

Sewickley United Methodist Church

February 2022 Newsletter

From The Pastor's Heart

February is Black History Month, a time to reflect on issues of race and religion and celebrate the important roles African Americans have played in the development of the United States. Recognition of those roles from a historical perspective is an important step in celebrating the contributions of individuals and the collective changes the African American community has brought about.

"Black History Month is with us because, for a variety of reasons, black history has been ignored, revised or distorted too often in our history books. We find it difficult to explore honestly the reasons a study of black history makes so many of us uncomfortable," the late Rev. Gilbert Caldwell, who was active in the civil rights movement, wrote in a UM News Service commentary a few years ago.

"We know it is essential to be historically correct about the issues in England that energized the efforts that established the United States. We understand Israel exists in the main because of the history of the oppression of the Jewish people. However, there is difficulty for some people in admitting the existence of American slavery made necessary the abolition movement and the reality of racial segregation provoked and evoked the U.S. civil rights movement," he said.

If we do not remember accurately the negatives of the past, he said, we may repeat them. "Failure to remember the negatives deprives us of the opportunity to celebrate the magnificent progress we have made as a nation since slavery and legal racial segregation," he explained.

The above excerpt can be found at www.wpaumc.org/blackhistorymonth and I encourage you to go and take a closer look at the resources attached to that article. One of those resources, which can be found in this newsletter on page 7, is an easy-to-understand do's and don'ts list titled "Anti-Racism Starts for White Christians: Do's and Don'ts." This list helps to simplify some very basic steps we can all take to aid in the fight against racism.

As long as we at Sewickley United Methodist Church continue to profess the good news of Jesus Christ, we will live out our faith by fighting against systems of oppression starting with our own hearts. We will not be on the side of history that repeats itself and continues to benefit from the dehumanization of our black brothers and sisters. And if we do in any way, may God forgive our sins, call them to light and allow us to do all in our power to make right the harm we were part of.

We can make a difference because it is not by our power, but by the power of God that flows through us. We will help to overcome the evil that persists in this world. If you want to be a part of that "we," don't stop reading here but continue to ask the question, "what can I do?" and use the resources that are available to you. Let's help to make history something worth repeating!

From one light to another,

Hannah M. Loughman
Pastor Hannah Loughman

LENTEN DEVOTION, WRITTEN BY YOU



Tell me your story. We all have one to share. Each of us has experiences of Christ that are unique and faith forming. This Lenten Season give the gift of your story to your brothers and sisters in Christ. We are putting together a devotional for the 40 days of Lent that witness to the truth of Jesus in our lives. St. Matthews AME Zion, St. Paul's Lutheran, and Sewickley United Methodist will be joining our voices together for this Lenten Spiritual Discipline. Will you join us in writing a devotion? You can include a personal story, a favorite scripture, a thought about Christ that others can ponder with you, or all the above. Your writing can be anywhere from a half of a page, 14 font to a whole page 14 font. This is not too small for those who struggle with sight or too big that it stifles the length and depth of your story. Please let Pastor Hannah Loughman know by February 13th if you would like to participate in this devotion. Her email address is pastor@sewickleyumc.org and her phone number is 412-741-9430. **The deadline to write and turn in the devotion is February 20th** so we can have it prepared and distributed in time for the Ash Wednesday Service on March 2nd.

On Sunday, January 23, Estella Rose, Aubrielle Celine and Quentin Adrianus Blijlevens received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Estella, Aubrielle, Quentin are the children of Shannon and Jeroen "Dutch" Blijlevens.



Aubrielle (4), Estella (6) & Quentin (2)



Remember our Shut-ins

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

Sylvia Bajsec Jim and Olive Chewning Mignon Emmert Renee Gittins Atleah Grubb Virginia Harriger Jan Jones B.J. (Elizabeth) Manzinger Pat Rudy Patricia Smith Shirley Sye Lura Zaremba	
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- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| Lee Ann & Leo Reardon | 2/14 |
| Jim & Tracey Canfield | 2/16 |
| Mike & Kristine Swaney | 2/17 |

ACOLYTE TRAINING

Calling all kids! How would you like to be a part of the service each Sunday? How would you like to be the one to carry the light of Christ into our presence to center our hearts on Jesus?

We will have acolyte training on Sunday, February 27th following the Traditional Worship Service. Parents: If your child is old enough to carry a candle lighter with a lit flame on it and understand it represents the light of Jesus, they are old enough to participate! Let Pastor Hannah know if you would like to attend this training.





