



Sewickley United Methodist Church

August 2023 Newsletter

The Pastor's Peace

Changemakers Lab! That is the title of our upcoming Community Vacation Bible School. We will be spending the week encouraging the kids through a variety of Bible stories and our own modern day experiences about how to be a changemaker. Over the course of the week we will highlight four different areas of changemakers in our community and the people in them. Those areas include a lifelong nurse named Ada Milliner, the Sewickley Fire department, including our very own Grace Rogansky, Quaker Valley High School band members and D.T. Care employees. Their commitments and sacrifices have brought about some powerful and positive changes in people's lives. However, not every step along the way to making that change was a glamorous step to take. It is often in the simple day-to-day tasks, the trainings we go through, the people we learn from, that prepare us for when the time comes to step up and be a changemaker.

Changemakers come in many shapes and sizes. Changemakers have a variety of responsibilities. Changemakers encompass a large age range and a large range of capabilities. The one thing all changemakers have in common is the willingness to serve. This is where I jump in and ask, "ARE YOU WILLING TO BE A CHANGEMAKER?" If the answer is yes, we have a variety of ways for you to serve.

Education: We are looking for those who are willing to commit their time and energy to the kids of our church and helping to educate them on who Jesus is during our 9 am and 11 am services. We are also looking for those who would be willing to lead a Bible study, either in person or over Zoom. Would a Friday evening work best for you? I have heard it would for others too!

SAS: Do you feel called to help lead our church through the changes that come with implementing the new administrative structure? Would you like to serve on the Leadership Board?

Worship: Both the contemporary and traditional worship services are looking for those who are willing to help others feel welcomed and wanted when they walk through our doors. Maybe hospitality is your gift and you'd like to greet people. Perhaps you are more of a behind the scenes type of person. We have a booth with high walls that can conceal you as you run the slide show and/or care for the audio and visual needs.

Pumpkin Patch: It won't be long before we start asking for volunteers to help unload the truck of pumpkins, which this year will take place on September 30th. We also will be looking for those willing to engage with the community as you ring up the many pumpkins they will buy. Mark your calendars for a busy October!

In the midst of all of these activities will be opportunities to serve your neighbor, pray for each other, share the love of Jesus and witness to your faith. When we do these things, there is no doubt powerful and positive change will happen!

Join me in being a changemaker for Jesus! I look forward to hearing from you about the ways you would like to serve.

From one light to another,

Hannah M. Loughman
Pastor Hannah Loughman

Pastor Hannah's availability: I am available Monday—Wednesday and Friday, 9am—5pm. After 5pm, by appointment only. On Sundays I am available following the church service till 4pm. 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 Thursdays, 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
Website: www.sewickleyumc.org

Sewickley

United Methodist Church

NEW Member Classes

New Members during the church service in which they typically attend. To learn more, contact Pastor Hannah at pastor@sewickleyumc.org. Even if you are already a member, this would be a great opportunity to get reconnected to your Methodist roots and the "why" behind intentional discipleship.

Beginning August 13, we will be holding New Member classes. We will meet every Sunday, **through September 3**, following the 11am service in the Simpson Room where a light lunch will be provided. On **September 10th** we will receive our

JOINT ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICE with a COMMUNITY BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

On **August 13th** there will be a community worship service followed by a picnic hosted by the congregations of



St. Matthews AME Zion, St. Paul's Lutheran, Sewickley United Methodist and Sewickley Presbyterian. It will be at 4 pm on the lawn of the Faith House located at the Sewickley Presbyterian Church. Folks from SUMC are asked to bring side dishes and desserts. Be sure to bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. During the service there will be a Back to School Blessing. All kids, youth and adults who attend school or volunteer or work in an education setting are welcome to bring a school related item with them to be blessed for the upcoming school year and receive a blessing themselves. This includes those on the home front as well. We've got your back! Whether you are connected to one of these congregations or not, the worship service and picnic are open to everyone.

Children's CHURCH

Do you remember being small, and learning about our faith in church? This is passed from generation to generation, and we have a responsibility to share our faith so our children have a strong foundation to rely on through life.

