

Sewickley United Methodist Church

January 2022 Newsletter

From The Pastor's Heart

The book of Lamentations was written by the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah was a faithful prophet who pleaded with the Israelites to remain faithful and obedient to God. Instead, he had to watch as Jerusalem was destroyed and God's people were once again swept into exile. Lamentations is a beautifully written letter full of raw, honest emotions poured out to God. Jeremiah, in his overwhelming feelings of helplessness as he watched the place and the people who he loved get torn apart, wept and wrote. In his writing we learn what we know to be the truth; sometimes there is simply no resolve for what breaks our hearts. The book of Lamentations ends with Jeremiah pleading with God, 5:21-22, "Restore us, O Lord, and bring us back to you again! Give us back the joys we once had! Or have you utterly rejected us? Are you angry with us still?"

This does not seem like the start of cheery message for the hope of the New Year. Yet maybe it comes close to speaking truth to our hearts and the way we feel as we continue to face the uncertainty before us. I took some time and looked back at the New Year's letter I wrote in January 2021. I mentioned COVID (of course) and had us looking forward to staying the path of caring and kindness even in the toughness of everything else. It read like a letter of lament. By now I know we all thought we would be "out of the woods," yet here we are facing the reality that we might be headed back into the woods again. Lord, how long must we go through this? If you are in this space, I want you to stop reading this letter and take some time to write your own lament. Maybe it is not over COVID but over family conflict, over dashed hopes, over failed dreams. After you have done your lament, or maybe while you are still in it, I want you to come back to this letter again and read the rest.

Though Jeremiah's letter ended with an unresolved question, if you read the entirety of it you will find that he is not completely without hope. He also writes this in Lamentations 3:22-23, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." In the middle of the heart break and chaos Jeremiah found hope! Let me be the hopeful voice of Jeremiah in this moment. Remember again the faithfulness of God. We have just celebrated and given testimony to the birth of Jesus Christ, the light in the darkness that the darkness cannot overcome. No matter what we face in the days ahead, our God's love and provision over us remain the same. Our God remains our God. And through our faithfulness with God, our church remains a beacon of hope. So we lament, but we hope. We lament, but we remember. We lament, but we still love. We still live, and we still serve. I want to thank everyone who has been a continued inspiration through the way you have served God's kingdom over this past year. I also want to thank you for the way you will continue to serve God in the year to come. Through outreach, nurture, and witness we serve. Through worship, education, and VBS we serve. Through our various administrative boards, we serve. Through cleaning the church and preparing the bulletins, we serve. Through pumpkins, soup, and cookies, we serve. Through prayer and tithing, we serve. Through holding a door for someone at the store, to letting someone cut in front of us in traffic, we serve. Through getting up and getting our kids off to school daily with a loving hug and a full belly, we serve. Through reading our bible and spending time calling others on the phone, we serve. Through our service, whether the acts are big or small, we are the hands and feet of Christ in the world. We will show others we serve a God who gives us a reason to not be consumed no matter what this new year brings. I personally look forward with great joy and excitement at being in service with you all in 2022.

From one light to another,

Hannah M. Loughman
Pastor Hannah Loughman



HOLIDAY OUTREACH RECAP

The SUMC congregation, with help from some community members, provided over 100 coats along with some cold weather accessories for the City of Pittsburgh Police distribution in Northview Heights Housing. SUMC and others offered household goods, clothing and lots of books to the families who brought their children to the coat distribution. It was heartwarming to see the children wearing new warm coats, and SUMC Mission Sale “leftovers” going home with the families.

Additionally, gifts were purchased for 20 residents of The Bradley Center, a residential mental health treatment facility for children ages 6 to 21, located in Robinson Township. Besides the wonderful, personalized gifts provided by congregants and friends, each received a plush throw blanket, a game or toy, and shoes plus a shirt (if not gifted by the sponsor). No doubt, the children were delighted to have gifts to open for Christmas.

Lastly, SUMC, along with community partners, provided bagged meals on three occasions to the nurses of the Heritage Valley Sewickley COVID and ICU units. SUMC thanks Subway (Leetsdale) for providing discounted subs and free cookies, Safran’s Market for reduced cost sandwiches, Eat’n Park (Sewickley) for the Smiley Christmas Tree Cookies, and the Ultimate Pastry Shop for donated cookie assortment. The Outreach Committee also thanks everyone who wrote or signed notes that were included with the 180 meals.

