

Sewickley United Methodist Church

February 2021 Minutes

From The Pastor's Heart

Over the past month we heard a lot of noise being made. I am sure that timeline can be extended to way before last month but let's not overwhelm ourselves. The noise we heard took on the form of opinions made through blogs, social media, some news reports, and even some sermons. What made them particularly noisy was the fact that they were void of love. 1 Corinthians 13:1 says, "If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." This passage, though heard most often at a wedding, is not referring to romantic love. It is referring to the type of love that is committed, self-sacrificing and humble at its core. Paul, who is the author of this verse, is telling the people in the church of Corinth that you can have the smoothest tongue, and speak the language of the angels, but that simply does not matter and is no better than the noise that comes from a gong or cymbal. The gong and cymbal are very large and very noisy instruments. They had to be because they often were used to notify an entire town of a town meeting, approaching royalty, or an approaching army. But in the case of speaking without love, they are simply instruments being banged on by a child with no understanding or care for their created purpose.

This month we celebrate romantic love. Some say they don't like Valentine's Day because we should be loving one another all year long. It is simply a day for stores to make money. I'm ok with that. I think love should be celebrated all year long, but why not make a particularly big deal about it on a certain day of the year. Remember how often the Israelites forgot that which was incredibly good and how often they had to be reminded of God's faithfulness? Well, sometimes you and I need that reminder too. However, this year for Valentine's Day (and beyond), I challenge us to make more than just noise to love deeper than romance can afford us. I challenge us to offer opinions, write blogs or post on social media in a way that people can hear because it is full of love. There is no use in being right if the other person stopped listening because there was no love in your communication.

As part of this challenge, I would like to offer you an opportunity to be filled up with something good that will help you know and remember what it means to love. That something good is the life and stories of Jesus. This year we will be hosting a church-wide study on "John: The Gospel of Light and Life" as written by Adam Hamilton. We will offer groups at varying times so you can find a group that is convenient for you. The kids and youth will be learning about it and I will be preaching on it. You can find more details about those times on our website and in this newsletter. Let's immerse ourselves in the one who truly knew what it meant to do all things with love. Do not miss this opportunity to be more than just noise.

From One Light to Another,

Pastor Hannah Loughman

Pastor Hannah's availability: I am available Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and 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 Tuesdays, 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

DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 21ST

This special offering helps promote awareness issues and supports Western PA Conference ministries that provide opportunities for fuller inclusion of people with disabilities.

What Would It Look Like If...

- ♥ our churches had doors that were really open to receive everyone?
- ♥ our people really loved everyone?
- ♥ we really stopped judging everyone?
- ♥ we really respected everyone?
- ♥ we really valued everyone the way God does?
- ♥ our churches were really a place where everyone could truly belong?
- ♥ we really had eyes to see everyone around us who is hurting?
- ♥ we really did everything we could to alleviate that hurt?



Maybe it would look more like the Kingdom of God... maybe... maybe...

Please mark your gift "Disability Awareness." You may also use EasyTithe.

Our worship service is live streamed at 10 am on sewickleyumc.org and youtube.com. The recorded service is available later on Sunday afternoon. Beginning February 21st the sanctuary will be open to receive 50 people to be present during the service.



To sign up please visit sewickleyumc.org, use the signup link sent via email, or call the church office. Reservations will be

taken beginning 10 days prior to the Sunday for in-person worship (i.e. February 12 for the February 21st Traditional Service, February 19 for the February 28 Contemporary Service). If reservations exceed 50 for a particular Sunday, those

over the limit will be offered either the next Sunday or the next Sunday of their worship style preference.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

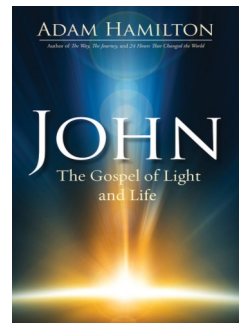
We invite all to join together for our church-wide Lenten study. Our book study will be "John: The Gospel of Light and Life" by Adam Hamilton starting week of February 21st. The Gospel of John is the most spiritual of the four gospels. It is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name." It is a great book for a Lenten Study! Our adults, youth, and children will experience spiritual growth by participating in Adam Hamilton's 6-week, DVD-series with companion book, "John: The Gospel of Light and Life" led by our SUMC Growth Group Leaders. We will follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John and understand the context of some of the best known verses in the New Testament.