Children's Church, during the 11am service, is looking for 1-2 adult leaders and 1-2 assistants, each serving 1x a month. Training will be provided and you will be free to add your own special touches, the schedule runs September through May. Trading your week is easy if you can't make your scheduled week.

Each session, geared for children from age 4 through 5th grade, runs for about 45 minutes, until church lets out.

Children sit with their family in church until after Children's Moments, and then proceed to the upper room. Once there, they sit in a circle and share group activities, watch a Christian video or listen to a Christian story, telling stories from the Bible. Children who enjoy keeping busy as they watch are offered crafts.

Sometimes special service projects are created for church missions.

These are small group sessions so the children get to know each other and form bonds as they learn.

Will you consider adding this small commitment to your mission work? If so, please contact Andrea Lewis at 412-926-7829 (text if possible or leave VM). Thank you

Worship Opportunities - August 2023



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

The recorded services are also available later on Sunday afternoon



August 6, 2023
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
VBS Sunday
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Liturgist: Donna Sawhill
Scripture Lesson: Matthew 5:13-16
Message: Changemakers!

One of the easiest ways to change the flavor of your food is with salt. Now, there is certainly a point of too much salt. The unfortunate thing about too much salt is there is no way to take it back. However, if salt is used well, it can both enhance the flavor of your food and preserve it to last longer in the fridge.

Salt is both beneficial and necessary but can also be harmful when there is too much. The same thing can be said about light.

Too much light can blind us or others, but if used well it can illuminate the things around us. It is interesting then that Jesus would say we are the salt and light in the world. Why did Jesus equate us as these two things specifically?

August 13, 2023
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Liturgist: Willie Nicholson
Scripture Lesson: Romans 10:5-15
Message: "Why Pray?"

I often get asked the question, "does prayer work?" It really depends on what people mean by "work" that determines the answer to that question. If you mean, does God answer all of our prayers exactly how we pray them? "No." If you mean, will prayer draw me closer to God? "Yes." Prayer works. We just don't always understand what prayer is for. Join us for a three week series on the power and importance of prayer!

August 20, 2023
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Liturgist: Mitch Amago
Scripture Lesson: Psalm 145
Message: Praise the Lord!

There is an acronym I use when I am journaling my prayers. Sometimes I stray from this, but it helps to keep me focused. P.R.A.Y. Praise. Repent. Ask. Yield. I love how easy it is to remember and all the pieces it includes. I especially like that it starts with praise! What is the importance of praise as a prayer? Is this only something we can do when we are in the mood? Must we feel every word of praise in order to speak it? What would happen if we all began our days and prayers with praise? Praise the Lord!

August 27, 2023
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Liturgist: Laura Powell
Scripture Lesson: 2 Chronicles 7:11-16
Message: Repent

This one word can carry with it such a heavy burden yet when it is done the burden is light. To repent is to turn from something you know to be wrong and to turn toward God. Prayer can be a form of repentance, but it is only the beginning. The words must turn into deeds but prayer can be the vehicle through which we find the strength to do what needs to be done. Repent and believe.



Disability Awareness Sunday

SUMC will observe Disability Awareness Sunday on **August 20th**. The United Methodist Social Principles call the Church to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and support full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community.

The donations received through this special offering will be used to promote awareness of disability issues and to support ministries that provide opportunities for fuller inclusion of people with disabilities. In the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference donations have been used for ministries that promote the work of creating architectural and attitudinal accessibility in local churches.

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION — Back-to-school time is near.

In August we will collect breakfast foods (cereal, granola bars, pancake mix, syrup, etc.) and child-friendly foods (peanut butter, canned fruit, soup, etc.) for the Sewickley Community Food Pantry. Contributions of other non-perishable food items and paper products are always welcome. Donations may be placed in the grocery carts in the hallway by the library and by the sanctuary entrance in the Narthex. The Pantry (15 Chadwick St.) is open to all in the 15143, 15056 and 15108 zip codes every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 11:30am-1pm.



The **KIDS' COMMUNITY CLOSET** "free-cycle" space at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (616 Washington St, Sewickley) is open on Saturdays, 10am to 1pm for everyone. There are no income guidelines, applications or donations necessary to shop at no cost. They are

also taking donations of kids' clothes, newborn to youth, on an ongoing basis.

