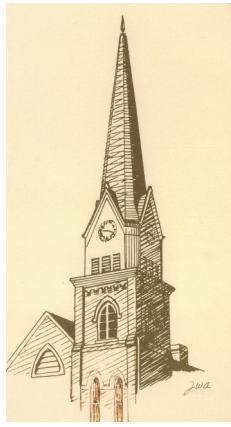


# Sewickley United Methodist Church



## December 2022 Newsletter

### *The Pastor's Peace*

In last month's newsletter we talked a little bit about having bold(ish) faith. We took some time to put bold(ish) statements out there in existence about the things we believed God was going to do in our midst. Now we must face another reality; things might not happen the way we expect them to! This is another layer of faith. It does not just require faith to believe the promises of God will come to be amongst the believers of Sewickley UMC, but it requires faith to believe those promises might not look the way we expect or prayed for them to look. As we enter into the Advent season we are going to look at scripture after scripture that tells of the birth of Jesus Christ. What we come to understand rather quickly is that God works in some unexpected ways. For a long time the Israelites have faithfully been praying for a savior and God answered that prayer in Jesus Christ. Yet the way the Savior came into OUR existence was so unexpected that it was really hard for a lot of the Israelites to believe Jesus was indeed the One they (we) had been looking for. When some of them finally did believe, wonderful things happened in their life. Here is the really cool thing about the way God works — when something wonderful happens to an individual, we can be sure it is going to transform a part of the community around us. It is like a beautiful tapestry. It might all look like a big mess on one side while it's being put together, but pretty soon on the other side the picture begins to take form and make sense.

Expect the unexpected. God loves us so much the things God does in our midst are never siloed or singular. If it is the work of God among us, no matter how wild it might seem, then that activity, that blessing, that unexpected gift, will have an impact far greater than just ourselves. What unexpected thing has happened to you lately? What unexpected thing has happened to us as a church? Where do you think God is at work in them? When you figure that out, that is the place you are to give your much desired time and attention this Christmas season. Together let's weave the glory of God into the very fabric of our lives through our bold(ish) faith in God doing unexpected things among us for the greatest impact on the Kingdom of God.

Please see page 3 for an outline of the sermon series, "Well, I didn't see that coming: The unexpected gift(s)."

From one light to another,

*Hannah M. Loughman*  
Pastor Hannah Loughman

Pastor Hannah's availability: I am available Monday—Wednesday and Friday, 9 am—5 pm. After 5 pm, by appointment only. On Sundays I am available following the church service till 4 pm. 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](mailto:pastor@sewickleyumc.org)  
Website: [www.sewickleyumc.org](http://www.sewickleyumc.org)



**Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve**  
 5 pm — Contemporary Candlelight Service  
 7:30 pm — Traditional Candlelight Service

**Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day**  
 9 am — ONE combined service  
 Come in your pajamas, ready to sing your favorite Christmas hymns, and bring an unexpected gift you received (if you opened your gifts already!)

If you would like to order any poinsettia plants to adorn the chancel for Christmas, please order [online here](#), or use an order form found in the rear of the sanctuary and outside the office, and return it to the office or place in the offering plate with your payment. You may also call the office. **Orders are due by Tuesday, December 6.** Dedications will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins and in the January Newsletter. If you purchase a poinsettia, you will be able to take it home after the traditional service on Christmas Eve.



**CALL FOR SEASONAL SINGERS!**

We are looking for people to form a choir for the 7:30 pm traditional service on Christmas Eve. We will be singing a familiar carol and one anthem to go along with Pastor Hannah's message for this special evening. Rehearsals will be on Thursday evenings, from 7:30 - 8:00, beginning December 8th. Contact Pamela Mayo for additional info: [pemayo@verizon.net](mailto:pemayo@verizon.net).

**CHRISTMAS SINGERS**



**BREAKFAST FOR BABY JESUS**

On **December 18**, beginning at 9:45 am, there will be a Breakfast for Jesus. Breakfast meat will be provided by the Nurture Committee. Wear your favorite Christmas sweater and please bring a breakfast casserole, pastry, juice, milk or fruit for the table. Please sign up on poster in back of the sanctuary. ALL are welcome. Join us to Celebrate the Birth of Jesus!!!

