

WEFR – 88.1 FM – Erie, PA
Issues/Program List
“COMMUNITY BRIDGE”
A 5-Minute Program Heard Saturdays*
at 7:25 AM and 7:55 PM
October - December, 2023

DATE	ISSUE	GUEST AND DESCRIPTION
October 7, 2023	Crime in Pennsylvania	<p><u>Host:</u> Cindy Tang <u>Guest:</u> Mazzie Casher, Co-Founder of PhillyTruce, (Philadelphia, PA). https://phillytruce.com/ <u>Description:</u> It is called, <i>Operation Hug the Block</i> and this outreach of PhillyTruce has three parts to it: 1) An app called <i>Philly Truce</i> to call in, if potential violence is anticipated; 2) <i>Peace Patrol</i> volunteers patrolling the most dangerous blocks from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m., which in 100 days has resulted in 26% fewer homicides; and 3) <i>Safe City Boys</i>, which consists of boys 11-18 years old with peer resources. <i>Operation Hug the Block</i> appears to be greatly helping with deterring crime.</p>
October 14, 2023	Food for the Body and the Soul	<p><u>Host:</u> Cindy Tang <u>Guest:</u> Myrna Huizinga, Food Pantry Coordinator, Kalamazoo First Assembly of God, (Kalamazoo, MI). www.Kfirst.org/foodpantry <u>Description:</u> This food pantry is open once a month and provides nutritious fruits and vegetables. A menu is given so clients can match their shopping to the menu and put a meal together at home. They also supply personal care items, clothing, devotions, and a prayer room.</p>
October 21, 2023	Education for At Risk Children	<p><u>Host:</u> Cindy Tang <u>Guest:</u> Chris Azevedo, Executive Director of Meeting Street Academy, (Charleston, SC). www.meetingstreetacademy.org/ <u>Description:</u> This school serves underprivileged kids by offering high academic standards. Their goal is for students to achieve scores of 85% or higher in reading and math by the 5th grade. They guide the students to further their education in good schools and colleges, offering \$10,000 a year in scholarships. They have a close relationship with the student’s families, all working together.</p>
October 28, 2023	Mentoring in Erie	<p><u>Host:</u> Cindy Tang <u>Guest:</u> Heather Filson, Supervisor for Big Brothers, Big Sisters Family Services of NWPA, (Erie, PA). www.beabigerie.org and https://bbbs.fsnwpa.org/ <u>Description:</u> This program wants a mentor for every child in schools in Erie to provide one-on-one relationships. They hope to place another positive adult in a child’s life. Since COVID19 pandemic, there is more anxiety and depression in youth, as kids</p>

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		are behind in school and often parents are too busy. The mentor will give more attention and guidance.

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December 2, 2023	Emergency Food Available Near Charleston	<p><u>Host:</u> Cindy Tang <u>Guest:</u> Jennifer Jonas, Executive Director, Helping Hands of Goose Creek, (Goose Creek, SC). www.helpinghandsofgoosecreek.org <u>Description:</u> This emergency food pantry offers food, hygiene items, and budgetary classes to seniors, military members, and other families. Because of the current economy and fewer churches, there is a food donation shortage and the need is great.</p>
December 9, 2023	Inflation Impacts Food Needs	<p><u>Host:</u> Cindy Tang <u>Guest:</u> Greta Faworski, Executive Director, Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes, (Kalamazoo, MI). www.KZOLF.org. <u>Description:</u> Our guest shared that they are seeing 60% higher needs since a year ago because of inflation and the economy. Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes offer food pantry options of curbside, in person, and home delivery. Summer is the greatest time of demand, followed by Christmas.</p>
December 16, 2023	Treating Drug Addiction	<p><u>Host:</u> Cindy Tang <u>Guest:</u> Jenny Hagerty, Executive Director of Mercy Center for Women, (Erie, PA). www.mcwerie.org/ <u>Description:</u> Mercy Center offers the traditional services needed for those women caught in the throes of addition. Our guest shared a success story of an addicted young mom who got her General Education Degree (GED), then a degree in nursing, fought cancer, and is now on their board. Her story inspires so many in the program. Kids can also stay and go to school or the day care, while their moms work on GED's or go to work.</p>
December 23, 2023*	*	* <i>Community Bridge</i> was pre-empted by special Christmas programming.
December 30, 2023	Housing and Re-Entry	<p><u>Host:</u> Cindy Tang <u>Guest:</u> Geremi James, Chief Programming Director of Broadstreet Ministry, (Philadelphia, PA). www.broadstreetministry.org/ <u>Description:</u> Housing navigation is finding appropriate housing for individuals. The Ministry offers re-entry services for those coming out of prison and employment services counseling. They have a mobile hygiene truck and also a mailing address truck with 5,000 customers, as homeless people need a return address for job applications and this meets that need.</p>