The Steelers are out of the playoffs, but fans can still celebrate the **Souper Bowl** in February. We will be collecting funds to support local food banks. These financial donations will supplement the regular monthly donation of food items. You can donate through the soup kettles set out during the Sunday church services on Sunday, February 13th, or through your weekly offering envelopes or through EasyTithe. Please mark your gift "Souper Bowl" if you choose the latter two options.



Worship Opportunities - February 2022

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

February 6, 2022
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Recognition of Leadership
Communion

Liturgist: Donna Sawhill
Scripture Lesson: Psalm 138 & Isaiah 6:1-8
Message: "Are You Clean Enough to Eat with God?"

Many of us can probably still hear our moms or grandmas yelling at us to wash our hands before coming and sitting down at the table to eat. Some of us maybe even had to wash our elbows and faces, too. There was no way we were going to enter into the presence of mealtime with dirt still under our nails. If we aren't clean enough to be in our own houses, are we clean enough to be in the house of God? Are we clean enough to be anywhere near the presence of God? How clean do we have to be exactly? Join us as we discover what permits us or keeps us from coming face-to-face with God.

February 13, 2022
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Handbell Choir, 11 am Service

Liturgist: Otis McAliley
Scripture Lessons: Psalm 1:1-6 & Jeremiah 17:5-10
Message: "How Good Is Your Soil?"

We are all planted somewhere. Maybe we have been somewhere for a long time and our roots extend deep and wide. Maybe we just arrived, and our roots are shallow. Regardless of time, the fruitfulness of our branches will be determined by what is feeding our roots. This is true for our lives. The people and content that make up the space around us will determine what it is that comes out of us. How good is your soil?

February 20, 2022
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Liturgist: Ron Smith
Scripture Lessons: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
 and Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Message: "Stop Dwelling on That!"

I heard a simple but powerful commentary on change one time. In a conversation between two people who hadn't seen each other for a while one person said, "You changed." The other person responded, "We're supposed to." Sometimes we spend so long dwelling on something that happened, on something someone else did, on a place we are currently in, that we forget we are a people who are made for movement. Yes, sometimes we are called to be still and remember who God is, but not for so long that we become dependent on our plight as an excuse for where we are. Stop dwelling on that and start moving in the name of God who calls you on.

February 27, 2022
Transfiguration Sunday

Liturgist: Grace Rogansky
Scripture Lessons: Exodus 34:29-35
 and 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Message: "Your Freedom Awaits!"

In Dante's poem "Inferno" a case is made that hell is locked from the inside. As he struggles with the sin of lust and pride, he looks to find a way out but, understands he is keeping himself there. This is true for most of our lives. We struggle with so many things that we really don't need to struggle with at all. We know we should give them up, but what if we changed the "we should" thought to "I could if I wanted to." Your freedom awaits, Christ has a made a way for it to be so, the steps are up to you.



As we have done in the past and continue to strive to do we will be gathering with our brothers and sisters from St. Matthews AME Zion and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches over the season of Lent. Though it has been common practice to share a meal together, out of an abundance of caution we will not be sharing meals this year. We will however share our hearts in worship together. All services, except Easter Sunrise, will be held at 6 pm.

Ash Wednesday, March 2; Host Church: Pastor Hannah Loughman will preach at St Matthews AME Zion

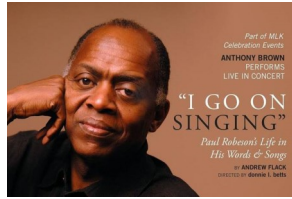
The 6 Sundays of Lent

- March 6 – St. Paul's Lutheran
- March 13 – Sewickley UMC
- March 20 – St. Matthews AME Zion
- March 27 – St. Paul's Lutheran
- April 3 – Sewickley UMC
- April 10 – St. Matthews AME Zion

Easter Sunrise Service, Sewickley Cemetery, April 17, 6:30 am

I GO ON SINGING: PAUL ROBESON'S LIFE IN HIS WORDS & SONGS —

Saturday, February 26, 6 pm, Dutilh UMC, 1270 Dutilh Road, Cranberry Twp. The story of this American hero, Paul Robeson, who struggled and triumphed



comes alive in a 90-minute song-filled presentation performed by Pittsburgh native and gifted American baritone and international ambassador of peace, Anthony Brown. "I Go On Singing" brings music and history alive with equal parts documentary and live concert experience. Musical numbers range from spirituals to Broadway, and include Robeson's original arrangements like "Wade in the Water," "Ol' Man River," "It Ain't Necessarily So," and "Water Boy." Robeson's musical colleague, the legendary folk singer Pete Seeger, makes three video appearances discussing his friendship with Robeson, the music they shared, and the turbulent times in which they lived. "Once in a lifetime a human being comes along who stands head and shoulders above the rest. Paul Robeson was such a man." This event is sponsored by the Pittsburgh District Anti-Racism Team and the Donald, Sr. & Louise Blinn Family Trust. A free-will offering will be received to help cover the cost of the program.

