



## 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 13, 8:30 AM, Venango pastor's gathering, Oil City, First
- ❖ Thursday, December 13, 12:30 PM Erie County Pastor's luncheon, HC
- ❖ Thursday, January 3, 9:30 AM, Warren/McKean/Potter County pastor's gathering, First Church, Warren
- ❖ Thursday, January 3, 1:00 PM, Nominating Committee, First Church, Meadville
- ❖ Saturday, January 5, 9:30 AM, Elder Training, Church of the Cross
- ❖ Tuesday, January 8, 1:00 PM, Futuring Team, Titusville
- ❖ Tuesday, January 8, 4:00 PM, Committee on Ministry, Titusville
- ❖ Saturday, January 12, 9:30 AM, Elder Training, Warren First
- ❖ Tuesday, January 15, 1:00 PM, Mission and Social Witness, First Church, Meadville
- ❖ Thursday, January 17, 9:00 AM, Spiritual Formation, Conference Call
- ❖ Thursday, January 17, 4:30 PM, Administrative Committee, Presbytery office
- ❖ Tuesday, January 22, 2:00 PM, Congregational Life, Conference call
- ❖ Tuesday, January 29, 12:30 PM, Coordinating Committee, New Hope Church, Erie
- ❖ Thursday, January 31, 9:15 AM, Missional Church Conversations, Corry
- ❖ All upcoming events can be found on the Presbytery websites [Calendar](#)



"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."

## \*A CHRISTMASTIME BICENTENNIAL

The classic hymn, "Silent Night," first made its debut 200 years ago on Christmas Eve, 1818 at the St. Nicholas chapel in Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria. The melody by composer Franz Gruber is instantly recognizable from the first few notes, and the original text by Joseph Mohr has been translated from the original German into over 140 languages. In 1914, just four years shy of the 100th anniversary of "Silent Night," the soldiers fighting World War I along the Western Front held a [ceasefire](#) in some areas out of mutual respect for the holiday. Members from opposing sides exchanged gifts and stories with one another, played games, and sang Christmas carols together, including the beloved hymn "Silent Night." Today, churches all over the world gather together each year on Christmas Eve to join hands, light candles, sing "Silent Night," and participate in a timeless tradition of inimitable ritual power. -- Dr. Marcia McFee, [WorshipDesignStudio.com](#)

## \*It's time for Annual Reports again

The GA online statistical program located at <http://oga.pcusa.org/stats> has officially opened for the season. Clerks will use the same "user name" and "password" as they have used the past few years. The deadline for entering your statistical information is February 14, 2019. If you have forgotten your user name and password, please call or email the Presbytery office.

## \*Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Get ready for the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium-a gathering held every three years for high school age students in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Youth from all churches (across the sponsoring denominations) come together for this life changing, life giving, and faith growing gathering! Five days that helps grow a younger generation of active Presbyterians. Five days that shape the leadership gifts and deepen the discipleship awareness for a generation who are already achieving a strong presence in this church and this world! Find out more at [www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org) or contact your local registrar Britney

## \*RESOURCE CENTER REVIEW

### Angela and the Baby Jesus McCourt, Frank



This wonderful Christmas story is based on an incident from the childhood of Frank McCourt's mother, Angela. When six-year-old Angela sees the Baby Jesus in the Christmas crib at the church near

her house, she feels very sorry for him. He looks happy enough but she wonders why he has no blanket to keep him warm. So Angela decides to take the Baby home with her, when no one is looking, and make him more comfortable.

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 2018:

#### Coordinating Committee meetings

Wednesday, January 30, 12:30, New Hope

Tuesday, April 2, 1pm, Polk

Tuesday, June 4, 1pm, Conneaut Lake

Tuesday, August 27, 1pm, Corry

Tuesday, October 29, Time & site pending

#### Presbytery meetings

Saturday, February 16, 10am, Westminster

Tuesday, April 30, 3pm, Titusville

Tuesday, June 25, 3pm, TBD

Saturday, September 21, 10am, Warren

Saturday, November 23, 10am, TBD

### \*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

Knight at 814-456-4243 x 112 or [Britney.knight@firstcovenanterie.org](mailto:Britney.knight@firstcovenanterie.org)

### Deadline for Year-end Payments

Reminder that all year end payments need to be received by the Presbytery office by January 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please call the office 814-868-4891 prior to the deadline.

