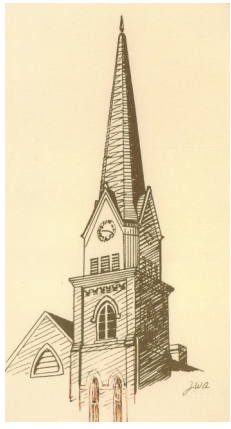


# Sewickley United Methodist Church



## August 2022 Newsletter

### *The Pastor's Peace*

According to the gospel of Matthew 25:14-30 investment is seen as a wise choice. One simple way to look at investing is using the money you have to make even more money. At first glance of the parable of the valuable coins in Matthew 25 it would seem this is exactly what the author is referring to. Once we take a deeper look, it becomes clear that this passage is about more than money. It starts off by saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like..." We are meant to automatically think about how this scripture refers to the kingdom of heaven. As money is a valuable resource and provides for people's needs, we understand that heaven is also a valuable thing. We are not meant to keep heaven to ourselves, but we are meant to share heaven with others. When we take the aspects of heaven that are the most real to us, i.e., peace, love, comfort, hope, stability, courage, Jesus, and we share those things with others, then we are like servant number one and servant number two, we are investing in the multiplication of light in this world. As we see with servant number three, who chose to bury the coin, Jesus speaks firmly against keeping what you know about heaven to yourself.

Here at Sewickley UMC, we have a lot of opportunities to invest the kingdom of heaven in other people. As we roll into August, we begin to look largely at what our Children's Program will be like for the coming year. One of the greatest investments we can make is in the children of our church. We are being faithful with who we have and, like the parable of the valuable coin, Jesus will multiply the gifts we are given to be responsible for. Matthew 25:21, 23, "You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much." Through sharing with our children our valuable resources of time, energy, skills, knowledge, love, and commitment, we aren't just investing in their lives, we are investing in the church, we are investing in the future of leaders, and we are investing in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Therefore, I ask you as a parent, as a pastor, as a voting member in our country, will you step up and offer the kingdom of heaven to those children whom God has given to us to care for? Will you remember the commitments you have made at their baptisms to help them walk in the way of Jesus? Will you give of your time, energy, skills, money, resources, faith, etc. to multiply that which is good in the world starting with the nurturing of those who are in our midst? Will you be a part of our Children's Program? If you are wondering what that would be like, please don't hesitate to reach out and ask. If you feel a little pull in your heart, a conviction of your Spirit, please don't ignore it.

In the famous words of a much loved Sunday school song, "this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine." Please make a commitment to shine your light over our children.

From one light to another,

*Hannah M. Loughman*  
Pastor Hannah Loughman

## HELP WANTED

The SUMC Children's Church teams are looking for adults and young people to join us in serving children during the 2022-2023 school year, which begins in September.

We offer children's programming during the 9 am and 11 am services. We're looking for people who can share Bible stories, or lead games and crafts, or imagine and plan new activities, or initiate and encourage prayer, or listen to and encourage young hearts. We have a 45-minute window each week to let the children know they are loved by Jesus and loved by their church family.

We have not yet determined the structure for the upcoming school year, but we are interested in meeting with people lifted by the opportunity to connect with students at the preschool, elementary, middle school and high school levels.

If you can help every week, or once month, or on occasion, as needed, we have a place for you.

To begin a conversation, see Pastor Hannah, Education chairperson Laura Powell, Andrea Lewis (11 am) or Bill Utterback (9 am).



## Sewickley Community Vacation Bible School



Ready to cook up some fun?

Sewickley Community Vacation Bible School begins Sunday, July 31, noon to 3 pm, and continues Monday through Wednesday, August 1 to 3, 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Our Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School invites children (K to 6th grade) to get on a roll with God as a Food Truck rolls into our neighborhood.

Parents, kids, and congregations will kick off VBS by sharing a meal on **Sunday, July 31**. Bring your own lunch, or purchase something yummy from the **Pittsburgh Smokehouse BBQ Food Truck**, which will offer pulled pork, brisket, hot dogs, and sides in the Sewickley United Methodist Church parking lot. All VBS Registered kids will have a FREE lunch.

Using Matthew 6:11, "Give us this day our daily bread," children are invited to pray as Jesus teaches. These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God, and our daily needs are met by God.

Through stories in both the Old and New Testaments, this VBS opens kids' eyes to the countless ways God provides, loves, and cares for us while inviting them to join God in providing, loving, and caring for others. The goal of "Food Truck Party" is to help children build on the practice of using daily prayer to turn to God for their needs—and also to serve as the hands of God in ensuring that the needs of others are met.