Please be sure to note the following important details:

- This event will follow Covid-19 safety guidelines; hence all attendees need to wear a mask
- For contact tracing purposes, those interested in attending the concert MUST register using [this Eventbrite link \("I Go On Singing" Paul Robeson's Life in His Words & Songs Registration, Sat, Feb 26, 2022 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite\)](#) and should bring their e-ticket to gain access to the venue

"WHITE AWAKE" BOOK STUDY VIA ZOOM — Join the book study of "White Awake: An honest look at what it means to be white" by Daniel Hill, sponsored by the WPA Commission on Religion and Race. The 6-week study, Tuesdays, 7 - 9 pm, February 1 - March 8, is being led by Lisa Morse, First UMC Pittsburgh, and Rev. Dylan Parson, South Hills Partnership. To attend please purchase the book and register here [via Eventbrite](#).



SONGS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE CONCERT:

Saturday, February 26, 3 pm, Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church - 384 Fox Chapel Rd., Pittsburgh. A community-wide concert of sacred and secular choral music of social justice with poetry & readings in honor of Black History Month, featuring: The Essence of Joy Alumni Singers, Dr. Anthony Leach, Music Director. From Pennsylvania State University - www.eojas.org. Face masks required. A free will offering will be received to support event costs. Livestream link and more info — visit www.FaithFoxChapel.org/songs.

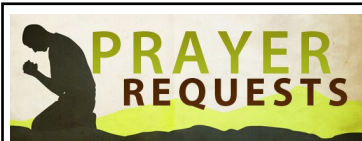


As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the

United Methodist Committee on Relief assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable. We provide relief, response and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development. You can give to UMCOR Disaster Response, through your regular offering or via EasyTithe, by marking it "UMCOR." If you wish to specify "domestic" or "international," please do so.



The **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)** will hold its February luncheon meeting on **Sunday, February 13**, in the Simpson Room immediately following the traditional service. Please bring your own lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided. Director Rev. Katie Peterson will provide a special program about the ministry of the Eastbrook Mission Barn, one of six UMCOR Relief Supply Network depots across the United States. Everyone is welcome to attend.



John A.
Kim Bur-
Hurst Bartley
Eddie Brezny
Cathy
Lauren McAliley Cephus
(Otis McAliley's daughter)
Jack Certain
Irene Chenot
(Beth Zeanchock's mom)
Bruno Crapis
John Cummins

Betty Dornetta
Nancy Erdmann
Rev. Marilyn Evans
Pat Fulton
(Scott Matthew's mom)
Family of June Graham (Carole
Ford's sister-in-law)
Jessica H.
Ceel Janosik
Alfred Johnson Jr.
(Otis McAliley's nephew)
Wayne Johnson
Family of Brad Jones
(Jan Jones' husband)
Brandy K.

Family of Raymond Kinneer
(Warren Kinneer's dad)
David Kramer
(brother of Kandace Kramer
and Kristine Swaney)
Lisa L.
Daniel Lewis
(Susie Moffett's dad)
Craig McClean
Mary Maminski
Tom Moog
Tony Morgan
(Dominic Odom's cousin)
Family of Bola Nicholson
(Willie Nicholson's wife)
Lorraine Offner

Dominic Odom
Steve Powell
Jim Rogansky
Mario Russo
Karen Shong
C.R. & Lorraine Simpson
Family of Bob Sipes
Linda Sollinger
(Travis Sollinger's mom)
Joseph Umer
Ryan Warden
Larry and Nancy Young
Rich Z.
Dennis Zeveny

Anissa Erkert	2/2
Tony Ream	2/2
Alan Honeychurch	2/6
Myles Kennedy	2/6
Lorelai Cymbalak	2/8
Penelope Moore	2/10
Heather Cymbalak	2/14
Joe Boward	2/15



John Emmert	2/15	Jim Hamilton	2/17
Owen McCombs	2/15	Austin Hiles	2/18
		Mark Benjamin	2/20
		Charlotte Roebuck	2/20
		Russel Shuluga	2/23
		Nicholas Garafalo	2/26
		Rebecca Malarik	2/26
		Kristine Swaney	2/28

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.



