



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, December 14, 8:30 AM, Venango Pastor's gathering at the home of Rev. Ronee Christy
- ❖ Saturday, December 16, 10:00 AM, Inter-Church Ministries Presentation, Erie County Blasco Library
- ❖ Tuesday, January 9, 4:00 PM, Committee on Ministry Meeting, Titusville
- ❖ All upcoming events can be found on the Presbytery websites [Important Dates](#)

*RESOURCE CENTER REVIEW

The Wonder of Christmas, Once You Believe, Anything Is Possible
 Robb, Ed & Renfro, Rob
 This four-week, all-church study centers on looking to the Christmas story and the stories of real people today to find inspiration and ideas for reflecting the light of Jesus at Christmas time and throughout the entire year. Chapters include: The Wonder of a Name, The Wonder of a Star, The Wonder of a Manger, and The Wonder of a Promise. Kit contains everything you need to implement this all-ages study: a DVD, Worship Resources Flash Drive, Leader Guide, Youth Study, Children's Leader Guide, and Devotions for the Season—all of which complement the Adult Study Book which serves as the centerpiece of the program.

Coordinating Committee and Presbytery meetings for 2018:

For planning purposes the Coordinating Committee and Presbytery meetings have



"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."

*Year-End Giving

This is the season that is full of wonder and reflection. It is a time that you may be grateful for the blessings that God has bestowed upon you. This gratitude may lead you to make a charitable contribution to your church. The Presbyterian Foundation has a website, helpful internet links and printed materials to encourage year-end giving. [Follow Here](#)

Wheels for Joshua, PCUSA Ghana Mission Co-worker

Lake Erie Presbytery is taking the lead in raising funds to provide a durable and reliable vehicle for Josh Heikkila. Josh travels extensively in Ghana and to neighboring countries of Niger, Togo and Nigeria in his work and ministries. **The Presbytery has already committed an initial \$5,000** and will match funds contributed within Lake Erie Presbytery (up to \$5,000). **\$2716.34 has already been received in donations.** Funds will be matched between now and March 31, 2018. Josh continues to be a vital partner in the Lake Erie Ghana Partnership. Will you go the extra mile to help Josh go the extra miles? Please consider contributing and/or creatively raising funds. Contributions may be sent to: 2816 Elmwood Ave, Erie, PA 16508 - *mark for VEHICLE for Josh Heikkila*

*Advent Devotions

This is a weekly newsletter sent out by the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE). It is written by some of the brightest minds in our denomination. Please follow this link for week 2 devotions, [Advent Peace](#). We urge you and your church to sign up to receive the Monday reflections as well as access to other useful tools.

Ghana Trip Highlighted by the Synod

Follow [THIS LINK](#) to read more about the Presbytery of Lake Erie's Mission trip to Ghana. 11 people representing the presbytery made this trip back in September. The trip allowed participation in the Ghana Mission Network meeting at Abetifi, Ghana and participating in conversations with the Upper

been announced for 2017:

Coordinating Committee meetings

Tuesday, January 30, 11am

Tuesday, March 20, 3pm

Tuesday, June 5, 3pm

Tuesday, August 28, 3pm

Tuesday, October 30, 3pm

*Host Churches are still being sought out.

Presbytery meetings

Saturday, February 24, 10am, Edinboro First

Tuesday April 24, 3pm, Bradford First

Tuesday, June 26, 3pm, Wayside, Erie

Saturday, September 22, 10am, Oil City Second

Saturday, November 17, 10am, TBA

***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.

Dec. 17
Redeemer Church, Meadville
Rev. Christopher Fujii (HR)

Dec. 24
Waterford
Rev. Emily Zeig Lindsey, Pastor
Rev. Lee Beckes (HR)

Dec. 31
Bethel Church, Cranesville
Rev. John Dietz, Temporary Supply Pastor

With Sadness...

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

- Rev. Stephen Cahoon passed away on October 21, 2017. Steve served the Harborcreek Church from 2008 to 2013. Stephen and his wife Marie lived with their daughter in northern Virginia. Steve was ordained in September 1987, having just achieved 30 years of ordained ministry. The majority of his ministry was celebrated within the bounds of Beaver-Butler Presbytery prior to his arrival at Harborcreek. Condolences can be sent to Marie Cahoon, 92 Eisentown Dr., Lovettsville, VA 20180.
- Rev. Sue Montgomery lost her brother,

Northern Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana.

***Mission and Per Capita Report**

To read the November report [Click Here](#)

***Please note that the cutoff date to receive your 2017 Per Capita payment is Monday January 8th.**

Leaderfest 2018, hosted by Shenango Presbytery

Leaderfest will be celebrated on January 13, 2018 at Westminster College, 229 S. Market St. New Wilmington, PA 16142. The event is quite similar to The Big Event that Lake Erie will host on March 10, 2018; Leaderfest might be particularly appealing for churches in the southern end of Lake Erie Presbytery (although anyone is welcome). Check out further details on the '[Presbytery of Shenango](#)' website.