Funding for this project was provided through the Outreach Designated Fund, which had recent generous donations helping to leave a nice fund balance going into 2022. In such difficult times, it was a blessing to be able to work alongside others in the Sewickley community.



Blood Drive! SAVE THESE 2022 DATES

Vitalant will conduct blood drives on Sunday, April 24th & Sunday, 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 in recent years, 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.



Joe & Martha Boward January 1

Elise & Vinny Biolsi January 9

HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY – JANUARY 16th – SPECIAL OFFERING

The United Methodist Church is making a difference. The impact of 12.5 million United Methodists in 136 countries is being felt around the world. While extending help and serving abroad for the sake of the Great Commission is a real and important thing, so is loving our neighbor at home. We are called to both.

Human Relations Day is a powerful avenue to extend help and service to our local communities. It is about getting out of our comfortable social circles and offering love and care to those who need help in our neighborhoods and cities. It’s about walking with those who feel like everything in life is stacked against them.

Think about how Jesus walked with those in the margins. In Luke 14: “¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

This is the spirit of Human Relations Day: helping those on the margins and offering a message of hope.

Let’s continue the ministry of Jesus with a united front through the Human Relations Day Special Sunday. Together as a church, we participate in helping our communities and being a bright light at home.

To give to this special offering, please mark your gift “Human Relations” or chose that option on EasyTithe.



Worship Opportunities - January 2022



Contemporary Worship Service: 9 am
 Traditional Worship Service: 11 am
 Our Worship Services are live streamed on sewickleyumc.org and youtube.com.
 The recorded services are also available later on Sunday afternoon.

January 2, 2022
Second Sunday after Christmas
Communion

Liturgist: Martha Boward
Scripture Lesson: 2 Timothy 1:3-10
Message: "Fan Into Flame..." Bill Utterback

The Apostle Paul's letter to the young pastor provides a wonderful template for stepping into the New Year. Paul prompts Timothy to pause and, with thanksgiving, remember the loving, encouraging people God has placed in his life. Then Paul encourages Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God" and reminds him that "the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." We are encouraged to look back for a moment, remembering how God has moved in our lives, and then move forward with purpose and energy to share His Light.

January 9, 2022
Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord

Liturgist: Susie Moffett
Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 43:1-7 & Luke 3:15-18, 21-23
Message: "Don't Blink!"

From birth to baptism, from school to a career, life seems to go by so fast. I have heard it said, "the days are long, but the years are short." Anyone who has watched a child grow knows this to be true. Yet we all have the tendency to want to rush it all by. What is it God has for us moment by moment? How do we live our lives, day by day and find fulfillment in them? God has a plan for us but it's not too soon and it's not too late...it is right now!

January 16, 2022
Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Human Relations Sunday

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 17th)
Liturgist: Barry Lewis
Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 62:1-5 & John 2:1-11
Message: "We Are One but Not the Same"

With so many weddings ending in divorce, what good can we still learn from a marriage? Is there any value to our vows and any strength in our unions? Jesus helps us take a look beyond the surface at what makes a deep commitment to someone else, a commitment worth making. How does that commitment impact the way we engage others around us? How does it help us to stay in the fight against racism and any ism that divides us?

January 23, 2022

Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Sacrament of Holy Baptism, 11 am

Aubrielle, Estella and Quentin Blijlevens
Liturgist: Kim Benjamin
Scripture Lessons: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 & Luke 4:14-21
Message: "Boldly Speak Your Truth!"

Have you ever heard someone make an audacious claim about them self? Ripley's *Believe It or Not* is a whole book focused on claiming people are the best at one thing or another. It's okay when someone else makes the claim, but when you make that claim about yourself it often can seem conceited or egotistical. Yet if we follow the example of Jesus, we are encouraged to boldly speak words of power over ourselves. What words of power belong to you?

January 30, 2022
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Wesley's Covenant Service

Liturgist: Bob Jordan
Scripture Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10 & Luke 4:21-30
Message: "Good Versus Evil and Everything In Between?"

There are so many voices and intentions fighting for our time and a place in our hearts. Good and bad doesn't always make itself clear when it comes to deciding what to do with our days. Wickedness, evil and injustice don't always jump up and down waving their arms letting you know just who they are. How then do we make a covenant to fight against them? It is possible to stay in the fight even when the battle is unclear. But how? What part do we play?