ZOOM Study Times

- ⇒ Mondays, 11 am (February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29)
- ⇒ Tuesdays, 7 pm (February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30)
- ⇒ Wednesdays, 10 am (February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31)
- ⇒ Wednesdays, 6:30 pm (February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31)
- ⇒ Thursdays, 10 am (February 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25 and April 1)

SIGN-UP DIRECTIONS

1. [Click here](#) to sign up with your desired day and time (if you need to change a week later because your schedule has changed, simply connect with your Leader and they will facilitate the change)
2. Be sure you have ZOOM installed on your computer or cell phone
3. If you do not have internet, call Pam in the office and she will provide you the dial in phone number so you can join via phone based on your selected time
4. Buy the book "John: The Gospel of Light" by Adam Hamilton — you can find the book on Amazon, eBay, local stores and digitally on Kindle readers
3. Read the first chapter of the book before the start of your group



If you have any questions, please call Laura Powell 724-316-7895 or email her at lpspapep@hotmail.com.

Worship Opportunities - February 2021



Our Worship Service is live streamed at 10 am on
sewickleyumc.org and [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
The recorded service will be available later on Sunday afternoon.

Our non-coronavirus schedule:

Contemporary Worship Service: 9 am Traditional Worship Service: 11 am

Sunday School for all ages: 10 am (September—May)



February 7, 2021

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany **Liturgist:** Mike Pedee

Bible Readings: Hebrews 5:6-11, Isaiah 46:9-10

Message: Faithful Longevity 3: "At Just the Right Time"

There are few things that are worse in this world than being told to wait. Just ask a 5 year old what is the worst thing to hear out of their parent's mouth. They would probably say to clean their room and to wait. Even as adults we do not like waiting. People say things like "all good things in time" and "good things come to those who wait." You might have heard the well-meaning answer to the lack of God's response to your prayer, "it's not a no, it is just not right now." Well none of these responses truly satisfy the Spirit like an actual answer to our longings. If we could learn the art of waiting, we could master faithful longevity. Being in this middle place might not look so bad if we could see wait as more of an action than as a test of patience. After all, "they" are right, waiting does not mean God is not doing something, God just knows the right time for something to be done!

February 14, 2021

Transfiguration Sunday

Bible Reading: Matthew 3:13 – 4:11

Message: "In Preparation for the Journey"

I overheard a chiropractor say that sometimes people just need to be reset. After prolonged activity sometimes their bodies just get all out of joint and that is why it is good to have regular visits to the chiropractor. While this would seem like great for business, I also believe the truth behind it. As someone who has suffered from a neck injury I, too, see the value in regular visits to the chiropractor. I believe the same thing is true about our faith. Sometimes we just need to reset. This is why I love the season of Lent. This is why I love encouraging recommitting to a particular spiritual discipline. Before Jesus went to the desert, even his Spirit got a boost as he was baptized and the Holy Spirit descended upon him. And just like all of us, he too faced hard times that then caused the Angels to visit and care for him. This week we are going to prepare for the journey through Lent as we reset our faith.

February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday

It is a very humbling experience to place the ashes upon the forehead of your own child. This symbolism of dust and death reminds us that we need Jesus. Join us on Ash Wednesday as you posture your heart in preparation to receive the risen Christ. At 8 am you can come to Wolcott Park at the corner of Broad and Beaver Streets, where Pastor Ryan and I will be passing out ashes and walking people through individual prayer. A service of the Imposition of Ashes will be posted online for you to view at your convenience on Ash Wednesday. Beginning February 3rd you can pick up your ashes at the church office or from the pink bin outside the church library door (door # 7).

