



## 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

- ❖ Saturday, March 10, The Big Event, 9:00 AM, First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Erie
- ❖ Tuesday, March 13, 2:00 PM, Congregational Life, Corry
- ❖ Tuesday, March 13, 4:00 PM, Committee on Ministry, First Church, Titusville
- ❖ Thursday, March 15, 9:00 AM, Spiritual Formation Committee, Corry
- ❖ Thursday, March 15, 4:30 PM, Administrative Committee meeting, Presbytery office
- ❖ Thursday, March 15, 6:00 PM, Trustees, Presbytery office
- ❖ Monday, March 19, 1:00 PM, Mission and Social Witness, First Church, Meadville
- ❖ Tuesday, March 20, 3:00 PM, Coordinating Committee, Gravel Run
- ❖ Wednesday, March 21, 9:15 AM, Missional Church Conversation, Corry Church
- ❖ Thursday, March 22, 9:30 AM, Warren/McKean pastor's gathering, Bradford
- ❖ All upcoming events can be found on the Presbytery websites [Important Dates](#)

## \*RESOURCE CENTER REVIEW

Five Risks Presbyterians Must Take for Peace  
Iosso, Christian



"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."

## \*Annual Statistics Report

Thank you to all of you who have spent time this winter on compiling statistics. Thank you to treasurers, church secretaries, Clerks of Session, pastors and others! Your work helps to paint a larger picture of God's faithful work in each congregation. Of course, numbers do not tell the entire story but they are one indication of faithful witness and work in your community. Thank you!

A few highlights:

- A total of 14 churches had a net gain in membership.
- The Linesville Church had the largest net gain in membership – increasing from 49 to 57 members – for a net gain of 8.
- The Endeavor Church had the largest percentage increase in membership – 80%! An increase from 5 to 9 members.
- There were 66 infant baptisms and 5 adult baptisms celebrated in Lake Erie Presbytery in 2017.
- Six of the 58 congregations average more than 100 in worship on a typical Sunday.
- Giving from all sources was just about identical to 2016.

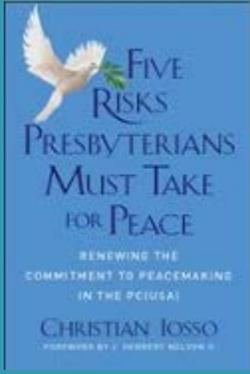
The relationships you build and the discipleship you encourage helps to build the Kingdom of God. May God be praised!

## \*Work Mission Trip to Fayetteville , NC

The Presbytery is going on a work mission trip to Fayetteville, NC June 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> to aid with hurricane recovery. They are limited to 20 participants, with the cost of \$350 a person. [Click Here](#), call Jamie Fowler at 814-673-0874, or email [fowler676@gmail.com](mailto:fowler676@gmail.com) for more information.

## \*More Than Just Mosaics:

The Presbyterian Church recently spent six years reflecting on peacemaking. Building on past policy documents, people at all levels of the church studied and discussed what peacemaking policies needed to be modified given the world context today. The 2016 PC(USA) General Assembly affirmed five affirmations the church must make to fulfill its peacemaking



calling. Those affirmations become risks when truly taken, because their message collides with the demands for continued sacrifice by the powers that be. In this timely resource, author Christian Iosso explains what the five risks are, how they differ from previous positions, and what taking each risk might look like today. Includes questions for reflection and discussion.

The Resource Center is staffed Monday & Tuesday, 9 a.m.– 1 p.m. and is open Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. It is located in Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, 2816 Elmwood Avenue, Erie. Phone: 814 868-4891 ext. 5; Email: [elaine@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:elaine@pbylakeerie.org)

Stop in or check online on the Presbytery website to find something to suit your needs.