Remember our Shut-ins

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

Sylvia Bajsec Jim and Olive Chewing Mignon Emmert Renee Gittins Atleah Grubb Virginia Harriger Jan Jones B.J. (Elizabeth) Manzinger Pat Rudy Patricia Smith Shirley Sye Lura Zaremba	Sylvia Bajsec Jim and Olive Chewing Mignon Emmert Renee Gittins Atleah Grubb Virginia Harriger Jan Jones B.J. (Elizabeth) Manzinger Pat Rudy Patricia Smith Shirley Sye Lura Zaremba
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MONTHLY LUNCHEON — If you are interested in helping with the January 6 takeout or eat in meal please contact Sandra Kuriger at 412-741-9473.



The following are needed:

- ♥ Bake a Texas Sheet Cake - 3 are needed
- ♥ Purchase large bag of shredded cheddar cheese
- ♥ Donate money to help purchase food items
- ♥ Help work the luncheon

Thank you! We appreciate your help.



JANUARY FOOD PANTRY – For January, some nice hot pancakes sound yummy. Of course, most folks like syrup with those. Perhaps you are a hot oatmeal kind of person? For January, let's fill our grocery carts with pancake mixes, syrups, and hot cereals. The grocery carts are in the

hallway outside of the Simpson Room for your convenience.



UMCOR (UMC Relief Agency) CURRENT DISASTER RESPONSE - UMCOR and its partners are responding to disasters both in the United States and around the world. In response to the dangerous tornadoes that swept across the country and the extensive damage reported in many states, UMCOR has been in contact with Conference Disaster Response Coordinators and provided immediate early response funding. UMCOR will continue to provide aid over what will likely be a long recovery. Please join in prayer for the areas affected and consider a gift to UMCOR Disaster Response (which you may do with your regular offering or via EasyTithe, marking "UMCOR" – if you wish to specify "domestic" or "international", please do so). For details of current responses, please visit [UMCOR's public Facebook page](#) (you do not have to have a Facebook account to see public pages).



SUMC MARKETING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU — Are you skilled in social media, marketing, or advertising? Our Marketing Committee is looking to expand our team. Please consider sharing your gifts with this ministry. We meet about 4 times a year. Our mission is to grow our church family and

spread the good word of what SUMC has to offer.

If you are interested or want to learn more, please reach out to Jack Moffett, jackmoffett@mac.com

Wendy Shepard	1/2	Holly Burnett	1/18
Chris Thornton	1/2	Frank Cannister	1/18
Jeremy McCoy	1/5	Cheryl Barwell	1/20
Peggy Gleason	1/6	Mike Swaney	1/24
Dominic Odom	1/7	Benjamin Spencer	1/26
Estella Blijlevens	1/8	Bo. L.	1/27
Bonnie Stoicovy	1/9	Bill Merryman	1/27
Bella Burnett	1/10	Jeff Canter	1/30
Carol Egenlauf	1/13	Dot Speak	1/30
Allison L.	1/14		



Our 2021 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were shipped to children in the Dominican Republic and Honduras on December 9, and may have been distributed in time for Christmas.

The SUMC family contributed 121 boxes this year. We filled 100 shoeboxes at church, and we gathered 21 boxes filled by families in the community. We have, in campaigns conducted by the Fellowship of the Cross youth, contributed more than 1,100 boxes over the past 11 years.

Each box is delivered with an invitation to attend classes sharing the love and life of Jesus. We can continue to pray for the children receiving the boxes and the volunteers who serve them.

This is the second time our boxes have reached the Dominican Republic and Honduras. In recent years, we have also reached children in Ecuador, Columbia, Ukraine, the Bahamas and Burundi. The delivery to Honduras extends a relationship between SUMC and the Central American nation that includes several short-term mission trips and more than 20 members of the church family.

The Fellowship of the Cross accepts OCC donations year-round, and we're thankful for the contributions we have received in the past month for our 2022 campaign.

The children, smiling, full of energy and exuberance, ran toward me as I re-entered the Simpson Room on a Sunday morning in late November.

“Mr. Bill! We need another job!”