MULCH SPREADING PARTY:

Saturday, August 26, 8:30am start

It's time to add mulch to the playground!! 40 yards will be delivered and that's a whole lotta mulch. Can you please join us, even for a short while? Helpful items to bring are a firm metal rake, shovel and/or wheelbarrow.

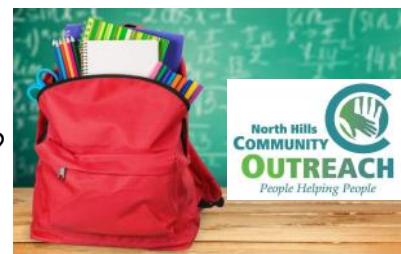


We must know who plans to come, so please let Sandra Lane know in advance if you plan to volunteer. She will not assume you'll be there; please tell her. If there are not enough church people she needs time to arrange for outside help. Text or call her @ (412) 841-7169 or email at slane819@yahoo.com. Many thanks!

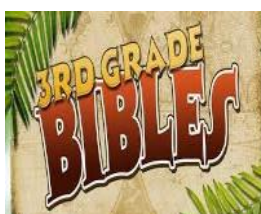


CHILDREN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — As we move into the new school year, a new Children's Church year is upon us. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to support Children's Church during the 9 am and 11 am services. Please let Pastor Hannah know if you are able to be a part of this important ministry!

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES — Do you or someone you know need school supplies for your kids? North Hills Community Outreach can help. Please contact Vicki at



vdburst@nhco.org or call 412-487-6316 x3143. Proof of household income will be required to sign up. NHCO addresses the needs of people in crisis, hardship and poverty in Northern Allegheny County. You can learn more about NHCO and their many services offered to Northern Allegheny County residents at nhco.org.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR 3RD GRADERS! The Library Committee is in search of our children entering 3rd grade in the fall. We like to recognize those students with their own commemorative Bible.

Please help us fill in the blanks and accept our apologies if we've missed your child or misspelled a name.

Here's who we have on our list so far:

- ♥ Stella Dripps
- ♥ Jordyn Loughman

Contact the church office or Sandra Lane (412) 841-7169 to add your child's name.

KEEPING COOL — If you have a fan to lend for VBS, 8/7 - 8/10, please mark it with your name and bring it to church by 8/6. They can be picked up the following Sunday.



LUNCHING WITH THE LADIES

The Tuesday Ladies Group enjoyed lunch at Narcisi's Restaurant on a beautiful July afternoon. The ladies sent their birthday donations received during the year to the Girl Empowerment Pad Program of the Nyadire Connection in Zimbabwe.

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

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 Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly to the church. A 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.

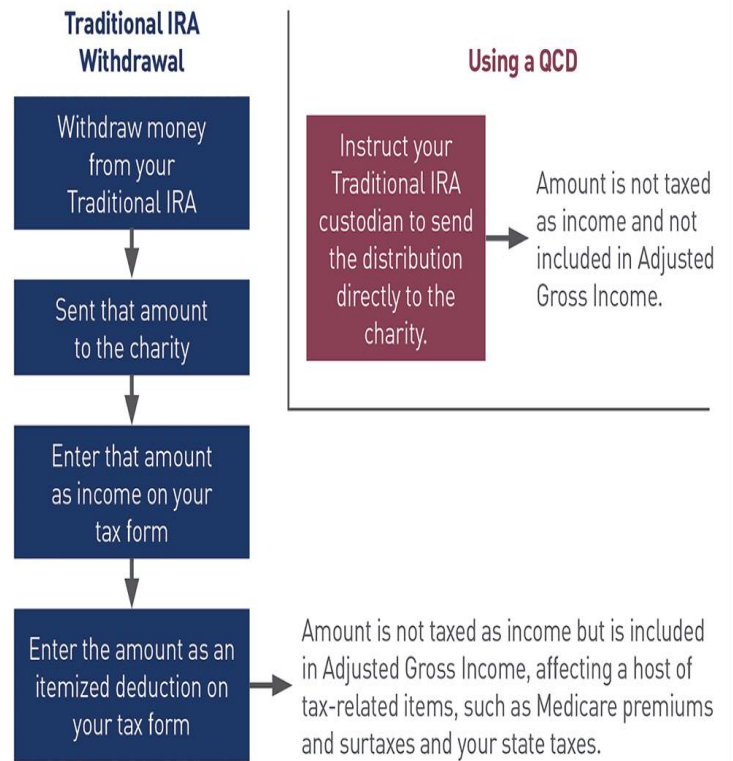
In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.