### **Coordinating Committee and Presbytery meetings for 2018:**

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

#### Coordinating Committee meetings

- Tuesday, March 20, 3pm, Gravel Run
- Tuesday, June 5, 3pm, Cooperstown
- Tuesday, August 28, 3pm, TBA
- Tuesday, October 30, 3pm, Port Allegany

#### 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, Fairview, Church of The Cross

### **\*Prayers for Your Colleagues in**

Professor Jodi Magness, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will be presenting “The Ancient Synagogue at Huqoq in Israel’s Galilee”. With a slide lecture; recent archaeological excavation of Late 5<sup>th</sup> century synagogue paved with stunning mosaics, [click here](#) for more information. This event will be held Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 7 pm in Yehl Alumni Ballroom at Gannon University. It is open to the public at no cost

### **\*Eastern Region of APCE Spring Event Workshops are filling up**

Save the date for David LaMotte and Jon Brown at the APCE Spring event to be held April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Rhodes Grove Conference Center, 7696 Browns Mill Rd Chambersburg PA. [More Info Here](#). Register early as spaces are limited and scholarships are available through Melinda in the Presbytery Office. To view the available workshops [Click Here](#)

### **Minister ID Cards are in**

You can pick them up from Rev. David Oyler over the next few weeks. If you are able to stop into the Presbytery office please let Melinda know so that she can make sure it will be in the office. They will also be available for pick up at the next Presbytery Meeting April 24<sup>th</sup> in Bradford.

### **Book of Confession pre order**

The Presbytery is looking to make a large order of the Book of Confession as well as a few more copies of the Book of Order. It includes the text of twelve confessional documents, including the Confession of Belhar. The cost will be \$10; we can save you shipping. Please let Melinda in the office know if you would like to place an order, [adminasst@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:adminasst@pbylakeerie.org)

### **2018 Book of Common Worship Coming this Spring**

Would your church be interested in preordering the 2018 Book of Common Worship? If you would like to place your order with the Presbytery the cost would be \$50, you will save on shipping. Orders must be to Melinda in the Presbytery office by May 1<sup>st</sup>. New features include; music suggestions, unified ordination services, three new sections (Creation and Ecology, Justice and Reconciliation, and Interfaith Events), all 150 psalms, illustrations for leaders and readers, and more.

### **2018 Technology Grant**

In an effort to be supportive of evolving and new technology related ministries, the Administrative Committee is making technology grants available to congregations. Applications are being accepted and will be reviewed during the committee’s bi monthly meetings. [Click here](#) for the application or call the office for more information.

### **Confirmation Curriculum**

The Christian Education Committee is wondering if your church might be interested in discussing a joint effort on Confirmation. You can reach out to any committee member or contact Melinda in the presbytery office. [adminasst@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:adminasst@pbylakeerie.org). [New Curriculum](#) coming soon from the PCUSA, check it out.

- A word from your Christian Education Committee Moderator.
  - Friends, this has been an excellent research project over the last few years. Their final reports are starting to be shared. This can

## 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.

March 11  
Tidioute and Irvine  
Commissioned Pastor Dennis Ledebur  
Rev. Chuck Cammarata (HR)  
Rev. John Dyke (HR)

March 18  
Woodcock Gravel Run Church  
Commissioned Pastor Rose Hilliard  
Commissioned Pastor Cheryl Larson  
Rev. Seth Agidi,  
Moderator of General Assembly, Evangelical  
Presbyterian Church, Ghana

March 25  
Waterford Church  
Rev. Emily Zeig Lindsey, Pastor  
Rev. Sheldon Logan (HR)

April 1  
Fairview, Church of the Cross  
Rev. Drew Himes, Pastor  
Rev. David Oyler  
General Presbyter

### \*Prayer Concerns

- Ruth McCord, mother in law of Rev. Larry Myers passed away late February. Please pray for Debbie and Sandi and their families.
- Rev. Virginia Miner died on February 19. Rev. Minor is not known to many of you but she was the Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Lackawanna in northeastern Pennsylvania. Prayers are welcomed for her family and the presbytery she served.
- Pray for the continuing conversations around racism and violence that the power of God might be brought to these 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

be a guide for knowing if you are on track with other PCUSA churches. Peace to you, Keith Sundberg [Click Here](#)