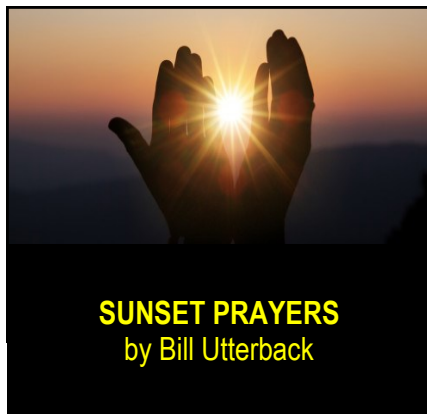
We had spent Children’s Church together, and then we joined a group that was filling the “care packages” we send to college students in the SUMC family in advance of finals week. The children filled the boxes with candy and crackers and popcorn and packets of hot chocolate.

When we finished filling the boxes, we signed cards, assembly-line style, for each college student, and then made two trips to the church basement. We carried cardboard to be recycled on the first trip, and returned odds and ends to the Sunday school rooms on the second trip.

The kids ran ahead of me and, after I labored up the stairs and returned to the Simpson Room, they rushed me. “Mr. Bill! We need another job!”

I pointed toward the bulletin board in the back of the room. It hadn’t been touched in nearly two years. I asked them to create, and, as we waited for lunch, they posted “Friendship is power” across the open space. Each letter in the phrase was an inspired work of art.

After lunch, the children helped us deliver the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to a collection site in Moon.



As I cherished the morning, as I thought about the children running toward me, I felt so blessed to be inside the moment, to know the children, to see them growing and moving and serving, loving each other and loving every opportunity we placed in front of them.

And I thought about God.

I wondered how He would feel if we ran toward Him, shouting, with joy and energy, “Lord, we need another job!”

Lord, show us how we can help. Lord, give us more opportunities to serve and share and love.

Let’s make that our first sunset prayer of 2022.

On January 2, as the sun sets around 5:05 pm, with whomever wants to join you, lets pray together and ask God for more opportunities in the New Year. Lord, help us see the places where Your Love is needed. Help us see the people who are hungry, cold, alone or afraid, and give us the energy, imagination and joy we need to connect and share.


“Lord, we need another job.”

And let’s lift a prayer for the children. Lord, show us opportunities to include them and nourish them, because we know they want to help too.

Sewickley United Methodist Church—Financial Summary through November 2021



	2021 Budget	Budgeted to Date	Through November	Over or (Under) Budget
TOTAL EXPENSES	268,982.53	247,555.54	21,799.87	(8,566.29)
TOTAL RECEIPTS	244,090.00	222,665.00	20,317.60	27,427.96
OVERAGE (DEFICIT)	(24,892.53)	(24,890.54)	(1,482.27)	

 <p>Prayer Requests</p>	(Otis McAliley’s daughter) Irene Chenot (Beth Zeanchock’s mom) Betty Dornetta Nancy Erdmann Rev. Marilyn Evans Pat Fulton (Scott Matthew’s mom) Jean Gionfriddo Dan Gittins June Graham (Carole Ford’s sister-in-law) Jessica H. Ceel Janosik Wayne Johnson Family of Brad Jones (Jan Jones’ husband)	Brandy K. David Kramer (brother of Kandace Kramer and Kristine Swaney) Lisa L. Daniel Lewis (Susie Moffett’s dad) J.R. McFadden Craig McClean Mary Maminski Tom Moog Tony Morgan (Dominic Odom’s cousin) Leroy Newman Family of Bola Nicholson (Willie Nicholson’s wife) Sandra Obeng	Lorraine Offner Dominic Odom Steve Powell Jim Rogansky Mario Russo Blake S. Sean and Ashley Karen Shong C.R. & Lorraine Simpson Family of Bob Sipes Linda Sollinger (Travis Sollinger’s mom) Pam Squires Tomas Jordan (TJ) Joseph Umer Rich Z. Dennis Zeveny
	John A. Kim Bur- Hurst Bartley Cathy Eddie Brezny Bruno Crapis Jack Certain Lauren McAliley Cephus		

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
 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)
 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

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

Memorial Committee

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

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

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
 Sandra Lane
 Alisa L.