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 question about the process and how it can benefit both you and SUMC.

Blessings,
Pam Honeychurch
SUMC Treasurer

QCD Versus Traditional IRA Withdrawal



Source: PNC



SUMC is the host site for “Rich Zahrobsky’s Praying for a Miracle Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser” on **Sunday, August 27th, 1—5pm**. Sandy Kuriger and Pam Honeychurch have advance tickets for \$10, \$6/kids. Takeouts and at the door, \$12, \$8/kids. Dinner includes choice of 4 pasta dishes, salad, bread and drink.

Proceeds benefit Rich’s fight against advanced stage prostate cancer.

<p>John A. Jonny B. Hurst Bartley Carrie Blanchard Family of Don Brandt Betty Burrows (Wilma Hamilton’s sister-in-law) Nancy Carson (Diane Bartley’s mom) Jack Certain Anne Clifford (Jenine Furry’s sister-in-law) Troy Conway Bruno Crapis Mollie Devine (Renee Gittins’ sister)</p>	 <p>Betty Dornetta Family of Mignon Emmert Cinnamon Evans (Pat Grossarth’s niece) Shirley Gerthung (Wilma Hamilton’s sister) Donna Gleason Clyde Grossarth (Steve’s brother) Candy Grudovich (Joe Boward’s sister)</p>	<p>Judith Hall Rev. Jim Hamilton Beate Henkel Mary Beth Johnson (Pamela Mayo’s sister) Family of Jan Jones Brandy K. Family of Eugene “Geno” Klein Mike Kolesar Henrietta Kretzler</p>	<p>Ben McGuigun Megan and baby Madelyn Tom Moog Sarah Oba Sandra Obeng Lorraine Offner Dominic Odom Gary Pflug Heather Rose (Jennifer Jones’ cousin) Jim Rogansky C.R. & Lorraine Simpson Ed Schrieber Bill Teed Ernest Wallace</p>
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The PUMPKINS are scheduled to arrive the morning of Saturday, **September 30** and we need YOU to help unload the 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 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 Diane this year to help 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 Diane or Pastor Hannah with any questions!

CHANGEMAKERS LAB
COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

COME LEARN HOW GOD CREATED YOU TO BE A CHANGEMAKER!

AUGUST 7-10, 6:00 PM-8:30 PM
AT SEWICKLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OR REGISTER AT SEWICKLEYUMC.ORG

ALL KIDS PRESCHOOL-MIDDLE SCHOOL ARE WELCOME - REGISTRATION IS FREE!

HOSTED BY ST. MATTHEWS AME ZION, ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN, AND SEWICKLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

Let's pray for our children.

Let's pray for our youth.

Let's pray for all students and the people who love, educate and serve them.

August brings our Community Vacation Bible School, then the first day of the 2023-24 school year for most students from pre-school through college.

On August 6, as the sun sets at 8:30pm, from wherever you are, with whomever wants to join you, let's pray together for our children, our youth and their leaders.

Lord, bless them as they move toward new opportunities, new challenges and new relationships. Let them see you in new ways, and let them see how they can serve you and each other in new ways. Nourish them. Protect them. Inspire them.

Our VBS, produced jointly by St. Matthews AME Zion, St. Paul's Lutheran and SUMC, will run August 7 - 10. Our theme is "Changemakers Lab" and we are hoping that our children can see themselves as people who can carry God's light and love into the world.

Please consider lifting our VBS – students, their families, our pastors and all volunteers - in prayer each day. Pray that we grow in faith, friendship and community.

Please consider praying into the new school year throughout the month.