Kids entering Kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to join us **Sunday, July 31, noon to 3 pm and August 1-3, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**, at Sewickley United Methodist Church, 337 Broad Street, Sewickley. Register at

[sewickleyumc.org/vbs](http://sewickleyumc.org/vbs)



## Worship Opportunities - August 2022



Contemporary Worship Service: 9 am  
 Traditional Worship Service: 11 am  
 Our Worship Services are live streamed on  
[sewickleyumc.org](http://sewickleyumc.org) and [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

The recorded services are also available later on Sunday afternoon.



## August Worship Schedule

Let's have the hard conversations...

As I began to gather a list of what people felt were the most controversial scriptures in the Bible, a lot of the ones I expected people to say came up. People asked about the scripture that talks about women not leading over men, the way slaves should behave, homosexuality, and women being submissive to their husbands. As I was looking these passages up I came across the website [whatchristianswanttoknow.com](http://whatchristianswanttoknow.com) and found an article titled "Top 5 Controversial Bible Verses with Commentary." Since this was exactly what I was looking for, I proceeded to read. I was surprised to learn that all 5 scriptures referenced were things that Jesus said. It dawned on me; this is where we should begin. If Jesus is the one who reveals to us God and the one whom we should follow, it is his words that should inform the way we read everything else. We are going to start with Jesus, and you guessed it, we will spend the next 4 weeks talking about some very controversial things he has said.

**August 7, 2022**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Liturgist:** Donna Sawhill

**Scripture Lessons:** Luke 14:25-33

**Message:** "Hate All of Your Family"

Do I really have to hate my family? That is after all what this scripture is telling me. I thought we weren't supposed to hate anyone but love everyone. Is it really impossible to follow Jesus and to love my family also? A common theme throughout a lot of scripture is one of sacrifice. It is no surprise then that we are called to sacrifice that which we love to follow Jesus. But is the sacrifice we are asked to make the sacrifice of love in exchange for hate?

**August 14, 2022**

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Liturgist:** Willie Nicholson

**Scripture Lesson:** Matthew 18:6-10

**Message:** "Poke Your Own Eye Out"

In this controversial passage Jesus tells us it would be better to cut off our hand or take out our eyes if they cause us to sin. Do we really believe that Jesus is all for self-mutilation or bodily harm? After all, other passages tell us our bodies are temples and we are to treat them as sacred. What is so important to Jesus that he would have us go to such extremes to avoid it from happening?

**August 21, 2022**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**Liturgist:** Susie Moffett

**Scripture Lessons:** Matthew 10:34-39

**Message:** "Not Peace, but a Sword..."

Here is another passage that plays on the idea of hating one's family to follow Jesus. This passage expounds on that by also saying not only do you have to hate your family but also your life and that basically Jesus did not come for peace but for a sword, which is a weapon of personal destruction. This all seems contrary to everything else we know about Jesus. In another scripture Jesus told everyone, blessed are the peace makers; does this not include himself? It is passages like this one, when woefully misunderstood, that lead to so much harm in our family systems, in our communities and in the spiritual life of our children. Remember though, we were told to protect them at all costs.

**August 28, 2022**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Liturgist:** Mitch Hortert

**Scripture Lessons:** Matthew 5:21-26

**Message:** "Anger Leads to Judgement, Calling Someone a Fool Leads to Hell"

If anger and name calling was the sin that led straight to hell, I believe most of us would be doomed. This is what this passage tells us, at least at first read. But once we look at it in context, we understand the heart of Jesus does not want us to be in conflict with one another. Sometimes making up is hard to do, but it is what heaven is made of. Here Jesus gives us an opportunity to experience heaven on earth.

**FOOD PANTRY**

**COLLECTION**

School will be starting in a few weeks! Please consider contributing healthy breakfast foods so local families can start the day with a nourishing meal. For example, cereals, pancake mix, breakfast bars, canned fruit and juice. Contributions of other non-perishable food items and paper products are also welcome. Donations go to the Sewickley Community Food Pantry and may be placed in the grocery cart in the hallway leading to the library. The Pantry, located at 15 Chadwick St., is open to all in the 15143, 15056 and 15108 zip codes on every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 11:30 am—1 pm.



