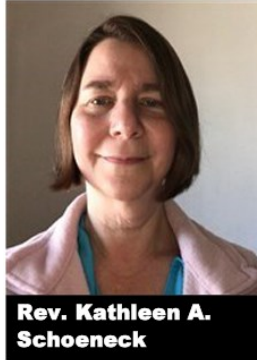




Calendar of Events

- April 3rd - Women's Bible Study - 9:30 a.m., Library
- April 3rd - Prayer Group - 6:30 p.m., Library
- April 7th - Foodless Food Drive
- April 7th - NO Adult Sunday School
- April 7th - Youth Group - 11 a.m., Elevate Church Worship Service
- April 9th - Men's Group Meeting - 6:30 p.m., Library
- April 10th - Women's Bible Study - 9:30 a.m., Library
- April 10th - Prayer Group - 6:30 p.m., Library
- April 10th - Trustees Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- April 11th - Outreach Committee - 6:30 p.m.
- April 13th - UWF Meeting - 10 a.m., Library
- April 14th - Foodless Food Drive
- April 14th - Lakewood Dinner and Talent Show - 5 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- April 16th - SPRC Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- April 17th - Women's Bible Study - 9:30 a.m., Library
- April 17th - Prayer Group - 6:30 p.m., Library
- April 17th - Church Council - 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- April 21st - UWF serving Sunday Supper
- April 24th - Women's Bible Study - 9:30 a.m., Library
- April 24th - Prayer Group - 6:30 p.m., Library
- April 26th—April 27th - Youth Group Lock-In, 7 p.m.-7 a.m.
- April 27th - Presque Isle Clean Up - 8:30 a.m.



Rev. Kathleen A. Schoeneck

What is worship?

In church, worship is an offering of praise and recognition of God. But worship is not limited to time in church.

In John 4, Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. In their conversation, Jesus says, "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the

Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." Jesus was equating true worshipers with the true believers in the time following the Resurrection. We can worship God any time and any place when we worship in the Spirit and in truth.

Worship is not about memorizing words but allowing the Spirit within to generate acts of praise to God. We praise him for who he is: creator and sustainer of life. We praise him for his nature of grace, mercy, and love. We praise him for considering humankind as worthy of his love. We praise him for his mercy in providing a way for our redemption from sin through Jesus Christ. We praise him for his grace as evidenced through the hope and promise of eternal life made available through the Resurrection of Jesus. We have the hope within that even though we are not worthy, believing in Jesus is all that is required to receive the promise. A belief that comes through faith, which is also a gift from God. A belief that results in our repentance and forgiveness. A belief that produces within us the love of Christ that enables us to love God and to love others in need through works prepared by God. A belief that leads to obedience to God, not out of expectation of reward, but out of an undeniable desire to be our best for him.

We express our worship in different ways. We sing hymns that offer praise to God when the lyrics come from our hearts, not just words on a page. Hymns teach us and remind us of the nature of God. They are not for entertainment but to serve as a praise offering to God. We worship God in prayer. Our prayers should always follow the model that Jesus gave us, but using our own words. Prayers must begin with words that acknowledge God for who he is humble us before we begin to ask for his blessings. Praising God first puts our requests into

(Continued on page 2)

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perspective. We are more likely to pray according to his will, not our own. Reading and studying God's word in the Spirit is a form of praise because it is Scripture that reveals the truth of his nature. Acknowledging God's presence and providence in your life is worship. Thankfulness for an answer to prayer is worship. Serving one another with acts of humble kindness, when we put the needs of others ahead of our wants is a form of worship. And of course, sharing the gospel message is worshiping God. These are all things we can do anywhere and anytime. We should continuously discover new ways to worship God wherever we are because the Spirit is always with us. Praise be to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit! AMEN.

-Pastor Kathleen

“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.”

Matthew 25:35



**APRIL SCHEDULE
TRACY and ASBURY**

DATE	PICKUP DRIVER	PACKING TEAM	DELIVERY DRIVER
APR 03/04		NO SCHOOL April 1-5	
APR 10/11	J. Kot 10:30 a.m.	S. Pike 11:30 a.m.	H. Kendall 10:00 a.m.
APR 17/18	R. Pike 10:30 a.m.	K. Fisher 6:30 p.m.	R. Fisher 10:00 a.m.
APR 24/55	C. Spicher 10:30 a.m.	J. Goodman 11:30 a.m.	J. Kell/J. Rhone 10:00 a.m.

Lakewood Members and Community to again Participate in Presque Isle Spring Clean Up

Your Lakewood Missions Team has again arranged for the congregation and the Lakewood community to participate in the 2024 Presque Isle Spring Clean Up. The date is Saturday, April 27, from 8:30 a.m. until noon. As in past years, we are reaching out to other Lakewood ministries, the congregation as a whole, and the community in the hope that we will surpass the 20 volunteers who served on this project last year. So please consider volunteering and inviting someone from the community to join us. A sign-up sheet and more detailed information will be provided throughout the month of April prior to the clean up. Thank you for your consideration of this Lakewood Mission Team project.