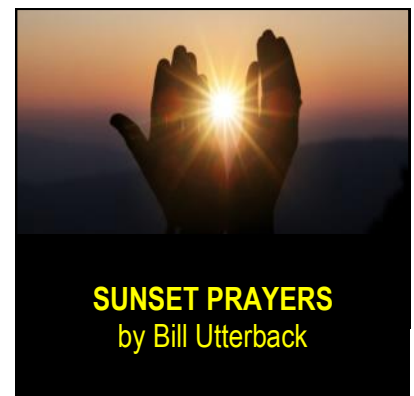
Pray for preschool, primary, secondary and university students.

Pray for their families.

Pray for their teachers, administrators, counselors, coaches, health and nutrition teams, support staff, drivers and crossing guards.

Pray that God will bless all involved in the educational process with energy, imagination, peace, patience and positive relationships.

Lord, we know the new school year brings new opportunities and friendships, as well as new anxieties and challenges. We ask for your Light to encourage, empower and enlighten everyone stepping into a new school year. We thank you for all that you provide. Amen.



SIMPLIFIED, ACCOUNTABLE STRUCTURE



A Simple Structure for Missional Effectiveness

At the Church Conference held on June 29, we voted to adopt the Simplified, Accountable Structure (SAS). There were 26 people present who were able to vote and 24 votes were received. We had 21 vote to adopt the SAS and 3 vote against it.

I am grateful to those who came to the meeting, asked some thoughtful questions and helped to discern the will of God for our church. I am also grateful to Donna Sawhill, Jenine Furry, Pam Honeychurch, Mark Benjamin, Jim Canfield and Laura Powell who served on the Communications team and have worked diligently to understand this model and helped to communicate it to others. Last, but certainly not least, I am grateful to Bill Utterback, Kristine Swaney, Rosemary Herring, Donna Sawhill, Warren Kinneer, Jim Hamilton and Wilma Hamilton who faithfully gathered monthly to pray us through this time of discernment.

What is next?

On August 19th there will be a workshop led by Kay Kotan for those who are serious about living into this model. Any who wish to know more and attend are welcome to do so. Please let me know at pastor@sewickleyumc.org so I can add you to our group.

The nominations committee will begin to meet to do the work that has now been entrusted to us to do. We will nominate the slate of leaders for the Leadership Board and they will be voted on at our Church Conference in the fall.

This new model will officially begin to be lived into on January 1, 2024. I am excited and feel some positive energy surrounding what lies ahead for us. I fully believe we have taken a step of faith and allowed God to guide us into something new. Though we don't yet fully understand it or know what will come from it, God does and our trust is in our God. God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path and we will follow that light one intentional movement at a time.

With gratitude for your trust and support as we walk together, Pastor Hannah Loughman

Ways to Give

In Person

Automatic Giving

Online Banking

Online

Mobile

VANCO
MOBILE FAITH

Your generosity and financial partnership are how we are able to impact our community and beyond. Vanco is our eGiving portal and allows for simple, secure giving. It is available through our website, sewickleyumc.org, and through the Vanco Mobile Faith app.

Vanco provides an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or saving account, or processed using your credit or debit card. This giving option offers convenience for you and, if you setup recurring giving, provides donation consistency for our church family.

To get started, visit sewickleyumc.org and the [donate tab](#), or install the Vanco Mobile Faith app on your smartphone. The first time you visit, you will create your secure account. Then you can setup your recurring donation(s). *We encourage you to turn on the option to cover the processing fee which will help offset the processing and transaction fees the church pays.*

If you prefer to give the traditional way — by check or cash — please continue to do so!

Jordyn Loughman	8/5
Kara Wayne	8/5
Blair McCombs	8/6
Felicity Moffett Johnston	8/8
David Malarik III	8/9
Martha Boward	8/10
Alexander Clifford	8/10
Tom Wright	8/10
Rose Fishter	8/11
Jack Leety	8/11



Dolores McCoy	8/14
Kim Benjamin	8/16
Pat Rudy	8/16

Bill Kuriger, Sr.	8/17
Andrea Lewis	8/18
Matthew Malarik	8/18
Grace Rogansky	8/21
Lou Ann Scott	8/24
Kelly Herman	8/25
Ron Smith	8/25
Ansel Ream	8/27
Brooke Guzma	8/29
Stella Dripps	8/30

If you or a family member is missing from our birthday or anniversary list, please let the office know. We don't want to leave anyone out of special wishes.