**MISSION U** — Mission u is an annual event offering opportunities for adults, youth and children to grow spiritually, learn about issues affecting society and experience Christian mission in its many forms. Mission u is sponsored jointly by the Conference Global Ministries team and the United Women of Faith and will be held at Jumonville August 19-21. This year's theme is "Who Can We Be Together?" For more information and to register visit [wpaumc.org/eventdetail/16525942](http://wpaumc.org/eventdetail/16525942)



**A PEACH OF A TIME**

Many thanks for making our first Peach Festival a great success! We served close to 100 people, including a roofing contractor working at the parsonage who bought 2 pans of cobbler! More than a dozen helpers peeled peaches, scooped cobbler and ice cream, served hotdogs and ham barbecue, washed pans, and counted money. Our profit of \$500 went to the general fund. One diner took a Blessing Bag which Outreach put together for those in need. More bags are available in the Simpson Room.



**SUMMER FUN WITH THE WOMEN'S SHARING GROUP**

All ladies are invited to join in summer fun with the Women's Sharing Group. The Women's Group will travel to Volant on Wednesday, August 24th, to visit an Amish market, browse the shops, and eat lunch. Rides will be provided from the church parking lot at 10 am. Please contact Pat Grossarth, Sandy Kuriger, or Donna Sawhill to save a spot by August 19th.



UMCOR is continuing its work to relieve distress in many parts of the world. It is actively providing direct relief – including food, water, shelter and medical assistance – to Ukrainians who remain in country and to those who have fled to other parts of Europe. Methodist pastors who remain in Lviv and Kharkiv are helping to shelter and care for displaced persons with UMCOR's support ("Advance #982450-Ukraine"). In the United States, UMCOR is supporting Afghans and other refugees who are being resettled here. It is also responding to many disasters such as Western wildfires, flooding and tornadoes in the Midwest and is preparing for hurricane season response efforts (Advance # 901670 – US Disaster Response and Recovery). Information about UMCOR's full range of programs is available at [umcmmission.org/umcor](http://umcmmission.org/umcor). Donations to UMCOR may be made with your regular offering or by EasyTithe (please mark your donation UMCOR and add the name of the project) or at the UMCOR website.



**BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES** — Does your child need back to school supplies? Back to school sign-ups are going on now through North Hills Community Outreach! Call their office, or visit any of their food pantries to sign your child up to receive a new backpack and school supplies for the upcoming year. For any questions, please contact: Vicki Burstynowicz, Sharing Projects Coordinator (412-487-6316 x3143 / vdburst@nhco.org) You can learn more about NHCO and their many services offered to Northern Allegheny County residents at [nhco.org](http://nhco.org).

**RURAL LIFE SUNDAY** – This special offering will be received on **August 7** for the purpose of strengthening nurture, witness and outreach in town and rural areas. If you wish to support Rural Life initiatives, mark your gift "Rural Life" or select that option on EasyTithe.





**Remember our Shut-ins**

Please write to our shut-ins and keep them in your prayers. The church office can provide you with contact information.

Sylvia Bajsec
Jim and Olive Chewing
Mignon Emmert
Renee Gittins
Atleah Grubb
Virginia Harriger
Jan Jones
B.J. (Elizabeth) Manzinger
Pat Rudy
Patricia Smith
Shirley Sye
Lura Zaremba

Every month at our Council meeting we are encouraged to write something for the monthly newsletter. I have good intentions to do this, but the deadline rolls around and another month goes by. The last year or more has been challenging, frustrating and rewarding for the SUMC Trustees. We have seen many major issues that needed to be addressed, not surprisingly, in this nearly 200-year-old church.



the Simpson Room, which has been a great improvement in helping to keep that room cooler. One of the walls in the Simpson Room was repaired and all the walls were painted. The ceiling of the Simpson Room will be painted later this summer. The church office wall facing the parking lot was repaired and painted.

In late June 2021 most of the basement was flooded. After the cleanup was completed, it was observed that the floor tiles were starting to come loose. It was further determined that the tiles contained asbestos and needed to be removed before anything else could happen. After a lot of planning and work, the asbestos abatement was completed as well as new carpeting and tiling installed. Along with the moving process, both to and from the classrooms and nursery, a lot of time was spent going through things and purging of a lot of clutter and items no longer needed. It was a long and arduous process, but what came out of it was a safer revitalized fresh space.

Last fall the exterior wood trim of the stained-glass windows was painted and masonry work was done on the exterior part of church. A grant was applied for and received to help pay for work on the church roof, which will start this fall. The parsonage porch roof is in the process of being shored up and repaired. In the spring new larger more powerful ceiling fans were installed in

Over the course of the heating season, we had many old pipes burst and needed to be replaced. The boiler system has had extensive work done on it replacing parts and pipes. More work will be completed before the next heating season begins to address what was determined to be the cause of the flooding.