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October 7, 2023	U.S. Student Athletes Share Faith Today (25 minutes)	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Jeff Martin, Executive Vice President of Strategic Partnerships, <i>Fellowship of Christian Athletes</i>, (Kansas City, MO). www.fca.org; www.fieldsofffaith.com <u>Description:</u> The leading edge of Gen Z has turned 25 years of age, which means this cohort is starting to graduate from college, obtain jobs, vote, rent apartments—and walk into church. But Generation Z is the least religious generation in the United States: about 44% of Gen Z adults identify as atheist, agnostic, or have no specific religious affiliation, while only 35% identify as Christian. Notably, Generation Z Christians are “missionaries” to their own generation, with 82% of such teenagers reporting having shared about God in the last year. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes’ (FCA) vision is to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes growing in Christ and His Church. This year, FCA is hosting its <i>Fields of Faith</i> events, offering an athletic field as a neutral rallying point for a community of faith believers where side by side, student athletes invite, pray for, share with, and challenge their peers to read the Bible and follow Jesus Christ.</p>
October 14, 2023	Showing Care & Support for Your Pastor (25 minutes)	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Brian Kluth, National Spokesperson for the <i>Bless Your Pastor Movement</i>, (Golden, CO). www.blessyourpastor.org <u>Description:</u> Called shepherds of their flocks, those serving as pastors to care for the people of God have a high calling that comes with many demands: from church service preparations and attending to the numerous spiritual needs of the congregation to comforting and serving those who have lost loved ones. Sadly, the number of pastors seriously considering quitting full-time ministry has risen dramatically in recent years, citing stress of the job, loneliness and isolation, current political divisions, family problems, and financial strain, as many churches have limited budgets and are often not able to compensate their pastors or church staff very well. That’s why the <i>Bless Your Pastor Movement</i> was created to mobilize Christians and churches everywhere to show and share God’s love for their pastors and church staff even as churches work toward better compensation.</p>

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October 21, 2023	Comforting Israel Crisis-Impacted (25 minutes)	<p>To better love and care for pastors and church staff, go to BlessYourPastor.org to give your pastor various blessings.</p> <p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> David Parsons, Vice President & Senior International Spokesman, <i>International Christian Embassy Jerusalem</i>, (Jerusalem, Israel). https://icejusa.org/ <u>Description:</u> Deadly terrorist attacks in Israel have resulted in a tragic and volatile situation. As Israel goes through its greatest trial in modern history, how can we respond biblically, praying for the peace of Jerusalem? The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was established in 1980 in recognition of the biblical significance of all of Jerusalem and its unique connection with the Jewish people. Their goal is to stand with Israel in support and friendship, equip and teach the worldwide church regarding God's purposes with Israel and the nations of the Middle East, be an active voice of reconciliation between Jews, Christians, and Arabs, and support the churches and congregations in the Holy Land. With so many Jewish people living in unthinkable conditions right now in Israel and around the world — including innocent children, families, and elderly Holocaust survivors — generous donations can help The Fellowship provide basic necessities like food, medical assistance, and shelter as well as safety and security provisions. Americans with Jewish neighbors were encouraged to support their local synagogues and Jewish neighbors in these difficult times with a Christian testimony of comfort and love.</p>
October 28, 2023	Supporting Mental Health, Preserving Christian Music, & Hymns (25 minutes)	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Ron Maxwell, Founder of the <i>Christian Music Preservation Project</i>, (St. Petersburg, FL). www.musicprez.org <u>Description:</u> Martin Luther was facing giants. What did he do for courage? He wrote the hymn, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” with the timely words, “<i>Christ Jesus...must win the battle.</i>” Has God ever encouraged your heart with a special worship song at just the right time? Ron shared how Christian music is the best music in the world, supporting our faith, mental health, and overall health. That’s why they are working to preserve worship songs for future generations. There are many reasons to preserve the most powerful music in the world: from the deterioration of media, loss of</p>