We're overwhelmed!

The Fellowship of the Cross hoped to inventory everything our SUMC family contributed during Christmas in July, and then report the totals in this publication. There was not enough time to get all the Operation Christmas Child contributions sorted and counted.

Your generosity was extraordinary. You knew our needs and responded wonderfully. Look for an update in future publications.

In the church basement, there is a mountain of T-shirts, and a mountain of notebooks. There are stacks of markers, crayons, pencils, pens and crayons. There are piles of glue sticks, pencil sharpeners, erasers and assorted school supplies.

There are socks, adhesive bandages, brushes and combs, toy cars, dolls and other "wow gifts," including a dancing cactus. We've never had a dancing cactus, but it is perfect. We also found empty shoeboxes and cash beneath the trees in the sanctuary, and both are welcomed.



FOTC will continue to collect gifts through September and financial contributions through early November. Prayer is always welcome. We will provide an updated list of our needs later this month.

We will schedule a packing party on a Sunday morning in late September or early

October. The Children's Church kids will be involved, but everyone is invited. The boxes will be blessed during worship services in November and delivered to children somewhere in the world during the Christmas season. The boxes are delivered along with opportunities to know Jesus.

This is our 13th OCC campaign, and we have provided more than 1,300 boxes in the past 12 years. Our boxes have been delivered to children in Ukraine, Africa, South America, Central America and Caribbean nations.

As always, the Fellowship of the Cross is grateful, encouraged and renewed by your faith in God and the ways he moves through Operation Christmas Child. We are thankful for your continuing support.



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

SAFETY MINISTRY NEWS

An evacuation at SUMC may occur due to a fire, an active shooter on site, or a natural disaster.

In the event of an immediate evacuation, on any Sunday, please follow the instructions of the Guardian on duty or follow your instincts and exit the building as quickly and safely as possible.

During worship service hours (9-noon), should evacuation be necessary, exit the church by walking (don't run) and gather in one of our 3 assembly locations to shelter in place until emergency personnel indicate it's safe to return:

- 1) The Pastor's Front Porch (home next door to playground, 333 Broad Street)
- 2) St. Stephen's Church Door #12, adjacent to our parking lot. See picture to the right for the location.
- 3) AME Zion Church (corner of Walnut and Thorn Streets) any door will be open

When inside at SUMC, familiarize yourself with the nearest available exit doors and the above evacuation locations.

All children in the nursery and Sunday School classes will be evacuated at the guidance of their caregiver/teacher.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the United Methodist met June 15-17 at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, PA to worship, celebrate and conduct the business of the annual conference. **Pressing on to Higher Ground**, based on Philippians 3:14, was the theme for the 2023 conference and was evident in the music, stage design, logo, and worship themes. The session included worship, ordination, Bible studies and plenary sessions, concluding on Saturday with a memorial service.



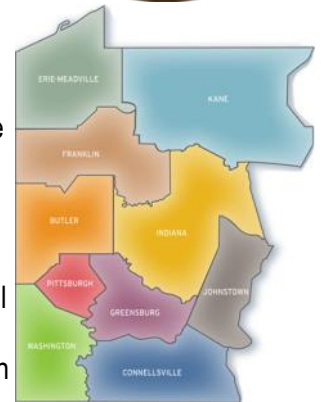
LEGISLATION

Members of the Annual Conference approved the [Consent Calendar](#), with legislation focused on: accountable reimbursement and clergy allowances; nominations; special weekends; Conference evangelists; benefits for retired clergy; and more. [Read all legislation](#).

A Connectional Budget for 2024 of \$4,752,662 was approved, reflecting a decrease of \$3,585,342 from the 2023 budget.