February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent **Liturgist:** Otis McAilley

Bible Reading: John 1:1-14

Message: "The Word Made Flesh"

After purposefully and goofily blending two words together I said, "Is that even a real word?" To which someone responded, if it has a meaning, it's a word. Words are simply sounds put together in a specific way to convey a specific purpose. If you attach a meaning to that word and it is said by enough people, it could even find its way into the dictionary. Words are constantly being added to the dictionary as they find meaning. In the beginning of John we read that The WORD didn't only find meaning but found life. "The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." As we begin our Lenten series on the Gospel of John using Adam Hamilton's "John: The Gospel of Light and Life," I invite you to consider what it means for the word to become flesh. Has The WORD found a home among you?

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday in Lent

Bible Reading: John 2:1-12

When you see a stop sign coming up, you begin to slowly put on your breaks and then once you get to the stop sign you come to a complete stop. When flying in an airplane you pay attention to the seat belt signs that inform you when you must have your seatbelt on or when you can take it off. There are many different signs we come across in our everyday lives that inform us of how we need to adjust our actions. In the gospel of John we read about some of the miracles Jesus performed. John refers to these acts as miraculous signs. Jesus didn't just do them to gain more viewers and get more likes on YouTube, but he did them to point us to something much more important. These signs were meant to inform us of the ways in which we should be adjusting our behaviors. Join us as we find out what these miraculous signs pointed to and how they inform our everyday lives.

NURTURE, OUTREACH & WITNESS ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

JANUARY NURSE OUTREACH –

SUMC delivered 60 grab and go meals to the COVID and ICU units' nurses at Heritage Valley Sewickley Hospital on January 15th, 19th and 21st. Those 180 meals would not have been possible without funding from Miracle Sunday and community partners. Safran's Market once again provided sandwiches at a discount; T-Bones Supermarket cost shared on sandwiches and salads; The Ultimate Pastry Shop donated cookies; Giant Eagle Leetsdale gave apples and oranges; and Sewickley Kiwanis donated funds. It has been wonderful to partner with the community to show appreciation to those on the front lines. Hopefully, COVID case surges will not return; if they do, SUMC will consider further outreach.



LENTEN FINES CALENDAR – As this newsletter goes "to print," the calendar is being finalized by The Nyadire Connection. Each week, different aspects of that ministry will be featured. The Nyadire Connection supports ministries in Zimbabwe that include schools, clinics, and other outreach to help the Nyadire residents become self-supporting. Please watch for updates in a weekly email from SUMC.



The **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)** wish to thank all who helped us successfully meet our budget obligations for missions in 2020. In addition to financially supporting

UMW mission projects, the UMW Legacy Fund and WPA Conference Agencies, we were also able to donate to Community Agencies that help many in need very close to home. Thank you for your generous support. As we begin another year of mission work, our UMW unit requests your prayers for each participant to have a renewed sense of enthusiasm and joy in service. Kristine Swaney 412-741-2092

FEBRUARY FOOD PANTRY IDEAS –

For February some extras for the kitchen are in order. Cooking oil, shortening, salt, pepper, sugar, sweeteners, and creamer perhaps? Some coffee drinkers would welcome coffee, as well! The grocery carts are in the hallway outside of the Simpson Room for your convenience. Thank you for supporting the Sewickley Community Center's Food Bank with your donations.