### Elder Training Made Available at Two Locations:

Has God called you to serve as an elder in your church for the very first time? Or are you a currently serving elder but would like to 'brush up' on what it means to be a spiritual leader in your congregation? If so, you are invited to a morning of elder training. This training might be especially helpful in congregations where there are only 1 or 2 new elders in any given year. This will allow you to:

- look at some of the Biblical responsibilities;
- explore Book of Order expectations;
- come to know some neighboring elders who are engaging leadership in their congregations;
- have the opportunity ask questions and ponder this calling in your life.

Two identical training events will be held:

Saturday, January 5, 9:30 AM, Presbytery wide elder training, Church of the Cross, Erie

Saturday, January 12, 9:30 AM, Presbytery wide elder training, First Church, Warren

All are welcome! New elders! And experienced ones! Contact administrative assistant Melinda Wingenbach ([adminasst@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:adminasst@pbylakeerie.org)) if planning to attend (though you would be welcome even if you don't register.)

### Delivery of Emails

Some of the outgoing Presbytery emails are being lost in cyber space or forwarded in to many spam folders. To insure delivery of the weekly eNews and other important information please save the Presbytery email [adminasst@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:adminasst@pbylakeerie.org) in your contacts. If you cannot receive attachments please contact Melinda in the Presbytery office.

### What is happening at your Church

Do you have something exciting going on at your church that you would like to share with the Presbytery? We would like to highlight what you and your congregation are doing. Do have a rummage sale, a special dinner, maybe a movie night open to the community? Has your church started a new community project? Please share these with Melinda in the office, [adminasst@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:adminasst@pbylakeerie.org). Let's put the weekly eNews to good use sharing all the amazing things that the Presbytery of Lake Erie has to offer.

### \*Undie Sunday

The Church of the Cross was featured on the Synod website for their efforts to help the homeless by collecting undergarments. Check out the whole story [here](#).

### Young Adult Volunteer Applications Open

Spread the word! Applications for the 2019-20 Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program open Oct. 1. All [sites](#) available. The YAV program is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young people, ages 19-30. Volunteers

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. 16  
Conneaut Lake  
Sam Heagy, Preaching  
Rev. Jim McCormack (HR)

Dec. 23  
Bradford, First  
Rev. Katherine Randall and  
Rev Rob Klouw, Co-pastors  
Rev. Christopher Fujii (HR)

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](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)

accompany local agencies faithfully working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation. YAVs serve during the academic year, August to July. Help plants seeds of service and share!

## Mission and Per Capita Report

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

## \*Newsletter of Interests

## Spiritual Formation Committee

Presbytery of Lake Erie Spiritual Formation Committee is seeking to get more information out to the Presbytery. Please contact Keith Sundberg, [keith@wayside-erie.org](mailto:keith@wayside-erie.org), if you would like to be added to the email list.

## \*Synod of the Trinity

The latest eNews for the Synod of the Trinity is available. [December 6th 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

Weekly newsletter from the APCE: [Visual Reflection for Advent: Thorvaldsen's Christ](#) is available online. Click above link to receive the eNews. It's not just a great resource for spiritual formation leaders but for anyone looking to strengthen ones faith.

## Ruth Brown Ghana Newsletter

[Click here](#) for the recent newsletter. If you would like to receive her newsletters please contact the presbytery office to be added to the list!

## Josh Heikkila Newsletter

Josh continues to be a valuable member of our Lake Erie Ghana Partnership. If you would like to receive his newsletters, check out this website. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/the-rev-joshua-heikkila/>

## Presbyterian Historical Society

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

## \*Prayer Concerns

- Rev. Anita Bernhardt began serving Emmanuel Presbyterian Church
- 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!

## \*In Memory:

- Rev. Charles Harvey McClung, Jr, father of Rev. Charles Harvey McClung III, New Hope Church, died in early December. He was 96. He and his



wife had been married for 72 years. A minister member of Philadelphia Presbytery, he had served churches in Pennsylvania and New York. In addition he earned a PhD in Religious Education which led him to teach Christian Education at Beaver College, now Arcadia University. Services to honor the life of Rev. McClung, Jr. were held on December 12 at Rydal Park, Pennsylvania.

- Presbyterian Pastor Rev. Eugene Peterson, age 85, entered the church eternal on October 22. Best known for his paraphrase of the Bible titled 'The Message', he also wrote numerous other books. His legacy touches many lives through his writing and speaking.