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

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

**DOORS TO HOPE AT HOME/RED STOCKINGS SPECIAL OFFERING  
 SUNDAY DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**

This special offering will be divided between Doors to Hope and Red Stocking. Doors to Hope at Home supports 6 Western PA Conference agencies: Pittsburgh Northside Ministries (including The Bridge, aka Bethany House Academy); Prison Outreach Ministries (provides Bible studies); Erie UM Alliance, Connellsville Area Community Ministries and UM Human Services of Johnstown (all of which provide various services to low income and homeless persons). Red Stocking supports the Health and Welfare Ministries of the Conference. Funds are given to: Wesbury Community (Meadville), Arbutus Park Manor (Johnstown), and UM Services for the Aging (Mt. Lebanon). Please designate "Doors to Hope" on your envelope or check; you may also donate via eGiving.



## Worship Opportunities - December 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.



**December 4, 2022**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion**  
**Liturgist:** Donna Sawhill  
**Scripture Lessons:** Luke 1:26-38

**Message:** "It's Never Been Done That Way Before"

Without fully understanding the bigger picture it is easy to ask the question, "why me?" We have hopes and dreams that are already actively participating in building our future. When something comes along that is quite unexpected it is hard to see that thing might be better than what we were dreaming up. What Mary's story, the mother of Jesus, teaches us is that if our eyes are fixed on God, we might realize how near sighted we have been. That unexpected opportunity might turn into something as grand as everlasting glory.

**December 11, 2022**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
 Rainbow Bells, Jr. Clocktower Ringers and  
 Clocktower Ringers play 11 am service  
**Liturgist:** Carole Ford  
**Scripture Lesson:** Luke 2:8-20  
**Message:** "Even Them?"

In the angel's proclamation of the birth of Jesus, we hear the phrase, "ALL PEOPLE." The angels spoke to the most unexpected group of shepherds and told them a message that was to "bring great joy to ALL PEOPLE." Yet still we sometimes wonder, "even them?" Does all really mean everyone, or does it simply mean a potential for all if they would only believe in this message? Who would you be happy to leave out of the "all"? What unexpected beauty would you have missed, if they were already written out of the "all" without having the opportunity for the joy? Good news comes in unexpected ways and to the most unexpected people.

**December 18, 2022**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Liturgist:** Otis McAliley  
**Scripture Lessons:** Ezekiel 37:9-14  
**Message:** "Dude, Where's My Donkey?"

It was recently a shock to some of our systems when we learned there is not really a donkey in the Christmas story as told per scripture. Every manger you see, every movie that includes the birth of Jesus, every story you read outside of the Bible all have Mary riding to Bethlehem on a donkey. It is hard to think that there might not have actually been one there. Or, maybe there was. Either way it's an innocent thought. But sometimes the stories we hear that innocently fill in the blanks paint expectations in our hearts that make the truth hard to see. Was the inn keeper really mean? Was Mary really left to have Jesus all by herself? Did the world really usher in a King with such inhospitality? Maybe things didn't go as Mary or Joseph expected, but did they really go as bad as we were always taught to believe? Deconstructing our expectations has the possibility of minimizing the potential confusion and shock to our systems.

**December 25, 2022**  
**Christmas Day**  
**One Combined Service 9 am**  
**Scripture Lessons:** Isaiah 9:1-7  
**Message:** "Carry On"

Isaiah 9:2 says, "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light." One of the scariest things about the dark is that you simply cannot see everything. It is amazing the way a wandering hand, finding a light switch in the dark can have a great calming effect on a person. Just the hope of the light to come begins to bring about the peace. Then, when the light comes on, the knowing and the seeing allows the moment to unfreeze and carry on with what needs to be done. Time was standing still for the Israelites. It was like they were on a never-ending cycle of repeat all. Then a force finally propelled them forward into something new and time went on. That force is Jesus. Even though every year we tell the same stories and sing the same songs, immediately following the Christmas season is the New Year and life goes on. Happy Birthday to the light in the darkness, the hope for the future, the newness in each day of our lives!



**CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS FOR CHURCH UNION**



The gift bags the VBS children assembled this summer were a big hit so we will be assembling more food bags for children who participate in learning programs at The Bridge/Hub (formerly Bethany House) in Northview Heights and blessing bags for the homeless who are served by the Daily Bread ministry on Pittsburgh's North Side. SUMC and community members are invited to **donate shelf-stable snack items (ex: fruit & pudding cups, trail mix, granola bars, cheese & crackers, gum, etc.) and hygiene products (ex: travel-sized shampoo, soap, individually packaged toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, Band-Aids, tissues, combs, etc.) for use in these bags.**



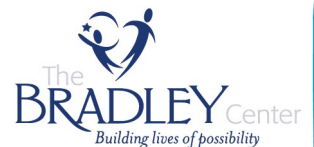
These two Church Union ministries also are seeking gifts of **NEW** child- and adult-sized hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks to help keep recipients warm this winter. Donations of food and toiletries may be placed in the bin in the hallway by the office. Clothing may be placed on the "mitten tree" in the sanctuary.

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE LEARNING HUB AT THE BRIDGE (formerly BETHANY HOUSE) CHILDREN** — Our annual tradition returns after a 2 year pandemic hiatus.

Thank you for helping make Christmas a little more special for the 18 children who attend the afterschool program. If you are sponsoring a child's gift, please be sure to return it unwrapped no later than **December 11**. Please direct any questions to Pam Honeychurch. The Bridge, located in Northview Heights, is a ministry of United Methodist Church Union, providing a preschool and an after-school program for children and youth living in this economically distressed neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

Thank you to everyone who is providing Christmas gifts for children and teens who are in residential mental health treatment at the Bradley Center in Robinson Township. **The minimum expenditure per child is \$50. If you are not able to afford this on your own, you may wish to donate a gift card or coordinate with other members to provide the gift.**



*Christmas Gift Collection*



The Bradley Center has a constantly changing group of residents. New arrivals will likely come before Christmas. If you'd like to provide something for newcomers, gift cards (ex: The Mall at Robinson, Target, etc.) and/or some generic gifts (ex: art supplies [**nothing spiral or staple bound, no pencil sharpeners, no scissors**], balls, hair/beauty products) are also welcome.

Many of the facility's residents arrive with only the clothes they are wearing; and come from extremely difficult circumstances. Please direct any questions to Barbara Bower.



Each year during the Christmas season, we as a congregation have the opportunity to show our church staff our appreciation with a small token of appreciation. If you wish to donate, please give your donations to a member of our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) **by Sunday, December 11**. Checks should be made payable in "CASH" with a notation on the memo line "Staff Purse." We will also accept cash contributions, or you may select "Pass Through" in our online giving, putting "Staff Purse" in the note line. Please note, Christmas Purse donations are not tax deductible. We thank you in advance for allowing us to honor and remember our wonderful staff at this special time of year. SPRC members are: Otis McAliley, Barbara Bower, Jennifer Jones, Virginia Heinzl, Johnathan Burnett, Ron Smith, Kristine Swaney, Donna Sawhill, and Mitchell Hortert.

**TOWN-HALL SAS MEETING**



A Simple Structure for Missional Effectiveness

SAS...what does that stand for, Simplified Accountable Structure. To put it simply, this is a model of the administrative life of the church that is set up for missional effectiveness. We are currently exploring this model as a potential new way of organizing our administrative life together. PLEASE COME to an informational town-hall meeting on **December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** in the church's sanctuary. All are invited to hear more about SAS and will have a time to ask questions. This event will also be live streamed.



**CALL FOR CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS** — Anyone wishing to have Church Council approval of Resolutions to be presented at the annual Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church should present the resolution in writing to either Rev. Hannah Loughman or Council Chair, Mitch Hortert, on or before December 31.



**BOLA'S ARMY!**

Thank you so much for your support and donations to the National Kidney Foundation!

As a team we raised almost \$2,000 to support their life changing work to:

- To ensure that families will have a place to turn when they need answers
- To keep up the fight for policy changes to protect kidney patients and living donors
- To drive innovation in transplantation and get more loved ones off the kidney transplant waitlist

We truly honored Bola's memory as we walked in sunny Denver, Colorado and freezing Pittsburgh, PA! Bola completed this walk every year, even when she was not feeling her best. I am very grateful to have such a strong village around her family and friends to keep her memory strong!

Again, the Nicholson Family thanks you for your support and can't wait to do it again next year!

