Thank you to our VSEA Sponsors!

For More information on Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County and VSEA, scan the QR Code or visit https://www.icmeriecounty.org/

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Voices for Independence
Wayne Park Baptist Church
Wayside Presbyterian Church
Wesley United Methodist Church
Wesleyville Baptist Church

INTER-CHURCH MINISTRIES

Community Concert

Many Voices, One Song

NOVEMBER 13, 2026
7:00 PM

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH
225 W. 10TH STREET
ERIE, PA 16501



Inter-Church Ministries
Voucher System for Emergency Assistance (VSEA)

Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County, or more commonly known in the community as ICM, is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit unique to the Erie Community specializing in the mobilization of the religious community to provide education, emergency assistance to all in need within our community.

With roots in Erie dating back to 1910, ICM recognizes the importance of creating a stronger and more vibrant community for all through collaborative and ecumenical effort.

Throughout various turbulent times in our communities history, the leadership of ICM has stood strong to rise to the needs presented in our society. As we forge forward through recession and pandemic, we continue with a strong commitment in education on the important issues such as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Social Justice, and Black Lives Matter.

Direct impact programming is offered through the **VSEA (Voucher System for Emergency Assistance)** Program which has served those in need for 35+ years. **VSEA** assistance is a voucher program which primarily provides assistance for grocery, gas, or transportation. Other types of assistance are offered on a one to one basis upon review. Qualification for assistance is simple requiring only a valid identification card and statement of the need. Restricted to only three distributions within a calendar year, this program is intended to be utilized for those facing an emergency, defined as any event that inhibits the ability to provide basic needs.

VSEA is available to all community members facing circumstances that would restrict access to basic necessities such as food or transportation to work. **VSEA** is a critical gap program for individuals/households facing and emergency situation. It is intended to help emergencies where one needs to choose either to make it to work or put food on the table. Limitations of 3 requests within a calendar year are intended to help identify and connect those in need to more sustainable service providers based on need. **VSEA** is also a valuable to those transitioning from long term assistance to independence. Are you willing to make a difference to someone in need?

The Laura Wilkinson Memorial Fund is another assistance offered to those living in Erie or Crawford County facing the loss of a child and insufficient funding for burial services.

As we forge into the future ICM seeks to serve the needs of the community through non-profit collaboration to offer multiple avenues of assistance from one location. **Please contact icm@eriecounty.org for more information.**



Thank you from Inter-Church Ministries and VSEA

Carol Davis

Dear Friends, Participants, and Supporters,

On behalf of Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in, attended, and supported our "Many Voices, One Song" Community Concert. What a blessing it was to gather together in worship, fellowship, and celebration through the gift of music. The evening beautifully demonstrated the power of our faith community when churches and individuals come together with a shared purpose.

To our musicians, choirs, directors, and performers, thank you for generously sharing your talents. Your dedication, preparation, and passion created an inspiring experience that touched the hearts of all who attended.

To our audience members, thank you for joining us and filling the sanctuary with your presence and encouragement. Your participation helped make the event a true community celebration. We are grateful for your support and for the generous freewill offerings contributed throughout the evening. To our volunteers, partner churches, sponsors, and donors, thank you for the countless ways you support the mission of Inter-Church Ministries. Your generosity allows us to continue serving our neighbors through programs such as the Voucher System for Emergency Assistance (VSEA), providing help to individuals and families facing short-term needs for food, transportation, gasoline, and other essential expenses.

Every contribution, every note sung, every hour volunteered, and every prayer offered helped make this event a success. Because of your support, hope and practical assistance will continue to reach members of our community when they need it most.