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

GROWTH GROUP SIGN UPS! Do something kind for yourself this year! Work on your Spirit, work on your heart, and all else will follow! The groups are open to everyone. We ask that you purchase your own books but if you need assistance, financial or otherwise, or have any questions at all please contact Pastor Hannah at pastor@sewickleyumc.org or by calling the church office at 412-741-9430. You can sign up by contacting the group leader directly via email or [through this online registration](#). All 5 groups begin the week of January 9th. Information about each group is below and on the next page. We hope to see you there!



EVERYTHING IS SPIRITUAL

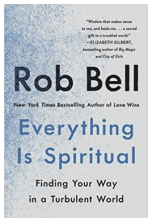
Leader: Jack Moffett, jackmoffett@mac.com, 412-445-2018
 When: Sundays, 6:30 - 8 pm, beginning January 9
 Where: The Moffett's home in Quaker Heights, 212 Pilgrim Drive, Sewickley

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

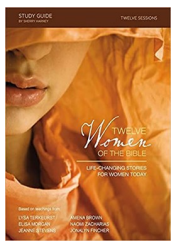


LET'S GET REAL! WOMEN OF THE BIBLE AND US

Leader: Donna Sawhill, donnabell1@verizon.net
 When: Thursdays, 10 – 11:30 am, beginning January 9
 Where: Church Library
 Real faith calls us to be honest about who we are with both our strengths and our struggles. God shows us 12 women in the Bible who lived much like we do today with problems, worries, joys, and successes.

Come open your heart to God through the stories of women who dealt with rejection, insecurity, and poor relationships in order to grow in love, courage, and faith.

Each week's subject stands separately so there's no problem if you miss a week. Materials are provided.

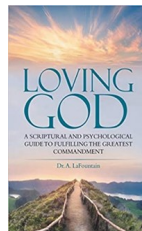


CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU

Leader: Lynn Colosi, icolosi412@comcast.net
 When: Sundays @ 10 am, beginning January 9
 Where: Church Library

The objective of this study is to discuss the main messages Jesus imparted to his disciples and determine how each of us can incorporate those messages into our own lives to become better followers of Jesus. This study has four parts; you can attend any or all the parts.

PART 1 – “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37) During this part of the study, the group will discuss relevant Bible passages, and read and discuss *Loving God A Scriptural and Psychological Guide to Fulfilling the Greatest Commandment*, written by Dr. A. LaFountain.

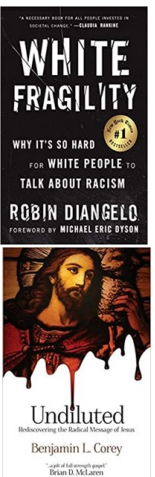


PART 2 – “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39) During this part of the study, the group will discuss relevant

Bible passages, and read and discuss *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo, which is a continuation of the race discussion held in November and December.

PART 3 – What else does Jesus tell us to do? During this part of the study, the group will discuss relevant Bible passages, and read and discuss *Undiluted Rediscovering the Radical Message of Jesus* by Benjamin L. Corey, which helps us understand what it means to be a “follower of Jesus” and how we can do our part to transform the world.

PART 4 - “...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40) During this part of the study, the group will discuss relevant Bible passages, how we can live a life of service, and ways we can put Jesus' words into actions that are relevant today.



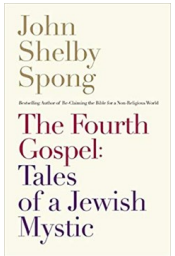
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GROWTH GROUP OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Leader: Barry Lewis, bl643lewis@yahoo.com
 When: Mondays @ 6:30 pm, beginning January 10
 Where: Church Library

Bishop Spong's book, the result of an intense 5 year study of John's Gospel, answers these questions and many more. Barry Lewis, retired United Methodist pastor, will lead a group in the study using Bishop Spong's book *The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic*.

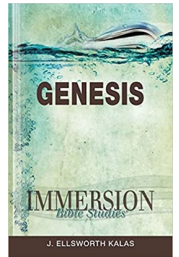


Why is the gospel according to John so different from the other three gospels? Why is there no birth story in John? Why are there no parables of Jesus in John? What is the changing the water into wine story all about?