In the spring eight exterior security cameras were installed, allowing the Guardians to see the full exterior of the church via the new security station in the back of the sanctuary.

These are all major projects, but there are always smaller things that come up on a weekly basis and are taken care of by the Trustees. All of these things are the physical aspect of the church but play an important role in the spiritual aspect in creating a beautiful atmosphere to worship and praise God.

Respectfully yours,  
Jenine Furry, Chair of the Trustees

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS



The **PUMPKINS** are scheduled to arrive on **October 1<sup>st</sup> at 9 am** and we need **YOU** to help unload this precious orange cargo. The more people we have, the faster the truck gets unloaded. If you know of any organizations needing community service hours, please let Lou Ann Scott or Diane Bartley know so we can reach out to them sooner rather than later.

We also need volunteers to work the patch the entire month of October and need a few people to head up some sub-committees for this fundraiser/outreach project along with someone to work with Lou Ann and Diane this year to head up this project for next year. Please consider this as we don't want to see this go away. Many people in the community and surrounding areas look forward to it. See Lou Ann or Diane with any questions!



Atleah Grubb	8/4		Andrea Lewis	8/18
Jordyn Loughman	8/5		Matthew Malarik	8/18
Kara Wayne	8/5		Grace Rogansky	8/21
Blair McCombs	8/6		Lou Ann Scott	8/24
William Keisel	8/8		Kelly Herman	8/25
Felicity Moffett	8/8		Ron Smith	8/25
David Malarik III	8/9		Bill Kuriger, Sr.	8/27
Martha Boward	8/10	Jack Leety	Ansel Ream	8/27
Alexander Clifford	8/10	Dolores McCoy	Brooke Guzma	8/29
Tom Wright	8/10	Kim Benjamin	Eliana Gaebel	8/30
Rose Fishter	8/11	Pat Rudy		

Let's break with protocol.

Our pattern suggests we lift focused prayer together at sunset on the first Sunday of every month. But this year, July has five Sundays, and I'm confident you will have this newsletter in your inbox before sunset on July 31.

So let's lift prayer for our Vacation Bible School as the sun sets around 8:36 pm on July 31. From wherever you are, with whomever wants to join you, lift a prayer for the children, their families and all the volunteers involved in our "Food Truck Party" community VBS, which runs from July 31 through August 3.

Let's give thanks for this opportunity to share the Love and Light of Jesus.

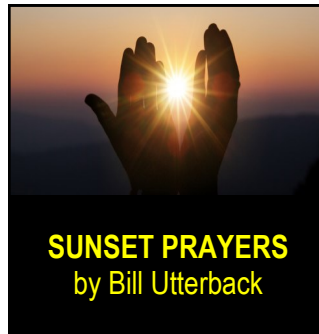
Let's pray for folks at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Let's pray for folks at St. Matthews AME Zion Church.

Let's pray for our SUMC family.

Let's pray for folks who join us from outside the three sponsoring churches.

Let's ask Our Lord to use this opportunity to grow our relationships – with Him and with each other - in ways that extend beyond our time together at VBS.



And then, on August 7, as the sun sets around 8:28 pm, from wherever you are, with whomever wants to join you, let's lift a back-to-school prayer for everyone returning to classrooms, from pre-school through college, including all who are home-schooled, in August.

Let's pray for students, their families, teachers, counselors, coaches, administrators, and everyone involved in supporting students through the school year.

Let's pray for peace and protection.

Let's pray for relationships.


Let's pray for growth.

Let's pray that they find joy and encouragement, light and love.

Lord, let them see you in new ways in the new school year. Let them, students and adults, see that they are valued, they belong, they are included and they can include others, they are loved and can love others, they are contributing, and they are blessed. Amen.



Ashleah & Nick Martinez	8/7
Frank & Dawn Cannister	8/10
Tom & Fay Wright	8/22

	Betty Dornetta Mark Ebner Nancy Erdmann Shirley Gerthung (Wilma Hamilton's sister) Jessica H. Beate Henkel Brandy K. Henrietta Kretzler Lisa L. Mary Maminski Family of Baby Maya Tom Moog Lorraine Offner Dominic Odom	Heather Rose (Jennifer Jones' cousin) Amy Richart Jim Rogansky Karen Shong C.R. & Lorraine Simpson Debbie Smith Ron Smith Family of Jackie Sweeney Bill Teed Joseph Umer Ernest Wallace Ryan Warden Rich Z. Dennis Zeveny
John A. Hurst Bartley Betty Burrows (Wilma Hamilton's sister-in-law) Betty Carrol Cathy Jack Certain Irene Chenot (Beth Zeanchock's mom) Dan Chewning Bruno Crapis		



## 2021 STATE OF THE CHURCH REPORT

[View the 9:45 minute State of the Church video](#)

### Who do you say I am?

This State of the Church Report describes how The United Methodist Church, over this past year, has sought to better define its missional and theological identity. We have done that at a very sensitive time in the life of our church and in the context of our decades-long struggle over how to be in ministry with our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Our efforts have led us to ask a question similar to the one put to Peter. Who do we say that we are?