Seeking items for Colombia Mission Work

Does your church have any old communion ware (for bread and cups) and any robes and stoles for the pastors' just collecting dust? Fairview Church of the Cross is looking to help a mission group going to Colombia to assist the Presbyterian church there. They have recently asked for these items that could be most helpful in their circumstances there. They are unable to afford such items, any help is greatly appreciated. If you can help call the church office at 814-835-5901.

North East hiring for the season

First Presbyterian Church of North East, 25 West Main Street North East PA is looking to hire someone to shovel and salt the church walkways on an as needed basis. This position pays \$20 per hour. Please call Jeff Hinman at 814-490-5538 or Patti at 814-725-8641.

Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County Presentation

The ICM will be hosting John-Michael Cotignola-Pickens at the Erie County Public Library, 160 Front Street, Erie, PA on Saturday December 16th from 10am to 12 in the Admiral Room. Cotignola-Pickens, the Advocacy Programs Coordinator at the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, will be presenting "Trauma Informed 'School to Prison Pipeline'." It is a look into a student's trauma outside the home that results in poor behavior within school walls. Often this lead to punishments such as suspensions keeping kids from school, even falling behind, paving the path to prison. This event is free and open to the public.

'Unglued Church Project' is Just Around the Corner!

Your Committee on Ministry is inviting your congregation to participate in a strategic conversation. It is called 'Unglued Church Project'. It is particularly designed for congregations who find themselves saying 'My, things are not as they once were.' (That probably includes every single congregation.) It will involve focused conversation, uniquely designed individually for each participating church. It is not designed to sell a pre-determined conclusion. The startup for Unglued Church is Saturday, January 20? Want to know more? Check with your pastor or Clerk of Session as they have more information about this splendid opportunity to engage the future.

***Synod of the Trinity**

Chuck, in accident on his farm in Virginia in late October. Your prayers in this time of unexpected grief are deeply appreciated.

- Rhonda Klink, long time treasurer for the Hartstown Church, died after a battle with cancer. Her husband, Tom, had recently served on the presbytery Administrative Committee.

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>



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The latest eNews for the Synod of the Trinity is available. [December 4th Enews: Check it Out!](#)

Presbytery Disaster Relief Fund helping Hurricane Victims

You can visit the [PDA Website](#) and see how they have been reaching out to the Presbytery Communities that have been affected by the recent hurricanes. **The Presbytery of Lake Erie and its 58 churches have already raised \$34,221.75.** Please continue to pray for those affected. You can [Click Here](#) to learn more about ways to give or you can mail a monetary donation to the Presbytery office at 2816 Elmwood Avenue. Erie PA 16508.

*Cambridge Spring use of "Seed Money"

Cambridge Spring Presbyterian Church used their \$214 to purchase 2 porch swings for the Crawford County common ground café. Common Ground is a ministry of Crawford County Youth for Christ. Their mission is to reach young people everywhere to become lifelong followers of Jesus Christ. Check out their Facebook page [@CommonGroundsCrawfordCounty2016](#).

Seed Money put to good use at Bradford

The Seed Money given by the Presbytery in the amount of \$214 was used by the Bradford Church to help keep the neighborhood warm. They took the money and purchased winter clothes. They left the items readily available for anyone who might need a little help staying warm this season. What did your church do with their "Seed Money?"

Application being accepted for Young Adult Volunteer Program

The YAV program is a one-year service opportunity for young adults ages 19–30, offered through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The benefits include a year of vocational discernment, the opportunity to live and work with the support of an intentional Christian community, time to explore their relationship with God and to live more simply. Please follow the link for more information. [Click Here](#)

Eastern Region of APCE Spring Event [More Info Here](#)

Save the date for David LaMotte and Jon Brown at the APCE Spring event to be held April 30th through May 2nd at the Rhodes Grove Conference Center, 7696 Browns Mill Rd Chambersburg PA. Register early as spaces are limited and scholarships are available through Melinda in the Presbytery Office.

*Prayer Concerns

- **Rev. George Johnson**, Honorably Retired, continues to address health concerns with his eyes. After time in a Pittsburgh hospital he was home for a few days and then spent time at Hamot Hospital. Please pray with George, and his wife Connie, as he continues to deal with these issues.
- **Rev. Drew Himes** begin serving as called pastor of the Fairview – Church of the Cross. Welcome!
- Pray for **Rev. Dave Edmunds** who is recovering from surgery after a car accident.
- Pray for all affected by the recent shooting in Las Vegas.
- Pray for the continuing conversations around racism and violence





that the power of God might be brought to these difficult conversations.

- Rev. Jim Moelk, Honorably Retired, is recovering at home from recent back surgery. Your prayers for him are deeply appreciated.

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