

150
ANNIVERSARY

WAYNE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wayne Pres 



We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Director of Youth Ministries, Austin Ricketts! Austin joins our staff with a wide range of experience as an educator, chaplain, and pastor. Austin spent the last four years as a teacher of special education at The Quaker School at Horsham, where he also served as Clerk of the Quaker Life Committee, helping the school in its desire to reclaim its Quaker identity. He has served as Director of Youth and Young Adults at First Presbyterian Church of Salem, NJ and as a chaplain to post-graduate Fellows at the Trinity Forum Academy in Royal Oak, MD.

Austin received a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies from Messiah University and Master of Arts in Religion from Westminster Theological Seminary. Austin demonstrates abundant gifts for relational ministry. He is deeply patient, compassionate, and theologically astute. His service to the Church is expansive, including preaching, officiating weddings and funerals, spiritual counseling, and teaching the Bible to youth and young adults. As a teacher, Austin is well-versed in areas of curriculum development and social-emotional learning. In his position at the Quaker School at Horsham, he had the unique experience of working with a student body comprised entirely of neuro-atypical students. As our new Director of Youth Ministries, Austin will bring his exceptional talents for teaching and spiritual formation to the life of our congregation.

Austin lives in Philadelphia with his wife Catherine. On his blog, Austin writes, "When I'm not geeking out over a book, article, or online lecture, I'm taking in the city's art,

architecture, and film." He enjoys hanging out with friends for good food and conversation. Austin and Catherine are parents to their son Torrance and are blessed to have another on the way.

Please join us in welcoming Austin to Wayne! His first day with us will be June 15th.

**SPRING 2021
THURSDAY MORNING
MEN'S MINISTRY
7:00 AM VIA ZOOM**

JUNE
Dr. Walter Huddell,
Professor of Mathematics;
Chair of Department;
Engineering Adviser



Thursday Morning Men's Ministry is an informal group of Wayne Presbyterian Church that meets (via Zoom until further notice) at 7:00 am each Thursday. It is a wonderful opportunity for relationships, prayer, and learning. The program year runs from September through June.

For more information or to get on the email Zoom invite list please contact Tim Pretz at tpretz@eastern.edu or Sal Ambrosio at sambrosio55@gmail.com

EMMANUEL HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION WPC MISSION PARTNER IN INDIA DEALING WITH COVID-19

The news headlines have been continuously announcing the widespread and terrible devastation that the 2nd wave of COVID-19 has been making in India. Reports on the ground indicate that our news is not even close to capturing how bad this evolving tragedy really is and how it is affecting millions and millions of people. WPC's medical mission partner in India, Emmanuel Hospital Association, has been responding to the pandemic in the northern, rural areas, through their 20 hospitals. These EHA hospitals are responding by increasing the number of beds for COVID patients and increasing the number of beds that can get oxygen thanks to oxygen concentrators, which concentrate the oxygen from ambient air by removing nitrogen. A common problem is that oxygen cylinders can only be refilled at locations in cities, from the rural hospitals. One EHA hospital refills oxygen 75 miles (several hours) away and they have to refill twice a day.

The EHA hospital workers are working overtime, almost non-stop, witnessing death and having to make decisions to prioritize who gets ventilators or oxygen and who does not, just one of many other challenges coming from having such a large number of patients. At EHA, the workers care holistically for their patients. This means that even the administrative positions have moved to help with feeding patients, toileting, changing beds, counseling anxious patients, taking vitals, and updating families outside of the ward to help limit family anxiety. The staff are exhausted and stretched thin, and have exhibited huge reserves as they have responded to the crisis generously. The families and patients come to trust EHA when they see that EHA deeply cares about their loved ones' outcomes. Please pray for the staff, patients and families.

During the Pandemic the EHA Staff continue to give God glory for the successes they have experienced and are experiencing. They thank God for providing what is needed and have seen God come through time and time again. They realize that they are caretakers, not healers, and they give the glory to God when the healing does take place. All the while, many of EHA's hospitals are struggling financially due to low non-COVID patient numbers and due to the costs of setting up COVID-19 beds with oxygen. WPC is sending our mission giving to EHA now, instead of waiting until later in the year as was scheduled, so we can help EHA serve their patients and stay in operation during this current crisis.

If you would like to stay abreast of the situation in India and how EHA continues to respond, please follow Emmanuel

Hospital Association on Facebook or visit their website for updates <https://ehausa.org/coronavirus-response/>
Please pray for India and EHA as you are led, through either the daily news or through EHA ministry updates.

"MISTER ROGERS TOLD ME!" HOW BRIAN KNEW HE WAS SPECIAL BY CAROL KLAUSS

About 30 years ago, when I was volunteering with a group then known as Open Doors, at the Upper Main Line YMCA, my primary role was to chaperone young, mentally challenged adults on Friday night outings. Usually their only social life, we would go bowling, to the movies, frequent local fairs and simply enjoy one another's company. One night while having dinner at a pizza place, one of the regulars of our group, 24-year-old Brian, said to me, "Carol, you know I am special." I said that I did and asked him how he knew he was special. He replied, "Mister Rogers told me!"

For years, every day, several times each day, Brian would sit close to the TV screen and immerse himself in Fred Rogers' words and behaviors. Through the screen, Fred offered Brian a feeling of self-worth. Brian and Mister Rogers were friends!