Thank you for being part of this special evening and for partnering with us in our mission of service, compassion, and faith. Together, we truly are many voices united in one song of hope.
With sincere gratitude,

Carol Davis

Carol Davis, Coordinator
Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County
(814) 454-2411
icm@icmeriecounty.org

"Let all that you do be done in love." – 1 Corinthians 16:14

ICM Community Awards Recipients

Margaret Apen

Mercyhurst University



Margaret is currently serving as the Vice President for student government and has spent the last three years as a student worker in the Mercy Market, which provides a basic needs hub, food pantry, professional clothing closet, and more. She was one of the founders of our semesterly fundraiser, the Thrift Store Pop Up, which allows students to browse through hundreds of clothing and accessory items to purchase for $1, $3, or $5, and all of the proceeds go back to the Mercy Market. Finally, as VP for student government, she is committed to getting the rest of student government out into the community, and has organized several volunteer initiatives for them this semester.

Margaret is an incredible human, compassionate, involved, service-oriented, and always goes above and beyond in service to her peers and community.

-Bethany Woods '11 '19
Director of Academic Community Engagement (ACE)
Beyond the Gates (BTG) Program Director

Theresa Ferraro

Cathedral Preparatory School



Theresa Ferraro is a dedicated student who is passionate about community service, leadership, and the performing arts. Theresa balances her academic pursuits with numerous extracurricular activities and service commitments with poise. Her dedication to helping others began with Girl Scouts, where she earned the Bronze Award by creating an uplifting mural at her elementary school and the Silver Award by renovating a classroom into a chapel, creating a meaningful space for her school community.

Theresa's commitment to service continues through her involvement with Our Lady of Peace Vacation Bible School, where she leads the music, dances, and skits. She serves as a cantor at school masses and leads the school's cantoring program. She is a member of the National Honor Society and serves as Student Council historian. She also leads her choir's a cappella group and participates in fundraising performances and public events. Through babysitting and working as a party princess, she further demonstrates her enthusiasm for working with children and creating positive experiences for others.

As Theresa continues her education, she hopes to build upon these experiences and remain committed to serving others with compassion, enthusiasm, and a genuine desire to make a positive impact.

-Mrs. Alexis Totleben
Junior and Senior Guidance Counselor
Cathedral Preparatory School

Inter-Church Ministries

Many Voices, One Song

Program

Beautiful City from *Godspell,* Stephen Schwartz

Karalyn Headley, Soloist
Bryan Timm, Accompanist

Go Tell It On The Mountain Spiritual, attr. H.T. Burleigh (1866-1949)
Tis Me O Lord Spiritual, attr. H.T. Burleigh (1866-1949)
Go Down Moses Spiritual, attr. H.T. Burleigh (1866-1949)
Behold That Star Spiritual, attr. H.T. Burleigh (1866-1949)
Deep River Spiritual, attr. H.T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

James Darby, Soloist
Sharon Downey, Accompanist

Meditation on Breathing Sarah Dan Jones
Neighbor Story with Children's Songs 3&7 Chick Corea
Next One By Kelly Armor & David Sturtevant
Blusette Toots Thielemans
Dunia de Batali South Sudanese *trad.* Gospel

Kelly's World Trio

Evening Rise *arr.* Meinhard Ansohn
What a Wonderful World *arr.* Janet Day

Erie Day School Choir

~Intermission~

10 Minute

Presentation of ICM Community Awards

Presenting: Dr. Christopher Magno, Carol Davis

I Love to Tell the Story — A.K. Hankey (1866) Text/ W.G. Fischer (1869) Music
Give Me Jesus — *trad.* African American Spiritual
This Little Light of Mine — *trad.* African American Spiritual
Give Me Oil in My Lamp — *attr.* A. Sevison / T. Harris

We Play for Cake

It is Enough, from Elijah, Op. 70 — Felix Mendelssohn Bartholody (1809-1847)

Connor Zimmerman, Bass
Dr. Christopher Petit, Accompanist

Nocturno for Horn and Piano, Op. 7 — Franz Strauss (1822-1905)

Keegan Petrick, Horn
Dr. Christopher Petit, Accompanist

Steal Away — Spiritual, arr. H.T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

***from*, Old American Songs:** — arr. Aaron Copland (1900-1990)
IV: Simple Gifts
IX: At the River

Carter Houston, Baritone
Dr. Christopher Petit, Accompanist

Common Song *(All are welcome to Sing)*: ***In the Midst of New Dimensions (Hymn)***
In the Midst of New Dimensions — *New Dimensions*
J. B. Rush

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Inter-church Ministries
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Kelly's World

Ensemble

Kelly's World is the trio of Kelly Armor (flute, vocals), Liz Sesler-Beckman (piano), and Victoria Angelo (vocals, percussion, dance). They play re-imagined jazz standards, fresh takes on folk songs and originals inspired by Africa and Appalachia.



Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul

Dr. Christopher Petit, Director



The Choir of the **Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul** makes a joyful noise with about 25 volunteer and professional musicians. Aside from Sunday services, they offer yearly concerts and celebrations; such as Lessons and Carols, Burleigh/Absalom Jones celebrations, and special concerts for local non-profits. As Burleigh sang at St. Paul's in his youth, the Cathedral Choir celebrates his legacy with a diversity of music from many religious and cultural traditions. The choir is represented this evening by a few of our professional members.



Conner Zimmerman recently finished a dual degree in voice performance and music education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and recently moved to Erie to teach in the Millcreek school district.



Dr. Christopher Petit, originally from Akron, Ohio, completed his doctorate in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music, and came to Erie in 2023 to continue the great tradition of music at the Cathedral. He is not only fortunate to work with such fine musicians as we hear this evening, but also to conduct the choirs of Mercyhurst University.



Carter Houston, from Fairview, is a rising star in the opera and vocal pedagogy world. He received his BM from State College and recently completed his master's degree from Florida State University.



Keegan Petrick, from Waterford, completed a degree in music therapy from Mercyhurst University, and, in addition to singing in the bass section, often shares his instrumental artistry.

We Play for Cake - “The UkuLadies”

Ensemble

We Play for Cake is a ukulele group that organically formed during a weekly music class at the Erie Cancer Wellness Center. These musicians come together to learn, laugh, and experience the joy of making music with friends. Through community performances, they share a message of hope and connection, reminding audiences it is never too late to try something new.



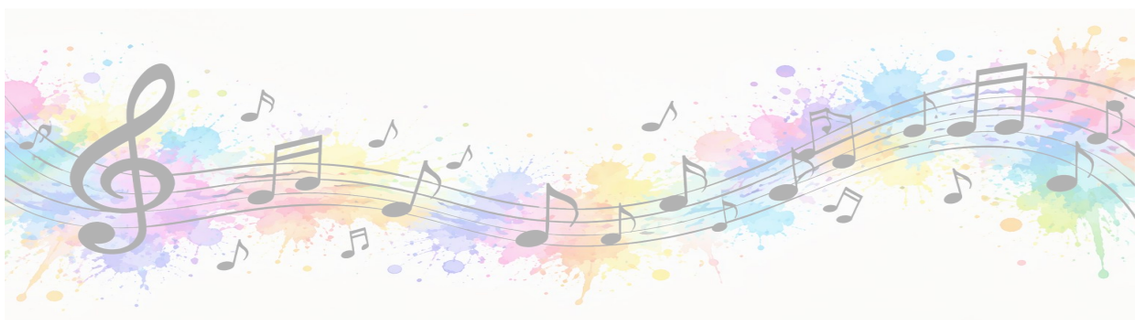
Their mission includes raising awareness of the Erie Cancer Wellness Center and sharing an important message: if you have cancer, you don’t have to go it alone. Their time together celebrates friendship, creativity, and finding joy every day. With ukuleles in hand and a song in their hearts, they are happy to glorify God today while sharing their music with the greater Erie community. Led by Michelle Flaherty.

Karalyn Headley

Soloist



Karalyn Headley is a theatre artist, certified Shakespeare scholar, and adjunct professor of English. In recent years, she has kept busy teaching at Gannon University and Erie County Community College; editing and directing *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* for Gannon’s Shakespeare Summer Nights; co-writing and starring in Gannon’s 2024 Edinburgh Fringe entry *How We Take Our Coffee;* and appearing as Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* at the Erie Playhouse and as Cathy in *The Last Five Years* at PACA. Next up: *Les Miserables* at the Erie Playhouse and adventures to be determined with the newly forming *Flagship Players* Shakespeare troupe.