#### Identity: *Who do we say we are?*

The United Methodist Church is a global, diverse church.

*“United Methodists all over the world are liturgical, contemporary, charismatic, social activists, urban, suburban, small town, rural and much more. We are children, youth, young adults, senior adults, new and mature Christians. We are present on four continents, in more than 45 countries, and we comprise an unknown number of cultures and languages, all under the cross and the flame.”*

- 12 million members on 4 continents, in more than 45 countries
- 30,500 churches in the US and 12,800 outside the US
- Overall giving for 2022 year-to-date has doubled over last year, reaching \$68M compared to \$30M in 2021

#### Unity amid division

We know that the world is divided. But we cannot replicate the divisions of the world. *“We cannot be a church shaped by our political positions. We cannot be a traditional church or a progressive church or a centrist church. We cannot be a gay or straight church. Rather, Christ calls us to make space for one another, appreciate one another, and look for Christ in each other.”*

We claim the diversity and unity of our church — a church that includes brothers and sisters in Africa, the Philippines, Europe, North American and beyond. It is a beautiful and diverse connection: *“... a holy communion of different races, ethnicities, cultures, and perspectives united by the Holy Spirit, driven by the mission of Christ, and bearing the good news of an unmerited grace that changes lives and transforms communities.”*

#### #BeUMC: Claiming our identity

In the process of claiming our identity, we opened ourselves to a broad range of collaborative partners. The Council of Bishops worked with the Connectional Table and our agencies, especially United Methodist Communications, to shape messaging that will help the world understand who we are and generate conversation, within our connection, about what it means to be United Methodist.

We were joined in that effort by others, including an informal strategy group made up of delegates and other leaders in the connection. Those leaders have been the grassroots energy that has moved this effort forward. Together, we have shaped messaging that has found expression in the #BeUMC campaign.

#### Disciple making

We are a global connection that makes disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In that sense, we are who we have always been, a people rooted in Scripture, especially the Gospel call to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

We do this work all over the world by offering life-changing worship, spiritual formation for people of all ages and cultures, and by putting spiritual disciplines like prayer, study, and fasting at the center of our lives. Forming and nurturing disciples of Jesus Christ is fundamental to our identity.

#### Belonging and inclusion

We are a Wesleyan body grounded in a theology of grace. We want to ensure that all can find belonging and inclusion in our global church—no matter race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender or gender identity, ability, or political persuasion. We are one in Christ and committed to being a welcoming people, a reconciling people, a people who seek to heal the wounds caused by the times when we have not fully lived up to our call.

*“All of our members, clergy, local churches and annual conferences will continue to have a home in the ... United Methodist Church, whether they consider themselves liberal, evangelical, progressive, traditionalist, middle of the road, conservative, centrist or something else.”*

If you belong to Christ, or would like to, you can belong to us.

#### Influence, connection and impact

Twelve million members strong, The United Methodist Church is a force for global health, the education and welfare of children, care of the environment, and disaster relief. Because of our long commitment to missions, and because of the collaborative partnerships we have nurtured over decades, we are able to sway decisions and provide services that impact lives on just about every continent.

We also are a people who dig deep. Despite a global pandemic that has affected all of our economies, we have continued to support our flagship educational institutions, like Africa University; our world-class disaster relief organization, UMCOR; and the many other ministries funded with apportionments. Because of that kind of generosity and commitment, the cross and flame are recognizable all over the world as the sign of a people and partners who help.

#### Experience of God through the UMC

We are a worshipping body, a praying body, a body of Christ that regularly grounds itself in theological understandings that undergird our experience with the triune God. We speak often of grace, because it is grace that woos us into relationship with Jesus Christ, grace that makes us right with Christ, then grace that perfects us in the image of God. With arms outstretched to the least and the lost, it is grace that drives us to invite others into a life-changing experience of God in Jesus Christ through The United Methodist Church.

Who do you say we are?

We are the Church. We are a global connection.

We are the diverse body of Christ.

We are The United Methodist Church!