Blood Drive! SAVE THESE DATES

Vitalant will conduct blood drives on Sundays, April 24th & September 25th right here at SUMC. If you regularly give blood, consider timing your donations so you can participate at SUMC's drives. Some restrictions on who may donate have changed, so if you were once excluded, you are encouraged to call Vitalant to check if you may now donate. For further information on qualifications, please visit vitalant.org or call (877) 25 VITAL.

"Father, Open our eyes to see ... we all bleed the same ... we're more beautiful when we come together."

The lyrics were written by Mandisa and shared wonderfully in song by Felicity, Genevieve and Grace during our contemporary worship on the eve of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January.

"Father, Open our eyes to see ... "

I've heard many people pray and ask to experience the world with the eyes and ears of Jesus. I offer a similar prayer every day.

"Let us see what you see, Lord. Let us hear what you hear. Let us respond as you would respond."

The intent almost always involves people who are suffering. Let us see the hungry, the lonely, the broken, the addicted, the discouraged, the disconnected ...

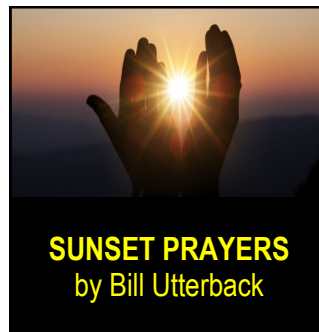
We use the same prayer to confront racism.

"Father, Open our eyes to see ... "

As we stand in the echo of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, on the doorstep of Black History Month, our Pastor Hannah is suggesting an addendum.

Lord, as you show us where we can share your love and your light to end racism, show us the beauty you see in the diversity of your children.

Let's make that our prayer for February. At about 5:45 pm, on February 6, as the sun is setting, from wherever you are, with whomever wants to join you, join us in lifting a prayer asking God to open our eyes to the beauty in people whose skin color and experiences are different from ours.



"We are one humanity ... but we are not the same, and that is a good thing," Hannah said in her January 16 message. "There is beauty to celebrate in our differences and that is an intentional part of the creation of God.

"It is a benefit ... to have new experiences that heighten our awareness, that help us be present in the moment and see the differences around us.

Don't shove them out. Don't try to turn them off, but turn to see the differences and know they are good.

They are not (something) to be afraid of, not (something) to avoid or avert our eyes from. As long as we do that, racism will persist."

Hannah suggested embracing diversity through the arts, music and worship. Black History Month traditionally provides increased opportunities to explore and experience.

"As white folks, we cannot possibly drink from the same cup and experience first-hand the full evils of racism. We can engage in experiences that help us see the full beauty in our differences and to fight for them to be able to exist. I encourage you to engage in these experiences."

"Father, Open our eyes to see ... "

This was Hannah's prayer:

"Almighty God, we know you are good, you are generous, we know your blessings are meant for all to experience, so we fight for all to experience them. Lord, show us what to do. Show us how to move. Do not let us grow complacent. Do not let us be stagnant. Set us on fire with an awareness that the diversity among us is worth fighting for. In Jesus name we pray. Amen."

2022 CHURCH LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Church Officers

Lay Leader Donna Sawhill
 Administrative Council Chair Mitchell Hortert
 Lay Member to Annual Conference Donna Sawhill
 Staff Parish Relations Chair Otis McAliley
 Finance Chair Lisa Jankowski
 Treasurer Pam Honeychurch
 Trustee Chair TBD
 Nurture Chair Sandy Kuriger
 Outreach Chair Barbara Bower
 Witness Chair Susie Moffett
 Library Chair Warren Kinneer
 UM Women Chair Kristine Swaney

Marketing Chair Jack Moffett
 Memorial Chair Wilma Hamilton
 Education Chair Laura Powell
 Worship Chair Lou Ann Scott

Other Work Areas for 2022

Website Jack Moffett
 Membership Secretary Pam Honeychurch & Martha Boward
 Hospitality Committee Steve and Pat Grossarth
 Historians Warren Kinneer & Carole Ford
 Luncheon Coordinators Sandy Kuriger
 Children’s Church Andrea Lewis & Bill Utterback
 Handbell Choir Pamela Mayo
 Fellowship of the Cross Pamela Mayo & Bill Utterback