Here are some ideas to help care for our Shut-ins in February

- ♥ Send Valentines
- ♥ If you have little artists at home, send their original artwork

Check with the church office for addresses

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
Mignon Emmert
Renee Gittins
Atleah Grubb
Virginia Harriger
Brad and Jan Jones
B.J. (Elizabeth) Manzinger
Pat Rudy
Patricia Smith
Shirley Sye

BETHANY HOUSE ACADEMY RE-OPENS! HELP IS NEEDED

BHA has been relocated to the church next door that once housed the Church of Our Saviour congregation. Tutoring is the focus at this time, as many children have had little instruction since March due to the many challenges of COVID era schooling. School supplies are needed. During February and March, SUMC will accept donations of new pens, pencils, erasers, notebooks and notebook paper, etc. Art supplies such as markers, crayons, blunt scissors, and glue sticks are also requested. Snacks are also be welcome. A collection box is by the church office for your donations. If you are interested in tutoring at BHA, please contact Church Union at 412-231-4900. Lastly, the "farmhouse" that had housed BHA needs to be cleaned and renovated to become a community center. If you are able to help with those tasks, contact Church Union. If you want to help with renovations or cleaning, the Outreach Committee has funds to help with your supplies; contact Martha Boward.



Donations Needed

NURTURE, OUTREACH & WITNESS ACTIVITIES AND NEWS, CONTINUED

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY DAFFODIL (AND TULIP) DAYS!

SUMC is teaming up with the American Cancer Society to raise funds through DAFFODIL and TULIP sales. Until February 14th you may place your order by emailing your order to Martha Boward (maboward@yahoo.com) or filling out the form available outside the church office. Pick up from Sewickley UMC will be announced when set (most likely during the week of March 22nd). Payment must be made prior to February 14th, as well. Make checks payable to Sewickley UMC; clearly mark all payments "Daffodils." If you pay via EasyTithe, please add the requested fee to your total. The following are available:

- ◆ For a \$10 donation, receive one bunch of DAFFODILS
- ◆ For a \$15 donation, receive POTTED MINI-DAFFODILS
- ◆ For a \$15 donation, receive one bunch of assorted, colorful TULIPS
- ◆ For a \$25 donation, you may opt to have volunteers deliver a Gift of Hope (daffodils) to a local hospital



DAFFODIL DAYS
Blooming HOPE in our community.

Order your flowers today.



Anti-Racism Resources
Compiled by the Pittsburgh District Anti-Racism Team



Links to sign up or subscribe:

- **Take the "Now, Action" Anti-Racism Pledge** on the WPAUMC website:
www.wpaumc.org/now-action-pledge
- **Subscribe to Praying for Change: Daily Prayers for Anti-Racism** on the UMC Discipleship Ministries website:
www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/praying-for-change-daily-prayers-for-anti-racism
- **Signup for Pennsylvania Council of Churches Advocacy** monthly newsletter:
 - o Website: www.pachurches.org/advocacy
 - o Ministry of Public Witness Monthly Newsletter – a wealth of information:
org2.salsalabs.com/o/5415/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=531
- **Sign up for Anti-Racism Daily** newsletter: www.antiracismdaily.com

Sewickley United Methodist Church—Financial Summary - 2020

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	Over or (Under) Budget
TOTAL EXPENSES	273,445.02	256,101.43	(17,343.59)
TOTAL RECEIPTS	270,061.28	257,685.33	(12,375.95)
OVERAGE	(3,383.74)	1,583.90	



2020 was a challenging year for the financial health of SUMC. The pandemic had a negative impact on revenue sources, with giving noticeably lower than typical and a number of fundraisers cancelled. The pandemic had a positive impact on expenses, as they were much lower than expected with much less activity physically taking place in the building. Going into December, it appeared as though we would finish the budget year in the negative, but thanks to a rally of donations in December, we finished the year \$1,583.90 to the positive. Thank you for your faithful support of the ministries of Sewickley UMC!

If you have any questions concerning the church finances please feel free to ask me. The Financial Committee meets the second Monday of every month and members of the church are welcome to attend as well.

Blessings,
Pam Honeychurch, Treasurer



On Saturday January 9th, Elise Powell and Vincent Biolsi wed at a private ceremony at the bride's parents' house in Sewickley, PA. The beautiful ceremony was officiated by Pastor Hannah. The couple would like to thank you all for the prayers and well wishes. They were greatly appreciated!



CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

The Sewickley United Methodist Church would like to recognize the Class of 2021. This has been a very tough year for all our students not knowing if they are in class or online. God is so GOOD that educators are finding ways to teach and reach out to our young people. Best wishes to the Class of 2021.

Our high school graduates are **Beccah Bischak, Hadley Boyle, Alexander Clifford, Paige Geason, Cameron Hortert, Genevieve Moffett, and Allison Zeanchock.**

Grace Rogansky (May 2021) and **Grant Lane** (December 2021) are graduating from college.

If a name is misspelled or we missed listing your graduate, please let the church office or Sandra Lane know so we can make the correction.

FEBRUARY



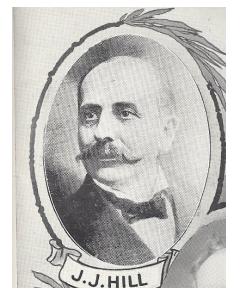
- Lee Ann & Leo Reardon 2/14
- Jim & Tracey Canfield 2/16
- Katie & Amy Napierkowski 2/17
- Mike & Kristine Swaney 2/17



Let's shower John Emmert with cards as he celebrates his 76th birthday on February 15th

136 Centennial Ave, Apt. 301
Sewickley, PA. 15143

Reverend John Jacob Hill (serving Sewickley 1896 to 1904) had the longest pastorate to date of any of the many ministers who had preceded him. He was here for eight years, leaving in the fall of 1904. He was a fine preacher and a great revivalist. His was the first pastorate for many years that had a real minister's family in the parsonage.



Seven young Hills, referred to at the reception as the "seven Hills round about Jerusalem" came to the parsonage and two others arrived during the stay. A certain Sunday morning is a pleasant memory when John Jr., the eldest, came into the vestibule and announced with pride and great glee that they now had a ball team. The ninth member of the family had just arrived. It was the usual thing for Reverend Hill to appear in the pulpit for the Sunday evening service in evening dress. He was never known to do otherwise.

FEBRUARY



- | | | | | | |
|------------------|------|------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Anissa Erkert | 2/2 | Heather Cymbalak | 2/14 | Charlotte Roebuck | 2/20 |
| Tony Ream | 2/2 | Joe Boward | 2/15 | Russel Shuluga | 2/23 |
| Larry Young | 2/2 | John Emmert | 2/15 | Nicholas Garafalo | 2/26 |
| Alan Honeychurch | 2/6 | Owen McCombs | 2/15 | Rebecca Malarik | 2/26 |
| Myles Kennedy | 2/6 | Jim Hamilton | 2/17 | Kristine Swaney | 2/28 |
| Lorelai Cymbalak | 2/8 | Austin Hiles | 2/18 | | |
| Penelope Moore | 2/10 | Mark Benjamin | 2/20 | | |

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.



When I graduated from high school, I wanted to be a history teacher. Little did I know at the time, God had different plans for my life. That being said, for as long as I can remember I have always been interested in the history of our faith, our country, and the world. Why? Because knowing our origins is important to not only understand where we have come from, but it can give us hints about where we are going.

In honor of Black History Month, here is a very small history lesson: the precursor to what we know as Black History Month began as a history week in 1926 and was organized by Carter G. Woodson, who was an American historian, author, journalist, and the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Nearly 44 years later, the first Black History Month was celebrated at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, and since then the month has been recognized in the United States, Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. Each February, Black History Month is a time where we celebrate and remember the important people and events in the history of the African diaspora.

When we recall moments in our history, it is often whitewashed, and we rarely hear about people of color and their contributions. In honor of Black History Month, here are some important people whose shoulders we stand on:

- 1760s: Anne Schweitzer, a black woman, became a founding member of the first Methodist society in Maryland
- 1902: Susan Angeline Collins was sent as a missionary to Angola where it was reported that she was welcomed and served there for 29 years
- 1968: Roy C. Nichols became the first African American to be elected bishop by a regional jurisdictional conference in the newly created United Methodist Church

The history of our faith, country and world has been carried by people of color like Anne Schweitzer, Susan Collins, and Roy Nichols. Sadly, their contributions have been largely overlooked. I believe that Black History Month should not only be commemorated during the month of February, but throughout the year. I challenge you to learn more about the influential people of color of our faith and history alongside your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends. I am certain that the more you read, the more you will learn about the rich tapestry of individuals who have shaped us into where we are today.

