

Belle Valley Presbyterian Church

1694 Norcross Road, Erie, PA 16510; 825-4433 www.bellevallychurch.org
Pastor Dave Edmunds, 397-1861, reved87@verizon.net Director of Music: Lois Zollars

2017 Theme: Who is my neighbor? Anyone who needs mercy! (Luke 10:30-37)



The Pastor's Podium: A man asked his wife, "What would you most like for your birthday?" She said, "I'd love to be ten again." On the morning of her birthday, he got her up bright and early and they went to a theme park. He put her on every ride in the park – the Death Slide, The Screaming Loop, the Wall of Fear. She had a go on every ride there was. She staggered out of the theme park five hours later, her head reeling and her stomach turning. Then they were off to a movie theater where they ate popcorn and sweets and drank Cola. At last she staggered home with her husband and collapsed into bed. Her husband leaned over and asked, "Well, dear, what was it like being ten again?" One eye opened and she groaned, "Actually, honey, I meant dress size!"

Happy birthday to us!! Wait...what? What birthday are we celebrating? On June 4, we will celebrate the birth of the Church (big "C") on Pentecost (cf. Acts 2). In the original gathering, we're told that as they prayed in one place (the Upper Room), "...suddenly from heaven there came..."! **Suddenly**...our God can often be unpredictable, surprising, and certainly uncontrollable—the only thing that is predictable with our God, is that when we pray in surrender to what God wants, to truly seek God's heart/agenda, God will act in marvelous ways!! **From heaven**...God is our source for everything, especially when it comes to God's design for the Church—a multi-racial/ethnic/gendered/lingual/aged gathering that amazes the world with how such a vast and diverse group can be united under Jesus Christ alone! **There came**...Jesus showed us that God always comes—all we have to do is invite Him (Rev. 3:20). In that Upper Room, was a small gathering of Jesus' faithful—that's all that was needed—because they invited God to come! Aren't we all worried in our individual congregations about the future? God's desire isn't for us to slowly fade away on life support, clinging to every dollar just to keep the doors open! "Whether we live or whether we die, we belong to Christ Jesus who is Lord both of the dead and the living!" God calls us to do ministry, and to take risks reaching out in the ways and places He has set aside for us. But gathering in prayer to seek that from God is all we're asked to do, and He will do the rest! So come in your favorite red outfits (the paraments' color for Pentecost) and be ready to holler "woohoo!" as we seek this unpredictable God and His vision for us! Don't be afraid to expect the unexpected!!

Blessings, Pastor Dave

(P.S. How are your efforts of inviting a guest out for coffee at Panera's using the gift cards we handed out last Dec. 11?—Don't forget to pray and take some risks!!). **Pastor Dave's Office Schedule:** Mondays (8:45am–2pm) & Wednesdays (8–11am) @ Elmwood Church (864-4809); Tuesdays (8am–1pm) & Thursdays (11am–3pm, depending on schedule) @ BVPC (825-4433). *Fridays are my sabbath.*

The Mission & Outreach Committee encourages these service opportunities in the coming months:

- The **One Great Hour of Sharing** all-church offering has already totaled \$366.00 and counting! Thanks to all who participated in this opportunity to change lives around the globe—we are so close to reaching our goal of \$450.00 as a congregation! It's not too late to give!!

Don't forget! The **Deacons have special gold envelopes** in the pew racks for those who wish to donate to their caring & assistance ministry on communion Sunday each month. **Please be aware** that we now have **children's activity bags** for any children who aren't interested in using the nursery or children's church programs during worship. These bags include crayons, coloring pages, & snacks. There are also story books available near the bag display on the landing before entering the sanctuary—please feel free to borrow these for your child(ren) and then return them after worship—just ask the ushers for them. **We are looking for additional nursery volunteers. If you'd be able to serve, please contact Chris Tombaugh (882-8932).**

May 7: (Communion; Birthday Offg/Coffee Hour; Mothers' Day Celebration) **Counterfeit Gods: "All You've Ever Wanted"**

May 14: (Deacons Mtg.) **Counterfeit Gods: "Love Is Not All You Need"**

May 21: **Counterfeit Gods: "Money Changes Everything"; Prayer & Praise Svc. @ 6pm** (Elmwood Church)—come for an informal time of contemporary worship & prayer for God's direction in our own lives, as well as for the future of our congregations (Belle Valley & Elmwood)—please feel free to come for prayer over personal struggles, for personal healing, for courage to face your "Goliaths."