Church Council

Mitchell Hortert, Chair
 Pastor Hannah Loughman
 Chair of Trustees (TBD)
 Barbara Bower
 Debbie Consoli
 Carole Ford
 Laura Geason
 Jim Hamilton
 Wilma Hamilton
 Sarah Heastings
 Pam Honeychurch
 Lisa Jankowski
 Warren Kinneer
 Sandy Kuriger
 Otis McAliley
 Kandace McClain
 Felicity Moffett
 Susie Moffett
 Laura Powell
 Donna Sawhill
 Maddie Sollinger
 Kristine Swaney

Finance Committee

Lisa Jankowski, Chair
 Pastor Hannah Loughman
 Trustee Rep (TBD)
 Kim Benjamin
 Martha Boward
 Barbara Bower
 Jere Cowden
 Wilma Hamilton
 Pam Honeychurch
 Mitchell Hortert
 David Malarik
 Otis McAliley
 Donna Sawhill
 Lou Ann Scott
 Brenda Smith
 Andrew Yetzer

Board of Trustees

TBD, Chair
 Pastor Hannah Loughman
 Jim Canfield
 Jenine Furry
 Alan Honeychurch
 CJ Jones
 Greg Lane
 Sandra Lane
 Ray Pluechel
 Mark Wiggins

Memorial Committee

Wilma Hamilton, Chair
 Kim Benjamin
 Dorritt Field
 Carole Ford
 Pat Grossarth
 Sandy Kuriger
 Greg Lane
 Nancy Plum
 Travis Sollinger

Worship Committee

Lou Ann Scott, Chair
 Pastor Hannah Loughman
 Carol Egenlauf
 Pat Grossarth
 Steve Grossarth
 Jim Hamilton
 Wilma Hamilton
 Kelly Herman
 Pam Honeychurch
 Jennifer Jones
 Matthew McTeague
 Genevieve Moffett
 Jack Moffett
 Donna Sawhill

Education Committee

Laura Powell, Chair
 Roberta Davis
 Jim Hamilton
 Wilma Hamilton
 Lisa Jankowski
 Andrea Lewis
 Barry Lewis
 Bill Utterback
 Beth Zeanchock

Marketing Committee

Jack Moffett, Chair
 Pastor Hannah Loughman
 Sandra Lane
 Susie Moffett
 Donna Sawhill
 Bill Utterback

Library Committee

Warren Kinneer, Chair
 Holly Burnett
 Jenine Furry
 Laura Geason
 Sandra Lane

Staff Pastor Relations Committee

Otis McAliley, Chair
 Barbara Bower
 Johnathan Burnett
 Virginia Heinzl
 Mitchell Hortert
 Jennifer Jones
 Donna Sawhill
 Ron Smith
 Kristine Swaney

Nurture Committee

Sandy Kuriger, Chair
 Debbie Consoli
 Roberta Davis
 Dorritt Field
 Jeff Moore
 Nancy Plum
 Donna Sawhill

Outreach (Missions) Committee

Barbara Bower, Chair
 Mark Benjamin
 Pat Grossarth
 Jim Hamilton
 Sarah Heastings
 Pam Honeychurch
 Barry Lewis

Witness Committee

Susie Moffett, Chair
 Edie Erkert
 Laura Geason
 Jim Hamilton
 Sarah Heastings
 Bill Utterback

Committee On Lay Leadership

Pastor Hannah Loughman
 Mark Benjamin
 Jenine Furry
 Wilma Hamilton
 Kelly Herman
 Dorothy Jadlowiec
 Otis McAliley
 Susie Moffett
 Donna Sawhill
 Lou Ann Scott
 Mark Wiggins

ANTI-RACISM STARTS FOR WHITE CHRISTIANS: DO'S AND DON'TS



DO

CONNECT THE DOTS. Preach, teach, and say clearly in your church, "Violence towards People of Color is rooted in historical and institutional racism. This not just individual criminality or personal misconduct; it is systemic racial violence, and racism is a sin against God"

NAME THE RACISM YOU SEE. Don't ignore, excuse, or minimize racist comments, stereotypes, and behaviors. Call it out, and invite change. Learn the history of racist terms and symbols of white supremacy, including the Confederate battle flag and Nazi and Ku Klux Klan insignia.



PARTICIPATE IN A STUDY OR DISCUSSION.

Learn what you don't know about racism. Listen to People of Color when they speak from their personal experience of racism.

DEVELOP A THICKER SKIN. Racism is a fact. Confronting and naming it requires you to learn its history and acknowledge its continuing presence in your church and community. Adjust to saying and hearing the word "racist". Instead of feeling defensive and guilty, choose to become an ally for change.

COUNTER WITH ACTS OF EQUITY AND JUSTICE.