Happy learning dear friends!

Mitch Hortert, Church Council Chair

SUMC SENIOR PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



On behalf of SUMC's Nurture Committee, we are starting a new program called the "Senior Program." The program's goal is to improve the quality of life for the senior members of our congregation.

Maybe some of our members feel isolated, depressed, anxious, bored, or useless. Maybe they fear they will or have lost their independence. Maybe they want more friends or something fun and exciting to do. This program will develop activities and approaches to address their concerns. Initially, we will start with volunteers making friendly and prayerful calls to the seniors of our church. There will be training for the volunteers.

We have some additional ideas, such as: bi-monthly music programs at the church, visits with prayer / communion, a pen pal initiative, and more. We can make it be whatever we want! The volunteers will help set the direction.

Senior Program Leaders

Lisa Powell — 412-251-2806 / lisapowell8869@icloud.com

Lisa spent her whole career working with seniors. She brings expertise and strategies for addressing the many issues of aging. She has graciously agreed to lead this effort. She is Lisa Powell's aunt.

Laura Powell — 724-316-7895 / lspapep@hotmail.com

Laura Powell is a member of SUMC and leads the Education Team.

ACTION: email or call Lisa or Laura to be involved and to schedule your 1-on-1 training



TAKEOUT MEAL—MARCH 4

Since we can't host our Monthly Salad Luncheon due to the coronavirus, the Luncheon Committee is offering takeout meals the first Thursday of the month when the salad luncheon would have been. Each meal is \$10 and makes a perfect lunch or dinner. All proceeds benefit the church's General Fund. You may pay for your order, with cash or check, when you pick it up March 4 between 11 am and 1 pm. **Orders are due by February 21. To order or for questions, call Sandy at 412-559-9652 or the church at 412-741-9430. Or complete this form and mail/bring to the church. The church office is open on Wednesdays & Fridays, 9 am—4 pm. [Or complete the online order form by clicking here.](#)**



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of meals: _____

SOUP & HUMMUS SALE FOR THE BUILDING OF FAITH

All proceeds from this sale go toward the principal on the building loan. To order, [click here for the online order form](#), call 412-741-9430 or email (secretary@sewickleyumc.org) or mail/bring your form to the office.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Cash Amount: _____ or Check (made to SUMC) # _____ or EasyTithe Total Amount Enclosed: _____



Choices	Indicate quantity below	
	\$9 Quart	\$6 Pint
Corned Beef & Cabbage: Corned Beef, Cabbage, Butter, Onions, Garlic, Celery, Carrots, Potatoes, Barley, Chicken Stock, and Seasonings		
Clam Chowder: Clams, Clam Juice, Fish Stock, Flour, Half & Half, Onion, Celery, and Seasonings		
Vegetarian Vegetable: Vegetable Broth, Vegetable Juice, Northern Beans, Onions, Diced Tomatoes, Celery, Carrots, Cabbage, Green Beans, Corn & Spices		
Sandra's Hummus (vegetarian/vegan) Chickpeas, Lemon Juice, Garlic, Tahini & Spices	\$5 for ½ pint	

Orders are due by Sunday, February 21 and will be ready for pickup March 4 & 5. Include payment with your order or pay when you pickup your soup or hummus. If using EasyTithe, please include the 3% transaction fee.

In January, as part of the “Our Heroes” series in Children’s Church, I shared the Old Testament story of the “servant girl” who helps Naaman, the army commander who suffered with leprosy. Her story is found in 2 Kings 5.

Every translation identifies her as a “girl,” so we can’t be sure if she’s eight or 18, but at any age her story is extraordinary.

