



# THE VISITOR

SEPTEMBER 2024

The newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of Kane

## In this edition

### New from the GA

Lake Erie Presbytery sponsored three overtures at this year's GA focused on ministry concerns for rural congregations.

### Recap of Worship in the Park

Our annual Worship in the Park was held on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Greetings from Montreat

The confirmation class attended a week-long session at Montreat Conference Center in July

### Brief Updates

Quick updates on various topics

### Coming in October

Group activities and events coming next month

## More News from the General Assembly

The Lake Erie Presbytery (LEP) sponsored three overtures considered at the 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. These overtures were prepared with the help of the Pittsburgh Presbytery and addressed matters relating to "shared ministry" such as terms of call, the definition of pastoral relationships and installations in multiple congregations.

Quoted in the Synod of the Trinity news article, the Rev. Anita Bernhardt, General Presbyter of LEP, commented, "[t]he overtures sponsored by the Lake Erie Presbytery are related and share a common goal to add flexibility to the Book of Order in the calling and installing of pastoral leaders, especially in smaller church situations. They ask for more adaptability for defining fair terms of call, defining healthy pastoral relationships, and for installations of pastoral leaders in shared ministry settings." The overtures were based on the Pittsburgh experiment with shared ministries and are intended to look at innovate ways to address the current context of smaller congregational ministry. The proposed amendments included:

Amending G-2.0804 to Include Shared Ministry in Terms of Call

Amending G-2.0504 to Include Shared Ministry in the Definition of Pastoral Relationships.

Amending G-2.0805 to Include Installations in Multiple Congregations in Shared Ministry

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) advised the GA that the overtures be answered with an authoritative interpretation. The authoritative interpretation was the same for each of the resolutions and, in summary, stated there was no consistent, common definition of "shared ministry" which could be applied consistently in determining pastoral calls while pointing out the Book of Order does not have restrictive language which precludes a presbytery



## Worship in the Park



Marie Larson, Mission Committee chairperson and worshipers Bill Schleicher, Leanna Schleicher, Kathy Greville, Audrey McLaughlin and Julie Cleland busy at work during Worship in the Park. (Photo credit: Dale McLaughlin)

The annual *Worship in the Park Sunday* was held this year on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The weather was warm, but there was a cool breeze blowing through the pavilion on Park Avenue. In addition to elements of a traditional worship service, the informal nature of worshipping in the park was a good setting for a workshop activity.

Marie Larson, chair of the Mission Committee, invited worshipers to consider the action statements of our church's mission statement: reach up (worship), reach in (fellowship), and reach out (mission) and to answer three questions for each - what things do we want to keep, what things can we let go of, and what (new) things do we want to try. Responses were collected and the Mission Committee will analyze the results and report their findings.

This activity is one of several things the Mission Committee is doing as part of a larger task given to them by the Session to define who we are today as a congregation. We are not the same congregation we were 10, 20 or 30 years ago. Like other congregations in the PCUSA and other mainline churches, our membership is smaller and older. As we have changed as a congregation have changes, so has the world around us changed. How is God calling us to be church in this time and place?

## More News ...continued

from specifically considering terms of call for multiple validated calls for a pastor in the aggregate. The authoritative interpretation, as written, gives guidance to presbyteries seeking creative solutions to the growing problem of filling open pastoral positions. The authoritative interpretation was passed by the Ordination Committee and the General Assembly.

Our presbytery is one of many presbyteries trying to address the issue of aging congregations, membership declines, and fewer ministry candidates entering seminaries.

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## Kane Area Food Pantry

For the month of September the Food Pantry is asking for donations



of dessert mixes: brownies, cake and quick breads. They are also collecting canned soups. Please consider donating items or making a monetary donation to the Food Pantry. Items can be placed on the table in the hallway by the Chase Street entrance. Monetary donations can be made directly to the Food Pantry or to the church with "Food Pantry" in the memo field of your check.

### Sept 21: International Day of Peace

see [un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace](https://www.pcusa.org/en/observances/international-day-peace)

# Greetings from Montreat



From left to right: Brooke Bizzak, Brynn Bizzak, Terin Boschert, and Alaina Brzezinsk.

In July, the 2024 Confirmation Class and their chaperones Tessa Boschert and Mary Bizzak traveled to the mountains of North Carolina and the Montreat Conference Center for a senior high youth retreat. The picture above is of the confirmation class at one of the group events at Montreat. More information on their experiences at Montreat will be forthcoming.

# Brief Updates

- ✓ At the MMC meeting in July, the committee added two additional combined worship Sundays for 2024: Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Session approved the purchase of a new hearing assistance system for the sanctuary.
- ✓ Repair work on the apron at the back of the building (Greeves St. side) was completed.
- ✓ The PreSchool Board extends their thanks and appreciation to the congregation and Session for their support of the PreSchool program for over 30 years. The PreSchool board is in the process of dispersing their educational materials. A substantial donation of materials was made to the Children's Museum. Offers will be extended to other organizations.

# Coming in October

...The voice and bell choirs will resume their rehearsals. If you are interested in joining one or both of these choirs, please contact Lynda Karger (voice) or Betsey Davis (bells). All are welcome.

...Coffee and Conversation resumes their weekly Sunday morning conversations. Coffee and tea are provided. All are welcome.

...World Communion Sunday is October 6<sup>th</sup>. This practice began at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg in 1933. It was adopted by our denomination in 1936 and by the Federal Council of Churches (predecessor to the National Council of Churches in 1940). Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world reminding us of our "oneness" in Christ we have with people around the world.

The 2024 Leadership Team of the Presbyterian Church of Kane

<u>Session</u>		<u>Mutual Ministry</u>
John Cleland	Marie Larson	John Cleland
Lori Fiscus	Peggy Luck	Jim Coppersmith
Curt Hartman	Kal Lyons	Jody Larson
Lynda Karger	Dale McLaughlin	Sue Zook-Wilson
Clerk of Session: Matt Gayley		Pastor: Rev. Carol Sharp

**THE VISITOR** is the newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of Kane.

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