May 28: (Penny Sunday—proceeds benefit Caitlin Ebert's mission trip; Sunday Funday) **Counterfeit Gods: "The Seduction of Success"**

Upcoming Events: Sunday schedule: **11am Worship**

***Recycling:** drop-offs anytime (newspaper in west property trailer/aluminum cans) ***Communion, 5/7**

***Penny Sunday, 5/28** (proceeds for 1st 6 months to Caitlin Ebert's mission trip) ***Session, 5/8 @ 6:30pm** ***Deacons, 5/14**

***Birthdays Coffee Hr./Off'g./Mothers' Day Coffee Hour 5/7** ***Wednesday Bible Study, May 3, 10, 17, 24 @ 6:30pm**

***Sunday Funday, 5/28** ***"Angels in Aisle Three" Study Group, 5/2 @ 10:30am @ Skyline** (then meet Thursdays @ 12pm)

***"The War Room" Study Group, Wednesdays @ 6:30pm** ***Rummage Sale, 5/12-13** (donations drop-off: Mon.-Wed. before, 6-8pm)

***Prayer & Praise Service w/ Elmwood Church, 5/21 @ 6pm** (@ Elmwood)

**SHARING
BRINGS JOY**

"Per Capita" Giving: For those who wish to pay their Per Capita for 2017 (\$30 per member) there are envelopes available on the table in the foyer. Your "Per Capita" giving supports many significant mission efforts throughout our presbytery and the world-wide Presbyterian Church. Please recognize that these gifts aren't for administrative salaries or office expenses. Pray about your gift to our larger church mission efforts!

Praying for: *(Please contact us with any changes to or removals from this list)* Anna Lupichuk (*child w/leukemia*), Famagetto family,



Danny Raposa (*Linda Jarzynka's nephew*), Keefe family (*Harold's son passed away*), Becky Palmer (*Cindy Lorraine's mother—colon cancer*), Elaina Wilcox, Kirsten Smit, Erie City Schools, Marge Smith, Paul Tirpak, Marilyn Beebe, Stacey Simons, Missy Hill, Chris Tombaugh, Pam Ames, Mary Nelson, Mindy Tayler, Carrie Carner, Dick Friedemann, Billy Federowicz, Leslie Day, the Mike Mansley Family, Riley Balcita, Ed & Barb Crissman, Bob & Grace McConnell, Stevie Proborse, Tracy Simpson, Brian Gibbs, Bruce Harvey, Jim Bojarski, Don Mennini, Pat Kocher, Tim Vincent, Don & Judie Shrubbs, Larvetta Mokwa, Don Bigelow, Jean Moorhead, Jim Glass, Delilah Gregory, Marcie Azzerello, Anna Aponte, Carla Witt, Kristen Hamilton, Marie Altadona, John Fischer, Ina Gordon, Amy Robertson, Bill Collins, Karen Clarke, Tammy Knapp, Jay Miller, Don Babo, Linda Obrochta, Becky Smith, Joe Rosario, Robert Moskel, Ralph Butler, Tim Sameki, Ellie Poulson, Betty Mendez, Mary Lou Joyce, Lynn Eller, Tony Friday, Sonja Bemis, Deb Smolinsky, Mike Sokalski, Linda Clinger, Sam

Mattocks, Rick Grzelak, George Wellsby, Kim Warzbaugh; the people of Syria, unrest with N. Korea, recent natural disaster victims globally, Erie's epidemic of heroine addiction, Isis terrorism tragedies around the world, current military services personnel, the Ghana mission partnership (*We pray especially for the Chereponi District: 11 churches, 528 members, and District Pastor M. L. Agbovi*), Josh Heikkila (*our PCUSA W. Africa Liaison*), Salome Mansa Oye (*female seminary student we are supporting*), the Wapuli Health Clinic, the Bindati Family, tribal violence in Bimbilla. **Presbytery prayers:** Revs. Rick Cepris, Jim Moelk, Rachel Johns, Jim Haas, & Jamie Fowler's husband (*Jeff, cancer*).