And we invite you to [#BeUMC](#) with us.

For bells are the voice of the church; They have tones that touch and search the hearts of young and old.

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

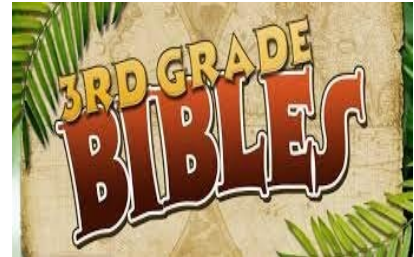
THANK YOU! Due to your generosity, we've reached our goal!  
Thanks to your donations, plus \$500 from the Memorial Fund, the \$2000 needed to cover the additional repairs our bells so greatly need has been raised.

Thank you from your SUMC Clocktower Ringers — We look forward to sounding our best!!



We look forward to recognizing our church family members who are entering 3rd grade this coming school year. See our current list below. If we are incorrect, have misspelled your child's name or have missed including your child, please help us make it right by reaching out to Sandra Lane (412)841-7169.

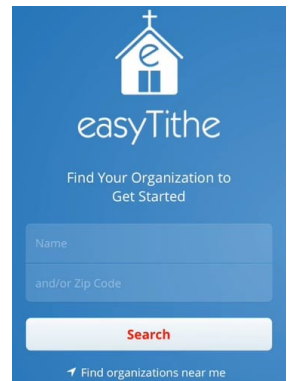
- ◆ Arabella Burnett
- ◆ David Malarik
- ◆ Emilia Martinez



We are using "easyTithe" to offer online giving to our church family. Those who choose to give in this way can create a secure account from via easyTithe and set up recurring giving

with selected funds, frequency, and amount. easyTithe allows you to securely give via your bank account or credit/debit card. You can give online by visiting the giving page on our [website](#). SUMC pays a monthly service fee to easyTithe, plus easyTithe charges us 3% for each donation made. **When giving via easyTithe, please considering covering the 3% transaction fee.**

You can also give via the easyTithe Mobile App. It is a simple as downloading the app to your smartphone and setting up your profile information in just a couple of steps. Once setup, you can choose to make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving.



The Safety and Security Ministry was created in 2018 as a precautionary and proactive program to protect our church family. Since its inception, active shooter incidents are even more

predominant than ever, further supporting the need for this ministry.

While the possibility of anyone causing us harm at SUMC is slim, we continue to exercise due diligence by expanding and upgrading our protocols in the Safety and Security Ministry. Updates for you:

- Added 8 outdoor cameras providing a 360 degree view of the entire building and grounds. These cameras are watched on Sundays along with interior first floor cameras by our Guardians.

- We have a trauma kit on site, located on the main floor on the glass display case in the hallway between the sanctuary and Simpson room. This kit is specially packaged for use in the event of a massive incident before emergency personnel arrive.
- We have an AED kit secured to the wall in the hallway between the sanctuary and Simpson room. This kit is used to deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help re-establish an effective heart rhythm.
- **Coming in September:** Evacuation training for our congregation, teachers and staff — all are invited to participate in a police led ALICE training (Active Shooter response training).
- Fire exit maps are now posted throughout the building. You'll see markings for other critical safety implements on these maps as well: i.e., fire extinguishers, trauma kits, first aid kits, door blockers, air horns, etc. Please familiarize yourself with these exits and implements.



The story of Jesus and the Roman Centurion, found in the eighth chapter of Matthew's Gospel, is among my favorite to share with the children.

Jesus heals the soldier's servant.

We don't know the name of the servant. We don't know his location. We don't know his nationality, his faith background, what language he speaks. We don't know anything about his circumstances. But the Centurion asks Jesus to bless his ailing servant. He trusts Jesus, and Jesus responds.

"I can't help him, Lord. But I know you can."

Matthew tell us that Jesus "was amazed," and you can feel his joy and his energy rise in the passage.

"Let it be done just as you believed," Jesus said.

Don't you hear the story of the Centurion echoing in our Operation Christmas Child campaign?

As we gather gifts, we don't know the names of the children who will receive them. We don't know their location. We don't know their nationality, their faith background, or the language they speak. We don't know anything about their circumstances. But we trust Jesus.

We can't help them, Lord. But we know you can.

The Sewickley UMC family, led by the Fellowship of the Cross, has trusted God with more than 1,100 shoeboxes in the past 11 years. We have packed 100 or more boxes in each of the past 10 years. In addition to the Dominican Republic and Honduras, our boxes have reached children in Ecuador, Columbia, the Bahamas and multiple nations in Africa. Twice, our boxes have



reached children in Ukraine.