Contact your representatives, encouraging them to support and enact laws that counter historic and current expressions of racism. Send a financial gift to a church or local organization actively working against racism in your community.



LOOK FOR SYSTEMIC RACISM. Redlining, sundown towns, voter suppression, and Jim Crow laws are clear expressions of institutional racism. As tempting as it is to say we are now past "those days," systemic racism, via implicit bias and explicit discriminatory practice, is very much present in our institutions, whether policing, healthcare, housing, education, governance, employment, financial, or religious. Choosing to be colorblind does not turn the world monochrome. And neither does ignoring racism magically make the world suddenly equitable and just for all.



DON'T

CONFUSE "NOT RACIST" WITH ANTI-RACIST.

Anti-racism means one is actively confronting and seeking to dismantle racism in one's faith and daily life. Accepting the status quo and pretending race isn't a "thing" does not help to end racism. All Christians should embrace anti-racism as part of our walk with God.

MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH.

Racism has such a hold on our society because white people are taught to ignore or dismiss it, and to believe "race" is something "they" have. Pastors and teachers in white congregations equip Christians to become anti-racist by naming historic, systemic, and even theological racism and seeking ways people of faith can confront and interrupt it.

SAY, "I DON'T SEE COLOR,"

Read the Pentecost story in Acts 2. All people of all nations, races, and tribes celebrated the coming of God's Holy Spirit. God made us all colors and intended we celebrate this diversity. The goal of anti-racism is for all of us to celebrate and "see color" as a gift from God, without ascribing greater or lesser value to God's people based on their skin color.

FAIL TO USE YOUR WHITE PRIVILEGE FOR GOOD.

Speak out when you see racism happening. Champion changes in your church, workplace, and civic groups that allow wider inclusion of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) folks. White people tend to respect and listen to other white people with greater openness and seriousness. Use that to foster anti-racism.

"OVERTALK" PEOPLE OF COLOR.

Even in the work against racism, some white people are so used to being "experts" in the group they may unconsciously overtalk or dismiss the ideas and experiences of People of Color. Anti-racism work requires white people listen to and take the lead from People of Color.



RELIGION & RACE

The United Methodist Church

www.GCORR.org



Your kindness to the Sewickley Hospital nurses during the pandemic is so appreciated. It has been a trying year in healthcare, and sometimes it can feel like there is no end in sight. The lunches you sent us filled our bellies and hearts, giving us fuel to continue to care for our patients. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Toniann (Nurse Manager, Observation Unit)

Dear Sewickley United Methodist Church,
Thank you very much for your kind and generous lunch donations to the progressive care and critical care units. The staff asked me to express their appreciation and wish you all happy holidays.

Sincerely,
Dana Grossi, Nurse Manager

Dear Church Family,
I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the support and encouragement you have shown me over the past four years while I was working toward my Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Your thoughts, prayers and support helped me through this. I received my degree and I know without you, this would have been more difficult and I am thankful to God and to you.
I am especially enjoying the gift of the book "Walking with God". Thank you again and know that I am blessed to have you all as my Church Family!

Blessings,
Roberta Davis

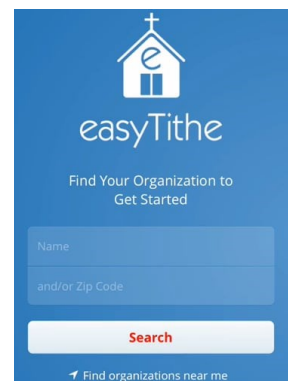
To My Church Family,
Thank you for all of your cards, prayers and thoughts after the death of my father. They meant a lot to my family and me.
Warren Kinneer



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.

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



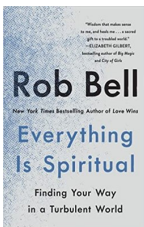
TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S GROWTH GROUP

The Tuesday morning Growth Group will meet every Tuesday in February in the library from 10-11:30 am.

Beginning in March we will begin a study combining prayer and the Lenten journey in our lives today. Same time, same place. All women are invited.



EVERYTHING IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP



I've had a lot of questions about the way we're taught about who God is and how we should relate to Him (or Her?). I've questioned our tendency to praise God when things go our way—when somebody is miraculously healed or when we get that promotion—because our prayers have been answered. And yet, if God is willing to intervene, why do many prayers go unanswered? And I've watched people I respect lose their faith to science, while others find their faith deepen the more they understand about the way the universe works.

