

# Children & Youth Ministry News

**STEP UP & SERVE** For Trunk 'n Treat, volunteers are needed in the Youth games area so staff are able to introduce themselves and get to know parents of visiting children & youth! Older Youth will host games for the younger guests.

- IGNITE! Children & Youth Ministry program returned Oct 2 at 6:00 pm (no "dinner" this year- just snacks) with Bible lessons, applications, and fun.

**STEP UP & SERVE** If you'd like to provide baked goods, fresh fruit or veggies for the kids and youth to munch on, please let Sonja Eckert know. Food may be dropped off at the church during office hours or closer to program time on Wednesday.

- STEP UP & SERVE** This Sunday afternoon, Wayside will participate in our first Lancaster County CROP Walk, organized by Rachel Holsey, who leads our Youth Ministry. So far, we have 25+ walkers and over \$900 in sponsor pledges. CROP Walk month coincides with our month of prayer at Wayside focusing on food insecurity.
- Parents choosing to have children with them for worship, please know that Michelle Hess, our Nursery Coordinator, is available at **both services** in case your kids are needing more movement, are feeling too chatty for church, or you wish to be able to concentrate on your worship experience. Michelle often attends the 9:00 service if there are no children in the Nursery, but please- if she is needed, she is ready to serve. We do have members with hearing concerns, and all it takes is a bit of extra noise to keep them from being able to understand spoken words from the front of the church. Thank you for your understanding!

Opportunities to help out- look for the icon: **STEP UP & SERVE**

## Creating Visitor Comfort

At the September meeting, Session endorsed a new Visitor Assimilation Process for all our teams to collaborate together to be sure we're covering all the bases in making a visitor to Wayside feel important and noticed. We're learning & applying common sense along with some new ideas to support our visitors.

If the experience of parking, entering the building, finding the way into church, and getting to a seat is poor, visitors are distracted before the music or the message begins. The more we can remove obstacles, the better the chance that guests feel welcome and may return because we made it an easy experience for a newcomer.

### Think about these things:

- You know that little kick you get pulling into any parking lot and finding a prime space? The closer to the church a visitor can park, the better. So, if you are able, get a few extra steps in and leave the closer spaces for visitors and those who are less able to walk distances.
- Visitors prefer to sit in back rows instead of having to walk toward the front of the church. If we can leave rows toward the back open, we're more likely to make visitors feel comfortable finding seats.
- One of the most uncomfortable times for visitors is sitting alone before the service begins. If you see a visitor alone, say hi & introduce yourself. Or go sit with them!
- If the church is more than 75% full, guests can feel like there's not room for them at the church. This is one key reason we began 2 services, along with definite preferences in musical styles.

More information will be shared through our learnings about visitors in the future. Thanks for taking these first few tips to heart to make Wayside even more visitor friendly!

## Trunk 'n Treat is Around the Corner

There's more to the night than candy & hot dogs!

We host our Trunk 'n Treat Fall Festival to show Wayside hospitality to our neighbors. But of course, we want to bring them to Wayside and to bring Christ into their lives. To that end, there's more to the night than candy & hot dogs! When someone visits Wayside for worship or an outreach event, we rely on our Welcome Team to get their contact information. We then use that information to invite them back to other activities at Wayside, developing ongoing communications and hopefully nurturing our relationship with them. Once they're here in person, our friendly congregation & staff can share the best of Wayside with them!



## Staff Updates

**Thomas Troop** is serving as both our Sexton and Executive Administrative Assistant. and will work regular office hours 9 am- 2:00 pm Mon- Thursday, working Sexton responsibilities in on either end of the day.

Staff Meetings are planned for each Monday morning, held via Zoom at 10:00 for 30-45 minutes for devotions, vision casting, and information sharing.

## Pastor's Corner

A few weeks ago I strummed my office guitar in front of a member of our Grace Notes band, and he immediately winced and said, "You haven't changed those strings in a long time, have you?" Actually, it had been close to a year! But like the proverbial frog in a pot of water that is slowly heated up, we can get used to things as they are and fail to make needed changes before it may be too late to make a difference. This is what our "What's Next" effort has been these past couple of years, taking a good look at our ministry and conducting a refresh to better serve our current membership and make us more attractive and hospitable to our neighbors. With the goal of introducing more people to Christ and nurturing the community of faith gathered here, Wayside cannot neglect our instrument and let our praise and witness go flat or sharp.