Stay warm and Happy Holidays!  
Yawah Nicholson



**It's that time of the year when followers of Jesus begin to examine important decisions about charitable giving. The following information is designed to help you make the most of your year-end gift. Keep in mind the following...**

The adjusted gross income (AGI) limit for cash contributions to qualifying public charities remains increased for individual donors. For cash contributions made in 2022, you can elect to deduct up to 100% of your AGI (formerly 60% prior to the CARES Act).



**Retirement Plans**

You may not realize you have other assets that can be used to help you meet your charitable goals. Many individuals have funds in a qualified retirement plan such as an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), a 401(k) or a 403(b). These may be a good choice for making current or future gifts, depending on your age and future needs.

**Cash Gifts**

Gifts of cash are common and convenient and can be made in person, online, or by mail. Gifts of cash are generally made with currency, check, credit card, and even electronic funds transfers (EFT). For 2022 cash gifts must be completed by December 31. Remember to save all receipts and acknowledgements.

**Non-cash Gifts**

Non-cash gifts offer advantages too. Works of art, collectibles and other property can hold great value. Special IRS rules apply to these gift types. For example, for a non-cash gift greater than \$5,000, a donor needs to have an independent appraisal for tax purposes. Check with your advisor(s) for more information on arranging charitable gifts with non-cash assets.

**Securities**

Along with regular tax savings, you may be entitled to additional tax benefits when giving appreciated securities. Making gifts of highly appreciated securities allows you to avoid the capital gains tax that would be due if those assets were sold, offering tax savings even if using the standard deduction.

If you have owned the securities for more than one year, your gift is deductible and can be used to eliminate tax on up to 30% of your AGI in the year of the gift. Any unused deduction amount may be used to help reduce taxes in as many as five future tax years. If you are considering a gift of securities, allow enough time for your gift to be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**For Those Age 72\* and Older**

(\*The change in the RMD age requirement from 70½ to 72 only applies to individuals who turn 70½ on or after January 1, 2020. Please speak with your tax advisor regarding the impact of this change on future RMDs.)

If you have an IRA, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year to qualified charitable interests; \$200,000 per year for a couple that each has an IRA. These charitable IRA transfers are not taxed and count towards the annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Those who qualify should carefully consider the additional benefits of making all or a portion of their charitable gifts directly from an IRA. These tax-free gifts are particularly wise for those who may no longer itemize deductions for income tax purposes.

**Other Gifts**

Other gifts can be made from assets that may no longer be needed. For example, **Life Insurances Policies** that were taken out years ago for a specific purpose but are no longer needed today. If you have a policy like this, you may assign all rights and benefits of the policy to the Church.

You can also arrange a future gift by naming a charitable recipient as a beneficiary of a retirement plan. You and your family can enjoy use of the assets and charitable beneficiaries can receive any remaining funds in the future, free of income tax on amounts they receive.

The end of the year is the one of the most generous times of the year. Hopefully the information provided will assist you in meeting your giving goals.

The information provided is general planning information and not intended as legal, accounting, or other professional advice. The services of an appropriate advisor should be obtained to discuss tax and other financial implications.

**SHOP ON AMAZON  
SMILE AND  
AMAZON WILL  
DONATE TO  
SEWICKLEY UMC**



AmazonSmile is a way for customers to support their favorite charitable organization every time they shop with Amazon.

Shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) you will find the same Amazon you know and love, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases to the charity of your choice. Signing up is easy! Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select "Sewickley Methodist Church" as your charitable organization. Then when shopping be sure to shop through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).



**THANK YOU!!**

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Cookie Walk a success! Many bakers and candy makers donated a wonderfully huge assortment of cookies and candy. Thank you also to those who helped setup and run the sale and, of course, those who supported the sale through their purchases.

# INTRODUCING VANCO FAITH

## Ways to Give



In Person



Automatic Giving



Online Banking



Online



Mobile

The Finance Committee is excited to announce an important update to eGiving at Sewickley UMC as we transition from easyTithe to Vanco. Your generosity and financial partnership is how we are able to impact our community and beyond and we want to make sure everyone is aware of this great new change, which allows for simple, secure giving through a variety of ways, including mobile and online. 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 new program offers convenience for you and, if you setup recurring giving, provides donation consistency for our church family.