Notable Legislation

- **RS 611 Prioritizing Ethnic/Racial Ministries:** This legislation charges the Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Treasurer, Coordinating Cabinet, and structures of the annual conference to mitigate the additional risks posed to Ethnic/Racial ministries during this present time of systemic change by prioritizing the funding and resourcing of Ethnic/Racial ministries within our conference. In addition to allocating financial resources, The Western PA Conference will prioritize providing support for the identified new and existing Ethnic/Racial ministries at the conference, district, and local church levels including spiritual and prayer support, advertising and promotion, administrative assistance, training for clergy and laity, and facilitating appropriate conference and general agency staff engagement.
- **RS 309: Congregations To Pay Royalties When Using Negro Spirituals in Worship:** Congregations are strongly encouraged to establish a Negro Spirituals Royalties Project by identifying and tracking all music used by the congregation that is considered to be a Negro Spiritual; offering the opportunity to collect a financial offering every time a Negro Spiritual is used in worship or other church gatherings; identify a partner organization to receive the offering, preferably one committed to teaching and developing African American musicians and/or performing artists, and to provide educational opportunities. Discussed on the floor, amended, and passed.



Legislation Pulled from the Consent Calendar:

- **P5: To Proactively Care** for laity, clergy, and churches remaining in The United Methodist Church following the completion of the Disaffiliation Process: Amended and ultimately referred to the IMAP Task Force for report back to Annual Conference 2024.
- **RS 403**, which aimed to establish the IMAP Household Alignment plan, was tabled until Annual Conference 2024. The reasoning for this action was to allow time and space for grief and healing. The IMAP task force was approved to continue its work.

DISAFFILIATION

The Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church ratified the disaffiliation agreements for 298 churches, 3 from the Pittsburgh District, during a special session in Erie, PA on June 14. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi presided. Voting on churches in blocks by districts, the body overwhelmingly affirmed all the disaffiliation agreements with no contestations. Churches must fulfill their settlement obligations in order to complete the disaffiliation process, which many did immediately following the session.

In an emotional show of gratitude after the completion of voting, Bishop Moore-Koikoi thanked the Board of Trustees for the difficult work they've done through this process. "This has been difficult work to do," she began. "It has been challenging spiritually, intellectually and emotionally. These persons before you were here for such a time as this. Because of their deep spirituality, their deep faith, because of their trust in God, they were able to carry out this painful process."

Bishop Moore-Koikoi urged everyone to leave the special session with a spirit of peace and to bless each other. "I am begging us to show the world who God is through the actions of those who are remaining in the conference and the actions of those who have disaffiliated," she said during remarks following the final vote. "Begging us to show the world who God is through how we will love each other and choose the better way."

Dear Sewickley United Methodist Church
and Pastor Hannah,

We are so thankful and grateful for your love and kindness. Your love for mothers and women has overwhelmed us with your monetary gift to the Wailing Women Mission. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for having us upon your heart. Thank you so much.

Love Always,
Darlene Turner
The Wailing Women Mission



Thank you for your generous donation to the Girl Empowerment Pad Program of the Nyadire Connection.

Since 2011 we have reached over 4,000 girls and helped them complete their primary school education.

We have moved from sending completed pads to 2023, where with donations such as yours they now purchase what they need in Zimbabwe and make kits. Our roles have changed in Pittsburgh and our girls and ladies have been so successful. I am proud of their progress. None of this would be possible without your support.

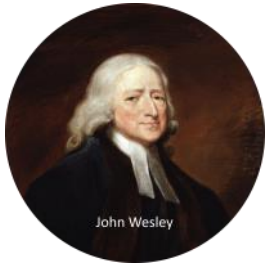
Thanks so much,
Bonnie Lawson
Program Leader GEP
The Nyadire Connection

We want to thank the drivers and everyone else who helped us during this time of treatments. The drivers were Warren, Bob, Jere, Kristine, Mike and Jenine. Thank you also for your prayers.

Jim and Wilma Hamilton

Alison Trexel and her family are thankful for the show of support through the many letters and kind words following the passing of her mom, Jan Jones

FROM LAURA POWELL, YOUR CONGREGATIONAL LEADER



John Wesley

This month we will continue to explore John Wesley's seven ways to share faith and explore how we can practice these Wesleyan practices. The details of each practice can be found in *Wesley's 7 Ways to Share Faith*. Abingdon Press, 2015.

Practice 3: Speak Plain Truth

In Wesley's day, the Church of England didn't connect with the real lives of everyday people. Ironically, the ministry of Jesus was just the opposite. When Jesus spoke, "the common people heard him gladly." Wesley longed to bridge the gap between real faith and real people. Although he was a highly educated Oxford fellow and deeply steeped in the Christian tradition, he refused to parade his scholarship. He chose to speak plain truth for plain people. He intentionally shaped his language so common people could gladly hear the gospel and respond.