I've explored my questions through many studies, and what I've come to understand is that everything is spiritual. Susie and I would like to invite you to join us on a further exploration of religion, faith, and spirituality. We'll be guided by Rob Bell, former pastor, bestselling author, and controversial influencer, as we question everything in a safe and open environment.

We'll be using the following materials: The God's Aren't Angry - film; Everything is Spiritual 2006 - film; Everything is Spiritual 2016 - film; Everything is Spiritual - book; and Possibly others...Trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnMjqXIDzKM

Please join me and Susie on Sundays, 6:30 - 8 pm, **beginning February 6** at our home in Quaker Heights, 212 Pilgrim Drive, Sewickley Jack Moffett, jackmoffett@mac.com, 412-445-2018

2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY



	2021 Budget	Through December	Over or (Under) Budget
TOTAL EXPENSES	268,982.53	262,666.28	(6,316.25)
TOTAL RECEIPTS	244,090.00	289,465.92	45,375.92
OVERAGE (DEFICIT)	(24,892.53)	26,799.64	

We just wrapped up the 2021 Budget Year, making this a good time to summarize the final figures from 2021 and to share what makes up our annual operating budget.

Our annual budget includes the receipt sources and expenses as outlined in the chart below. Each year the finance committee prepares a proposed budget using historical receipt data as a means of projecting receipts for the coming year along with the budget requests from each committee. Our goal is a balanced budget, meaning we don't want expenses to be higher than expected receipts. This task is not taken lightly. There are many large "fixed" expenses that, when balanced against our budgeted receipts, make up the bulk of our church budget. At the same time, we know that to do God's work and "Be the Church" we need to provide adequate funding to our various ministries. Once the finance committee approves the proposed budget, it is presented to the Administrative (Church) Council for discussion and approval.

The table at the top of this page shows the budget and actual expenses and receipts for 2021. When the 2021 budget was drafted,

we based the projected receipts on the 2020 receipts, which were significantly down due to COVID. You can see the 2021 budget was out of budget, with expected expenses nearly \$25,000 higher than expected receipts. Thankfully, 2021 didn't end the way the budget projected. Instead, we were blessed to finish the year with our receipts \$26,000 higher than our expenses. At our January Administrative Council meeting, we voted to take the \$26,000 overage and apply \$10,000 as a principal payment against our sanctuary loan (lowering the outstanding balance to \$35,197.46) and to put \$16,000 in the church's Capital Fund (used for repairs and improvements to our church building).

As your church treasurer, I want to thank you for 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

Receipt Sources	
Congregation's Giving	Donations given by people
Facility Use	Fees & donations for use of church facilities
Misc. Sources	Monies raised by fundraisers and other sources
Trusts & Estates	Disbursements from our 4 investment accounts (bequeaths left to the church)
Expenses	
Connectional Apportionment	An amount determined annually by the Western Pennsylvania Conference, through our apportioned giving we participate in and support the ministry and mission of the United Methodist Church both locally and around the world.
Pastor & Staff	Costs associated with having a fulltime pastor & part-time staff (custodian, minister of music, secretary, and nursery attendant): payroll, taxes, worker's comp insurance, and pastor's insurance, pension and reimbursement,
Facilities & Equipment	Costs associated with the upkeep of our beautiful, historic church building & parsonage: insurance, property taxes, janitorial supplies, interior and exterior maintenance, exterminator, equipment maintenance and repair, security, clock tower maintenance, and organ and piano maintenance.
Utilities - Church	Electricity, gas, water & sewer, phone & internet service, trash collection, water service
Utilities - Parsonage	Electricity, gas, water & sewer, internet, trash collection
Church Administration	Office supplies, postage, miscellaneous expenses, copier service, Annual Conference registration fees
Worship	Worship materials and equipment, music, guest musicians, special flowers
Education	Material & supplies for Sunday School, VBS, Nursery, Bible Study, Youth Group, Fellowship of the Cross, and Children's Church
Nurture & Hospitality	Costs associated with ministries that help care for our church family and visitors: fellowship events (food, beverages, paper products, etc.), card ministry, prayer blanket & pillow ministry
Outreach	Costs associated with helping those outside our church, including Center for Hope dinners, devotionals, Pumpkin Patch & Light Up Night tracts, gift cards for community food bank, Pastor's Pantry, support for ministries, plus Pastor's monthly outreach stipend
Witness	Costs associated with sharing the Love of God with others including Light Up Night, book studies, and devotionals
Finance Committee	Safe deposit box rental, giving and pew envelopes, easyTithe (electronic giving) monthly use and transaction fees
Marketing Committee	Website hosting fees, image hosting service fees, advertising expenses



MONTHLY LUNCHEON — MARCH 3

You are invited to enjoy our popular luncheons in person or as take-outs on **Thursday, March 3, 11 am - 12 pm** and the first Thursday of each month.