To get started, visit [sewickleyumc.org](http://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). To help cover the processing costs and fees, we encourage you to turn on the option to cover the processing fee. There will be a period of overlap with easyTithe and Vanco to give current e-givers time to make the transition.

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

The United Women in Faith, formerly United Methodist Women, thank everyone who helped to make 2022 a successful year for raising mission money. Whether you assisted with one or all of our three Rummage Sales for Missions and/or donated money to our group, we appreciate your support. We are blessed to have exceeded our budget this year which enabled us to donate more money to local, national and international mission projects including, but not limited to, the local food bank, the Center for Hope, UMCOR Eastbrook Mission Barn, UMCOR Ukraine, UMCOR Puerto Rico, The Light of Life Mission, The Bridge, Church Union, the Ruth M. Smith Center, Asbury Heights and our own church.



Again, thank you. Kristine Swaney, President UWF

Dear SUMC Church Family,

The Fellowship of the Cross is lifting a prayer of thanks for everyone who contributed to the most successful Operation Christmas Child campaign in our history. We have left our fingerprints on more than 170 boxes this year, and each box will bless a child and create a window for the Light of Jesus.

In 12 years, we have sent nearly 1,300 shoeboxes to His children at Christmas. Church family has contributed enough to fill at least 100 boxes in each of the past 11 years.

We're especially grateful to the 16 children who, through Children's Church, participated in our packing party this year: Jade, Bella, Gideon, Jordyn, Christian, Emma, Amelie, Noah, Emmy, Lucia, Riley, Archer, Stella, Eva, Ansel and Lincoln. Few of them were born when we started our OCC relationship in 2011, but they will be the ones carrying it forward.

We're grateful for the extra assistance Jade, Bella, Gideon and Jordyn provided in the weeks following our packing party.

It is our hope that as the shoeboxes remind the children who receive them that Jesus loves them, our SUMC children are learning that they are key components in sharing His love.



We're grateful for those who contributed shoeboxes, and for Kara, Elliott and Evarett for wrapping and delivering 100 of them.

We're grateful for everyone who contributed gifts to fill the boxes at

Christmas in July services and throughout the year. We're thankful to everyone who helped pack the boxes and those who helped deliver them to the collection center.

We're grateful for a community that contributed more than 70 boxes, and for Pastor Hannah, Pam H. and the Pumpkin Patch who graciously and cheerfully received those boxes.

We're grateful to everyone who has prayed over the boxes, and for those who continue to pray.

We're forever thankful for a church family that, in so many ways throughout the year, reminds us that our shared faith and our shared energy and our shared blessings can have impact for the kingdom well beyond the walls of our building.

With love,  
Grace Rogansky  
Pamela Mayo  
Bill Utterback

Siblings in Christ, grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to God always for you. I write to you as I join my heart and voice with yours in celebration of the final payment made on the renovation project of the grand and beautiful sanctuary.

The Bible tells us (in both the Old and New Testaments) that “your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.” God says it through his prophet Joel (Joel 2:28) in a vision of those “last days” when Israel shall be forgiven and restored. The Apostle Peter quotes it (Acts 2:17) when questioned about why Christians are speaking in tongues and filled with the Holy Spirit.

In my 14 years as your pastor one of the many things I so admired about you was your willingness to dream dreams and see visions. It was 2013 when we had a dream and a vision of renovating the sanctuary for the enhancement of worship and making this sacred space accessible (the chancel) and to enlarge the chancel to accommodate our various worship leaders and musicians. We began to put our dream and vision into motion. As the plans unfolded it seemed like a very daunting and overwhelming undertaking, a more than \$650,000.00 undertaking. Yikes! But we had faith! We trusted God with God’s dream and vision. We clung so tightly to God’s word and promises: “I can do all things through him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13).



We trusted God and on December 29, 2013, as part of our closing worship experience, we carried hymnals, Bibles, the cross, altar candles, etc. into the Simpson Room where we would worship for the next

4 months. We closed the door to the old sanctuary that last Sunday of 2013 and reopened it on Easter Day, April 20, 2014. We celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and Savior in the fully renovated sanctuary with our Bishop and District Superintendent in attendance. Bishop Bickerton consecrated God’s dream and vision of the glorious sanctuary.