IMMERSION BIBLE STUDIES

Leader: Hannah Loughman, pastor@sewickleyumc.org
 When: Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm, beginning January 11
 Where: The Parsonage, 333 Broad St, Sewickley, PA 15143
 What does the bible really say? There are so many different thoughts and opinions out there about how to understand the bible. Which one idea is the right one?
 Join me for on ongoing study taking us through the whole of

scripture. You can join us for one book, 5 books or all of them! You don't have to commit to the whole thing. Come when you can, leave when you must!
 We will be using *Immersion* as a guide through the bible. Each book is overviewed by a different author giving us varying voices and varying perspectives on God's word.



CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS



In memory of their parents,
 CV and Betty Cowden and
 Mildred and Chester Tahl
 by Jere and Sharon Cowden

In loving memory of Loretta McClain
 by Kandice & Jess McClain

In honor of Leap of Faith
 by Kelly

In memory Barbara McCarthy
 by The Ream Family

In memory of their Beloved Grandparents
 by Susie and Jack Moffett

In honor of Abigail Rose Rossi
 by Grandma Ronna

In memory of Michael, Lynda and Jessica
 by Pat and Steve

In memory of Patricia A. Leiphart
 by Warren R. Kinneer

In honor of Erik and Laura
 with love from Mom

In loving memory of Howard McClain
 by Kandice & Jess McClain

In memory of her brother, Barry Yant,
 and all other loved ones
 with love Poov and Shawn

In honor of her mom, Dana Yant,
 with love, Poov & Shawn

In memory of Grandma Carol Mix, always
 remembered by The Blijlevens Family

In loving memory of Dennis Narcisi
 by Kandice & Jess McClain

In honor of all the Soup Makers
 and Lunch Ladies
 by Pat Grossarth

In memory of Joe and Esther Boward
 by The Boward Family

In memory of her best friend,
 Shirley Schmelzle,
 by Sharon Cowden

In honor of their Children
 by Joe and Martha Boward

In memory of Debbie's parents,
 Kenneth & Dixie Lemasters,
 by Gordon & Debbie Chesney.

In memory of Their Parents by
 Debbie and Joe Consoli

In honor of Clara & Willa by Santa

In loving memory of Richard D & Jeri Cole
 by The Cole Family

In loving memory of Bola Nicholson
 by Bill & Sandy Kuriger

In honor of their children, Michael Cowden,
 Alissa Wilmot, and Bethany Knically.
 May the Lord bless them.
 by Jere and Sharon Cowden

In memory of Louis and Lucille Martin
 by Liz Brown

In memory of Pat Leiphart and Pam Smith
 by Pat and Steve

In honor of the Sewickley United
 Methodist Church family
 by The Loughman Family

In memory of Bola Nicholson
 by Pam Honeychurch

In memory of her husband, Chuck,
 by Carol Egenlauf

In honor of their wonderful
 Children and Grandchildren
 with love Lou Ann and Shawn Scott

In memory of Gordon's parents,
 Anthony & Mary Chesney,
 by Gordon & Debbie Chesney

In memory of Don and Ruth Idecker
 by The Boward Family

In honor of Pat and Steve Grossarth
 by Pam Honeychurch

To the Glory of God
 by Bill and Sandy Kuriger

Dear SUMC family,

We are immensely thankful for the way you, as always, generously supported our efforts to provide “care packages” for our college students and gift bags for the shut-in members of the church family. We are grateful to everyone who supplied gifts and treats, energy and imagination, to these year-end projects and we are certain that everyone who received a care package or a gift bag felt the love of Jesus and the church family.

It has been a challenging, pandemic-shaped year for all of us, but it was never a challenge to find enough in the donation bins to fill every Operation Christmas Child shoebox, care package, and gift bag. Your willingness to serve and love encourages us, always. Thank you.

The Fellowship of the Cross

Dear Church Family — Thank you for the “Christmas Purse” and many other gifts and cards this Christmas season. I am surrounded by the love of family and am very grateful and thankful to you all.

With deepest appreciation,
Pam Honeychurch

Dear families of SUMC,

Thank you all so much for your generous gift! You are kind, caring, personable, and fully giving of your time and treasures.

As a musician, I consider it both a blessing and a necessity to share my love of music with the congregation. We all know that music brings people together, and I have always felt so welcomed and loved by the people of this church.

Once again, thank you for thinking of me and the others on the staff at this time of year. It really is my pleasure to bring the gift of music to the wonderful people of this church.