Complete [this form online](#) or return this printed form to make dining-in reservations or to order take-out meals. For questions, call the church at 412-741-9430. Reservations and take-out orders will be taken through **February 20**. Each meal is \$10.

Thank you for your continued support!!

February's Menu: Choice of Sandwich: Reuben or Grilled Cheese, Minestrone Soup, Chips and Shamrock Cookie. Dine-in also includes Beverage.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ e-mail: _____

MEAL SELECTION

of Meals _____ with Reuben # of Meals _____ with Grilled Cheese

DINING-IN or TAKE-OUT

If dining in, time: 11 am 11:15 am 11:45 am

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 bring your form to the office.



Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

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

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		
Sandra's Hummus (vegetarian/vegan - chickpeas, lemon juice, garlic, tahini, spices)	\$5 for ½ pint	

Orders are due by Sunday, February 20 and will be ready for pickup March 3, 4 or 6. Include payment with your order or pay when you pickup your soup or hummus. If using EasyTithe, please include the 3%

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

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

FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10 AM Growth Group: Women of the Bible 6:30 PM Growth Group: Immersion Bible Study: Genesis 8 PM AA	2 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	3 11 AM - 1 PM Community Luncheon 6:15 PM Bell Choir	4 6:30 PM AA	5
6 9 AM Contemporary Service 10 AM Adult Sunday School 10 AM Growth Group: Christ is Counting on You 11 AM Traditional Service 6:30 PM Growth Group: Everything is Spiritual	7 6:30 PM Growth Group: The Gospel According to John 7 PM AA	8 10 AM Growth Group: Women of the Bible 6:30 PM Growth Group: Immersion Bible Study: Genesis 8 PM AA	9 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	10 6:15 PM Bell Choir	11 6:30 PM AA	12
13 9 AM Contemporary Service 10 AM Adult Sunday School 10 AM Growth Group: Christ is Counting on You 11 AM Traditional Service 12 PM UMW Luncheon & Meeting 6:30 PM Growth Group: Everything is Spiritual	14 6:30 PM Finance Committee 6:30 PM Growth Group: The Gospel According to John 6:30 PM Trustees 7 PM AA 8 PM Council Meeting	15 10 AM Growth Group: Women of the Bible 6:30 PM Growth Group: Immersion Bible Study: Genesis 8 PM AA	16 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	17 6:15 PM Bell Choir	18 6:30 PM AA	19
20 9 AM Contemporary Service 10 AM Adult Sunday School 10 AM Growth Group: Christ is Counting on You 11 AM Traditional Service 6:30 PM Growth Group: Everything is Spiritual	21 6:30 PM Growth Group: The Gospel According to John 7 PM AA	22 10 AM Growth Group: Women of the Bible 6:30 PM Growth Group: Immersion Bible Study: Genesis 8 PM AA	23 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	24 6:15 PM Bell Choir	25 6:30 PM AA	26
27 9 AM Contemporary Service 10 AM Adult Sunday School 10 AM Growth Group: Christ is Counting on You 11 AM Traditional Service 6:30 PM Growth Group: Everything is Spiritual	28 6:30 PM Growth Group: The Gospel According to John 7 PM AA					

SAVE THE DATES — ASBESTOS ABATEMENT PROJECT

Project Scope: Trustees have scheduled the removal and replacement of carpet and tile in the basement Sunday School rooms, hallway and nursery. Unfortunately, the tile under the carpet and tile in the nursery has tested for asbestos. Rest assured, the status of our current flooring is safe. There are no broken tiles or dust particles in the air. However, in order to replace the carpet and tiles in those areas we have engaged the services of a contractor to perform the abatement which will then be followed by the installation of new carpet and tiles.

Here are the dates you need to be aware of:

- June 4 -12 - Our church family helps to remove and relocate the contents of all classrooms and nursery
- June 13 - 27- Abatement work begins - areas are sealed off and there will be no access to the area during this work
- June 28 - July 8 - Carpet and tile installation
- July 8 - 15 - Our church family helps return the contents back to appropriate rooms

Project Assistance: Can you help be a part of the clean out process? With a dumpster on site we plan to use this opportunity to clean out all of areas of the church as well. Please mark your calendars. Any questions, please reach out to Sandra Lane (412)841-7169.