In faithfulness to God and God’s ministry, everyone dug deep into their pockets and offered the sacrifice of praise through monetary pledges; gallons upon gallons of soup and hummus were made and sold to help pay off the debt.

Under the very capable leadership of Pastor Hannah, I eagerly wait to hear what new dreams and visions God gives you. Our gracious God is always on the move, creating and recreating. I will watch with excited anticipation as to what God has in store for the body of Christ, known as the Sewickley United Methodist Church.

Thank you! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of God’s dream and vision.

Well done good and faithful servants!

Blessings,  
Pastor Russel

**2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH OCTOBER**



	2022 Budget	Budgeted to Date	Paid/Received to Date	Over or (Under)
TOTAL EXPENSES	279,196.04	236,069.34	248,199.33	12,129.99
TOTAL RECEIPTS	279,216.00	230,272.09	239,846.67	9,574.58
OVERAGE (DEFICIT)	19.96	(5,797.25)	(8,352.66)	



John A.  
Alberta Barnes-Hill  
(Otis McAiley’s cousin)  
Hurst Bartley  
Betty Burrows (Wilma  
Hamilton’s sister-in-law)  
David Call  
(Bonnie Stoicovy’s son)  
Betty Carrol

Jack Certain  
Dan Chewning  
Bruno Crapis  
Betty Dornetta  
Mark Ebner  
Carol Egenlauf  
Shirley Gerthung  
(Wilma Hamilton’s sister)  
Donna Gleason  
Family of Atleah Grubb  
Beate Henkel  
Dick Jones  
(Dorritt Field’s son-in-law)  
Brandy K.

Justin Kinneer Family  
Mike Kolesar  
Henrietta Kretzler  
Bill Kuriger, Sr.  
Beatriz L. (Emily Liska’s  
daughter-in-law)  
Family of Mary Maminski  
(Pat Ferguson’s mother)  
Marty McDaniel  
Ben McGuigun  
Tom Moog  
Family and friends of Patrick  
Munn  
Mary Nichols

Lorraine Offner  
Dominic Odom  
Heather Rose  
(Jennifer Jones’ cousin)  
Amy Richert  
Jim Rogansky  
Karen Shong  
C.R. & Lorraine Simpson  
Debbie Smith  
Bill Teed  
Joseph Umer  
Ryan Warden  
Rich Z.  
Dennis Zeveny



**SOUP & HUMMUS SALE FOR THE BUILDING OF FAITH**

All proceeds from this sale go toward the care of our church building.  
 To order, [click here for the online order form](#), call 412-741-9430 or email (secretary@sewickleyumc.org), bring your form to the office or place it in the offering plate.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ or  Check (made to SUMC) # \_\_\_\_\_ or  eGiving Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



Choices	Indicate quantity below	
	\$9 Quart	\$6 Pint
<b>Chicken Tortilla Soup</b> (Chicken Broth, Chicken, Corn, Black Beans, Onion, Garlic, Cumin & Chili Powder [Parsley & Flour Tortilla on Side])		
<b>Vegetable Cheddar Chowder</b> (Broccoli, Potatoes, Tomatoes, Celery, Carrots, Onion, Bell Pepper, Salt, Flour, Butter, Milk, Worchester Sauce, Velveeta and Colby Cheeses)		
<b>Pasta e Fagioli</b> (Ground Beef, Onions, Carrots, Celery, Garlic, Diced Tomatoes, Tomato Sauce, V-8, Red Kidney and Great Northern Beans, Pasta, Vinegar, Salt, Oregano, Basil, Black Pepper, Thyme.)		
<b>Sandra's Hummus</b> (vegetarian/vegan - chickpeas, lemon juice, garlic, tahini, spices)	\$5 for ½ pint	

**Orders are due by Sunday, December 18 and will be ready for pickup Friday, January 6 or Sunday, January 8. Include payment with your order or pay when you pickup your soup or hummus. If using eGiving, please include the processing fee.**



Cheryl & Tom Barwell	12/10
Allen & Peggy Gleason	12/17
John & Edie Erkert	12/20

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to all the voices raised in the September administrative council meeting in support of hosting a haunted house this year. Thanks for trusting.