Important Church Mail Notice: If you happen to drop by the church and retrieve the mail from the outdoor mailbox, please leave it on the corner table in the foyer (Our secretary Kim Ragen, or Pastor Dave will sort and place in the appropriate mail slots). Also, once the mail is placed in the mail slots for other staff, leaders, etc., no one should be going through mail slots to inspect or open anyone else's mail. Thanks for your cooperation.



Nursery Care Volunteers Needed! Our team of child care volunteers to staff our nursery during worship has dwindled to unsafe levels. If you are able to serve children in a rotation that provides a safe and playful nursery environment, then please contact Chris Tombaugh (882-8932). You will need to have your PA clearances (but those can be obtained free of charge via the internet, and we can help you do that).

Would You Like to Join the BVPC Custodial Team? If you're able to serve BVPC by participating in a rotation of volunteers who help keep the facility clean from week to week, then contact Chris Tombaugh (882-8932). We currently have a rotation of 6 sets of volunteers (we are losing the Blanchards for the winter quarter) who are in an 8-week rotation (basically cleaning the church facility once every 2 mos.). We will provide the training and answer any questions you have.

New Alter Flower Program: You can provide arrangements for one or two urns to adorn our chancel area in honor /memory of loved ones at the following prices: 1-2 small arrangements: \$25 ea.; 1-2 medium arrangements: \$35 ea.; 1-2 large arrangements: \$45 ea. Simply sign up in the foyer and leave your name, phone (Kim Ragen, our secretary, will contact you the week of your flower donation date to get all information for the bulletin).



Please Minister to Members Challenged by Chronic Health Issues (*cards, calls, visits, and prayer*): **Bill Bullock:** Elmwood Gardens, 2628 Elmwood Ave., #E-6, 16508; **Nancy Leube:** St. Mary's-East, #2303, 607 E. 26th St., 16504 (459-0621); **Janet Crain:** 1417 E. 31st St., 16504 (616-0114); **Rusty Kerr:** 2507 E. Grandview Blvd., 16510 (825-4929); **Jean Moorhead:** 1023 Raspberry St., 16502 (459-9077); **Marge Parker:** Independence Court, (); **MaryAnn Stein:** 919 E. 8th St., Erie 16503 (520-5082); **Doris Feeney:** St. Mary's-East, #203, 607 E. 26th St., 16504 (528-0136); **Dan & Diane Horton:** 1441 Liberty St. (Upper Apt.), Franklin, PA, 16323 (860-9173).

Any Church Family Needs...sickness, hospitalization, funeral reception after the loss of a loved one, financial need, etc. Please contact the Deacons thru Kim Ragen (392-5831) or Debi Johnson (825-1750)! **Are you or anyone you know in any kind of emotional crisis or grief over loss** (loved one, employment, mobility, independence, etc.)? We have access to trained Stephen Ministers: gifted listeners, free, and confidential. Call Pastor Dave (397-1861).

You are invited to a **Wednesday evening Bible study** beginning running through May 31 @ 6:30pm, facilitated by Stacey Simons. Our focus will be a discussion study based on the film "The War Room." Hope to see you there!

Birthday Coffee Hour. Our **May Birthday Coffee Hour will be held 5/7, and coincide with our Mothers' Day celebration** after worship. We will enjoy birthday cake and punch. The Birthday offering bank will be available in the sanctuary as well for all May birthday celebrants to make their special offering representing their birthday years. Please plan to join us!



Dear Ghana Mission Network Friends, the Lake Erie Presbytery is planning our next partnership trip **this coming Sept. 5-16** (approximately). During this time, we will meet others in the Ghana Mission Network as their mtg. is held Sept. 5-8, then we shall travel to the Upper Northern Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, to visit many of our partners (the Wapuli Health Clinic, the Bimbilla Church—where we helped provide the roof, the computer training center @ Tamale, the headquarters @ Yendi—where we will meet w/many pastors and church leaders from the North). If you'd be interested in joining the team that coordinates our partnership from the states by serving on the committee, or as they travel to Ghana this fall, or if you'd like to make a special donation to support the partnership, contact Pastor Dave or Doug Ebert (who both

serve on the GMP Team).