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		digital devices and hard drives due to failures, accidents, thefts and fires, to increasing censorship, the threat to Christian music is real. The Music Preservation Project values creating a plan that will provide access to the most powerful music in the world, now and for future generations. Prayers, ideas, involvement and financial support for this historic Project were welcomed to help preserve, promote & provide the music worth saving!
November 4, 2023	The US Gas Market and Conservation: Lowering Pump Pain (25 minutes)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Scott Angelle, former U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director and Founder of USA Energy Workers, (Lafayette, LA). https://usaenergyworkers.com/ <u>Description:</u> Thanksgiving and Christmas are supposed to be times of gratitude and joy—not stress and anxiety. However, inflation-battered drivers will have to dig deeper into their wallets to afford the cost of this year’s holiday road trips with friends and family as gasoline prices are on the rise yet again and the cost of nearly everything is up thanks to increasing inflation. With the average price for a gallon of gasoline is \$3.82 – 60 cents higher than at the beginning of 2023, how can one best plan ahead to enjoy creating memories with loved ones without the needless worry? Tips to conserve fuel include planning for trips, pack light, do not needlessly idle a vehicle with it running, clean or replace the air filter, and limit high speed, starts and stops. Scott maintained that there is a need for more American-produced and generated energy, with superior climate and environmental metrics as derived from USA Energy Workers. His perspective was to balance the 3Es: Environment, Energy, and Economy, encouraging American energy policy that includes traditional and renewable energy resources that support US energy workers, Americans in poverty and on fixed incomes, and the economy.
November 11, 2023	Saving Lives, Restoring Families, & Changing Legacies of American Veterans through Christ (~40 minutes)	<u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Brandon Kunath, American Combat Veteran and National Programs Director, Mighty Oaks Foundation, (Magnolia, TX). https://www.mightyoaksprograms.org/ <u>Description:</u> Jesus Christ can change a legacy forever—no matter how broken. Branden Kunath shared his own story and how to be a part of changing legacies for veterans—lives saved and families restored as they become “mighty oaks” rooted in God’s Word.

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		<p>Post-traumatic stress can occur following a life-threatening event like military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, or violent personal assaults. People who suffer from PTSD often suffer from nightmares, flashbacks, difficulty sleeping, and feeling emotionally numb. Members of the military exposed to war/combat and other groups at high risk for trauma exposure are at risk for developing PTSD. Among veterans returning from the current wars in Iraq/Afghanistan, PTSD and mild to moderate traumatic brain injury (TBI) are often linked and their symptoms may overlap. The physical changes that take place in the body and brain following trauma are beginning to be understood, but most treatments for these changes are still experimental. This makes it difficult to “hold on” until hope can be found for many veterans. The Mighty Oaks Foundation is committed to serving the brokenhearted by providing intensive peer-based discipleship through a series of programs, outpost meetings, and speaking events, hosting Mighty Oaks Warrior Programs for men and women, as well as Marriage Advance Programs. The Warriors who attend are fully sponsored for training, meals, and lodging needs to ensure that upon arrival to the ranch, each Warrior is focused solely on recovery and identifying purpose going forward.</p>
November 18, 2023	<p style="text-align: center;">Building a Family Economy for Strong Households, Communities, Society, & Earth Stewardship (35 minutes)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Ray Simmons, Pastor of Ascension Reformed Church and Author of <i>The Confessional County: Realizing the Kingdom through Local Christendom</i>, (Montgomery County, IA). https://gatherandgrow.us/ <u>Description:</u> As we are celebrating Thanksgiving in a few weeks, we will be remembering the Pilgrims as well as revisiting the stories and history of our American forefathers and families. Today, moral values and families are declining, even as record inflation, homelessness and crimes such as flagrant shoplifting are seen. The Scripture notes that the home is the focus of discipleship and fathers are key to this, however, about 41% of children in America are born without present fathers. Division in the family and lack of spiriting maturity shows a struggling community, along with children showing a consumer mindset or the lack of understanding the biblical laws of harvest. The Family</p>