August is traditionally a month shaped by your contributions of school supplies. Our greatest needs this year include pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, scissors, rulers (with a metric edge) and glue sticks. We always welcome crayons, markers,


colored pencils, notebooks, erasers and paper.

The Fellowship of the Cross will also be accepting donations such as combs and brushes, small toys, balls, stuffed animals, jewelry, hair accessories, socks and t-shirts, ball caps and water bottles. We can accept very "gently-used" gifts. We cannot accept toothpaste, bar soap, liquids of any kind, war-themed gifts or candy.

A collection box for OCC sits outside the church office, and we can accept financial gifts through church-giving windows throughout the year which helps cover the \$10 per box processing and shipping cost.

FOTC is immensely thankful to everyone who left something beneath the trees in the sanctuary during our Christmas in July services, and we're thankful for everyone who has contributed gifts and empty shoeboxes through spring into summer. We are thankful for Kara, Elliott and Evarett as they continue to take our shoeboxes and gift wrap them through the summer.

We are thankful for everyone who, in faith, contributes to our OCC campaign. We are encouraged as we hear each of you whisper, "I can't help them, Lord. But I know you can." We know He is amazed by all of you.



BLOOD DRIVE

The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.

Give blood.

Vitalant will have a BLOOD DRIVE on **Sunday, September 25th** right here at SUMC. If you regularly give blood, consider timing your donations so you can participate in this drive. Look for registration information soon. The last date you can donate whole blood to be able to give during this drive is July 31st. Some restrictions on who may donate have changed, so if you were once excluded, you are encouraged to call Vitalant to check if you may now donate. For further information on qualifications, please visit [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org) or call (877) 25 VITAL.

**2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH JUNE**



	2022 Budget	Budgeted to Date	Paid/Received to Date	Over or (Under)
TOTAL EXPENSES	279,196.04	148,182.94	159,831.82	11,648.88
TOTAL RECEIPTS	279,216.00	129,307.98	135,166.36	5,858.38
OVERAGE (DEFICIT)	19.96	(18,874.96)	(24,664.46)	

**Sewickley**  
United Methodist Church



We are excited to announce the launch of our first SUMC-produced podcast, “I Hear Jesus.”

The first episode, “Boy at the River,” was released on July 27 on all major podcast apps including Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Spotify. In addition, it is also on SUMC’s YouTube page.

The link for our podcast page is: [ihearjesus.podbean.com](http://ihearjesus.podbean.com)

The podcasts are aimed primarily at a Pre-K through upper elementary audience. A new episode will be released every Wednesday through August 24.

Each episode is based upon a Bible story, mixing scripture with original content, insight and observations. Prayer is included with each episode. The first five podcasts feature Jesus in nature: at a river, in the wilderness, in a storm, among the trees, and on a beach.

The podcasts have been produced by Lauren Lang, who has shared her expertise, imagination, equipment and incredible patience. Susie Moffett and Bill Utterback serve as the podcast’s hosts, and the cast has included Pastor Hannah as well as Todd, Owyn, Jordyn, Jack, Genevieve, Felicity, Eric, Johnathan, Jade, Arabella, Gideon, Riley and Ben. Pamela and Grace are also part of our team.

Genevieve wrote and performed our theme song.

Together, we have heard Jesus urging us to explore this new path toward sharing our faith, our hope, our peace and our love. In the process, we’re learning more about Him, the way He loves us and the ways we can work together to share and celebrate His love. We hope to provide more opportunities for church family to contribute as we continue our walk. Please keep us wrapped in prayer, and please consider sampling our work and, if you like what you hear, sharing the news and the link with anyone who might be interested in “I Hear Jesus.”

**FOR THOSE 70½ AND OLDER— MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR IRA**

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year, as long as certain rules are met. As those over the age of 70½ know, you are required to take an annual distribution from your IRA or face a stiff penalty. Since you have to take a distribution anyway, you can do it in the most tax advantaged way possible. Rather than using a portion of your required IRA distribution to give donations to the church, you might consider making a QCD directly to the church.