United
Women
in Faith

On April 7th and 14th, UWF will be in the Narthex in their aprons holding pots collecting monetary donations for the foodless food drive. These donations will benefit the West Millcreek Food Pantry who is struggling to keep up with the need for food in our community. Thank you in advance for your generosity and thank you to those of you who bring food in on Sundays.

Lakewood UMF will be preparing and serving Sunday Supper at the First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant on Sunday April 21st. We will need some volunteers to transport the meal, help serve, and lots of goodies for desert from our famous Lakewood bakers! Please speak with Debbie Bisbee if you have any questions.

The first drop off date for the spring rummage sale will be on May 18th from 9 a.m. until noon. If you have any questions please talk to Sharon S. 814-833-0980 or Bonnie H. 814-833-1787. If you cannot get to the drop offs, sometimes we can arrange for a pickup.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, April 13th at 10 a.m. in the Library. We hope to see some new faces!

A 'THANK YOU' FROM FINANCE

Thank you for your continued, faithful giving to Lakewood. Your commitment is a blessing to your church. Your giving attitude makes Lakewood happen! God loves a cheerful giver. Please follow the weekly contributions in the bulletin.

This is also the final year of the Sanctuary Remodel Campaign. Pledges for this year are \$36,600. Please remember to honor your pledge. Thank you for your support of the church renovation.

Happy Spring!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Megan Freed	04/02
Alice Vollentine	04/02
Terra Gerarde	04/03
Reece Stoll	04/03
Suzie Rosendahl	04/04
Sarah Heilmann	04/05
Christy Smith	04/05
Debra Wolfe	04/05
Roy Schoen	04/06
Mark Scott	04/06
Jackie Garnon	04/09
Anders Logan	04/09
Chuck Minnick	04/09
Janey Morell	04/10
Julie Goodman	04/13
Karen Mencer	04/13
Cheryl Darnell	04/14
Katy Gilchrist	04/15
Camila Xelo	04/15
Erin Estes	04/16
Jackie Bull	04/17
Noah Currier	04/17
Rebecca Currier	04/18
Karen Gierach	04/18
Lillie Stoll	04/18
Mary Kay Keith	04/19
Debbie Turner	04/19
Dennis Burkhart	04/21
Wilma Hermansen	04/21
Shannon Ryan	04/21
Marjorie Graham	04/22
Anita Muenz	04/22
Shirley Zack	04/22
Lynn Delio	04/24
Pat Jones	04/24
Miles Kovski	04/24
John Marsden	04/25
Linda Lasher	04/27
Rolf Daeschner	04/28
Dixie Lapadat	04/28
Judith Randolph	04/28
Elliott Thomas-Sitter	04/28
Bonnie Truchanowicz	04/29

Church Council Update - April

Prayer: Prayer releases the power of God. When God’s power is released, it brings spiritual increase. Whenever God wants to do a new work, God first sets people apart to pray. Prayer is the precursor to change. Praying moves us closer to the heart of God, a heart filled with compassion for people who are far from God and in deep need.

To paraphrase Wesley, “Nothing happens until somebody starts praying.” What should we be praying for? What do we want to change or improve at Lakewood? What is it that we want? Until we ask God or tell Him what we want, we may never receive.

Join Council in praying for the following intentions:

- Younger families to join us
- Fervent discipleship with members
- Purposeful participation of members

Lakewood Handbook: Council has worked together to develop a handbook that contains all of the information one might need about our committees and ministries. The handbook is available on our website and hard copies are available in the office.

Pathways to Intentional and Innovative Ministries Phase II: Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31). What does that mean for Lakewood to love our neighbors? What are the needs of our neighbors and how can we care for the welfare of our neighbors? Council continues to explore how God is calling us to serve the community in which we reside. We have started Phase II of Pathways to Intentional and Innovative Ministries: Reflection and Discernment. We are completing a Church Study by collecting information and data about our church and neighborhood. We will be exploring and discerning the needs of our neighbors to meet their needs and to show them the love of Jesus.

The next Council meeting will be April 17 at 6:30 p.m.

March 2024 Attendance:

Average attendance for weekly in-person worship: 82

Average views of weekly livestream (Youtube): 46

Average weekly combined “attendance” for March: 128

Average weekly combined “attendance” to-date for 2024: 123

Numbers do not include Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services.

Lakewood Youth Group News

Helping youth to discover, experience & know the love and presence of Jesus Christ



Meeting Schedule

Students in grades 6th – 12th are welcome to join us.