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		<p>Economy was defined as productive families that are unified and complementary, practically providing for the needs of the family and producing things as distinguished from the individual or corporate economy where the family is fragmented and each goes to his own place through the day. Children are part of serving and helping in age-appropriate ways. The husband and wife work together in a family economy per Genesis 2. While the Industrial Revolution had many positives, it moved fathers from the home during the most productive hours of the day and machinery took the place of the family helping each other. Deuteronomy 6 is a very good picture of the blessings of being in a covenant community, family, or church. For example, Pastor Simmons has built a family economy through a construction business; while he makes bids for jobs, his sons perform the construction and his daughter is responsible for accounting. Pastor Simmons advised to start your own family economy to be self-sufficient, including family devotions in the evenings for family discipleship. Grandparents can teach their grandchildren and multigenerational family unit is biblical and early puritans were interdependent and formed a microeconomy. He shared how one family has opened a store with the mother and kids homeschooling in the back while the father maintains the store. There are practical steps that parents and even grandparents can take now to build a successful and God honoring “family economy” model of the pilgrims and puritans – including bee keeping, raising chickens, and growing your garden.</p>
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October 2, 2023	Wedding Day Charity Rescue	In a heartwarming display of kindness, a passerby came to the rescue of a bride whose wedding day nearly took a turn for the worse when her car broke down enroute to the church.
October 3, 2023	Food Insecurity	A group of students in St. Petersburg, Florida, is helping other students with food insecurity and in need through a local nonprofit organization.
October 4, 2023	Kindness of Healthcare Heroes	A high school senior, who wasn't able to attend her homecoming dance due to a recent brain surgery, received a heartwarming surprise when the hospital staff brought the homecoming festivities to her.
October 6, 2023	Saving Pet's Lives	A postal worker in Georgia has emerged as an unexpected hero by saving the life of a dog who was bitten by a venomous snake.
October 9, 2023	Honoring Heroes	Every day, folks across the country remember the heroes who gave their lives to save ours, including one woman who has found a way to honor them through her love for cooking.
October 10, 2023	Autism Awareness	A thrift store in Tampa, Florida, is giving back in a big way selling secondhand goods to help those living with autism.
October 12, 2023	Acts of Goodwill	When a thrift store manager in California found a pile of cash in donated clothes, he tracked down the owner and returned the money.
October 13, 2023	Philanthropy	A billionaire who managed to give away his entire fortune during his lifetime passed away this weekend at the age of 92 years of age.
October 16, 2023	Church Food Pantry	A megachurch in Nebraska plans to build a food pantry and an auto repair shop to serve low-income community members.
October 17, 2023	Free Haircuts	A barber on Chicago's Southside has spent the last 20 years giving out free haircuts to anyone in need, from star athletes to military brass!
October 20, 2023	Supporting Israel	Christians from around the quad cities of Iowa and Illinois joined together for an evening to honor Israel.