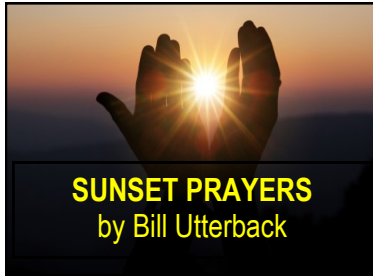
The girl was a captive, taken from her home in Israel by Naaman’s army and forced to work as a servant to Naaman’s wife. She was distanced from her home, from her church, from her friends, and yet she maintained her faith in God and shared it. And, in a story launched by her faith, God healed Naaman.

Beautiful to be reminded of a young person with an active faith in challenging times, isn’t it?

I worry about our youth in our time of distancing. I worry about their faith as the pandemic persists.

From a distance, how do we feed their faith? How do we include them? How do we, as a church family, reflect God’s Love and His Light for those in middle school and high school and college?

In every church, engaging youth is a challenge. Always.



In the best of times, nourishing youth is a challenge. Our best path is through activity, and we create opportunities for them to connect with other young people. We attend concerts. We plan lock-ins and movie nights. We host youth group nights with food and games and Bible study. We encourage them to engage in mission projects.

How do we reflect His Love and His Light for them across distanced days?

Let’s pray for our youth.

Let’s put our youth, and their families, and our youth leaders, at the center of our sunset prayers for February. On February 7, the first Sunday of the month, from wherever you are, as the sun sets around 5:45 pm, let’s pray together for our youth.

Pray for their health. For their school-related responsibilities. For their relationships with family and friends. Ask God to reveal Himself to them in new ways.

Pray for their relationships with Jesus.

And, in prayer, let’s ask God to show us how we, as a church family and as individuals, can encourage and nourish their faith.

- John A.
- Wayne Barrack
(Belinda Resler’s dad)
- Cathy
- Jack Certain
- Irene Chenot
(Beth Zeanchock’s mom)
- Chris Christy
- Family of Gene Cracraft
(Pastor Russel’s uncle)
- John Cummins
- Jodie Dolin
(Bonnie Stoicovy’s daughter)
- Beth Ellisher
- Nancy Erdmann
- Cinnamon Evans
(Pat Grossarth’s neice)
- Pat Fulton
(Scott Matthew’s mom)
- Dan Gittins
- Dave H.
- Bob and Sal H.
- Doris Harris
- Angela Helms
- Donna Hudenski and family



Prayer Requests

- Ceel Janosik
- Wayne Johnson
- Mara Kelly
- Brenda Kinney
- Joe L.
- Rob Lane
- Laura, Leah & Frankie
(Jenine Furry’s sister & nieces)
- Family of Dixie Lemasters
(Debbie Chesney’s mom)
- Daniel Lewis
(Susie Moffett’s dad)
- Michelle Malito
- Mary Maminski
- Tony Morgan
(Dominic Odom’s cousin)

- Bola Nicholson
- Karen Nickell
- Paula Odom
(Dominic Odom’s sister)
- Lorraine Offner
- Rosemary Robinson
- Jim Rogansky
- Linda Rummens
- Blake S.
- Karen S.
- Karen Shong
- C.R. & Lorraine Simpson
- Brenda Smith
- Ron Smith
- Ronli Smith
(Ron Smith’s son)
- Linda Sollinger
(Travis Sollinger’s mom)
- Sandy Stroebel
(Greg Lane’s sister)
- Barry Yant
- James Yant
- Rich Z.
- Dennis Zeveny



On Christmas Day 2020, God took another angel home to be with him...my Mom, Dixie J. Lemasters. My sincerest appreciation to my church family for all of the prayers, cards and thoughts you have provided to my Mom during the last several years. My Mom was a member of the Kings Creek Union Chapel in Weirton since 1956. Whenever she came to visit Gordon and I, she always looked forward to coming to Church with us at SUMC on Sundays or attending some of our Church special events with us. Our Church Family always made her feel welcome. Reverend Shuluga visited with my Mom many times during the past several years as she was in and out of many hospitals, rehab facilities and finally in a nursing home. His visits with her were very special to her. Thank you again everyone for making my Mom part of our Church family.