Thank you to everyone who lent energy and imagination toward creating the haunted house, and thank you to everyone who staffed the event, upstairs and downstairs. Thank you to those who welcomed and encouraged the youngest among us, helping them find their places in the dark. Thanks for trusting.

Thank you, Pastor Hannah, for joining the team. Thanks for trusting.

Thank you, Susie and Jack, for having the courage to rally the team and to launch the event again. Thanks for trusting.



Thank you, everyone, for believing that our God could find opportunity to shine His Light into an event that draws 500 visitors and a team of more than 70. Thank you for trusting Him.

We all hear the voices that wonder how a church can promote a haunted house, and our response is not complicated. We trust Him. We don't always see where seeds are planted, where hope is watered, where love is tended, where prejudice is pruned. We don't need to see it. We see families entering. We see friends and neighbors, classmates and teammates, entering. We see relationships renewed and nourished within our team. We trust God to work in all of those spaces. We trust Him.

Thanks for trusting,  
 Bill Utterback

While preparing material for children's programming, I made a fascinating observation about the Christmas story presented in Luke's Gospel.

There are no walls.

Luke shares angels, shepherds, parents and child, but no buildings, doors, fences, or walls.

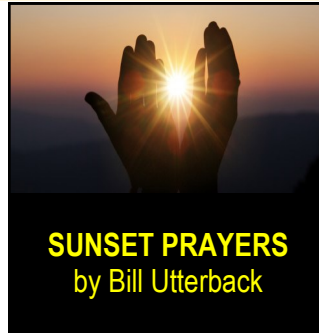
Mary lays her baby in a manger, but we're not told if the manger is in a stable or a stall, a corral or a cave. The shepherds are in the field and appear to run unimpeded to Jesus.

Doesn't that seem wonderfully intentional? There's nothing blocking people who are trying to find Jesus. There's nothing making it difficult to find him. He's immediately available and accessible.

Let's pray for a Christmas with no walls.

Let's pray for a Christmas where people who need Jesus can find him with little difficulty.

On December 4, as the sun sets around 4:54 pm, from wherever you are, with whomever wishes to join you, let's pray together as a church family. Let's pray for walls to come down on Christmas in ways that make the love of Jesus, the good news of great joy accessible to all people.



Let's pray for those who have been disappointed, disillusioned and distanced.

Let's pray for those who are alone or afraid.

Let's pray for those who are hungry or homeless, for those who are grieving, for those who are wrestling with addiction.

Let's pray for those who are deployed.

Let's pray for those who are suffering, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

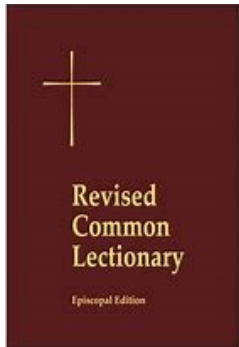
Let's pray for those who feel trapped behind all the walls of prejudice that divide us.

Let's pray that the walls fall and we can all find Jesus in the Christmas season.

And let's remember Luke 2, verses 17 and 18 (NIV): "When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about the child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."

After the shepherds visited the manger, there is again no mention of walls or fences or doors. Nothing prevents them from sharing their hope and joy and peace. Let's pray into the truth that there is nothing preventing us from sharing our hope and joy and peace.

Let's pray for a Christmas with no walls.



The Revised Common Lectionary is a lectionary of readings from the Bible for use in Protestant Christian worship, providing for the liturgical year with its pattern of observances of festivals and seasons. It was publicly released in 1994. It was preceded by the Common Lectionary, assembled in 1983, itself preceded by the COCU Lectionary, published in 1974 by the Consultation on Church Union (COCU). This lectionary was derived from various Protestant lectionaries in current use, which, in turn, were based on the 1969 Ordo Lectionum Missae, a three-year lectionary produced by the Roman Catholic Church, following the reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

As in its predecessors, readings are prescribed for each Sunday: a passage typically from the Old Testament, or the Acts of the Apostles; a passage from one of the Psalms; another from either the Epistles or the Book of Revelation; and finally a passage from one of the four Gospels.