In the Midst of New Dimensions
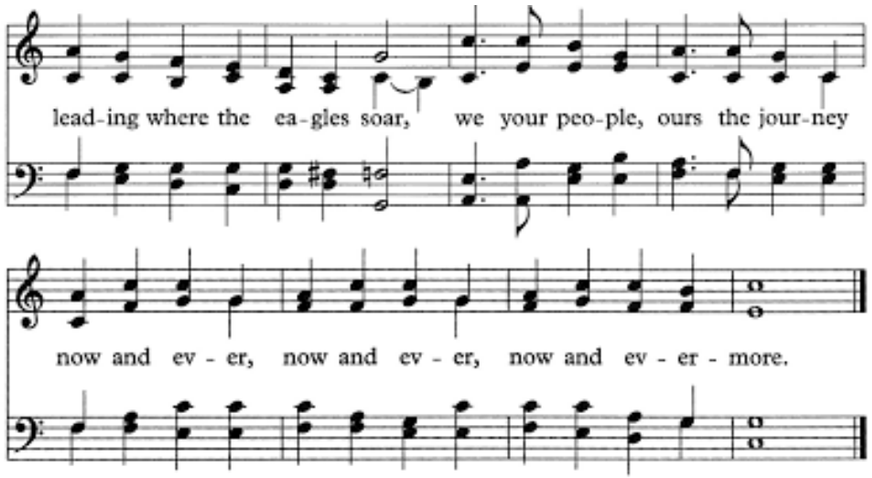
1. In the midst of new di - men-sions, in the face of
2. Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple, war - ring fac - tions
3. As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self -
4. We are man and we are wom - an, all per - sua - sions,
5. Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with -

chang - ing ways, who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples
and de - spair, who will lift the ol - ive branch - es?
seek - ing schemes, grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage,
old and young, each a gift in your cre - a - tion,
draw in pain, may your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it

Refrain

wan - dering in their sep - arate ways?
Who will light the flame of care?
might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams. God of rain - bow, fier - y pil - lar,
each a love song to be sung.
res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

In the Midst of New Dimensions





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Erie Day School

Ensemble

Mitchell McViegh, Director

Erie Day School
Learning today, leading tomorrow



The Erie Day School Choir is enjoying their first year as an official group and is honored to be singing for this event. This ensemble, made up of students in grades 4 through 8, focuses on building ensemble skills and an understanding of healthy singing technique through choral music. This year they will be performing at the Festival of the Trees, Hagen History Center's Victorian Holidays, Asbury Woods, and Erie Day School for their Grandparents' Day and their first official choir concert. Directed by Mitchell McViegh

Members: **Grade 4** Elizabeth Agrafiotis, Julia Kang, Annaliese Wahoff; **Grade 5**: Kate Groves, Palak Sharma, Max Williams; **Grade 6**: Aylin Gitmez, Meryl Showalter, Adelaide Wahoff; **Grade 7**: Angeliki Agrafiotis, Lila Cotterill, Berkeley Geertson, Clara Griffith, Virginia Jew, Louisa McCormick, Parker Ryan-Zimmel,Harper Stevens; **Grade 8**: Charlotte Darling, Oyayi Magno,_Theofanis Nicopoulos, Lauren Rowe



James R. Darby

Soloist

Born in Erie, PA, James studied Musical Theatre at Point Park University where he performed in the chorus for Civic Light Opera, performed "The Wiz" at the Reflections night club, and originated the role of Booster Becker in the original production of "Jitney," written by August Wilson. After returning to Erie he performed at the Erie Playhouse, Roadhouse Theatre and is a Greensleeve Players with Canterbury Feast here in Erie. Mr. Darby is Vice-president of the Burleigh Legacy Alliance. He has been married for 38 years and has two children.