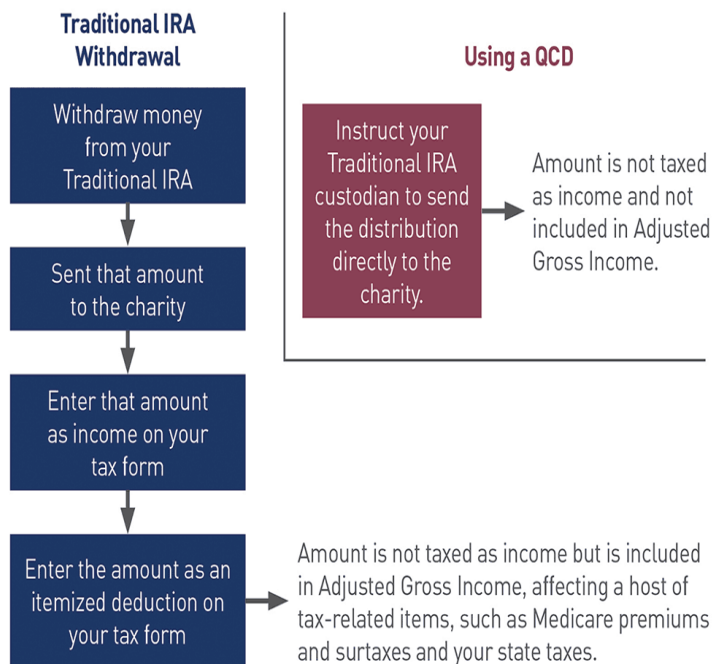
In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.

To make a contribution, instruct your IRA trustee or custodian to make a transfer from the IRA directly to Sewickley United Methodist Church.

Please reach out to your financial planner or IRA trustee/custodian with about the process and how it can benefit both you and SUMC.

Blessings,  
Pam Honeychurch  
SUMC Treasurer

QCD Versus Traditional IRA Withdrawal



Source: PNC

# AUGUST 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> 11am One Combined Worship Service 12pm Fellowship Meal (bring your own or order from the visiting food truck) 12 - 3pm VBS 6:30pm Growth Group: Everything is Spiritual	<b>1</b> 5:30 - 7:30pm VBS 7pm AA	<b>2</b> 5:30 - 7:30pm VBS 7pm AA	<b>3</b> 5:30 - 7:30pm VBS 6:30pm Leap of Faith	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Traditional Service 6:30pm Growth Group: Everything is Spiritual	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Finance 6:30pm Trustees 7pm AA 7:30pm Council	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Exodus, Leviticus & Numbers 7pm AA	<b>10</b> 10am SUMC Prayer Group 6:30pm Leap of Faith	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Traditional Service 2 - 3pm Learning Tree Parent Orientation 6:30pm Growth Group: Everything is Spiritual	<b>15</b> 7pm AA	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Exodus, Leviticus & Numbers 7pm AA	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Leap of Faith	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Traditional Service 6:30pm Growth Group: Everything is Spiritual	<b>22</b> 7pm AA	<b>23</b> 7pm AA	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Leap of Faith	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Traditional Service 6:30pm Growth Group: Everything is Spiritual	<b>29</b> 7pm AA	<b>30</b> 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Acts 7pm AA	<b>31</b> 6:30pm Leap of Faith	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>3</b>

Pastor Hannah's availability: I am available Tuesday through Friday, 8:45 am to 4:45 pm. On Sundays I am available following the church service till 4 p.m. If I am not in the office, I can be reached via my cell phone. I am available after-hours on my cell phone for emergencies. My email address is open 24 hours a day and, with the exceptions of Mondays, which is my day off, I will respond in a timely manner.

Church Office: (412) 741-9430  
 Pastor's Office: (412) 741-9433  
 Cell Phone: (412) 294-7587  
 E Mail: [pastor@sewickleyumc.org](mailto:pastor@sewickleyumc.org)  
 Website: [www.sewickleyumc.org](http://www.sewickleyumc.org)

**SEWICKLEY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

337 Broad St., Sewickley, PA 15143

Rev. Hannah Loughman, Pastor

412-741-9430

secretary@sewickleyumc.org

sewickleyumc.org



*Sunday School: 10 am  
(September—May)*

*Contemporary Worship: 9 am*

*Traditional Worship: 11 am*

*Sewickley United Methodist Church is a faith community that meets in the building with the clock tower, which stands at the entrance to the village.*

*Our motto is: "The Church with Time for You."*

*In a world that knows hostility, we give time for hospitality, community, and fellowship.*

*In a world that knows aimless searching, we give time for spiritual development.*

*In a world that knows idols, we give time to creatively worship the God of love.*

*In a world that knows ignorance, we give time to hear and learn the biblical story.*

*In this world God loves, we seek to be followers of Jesus, the one who gave His life to demonstrate trust, hope, and love.*

*As we use the gift of time to meet on Sundays for education and worship, we invite you to meet with a community that gathers under the clock to pay attention to the One whose love is ever timeless.*