I have a good friend who was the production manager at WQED in Pittsburgh where the show was produced for over 30 years. I called my friend Jimmy and asked if he could arrange with Mister Rogers to have Brian meet him and spend the day watching a show being filmed. Jimmy immediately told me it was a done deal. The night before our visit to Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, we stayed with my sister where Brian was given a royal welcome, adding to the excitement of the trip. Early the next morning, we headed to the studio in the East End of Pittsburgh. Brian was quiet with anticipation. Entering the studio, we were met by Lady Aberlin, Speedy Delivery Mr. Mc Feely and several other enthusiastic cast members.

As I watched the happy greetings, I noticed Mister Rogers at the end of a long, narrow hall behind Brian. Tapping Brian on the shoulder, I told him that Mister Rogers was coming. Brian turned slowly. He stood still, in awe, as if he were seeing God. Mister Rogers shook his hand and Brian, eyes fixed on the man he had watched on TV for so many years, spoke, "Mister Rogers, I've waited my whole life to meet you." And then there was not a dry eye in the house, including Fred Rogers who put his arm around Brian and and together they walked toward the set where the love first began.



**Mister Rogers, Brian,
and Carol's friend,
Jimmy**

Mitchell School Graduation Thank You

Thank you! The 8th grade graduation goal of \$14,000.00 is reached. Wayne church members, Sunday School Kids4Kids Fund and CityLights Committee generously contributed 75% of the goal. Abundant blessings to all who aided in the joyful graduation for 50 young people on June 8th.

A Way in the Wilderness

**REV. KATY SHEVEL,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

When the Ancient Israelites of the Bible were exiled from their homeland, their house of worship was also destroyed. The people were scattered in separate communities far and wide, and they were unable to gather for worship in one central location. Once the Ancient Israelites were finally able to return home again and rebuild, these people of God faced a great many questions. What would their postexilic life look like? How had the people changed during their time apart? How was God reshaping their community of faith and guiding them forward into the future with hope?

In Isaiah 43:19, God promises to be with the Israelites in exile, to sustain them through their many challenges and trials. God promises to make a way for them in the wilderness and to lead their community of faith to a new, thriving life together. In Isaiah 43:19, God says, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

This past year, our church family has been on something of a wilderness journey as well. Yet God has shown us a way in the wilderness, a way to continue to be the Church even during a global pandemic. That's why this coming fall, our Adult Education classes at Wayne Presbyterian "A Way in the Wilderness." Our

Education classes and programming will be centered upon stories of human resilience and of God's sustaining grace through hardships. Together, we will be encouraged to reflect on the ways that God has sustained people of faith through challenging seasons---and the ways that God shows us forward here and now.

Our One Book One Church program is excited to kick off our Adult Education season this coming September! We have selected *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger, an award-winning story of the courageous journey of orphaned Native American children searching for a place to call home. Also this coming fall, I will be teaching my first Sunday morning class here at Wayne Presbyterian Church called, "Companions in the Wilderness." Each Sunday, I will introduce us to friends from history who struggled with their faith and each gave us a roadmap to help us find God in our own lives today.

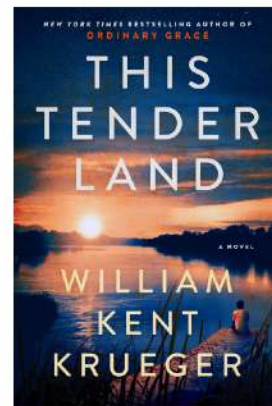
Stay tuned for exciting announcements about our upcoming fall classes, Bible studies, programs, and the many opportunities we will have to explore our faith together. Even in the desert, God showed the Israelites flowing rivers on the horizon. Never forget that God makes a way in the wilderness for us, too!

ONE BOOK, ONE CHURCH

Since 2014, we have gathered together as a church family to read a common book; to discuss, share, and learn from the characters' journeys. These readings have given us opportunities to walk in the shoes of others, experiencing different time periods, class, gender and ethnicity. What better way to welcome everyone back to church in the fall, then to read an epic book this summer as we venture out of our homes to visit the shore or the mountains with family and friends.

This year's selection is *This Tender Land*, by William Kent Krueger! Set against the backdrop of the depression, this story follows four orphans as they flee an abusive life at an Indian boarding school in Minnesota and canoe down the Gilead River. During the journey south, they encounter

folks from desperate situations who pose danger and folks, who despite their own troubles, offer them help



LIFE EVENTS

Deaths

We give thanks for the life and the ministry of...

Laura (Lolly) Johnson

One Book, One Church cont.

and rest. They each have their own wounds to heal, fears to face and talents to contribute to their survival.

Programing for This Tender Land will begin in September and run for several Sundays. We are excited to announce a Zoom visit with Kent Krueger, the author, on September 26th! You may remember him from when he visited us in 2016 to discuss that year's selection Ordinary Grace. He remembers us fondly and is excited to discuss This Tender Land and answer any questions we might have for him!

We will keep you informed of specifics this summer through News and Views, the website and of course the Wayne Press!

Red Cross Blood Drive June 10 9 am – 7 pm

WPC is a Red Cross premier partner and we hope to keep it that way. Please help us fill 86 donation slots during our ALL DAY Blood Drive on Thursday, June 10 form 9 a.m.-7 p.m.. All blood will be tested for COVID antibodies!

What better way to open up, step out and celebrate with gratitude the relative freedom we have to be out and about this summer.

Sign up at redcrossblood.org
Sponsor-waynepres or on our church website waynepres.org.
Thanks for being part of our Premier Team!



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If you are receiving the Wayne Presbyterian newsletter by surface mail and would prefer to receive it by email instead, please email ruthw@waynepres.org. It is also available online at waynepres.org/publications.

June 2021