**Event dates and times are subject to change.*

- April 7: **Elevate Church 11:30 a.m. Worship Service**
Meet at Lakewood at 11:00 a.m.
Lunch after location TBD
Return to Lakewood 2:00 p.m.
- April 26-27: **Lakewood Lock In - Friday 7:00 p.m.—Saturday 7:00 a.m.**
- May 5: **Lakewood 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**
- May 12: **Youth Sunday - Lakewood 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**
This is a change in the original schedule
- June 2: **Youth Family Picnic – Bulls' Land – 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
- June 11: **Mission Barn Service Project in New Castle, PA**
Meet at Lakewood at 8:00 a.m.
Service Project: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Return to Lakewood at 3:30 p.m.
- July 15-19: **Uth 4 Missions at Jumonville - a week of camp and service projects**

Contact Information

For questions and concerns please contact us any time.

Jackie and Jeremiah Bull

Home: 814-833-4520

Call or Text: 814-323-6805

Email: missjackie77@hotmail.com

MEN'S GROUP

The men's group will be meeting on Tuesday April 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

Don't forget about the Lakewood dinner and talent show on April 14th at 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE ERIE CITY MISSION

On Sunday, April 7th Lakewood volunteers will help to prepare and serve a meal and provide fellowship at the Erie City Mission, 1023 French Street. If you are interested in being a part of this important ministry activity, there will be a sign-up sheet at church. Contact Lisa Medina lmedmex@aol.com if you have additional questions or are interested in helping. Volunteers will meet around 9:15 a.m. at the City Mission (entrance behind the building). Volunteers are usually done by 12:30—1 p.m.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The West Millcreek Food Pantry is very much in need of jelly and spaghetti sauce. Please bring in your donations as soon as possible. There is a collection box in the Narthex. Thank you so much for your continued generosity.



Women's Bible Study Group

The Wednesday morning Women's Bible study group will be starting a new study mid April. We will be using a DVD driven study by the founder of "That the World May Know" ministries, Ray Vander Laan. The first study entitled "Promised Land" has five sessions which will help us "discover how God guided his people to a specific place - the Promised Land - to impact the world both in ancient times and today." Each episode is filmed on location which "illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures." We meet on Wednesdays at 9:30 in the church library. We've had several new people join us recently and would love to see you! If you have questions, contact Betty McKnight or Jackie Garnon or just show up!



**Coming your way . . . July 7 – July 11
Sunday—Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m.**

Surrounded by water, trees, and rolling hills, Camp Firelight is the perfect location for every Camper's favorite summer activities! During each assembly session, Campers join first-time camp counselor Miss Pam and Lu (short for Lumen), the lightning bug mascot, and learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Each day, Campers see Counselor Pam face new challenges, from as simple as leading Campers on a hike to as intimidating as meeting a new and wise nature expert. With the help of Lu the Lightning Bug and the Camp Counselor Guidebook, Counselor Pam and our Campers explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name.

Come join us as part of the VBS Camp Firelight team!

Be a Camp station Leader or Helper

Contact Miss Pam at 814-450-4819 or pkayanthony@yahoo.com

Dinner and Talent Show

The Men's Group is sponsoring a Talent Show and Dinner on Sunday, April 14 at 5 p.m. The Men's group will provide Ox roast sandwiches for the talent show dinner. There are two sign up sheets in the Narthex. One sheet is for going to the dinner and bringing a dish or dessert to share, the other signup sheet is if you are showing your talent. Please sign up before April 7th. We need to let Jeremiah Bull know so he can set up the program, and we know how many people will be attending to plan food accordingly.



LAKEWOOD PRESCHOOL

Where a love of learning begins!



**3856 West 10th Street
Erie, Pa 16505
(814) 833-4131**

Lakewood Preschool provides a safe and caring environment for our students. We make learning fun through art, music, gym, cooking, stories, singing, learning centers, and hands-on activities. We help foster the children to have positive self-esteem and develop the basic skills for successful social interaction with their peers and adults. We focus on general preparation for kindergarten readiness skills which include: learning colors, numbers, letters, rhyming, opposites, sequencing, using scissors, writing their name along with many other skills.

**3-5
YEARS
OLD**

PROGRAM FEATURES :



- Kindergarten Readiness PreK
- Enrichment Program
- Cooking Class for all ages
- Gym class and playground play
- Class Dojo -Parent Communication
- Annual Art Show
- Special Guest Speakers

PreK Schedules:

- 3 Year old Preschool(Tues. and Thurs.)
- PreK M/W/F
- Weeklong PreK

Time:

9:45-12:15

Extended day option available to PreK students on Mondays 9:45-2:00pm

REGISTER NOW

For More Information, visit our website
<https://lakewooderie.org/preschool> or visit
our Facebook page: Lakewood Preschool Erie