Matt

The week before my finals, I was pleasantly surprised to receive a package with wonderful decorations all over it, full of goodies and a lovely card from the SUMC. It really lifted my spirits and energized me to keep on going on with my studies. I just wanted to express my gratitude towards everyone who put their love into that gift as it really warmed my heart (and my roommates' as I shared the goodies with them). Thank you all so much!

All the best,
Lia Warburton



THANK YOU so very much for helping to make this Christmas Season a truly joyful one! Through your presence and your presents you have shown me the true Spirit of Christmas over and over again. Thank you for your encouragement and generosity this season. I feel loved by you!

Pastor Hannah Loughman

Good morning Church!

Thank you so much for your generous gift. I am so grateful to be a member of such a kind community. I love our worship and fellowship time together more than you know!

Merry Christmas and blessings to you all! Xoxo Kelly

Dear SUMC family,

I am profoundly thankful for the light and encouragement offered by Rev. Marilyn Evans and Susie Moffett through the “But I’m not racist ... am I?” discussion group and for the leadership involved in the “Down to Earth” Advent study groups.

I am also thankful for everyone, new friends and old friends, who participated in those sharing circles. Everyone who gathered contributed to my growth. I valued your insights and experiences and look forward to gathering with you again.

Early in the “... I’m not racist ...” series, Marilyn and Susie asked the group why it is so difficult to have conversations about racism. In my response, I used the word “hopeless.” The gap between our earnest conversations and embedded, systemic racism seemed too vast to bridge. By the end of our journey, the energy and purpose in our group rekindled my hope.

One of the voices we considered in the group recalled a “bubble” of racial harmony and respect in the neighborhood where he lived as a young person. He was searching for more bubbles. The people in the room led me to believe that we could be a bubble, reflecting God’s love and hope for all the people.

In my Advent group, we talked about sacrificial love and intentional love and spirit-driven love in ways that made these concepts seem accessible and applicable. Again, I felt hopeful. When we gather and share, God’s Light lifts and encourages us. I encourage everyone in our church family to explore every growth opportunity.

Bill Utterback



TURKEY DINNER INFLUENCED TAKEOUT MEAL—FEBRUARY 3

You are invited to enjoy our popular luncheons in person or as take-outs on **Thursday, February 3, 11 am - 12:30 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 **January 23**. Each meal is \$10. Thank you for your continued support!!

February's Menu: Turkey Wrap, Cheesy Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, and choice of Apple or Cherry Pie. Dine-in also includes Beverage.



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ e-mail: _____

MEAL SELECTION

of Meals _____ with Cherry Pie # of Meals _____ with Apple Pie

Make _____ wrap(s) gluten free

DINING-IN or TAKE-OUT

If dining in, time: 11 am 11:30 am 12 pm

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
Chili with Kidney Beans (Ground Beef, Tomato Sauce, Diced Tomatoes, Onion, Kidney Beans and Spices)		
Chicken Tortilla Soup (Chicken Broth, Chicken, Corn, Black Beans, Onion, Garlic, Cumin and Chili Powder (Flour Tortilla on Side))		
Sandra's Hummus (vegetarian/vegan - chickpeas, lemon juice, garlic, tahini, spices)	\$5 for ½ pint	

Orders are due by Sunday, January 23 and will be ready for pickup February 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% transaction fee.

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

JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9 AM Contemporary Service 10 AM Adult Sunday School 11 AM Traditional Service	3 7 PM AA	4 8 PM AA	5 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	6 11 AM - 1 PM Community Luncheon 6:15 PM Bell Choir	7 6:30 PM AA	8
9 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	10 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	11 6:30 PM Growth Group: Immersion Bible Study 8 PM AA	12 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	13 10 AM Growth Group: Women of the Bible 6:15 PM Bell Choir	14 6:30 PM AA	15
16 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	17 6:30 PM Growth Group: The Gospel According to John 7 PM AA	18 6:30 PM Growth Group: Immersion Bible Study 8 PM AA	19 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	20 10 AM Growth Group: Women of the Bible 6:15 PM Bell Choir	21 6:30 PM AA	22 11 AM WPA UC Ashram Board Meeting
23 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	24 6:30 PM Growth Group: The Gospel According to John 7 PM AA	25 6:30 PM Growth Group: Immersion Bible Study 8 PM AA	26 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	27 10 AM Growth Group: Women of the Bible 6:15 PM Bell Choir	28 6:30 PM AA	29
30 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	31 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.