



Beaver-Butler Presbytery

Serving God...Serving You

Weekly Update for December 12, 2023

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Artist: Paula Nash Giltner

*Those who go out weeping
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.*

Psalm 126:6 (NRSV)

PASTORS GATHER FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

On Wednesday, December 6, retired pastors and their spouses, spouses of retired pastors and their guests gathered at the Presbytery Center for a Christmas luncheon.

The large conference room took on an old-fashioned Christmas atmosphere with miniature houses and figurines as centerpieces and a blue and silver color scheme. A toy train traveled around a decorated tree in reference to the Underground Railroad.

A delicious luncheon featured chicken stew over homemade noodles and a side of warm apple sauce. A dessert of bread pudding with ice cream was especially enjoyed.

Representing Ministry and Vocation Committee, Rev. David Paul led a devotion and emphasized the value of the wisdom of our retired pastors. Rev. Jim Swanson presented a program on the Underground Railroad and the part that quilts played in sending secret messages to fleeing slaves.

Most of all, everyone enjoyed a time to visit and catch up with old friends.

To see more photos, go to [our Facebook page](#).



SPRING IPLF PROGRAM

The Rev. Dr. Peter Bower will be instructing the *Reformed Worship and Sacraments* class for the spring session of Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation (IPLF) program. The class will meet in the mornings of the first Saturdays of January, February, March, April and May.

IPLF is designed to prepare ruling elders for possible positions as Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) to serve churches. IPLF also trains leaders for preaching, leading worship and various ministries, such as visitation.

If you are a potential student who wants to begin the program, contact the Beaver-Butler Presbytery office so arrangements can be made for you to obtain the course books.



Workshops will also be held in the afternoons of those same Saturdays. In addition to the current cohort of IPLF students, any commissioned pastor, Minister of Word and Sacrament or ruling elder from one of the sponsoring presbyteries is invited and welcome to participate for personal and ministry enrichment. Please register for the workshops through Redstone Presbytery.

[*Download the workshop schedule...*](#)

[*Learn more about IPLF...*](#)

PRAYER STATIONS PRESBYTERY YOUTH EVENT

Sunday, March 24, 4-5:30 p.m.

Cranberry Community United Church
2662 Rochester Road, Cranberry
Township

Just as a dandelion will grow anywhere and under any circumstance, as Christians, we too can grow and bloom wherever God plants us.



Prayer stations will be set up in different rooms. Your youth group will visit them together. A few stations will be visited as the larger group.

All ages can attend. Make plans now for this spring event.

RSVP to Diana at 412-915-2097 or
[*dianamermon@beaverbutler.org*](mailto:dianamermon@beaverbutler.org).

[*Download flyer...*](#)

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE *Service of Healing and Wholeness*

Thursday, December 21, 7 p.m.

Concord Church
2832 Conway Wallrose Road, Baden

All are warmly welcomed to come and experience God's healing and wholeness this longest night of the year. This quiet reflective service is offered acknowledging that Christmas is a particularly difficult time for those who grieve.

This is a time of remembering not only what we have loved and lost, but also the hope of our pain being surrendered to God as we grasp hold of God's promise to be with us.



[*Download and post flyer...*](#)

MATTHEW 25 RESOURCES

For Children's, Youth, Intergenerational, and Faith at Home Ministries

As your church builds congregational vitality, dismantles structural racism, and eradicates systemic poverty, PC(USA) Office of Christian Formation offers resources for ideas and as a jumping off point to adapt to your own particular context and community.

By intentionally weaving Matthew 25 into our ministries with children and youth, we can lead our congregations in this work if we give our youth the space, encouragement, and opportunities.



[*Download Engaging Matthew 25 roadmap...*](#)

[*Download Weaving Matthew 25 quicksheet...*](#)



The Presbytery Office will be closed for Christmas and the New Year starting on Thursday, December 21. The staff will return on Tuesday, January 2.

SYNOD OF THE TRINITY EVENTS

Click for Information...

PRESBYTERY EVENTS

Click for Additional Information...

PRESBYTERY YOUTH BOWLING PARTY

Sunday, January 28, 3-5 p.m.

Family Bowlaway Fun Center—540 Fairground Hill Road, Butler

LEADER CONNECT—NEXT GEN LEADER RETREAT

Monday-Wednesday, January 29-31, 2024

Crestfield Camp and Conference Center—Slippery Rock, PA

Hosted by Pittsburgh Presbytery

PRAYER STATIONS PRESBYTERY YOUTH EVENT

Sunday, March 24, 4-5:30 p.m.

Cranberry Community United Church

2662 Rochester Road, Cranberry Township

CHURCH EVENTS

**Support and promote worship, fellowship and fundraising events
hosted by congregations in our presbytery.**

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE of Healing and Wholeness

Thursday, December 21, 7 p.m.

Concord Church—2832 Conway Wallrose Road, Baden

Download and post flyer

Send event information to chrisanngoossen@beaverbutler.org.

Attach flyers and brochures as PDF documents
and slides as PowerPoint documents.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Click for position descriptions and contact information.

Pianist and/or Organist

Concord, West Sunbury and North Washington, North Washington

THE PRESBYTERY OFFICE

Regular Office Hours

Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
or by appointment.

2024 Presbytery Meetings

Saturday, January 27, 10 a.m.

Lunch
TBD

2024 Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day...January 1
Martin Luther King Day...January 15
President's Day...February 19
Memorial Day...May 27
Juneteenth...June 19
Independence Day...July 4
Labor Day...September 2
Veterans' Day...November 11
Thanksgiving Day...November 28
Christmas Eve...December 24
Christmas Day...December 25
Christmas Week...December 26-29

Tuesday, March 19, 6 p.m.
Calvin, Zelienople

Tuesday, May 28, 6 p.m.
Concord, Baden

Tuesday, July 30, 6 p.m.
Clinton, Saxonburg

Tuesday, September 26, 4 p.m.
Dinner
Hosted by First, Darlington and
The Galilean, New Galilee
New Galilee Community Center

Tuesday, November 14, 6 p.m.
New Sewickley, Rochester

[*Click for Presbytery Calendar*](#)

Beaver-Butler Presbytery Center

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Beaver-Butler Presbytery



Beaver-Butler Presbytery Youth



Presbytery Weekly Update

To share announcements and news or to add names to the mailing list, contact ChrisAnn at [*chrisanngoossen@beaverbutler.org*](mailto:chrisanngoossen@beaverbutler.org). To access back issues, go to [**https://beaverbutler.org/weekly-update-e-newsletter/**](https://beaverbutler.org/weekly-update-e-newsletter/).

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