offering

Each offering goes to support designated ministries. More information on these offerings can be found at www.pcusa.org. In 2015 a total of \$44,188 was received for these offerings from Lake Erie Presbytery Churches. In 2016 a total of \$45,406 was received – an increase of almost 3%. Great work! Your gifts make a difference!

The Pentecost offering totaled \$5,148 in 2016 – the highest in a number of years in Lake Erie Presbytery. A total of 18 churches received the Pentecost Offering in this past year. In this presbytery Garland was the strongest giving church on a per capita basis, Warren second and Church of the Cross was third. Thanks for your gifts!

New Wilmington Mission Conference

The New Wilmington Mission Conference is the longest-running mission conference in the United States and will take place July 22-29 at Westminster College. NWMC is intergenerational, Presbyterian-related, and youth-focused. About 1,000 people attend from over 30 states and 20 countries for a chance to connect with mission workers and hear what God is doing all over the world. This week-long conference features many well-known and engaging speakers for one low, all-inclusive price! This year’s speakers include:

- **Dr. Rodger Nishioka**, Director of Adult Educational Ministries at Village Presbyterian Church;
- **Rev. Dr. Jim Singleton**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Leadership and Evangelism at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary;
- **Shane Bennett**, speaker and writer for Frontiers;
- As well as many others!

For more details or to register visit: www.nwmcmission.org

2017 VBS Reviews Available

The Resource Center does not provide VBS kit samples because of

the expense involved. However, if you are interested in seeing reviews of all the programs available, the Center for the Ministry of Teaching reviews VBS kits and programs every year. They study each program then give a review including the strengths and weaknesses of each one. They list their top picks then all the other new programs and a listing of the *Perennial* programs. For a free PDF of the 2017 reviews go to <https://www.vts.edu/page/center-for-the-ministry-of-teaching/publications/vbs-reviews>

*News from Our Churches and Pastors

- Ben Fugate, son of **Rev. David Fugate**, led McDowell High School's U.S. Academic Decathlon/Academic Sports League in scoring in their recent national competition. The team finished third in the large school competition. Ben is a junior at McDowell High School and also currently serving on the Pastor Nominating Committee at Church of the Cross. Congratulations!
- **Rev. Darrell Knopp**, Emlenton, and his wife Gloria because grandparents to a new grandchild on April 24. Harper Annabelle Knopp resides with her family in the Pittsburgh area. Congratulations to Darrell and Gloria!
- **Garland Church** will be celebrating their 200th anniversary in 2017. Pray with them in this milestone moment.
- **Rev. Rebecca Taylor, Kane Church**, concluded her service as their pastor on April 30. She has been a wonderful and affirming presence in the Kane community. **Rev. Taylor** began serving as the Temporary Supply pastor at the **Warren Church**, on May 1. Welcome to new responsibilities!
- **Rev. Chris Weichman** began serving as called pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant on May 1. Welcome! His installation will be held June 11th.