# By the Way...

Monthly Ministry Highlights - October 2024



## Session Highlights

- Rev. David Powers from Columbia Presbyterian Church moderated for vacationing Pastor Steve.
- A God sighting devotion was shared on the amazing beauty of Lancaster County sunrises to start our days.
- Meeting began in Executive Session. Dan Nimmon, HR Chair, conducted the Pastor review with input from teams of Session. Any recommended changes to Terms of Call to be presented at the November 17 Special (Fall) Meeting of the Congregation.
- September meeting minutes corrected and approved. All reports received, verbally or written.
- Welcome: New Greeter table expected shortly, contacted 20 non-engaged individuals on rolls to request updates. B & G changed entry door locks 10/7; new keys being distributed over the next week. Fall Work Day 11/9; set up of new video monitors for Children & Youth ministries upcoming.
- Worship: The first Family Worship held 9/29 was well received, and will continue 4th Sunday of each month.
- Wisdom: Full slate of small group options rolling out for Fall; new Wi-Fi connection toward atrium area, B & G helping with other needs.
- Witness: Trunk 'n Treat planning full steam ahead. Good on trunks, asking for volunteer sign ups, candy, empty gallons, unopened soup cans.
- HR reported Thomas Troop starting 10/14; adding Executive Administrative Assistant responsibilities to existing Sexton support.
- Tech team working on better sound quality.
- Finance reported we began the 2025 Stewardship Campaign 10/6 with Witness/Mission presenting. Other teams present through 11/3, which is Commitment Sunday. We ask all church goers to prayerfully consider their tithes and offerings for 2025 as we request pledge cards be turned in 11/3 for 2025 budgeting of our ministries.
- Congregational Meeting/Chili Cook-Off set for Nov. 17 following a single combined 10:00 am worship service. The Nominating Team has a full slate of officers to present to the congregation at that meeting.

## Wayside... Helping Change the World. For Good.

In the 4th quarter each year, you often hear the word "STEWARDSHIP." This means that our Finance team is planning the budget to meet Wayside's 2025 needs. In doing so, they need to consider the state of the building, safety, comfort, visual, storage, the list goes on.... Each team of Session looks at what they need to address in order to serve our congregation and ministry needs. To ensure you're aware of how your pledges support the church, each team of Session is providing a Sunday morning "Minute for Mission" report to share specifically what their team does in the course of the year. Mid-month, you'll receive a note in the mail with a pledge card, asking for your prayerful consideration of your tithe or pledge for the coming year. We ask that this card is returned by 11/3, the Sunday we call *Commitment Sunday*. This is important because it helps us ensure the budget is balanced, enabling us to plan for the year ahead. If you have any questions, please speak with Jim Henderson. Thank you for your partnership!

## Words on Worship

Our Worship Team is always seeking excellence in the worship gathering, providing a meaningful experience for you. We're always looking for new voices, chimers, readers... if you've ever thought about it, step forward and tell us what you'd like to get involved in! See Music Director Janelle Pabon or Worship Team chair, Pat Karkotsky. Our teams work non-stop throughout the year to present the best of Wayside and are happy to have new participants join in!

Last month, we introduced a last Sunday of the month 10:30 am "Family Worship" that was very well received. Instead of leaving the service after the blessing, the children & youth stay for the entire service, participating as appropriate.

## On a Mission....

So what do we do beyond our "Jerusalem" in our ministry? We have a healthy balance between local, regional, and national commitments. Regionally, we support the Donegal Presbytery & Synod of the Trinity for scholarships, camps, conferences and other educational opportunities as needs arise. On a more global level, we support One Great Hour of Sharing to fight hunger, provide disaster relief and help develop communities. Through Heifer International we help people to support themselves. This year we sent girls to school, bought seeds for crops, 3 pigs, and this quarter we're working on bees. The children of the church select what we collect for, as our Youth Ministries team work with them to understand food insecurity throughout the world.



- New Admin, Thomas Troop, in the office Monday -Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm
- Office regularly closed Fridays
- Volunteers needed for Family Ministry. Clearances required.- see Sonja Eckert