Debbie & Gordon Chesney

To All,

We cannot express our gratitude enough to all of you for the kind, generous, and delicious lunch you sent to us. Many days we are unable to break away from our busy department to grab lunch in the cafeteria. This happened to be one of those days! So thank you, again, for feeding us and keeping us nourished and happy thru our day.

God Bless all of You,
Sewickley ER

Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you for your donations to UMCOR in December supporting US and International Disaster Response and Recovery, and the UMCOR COVID-19 Response Fund.

The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be - Thank you!

Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms - sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need!

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.

Grace and Peace,
Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

The McTighe family sends their appreciation for the prayers and cards they received following the recent passing of their son and brother, Matt McTighe.

Dear Sewickley UMC,

Thank you for the \$200 gift for the purchase of shoes for Church Union's ministries. Gifts like yours have blessed us with an ever increasing ability to help those in need within the Greater Pittsburgh Area. Year after year, we are able to record measurable progress in the growth of Church Union's ministries - more children fed in the summer through Kids Meal Network, more schools coming on board with the Reading & Mentoring Program, and more homeless neighbors being fed by Daily Bread.

On behalf of the United Methodist Church Union Board of Directors, thank you for enabling Church Union to attain the goal of becoming an even greater force in responding to the needs of poverty, illiteracy, and social injustice. We are most grateful for your generosity and continued support.

God's Blessings,
Rev. Larry P. Homitsky
President, United Methodist Church Union

Dear Folks,

The Nyadire Connection thanks you for supporting the Nyadire, Zimbabwe Mission and Hospital through the Clinic Revitalization Project. Your contributions have already enabled the completion of the Chikwizo, Nyahuku and Dendera Clinics. Work is continuing on Mashambanhaka. When it is complete 5 of the 6 clinics will have been rebuilt. All work has been accomplished by the Zimbabwean people of the surrounding area who will be served by the Clinic and Zimbabwean contractors using local labor.

Thank you also for supporting the orphans at the Home of Hope at the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe. Your contributions are providing significant support for these students.

Thank you from The Nyadire Connection team

Some of the nurses posted a thank you to all of you for the beautiful lunches you sent. Just wanted you to know how much they appreciate your kindness

Thanks for your kindness,
Carolyn Yant Pegher
(from Facebook)

FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 PM AA	2 8 PM AA	3 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	4 11 AM - 1 PM Takeout Meals 5:30 - 6:30 PM Takeout Meals	5 6:30 PM AA 8 PM AA	6
7 10 AM Traditional Worship Service 11:30 AM Children's Church 11:30 AM Zoom Middle School SS Class	8 6:30 PM Finance Committee 6:30 PM Trustees 7 PM AA 8 PM Council Meeting	9 8 PM AA	10 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	11	12 6:30 PM AA 8 PM AA	13
14 10 AM Contemporary Worship Service 11:30 AM Children's Church 11:30 AM Zoom Middle School SS Class	15 7 PM AA	16 8 PM AA	17 Ash Wednesday 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	18	19 6:30 PM AA 8 PM AA	20
21 10 AM Traditional Worship Service 11:30 AM Children's Church 11:30 AM Zoom Middle School SS Class	22 11 AM Lenten Study Group 7 PM AA	23 7 PM Lenten Study Group 8 PM AA	24 10 AM Lenten Study Group 6:30 PM Leap of Faith 6:30 PM Lenten Study Group	25 10 AM Lenten Study Group	26 6:30 PM AA 8 PM AA	27
28 10 AM Contemporary Worship Service 11:30 AM Children's Church 11:30 AM Zoom Middle School SS Class						



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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We use "easyTithe" to offer online giving to our church family. Those who choose to give in this way can create a secure account 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 as 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.