Practice for SUMC: As disciples of Christ, when we witness to others, we simply speak our truth about our love for Jesus Christ directly from our heart. It will resonate with the person as the Holy Spirit is with you and the person. Sometimes, your words may seep into their heart slowly, giving them an opportunity to contemplate your words about Jesus. With others, it may feel like a bullseye opening their heart to God.

Practice 4: Use the Music of the Culture

Gregorian chants in Latin and heavy German music were standard fare in church services in Wesley's day. Although the words were meaningful, the music was a complete disconnect with the common people. It didn't speak their heart language. In his travels, Wesley found that pre-Christian people connected most easily with the gospel when it came through their native culture. He encouraged his brother Charles to put gospel words to the popular tunes of the day, and it caught people's hearts. Speaking in terms people could understand was part one of cracking the cultural code; music that touched the modern-day soul was part two.

Practice for SUMC: During our traditional service, we sing many hymns written by Charles Wesley. During the 17-18th century, pastors were not readily available to hold services. Charles Wesley purposely imbedded key Christian theology into his lyrics. Outside of church, they could sing the songs and be reminded of their Christian theology. Our contemporary service presents songs with Christian messages and contemporary music following Wesley's guidance to bring the music and message to the people in a contemporary way!

Select a Charles Wesley hymn, read the lyrics slowly and explore the imbedded theology.

Select a contemporary Christian song and explore its message, symbolism, and scripture genesis.



Charles Wesley

AUGUST 2023

*Nursery offered during Sunday morning services

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	31 7pm AA	1 11am Funeral Service for Eugene "Geno" Klein 7pm AA	2 6:30pm Leap of Faith	3 6:30 - 9pm VBS Decorating	4 6:30pm AA	5
6 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service 12:30 - 3:30pm VBS Set-up and Volunteer Orientation Luncheon	7 7pm AA	8 7pm AA	9 10am SUMC Prayer Group 6:30pm Leap of Faith	10	11 6pm Memorial Service for Don Brandt 6:30pm AA	12
6 - 8:30pm Vacation Bible School, Monday—Thursday						
13 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service 12:15pm New Member Class 4pm Ecumenical Worship Service, Back to School Blessing & Picnic	14 6:30pm Finance Committee 6:30pm Trustees 7pm AA 7:30pm Council Meeting	15 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Revelation 7pm AA	16 6:30pm Leap of Faith	17	18 6:30pm AA	19
20 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service 12:15pm New Member Class 2 - 3:30pm Learning Tree Parent Orientation	21 6:30pm Worship Committee 7pm AA	22 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Revelation 6:30pm Library Committee 7pm AA	23 6:30pm Leap of Faith	24	25 6:30pm AA	26 8am Playground Mulch Spreading
27 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service 12:15pm New Member Class 1-5pm Praying for a Miracle Pasta Dinner Fundraiser for Rich Zahrobsky	28 7pm AA 7pm Marketing Committee	29 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Revelation 7pm AA	30 6:30pm Leap of Faith	31	1 6:30pm AA	2

2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH JUNE



	2023 Budget	Budgeted to Date	Paid/Received to Date	Over or (Under)
TOTAL EXPENSES	312,098.44	161,148.20	157,920.84	(3,227.36)
TOTAL RECEIPTS	312,098.44	141,563.02	133,119.04	(8,443.98)
OVERAGE (DEFICIT)	0.00	(19,585.18)	(24,801.80)	

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
Chewning
Renee Gittins
Shirley Graham

Virginia Harriger
B.J. (Elizabeth) Manzinger
Pat Rudy
Shirley Sye
Lura Zaremba

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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SEWICKLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

337 Broad St., Sewickley, PA 15143
Rev. Hannah Loughman, Pastor
412-741-9430
secretary@sewickleyumc.org
sewickleyumc.org



*Adult Sunday School: 10am
(September—May)*
*9am: Contemporary Worship
& Children’s Church*
*11am: Traditional Worship
& Children’s Church*

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.