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October 23, 2023	Celebrating Life	A man from Houston who was given just two months to live is crediting God for keeping him alive.
October 25, 2023	Road Safety	A small town is putting a stop to speeding by planting thousands of flowers, which have caused drivers to slow down as they pass by!
November 1, 2023	Repairing Homes for People in Need	Veterans in St. Louis recently received free home repairs from a group of volunteers who say it’s their way of saying “thank you” to those who have served the country.
November 2, 2023	Anti-Choking Devices	A family in Lowell, Massachusetts, has donated hundreds of anti-choking devices to schools in their community.
November 4, 2023	Repurposing Furniture for Needy	A Christian teacher is building custom furniture items out of his garage in Iowa... and it’s all for a good cause!
November 6, 2023	Overcoming Disabilities	A ten-year-old quadruple amputee says he’s on top of the world after summiting a 650-foot mountain to raise money for other children with disabilities.
November 10, 2023	Flagpole for Freedom	One family is making it their mission to remember veterans and their sacrifices by creating the world’s tallest flagpole and building a park to honor every fallen soldier.
November 11, 2023	Creating Hiring Opportunities	A brownie bakery outside New York City is creating sweet new hiring opportunities for all who have a passion for work!
November 13, 2023	Dental Care for Veterans	A Houston dentist met a U.S. Air Force veteran who was struggling with dental issues and decided to surprise him with \$15,000 worth of dental work.
November 16, 2023	Operation Christmas Child	Volunteers across the country are unrolling the packing tape this week as Operation Christmas Child has officially opened up their drop-off centers for <i>National Shoebox Collections Week!</i>

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November 21, 2023	Supporting Local Businesses	A business owner in Portland recently suffered a string of break-ins at his establishment, but amidst all the challenges, a stranger's selfless act sparked a chain of generosity in the community.
November 27, 2023	Ending Youth Crime	A man tracked down the teenager who mugged his nephew. Rather than hand him in to the police, he spoke to the teenager about turning his life around.
November 28, 2023	Giving Tuesday	Following two of the biggest shopping days of the year, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, <i>Giving Tuesday</i> celebrates generously giving back.
December 1, 2023	Food Bank Donation	Last week, an anonymous donor stepped forward with an extraordinary \$800,000 donation, completely covering the expenses associated with the relocation of a Food Bank in Auburn, Washington!
December 4, 2023	Spreading Christmas Cheer	Every Christmas, a woman in Philadelphia hands out hundreds of stuffed animals...not for kids, but for seniors in need of some Christmas cheer.
December 11, 2023	Sharing Christmas Hope	A family in Georgia has found a creative way to brighten Christmas for many while helping others all year long.
December 12, 2023	Tennessee Disaster Relief	As residents of Middle Tennessee continue to clean up following the devastating tornadoes that tore through the area on Saturday, relief organizations like <i>Convoy of Hope</i> have been on the ground serving the residents with food, water, and other necessities.
December 13, 2023	Christmas Sock Giveaway	Thanks to a generous teenager, there are hundreds of people across the nation getting socks for Christmas—they couldn't be happier about it.
December 14, 2023	Toys For Joy	Loud cheering amid encouraging words of prayer could be heard as over 2,500 families and children received donated toys and boxes filled with groceries during a California church's drive-through distribution event, <i>Toys for Joy</i> .

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December 15, 2023	Homes for Pets	A 9-year-old girl from Colorado has turned her personal loss into an inspiring mission to bring joy to pets without homes!
December 18, 2023	Giving Back to Veterans at Christmas	Christmas is a time when people give thanks and help their fellow neighbors. Military families are no exception. For the many American veterans who need a helping hand during the holiday, <i>Code of Vets</i> is there to step in.
December 19, 2023	Celebrating First Responders	First responders always deserve our gratitude, but especially during the holidays, and the <i>Tunnels to Towers Foundation</i> is helping do just that!
December 20, 2023	Feeding School Children at Christmas	A North Carolina teacher said with the help of donations from the community, she was able to buy \$100,000 worth of groceries at Costco to help feed 5,000 students in Durham Public Schools through the holiday break.
December 22, 2023	Giving Christmas to Homeless Charity	Christmas is the season of giving AND giving back! A former homeless man has decorated his home with more than 16,000 Christmas lights to raise money for a local homeless charity.