Also like its predecessors, it runs in three-year cycles; the gospel readings in the first year (Year A) are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, those in the second year (or Year B) from the Gospel of Mark, and in the third year (or Year C) come from

## DID YOU KNOW?

the Gospel of Luke. Portions of the Gospel of John are read throughout Eastertide, and are also used for other liturgical seasons, including Advent, Christmastide, and Lent where appropriate. **With the start of Advent on November 27 we switched to Year A.**

- ◆ Year A begins on the first Sunday of Advent in 2022, 2025, etc.
- ◆ Year B begins on the first Sunday of Advent in 2023, 2026, etc.
- ◆ Year C begins on the first Sunday of Advent in 2024, 2027, etc.

The Revised Common Lectionary is used in its original or an adapted form by churches around the world. Protestant denominations in the United States which use the Revised Common Lectionary include: American Baptist Churches, USA; Community of Christ; Disciples of Christ; Episcopal Church in the United States of America; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Moravian Church in America; Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; Presbyterian Church USA; Reformed Church in America; United Church of Christ; United Methodist Church; and Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship. The Roman Catholic Church uses an adapted form of the RCL.

# DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:15pm Bell Choir	2 5 - 9pm Light Up Night 6:30pm AA	3
4 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Traditional Service 6pm Advent Potluck & Bible Study	5 7pm AA 7pm Church Town Hall Meeting	6 10am Women's Sharing Group 7pm AA	7 6:30pm Leap of Faith	8 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm - 8pm Choir Rehearsal	9 6:30pm AA	10
11 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Traditional Service 12:30pm Advent Potluck & Bible Study 7pm Benefit Concert for Ukraine	12 6:30pm Finance Committee 6:30pm Trustees 7pm AA 7:30pm Council Meeting	13 10am Women's Sharing Group 6:30pm - 7:30pm Pittsburgh District Antiracism Team 7pm AA	14 10am SUMC Prayer Group 6:30pm Leap of Faith	15 12 - 1:30pm Learning Tree Christmas Program 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm - 8pm Choir Rehearsal	16 6:30pm AA	17
18 9am Contemporary Service 9:45 - 10:45am Breakfast for Baby Jesus 11am Traditional Service 2:00pm Funeral Service for Atleah Grubb 6pm Advent Potluck & Bible Study	19 12 - 1:30pm Learning Tree Christmas Program 7pm AA	20 7pm AA	21 6:30pm Leap of Faith	22 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm - 8pm Choir Rehearsal	23 6:30pm AA	24 5pm Contemporary Christmas Eve Service 7:30pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service
25 9am Christmas Day Worship Service	26 7pm AA	27 7pm AA	28 6:30pm Leap of Faith	29	30 6:30pm AA	31

**NEED HELP WITH CHRISTMAS TOYS?**

Walking the Talk is once again hosting a free "Toy Store"

Saturday, December 10, 9 am—noon  
St. Matthews AME Zion Church, Corner of Thorn and Walnut Streets, Sewickley

Must register with name, number of children and ages at [walkingthetalktoydrive@gmail.com](mailto:walkingthetalktoydrive@gmail.com)



- Renee Gittins 12/2
- Jennifer Jones 12/3
- Jack Morrow 12/6
- Mark Wiggins 12/9
- Laura Geason 12/10
- Megan Guzma 12/15
- Sophia Geason 12/17
- David Malarik, Jr. 12/17



- Jacob McCoy 12/18

- Willie Nicholson 12/19
- Kristen Ryerson 12/21
- Evarett Briggs 12/22
- Nick Martinez 12/25
- Jessica Leety 12/28
- Barb Bower 12/29
- Mary Jablonski 12/29
- Gail Hiles 12/31

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.



The Sewickley Music Club and Nova Ukraine  
present

### A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR UKRAINE

Featuring musicians from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra  
and

The Boiko Family, recently arrived in Sewickley from Ukraine

Sunday, December 11, 7 pm  
Sewickley United Methodist Church

Donation per person:

\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

I will not be able to attend the concert but would like to make a donation to the Benefit Concert for Ukraine \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To pay via credit card: <https://benefit-for-ukraine.ticketleap.com/benefit-concert-for-ukraine/>

Please make checks payable to "Sewickley Music Club Benefit" and mail to:  
Cheryl Redmond, 316 Beaver Street, #304, Sewickley PA 15143

For more information please call 412.977.6670



## 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.*