## Pastor's Canoe Trip

Howard Gaston, former pastor at Oil City, Second Church, is again leading a wilderness canoe trip/study leave experience September 23 to October 1 in Canada. Registration is due June 1<sup>st</sup> with a \$50 nonrefundable deposit. Over the years several pastors from Lake Erie have participated in this week long venture in Christian community. [Check out the details.](#)

## One Great Hour of Sharing Update

The season of giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is rapidly approaching. As your church considers faithful giving to this special offering in the Easter season it may be helpful to a bit of how your neighbor churches participate in this offering. In Lake Erie Presbytery:

- 43 out of 58 congregations received this offering in 2017 (an increase from 41 churches in 2016).
- Lake Erie Presbytery gave slightly above the national average per member OGHS. The denominational average was \$3.76. Lake Erie Presbytery, on average, gave \$3.80 per member.
- The Mill Village Church gave the highest amount per member; Tidioute was second; Kane third.
- A total of 8 congregations – Fairview, Harmonsburg, Kane, Mill Village, Port Allegany, Ripley, Tidioute and Tionesta – all gave more than \$10 per member.

As your church prepares to receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering you are encouraged to use the materials provided by the denomination and be creative! Your gifts make a difference!

## North Shenango use of "Seed Money"

North Shenango Presbyterian Church used their \$214 to start a Whiffle Ball League. What a great way to engage your community to get together and have some fun.

## \*Seed Money put to good use at Girard

Girard Presbyterian Church used the "Seed Money" of \$214 to bring the community together for a Trunk- or-Treat Fun Fest. Families were invited to a fun and safe place to enjoy fun, food, and fellowship.

## Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come. The internationally acclaimed storyteller Tracy Radosevic will be the key note speaker on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Hands on mission work, fellowship, breakfast and registration to begin at 8:30, the event to follow at 10:00AM. Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1208 Asbury Road, Erie will be hosting this gathering you won't want to miss.

## \*Wheels for Joshua, PCUSA Ghana Mission Co-worker

Lake Erie Presbytery is continuing to raise 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) and from other Presbyteries (up to \$5,000). Funds will be matched between now and March

to complete a significant overhaul of the eNews.

1. If you do not receive the eNews please contact ([adminasst@pbylakeerie.org](mailto: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](mailto:david@pbylakeerie.org)

#### GREG GILLISPIE, STATED CLERK:

[revgreggillispie@gmail.com](mailto:revgreggillispie@gmail.com)

#### MELINDA WINGENBACH:

[adminasst@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:adminasst@pbylakeerie.org)

#### MARSHA MACKINNON:

[webmaster@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:webmaster@pbylakeerie.org)

31, 2018. As of today, the amazing members of the Presbytery have donated \$3489.97 and an additional \$2,590.00 from outside the Presbytery. This means that \$17,159.94 has been raised. There is still time to get your donation in. 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*

#### **\*Mission and Per Capita Report**

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

#### **\*Synod of the Trinity**

The latest eNews for the Synod of the Trinity is available. [March 2nd Enews](#) You can also email Mike Givler at [mgivler@syntrinity.org](mailto:mgivler@syntrinity.org) to be added to the eNews list. [Job Opportunities around the Synod](#)

#### **\*Association of Presbyterian Church Educators**

The weekly newsletter from the APCE: [Keeping it Simple](#) is available online. Click the link above to sign up for the Enews. It's not just a great resource for spiritual formation leaders but for anyone looking to strengthen ones faith.

#### **Presbyterian Historical Society**

Check out the latest eNews from the historical Society [January 2018](#). If you haven't signed up to receive this eNews you can [Subscribe Here](#)

#### **This Weeks PCUSA News**

[Click Here](#) to read more. Would you like to receive this eNews? Click on Forward to a friend and ad your email.