Summer Employment Opportunity: We're looking for someone to cook and manage the kitchen at Camp Lambec for our 5 weeks of programming this summer. If you want more info or wish to apply, contact: **Rev. Randall K. Clow, New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church,** 183 New Bethlehem Church Road, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001; Office: (724) 378-3751; Web: www.newbethlehempc.org

Presbytery of Lake Erie 2017 Work Mission Trip Our team is heading to West Virginia in July 2017 to work with the WVMAW



to aid with flood recovery efforts. The WVMAW - West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy & Workcamps is a long term recovery response arm of the Presbytery of West Virginia. Our Presbytery's Work Mission Trip departs the morning of Sunday, July 16 and returns the evening of Saturday, July 22, 2017. Volunteers of all ages (14 and up) and all abilities are encouraged to join our volunteer team. No previous experience or expertise required. Space is limited to 20 participants. Registrations accepted on a first come, first served basis along with a \$50 non-refundable deposit. Cost is \$300 per person and includes meals, housing and transportation. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Jamie Fowler at 814-673-0874 or fowler676@gmail.com. Doug Ebert (and possibly others from BVPC) are planning to attend!

Calling all Koinonians: As a Koinonia of Erie County, PA member I'm inviting you to join the **Candidate Campaign** by committing to pray every day for God to provide you opportunities to sponsor candidates for upcoming retreat weekends. The prayer is sincere and direct, **"God, please provide opportunities for me to sponsor candidates for upcoming Koinonia weekends."** By emailing me (wagreenwald@yahoo.com) and noting in the subject line: **I'm Praying**, you are accepting the invitation to join the **Candidate Campaign**. As you make your commitment to pray every day for opportunities to sponsor candidates I promise to pray for you by name every day as I also pray for God to provide me with opportunities to sponsor candidates. DeColores and God Bless you, Bill Greenwald (Spiritual Director, Koinonia of Erie County).



*P.S. Please be prepared as God answers your prayer by carrying Candidate Applications and self-addressed stamped envelopes with you so you can give your candidate(s) applications to fill out and mail to you. Let's make it easy for our candidates to register for upcoming weekends. **Would you like to hear more about participating in an amazing spiritual retreat weekend known as Koinonia (Biblical Greek for "community or fellowship")? Then contact Pastor Dave for more info (397-1861).***



2017 Great Lakes Hospice Bereavement Support Groups: Meetings are free of charge and open to the public. Doors open at 5pm and meetings start promptly at 5:30pm (and end at 6:30pm). On dinner meeting dates (April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 14), dinner is served (courtesy of Hamot Health Foundation) promptly from 5-5:30pm each month. The 2nd meeting of each month is accompanied by snacks (April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16). Please RSVP by calling Caty McKenzie at 814/877-6527 no later than the day before the scheduled meeting.

Having Trouble Controlling the Way You Eat? Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous is based on the 12 Steps of AA. It is a fellowship of women and men who are recovering from the disease of food addiction. Some are obese, or under-eaters, or bulimic, or so food/weight-obsessed that they couldn't live their lives freely. There are no dues, fees, or weigh-ins. Weekly mtgs. take place at: Erie Church of Christ, 2317 W. Grandview Blvd. (Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm); St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church, 427 Plum St., Edinboro (Thursdays, 6:30-8pm). Visit our website at: "foodaddicts.org."

Belle Valley's Annual Rummage Sale: May 12 (8am-4pm), May 13 (8am-2pm). Please begin saving all your valuables. We will have times to bring your donations for drop-off (details to come), but please do NOT bring anything before these prescribed drop-off times (contact Kim Ragen with questions, 392-5831). We'll take clothing (kids' clothing especially is popular), toys, working appliances, bikes, puzzles, board games, books/CDs/DVDs, knick knacks, furniture, tools, odds 'n' ends of all kinds. There will also be a bake sale for all your homemade goods. There are sign-up sheets in the foyer for donations, and volunteer time slots; or you can call Kim Ragen to sign-up.

