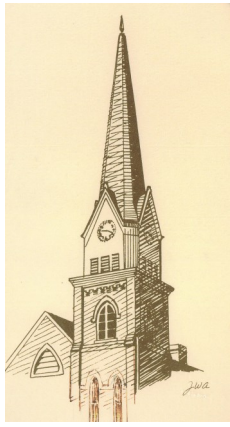


Sewickley United Methodist Church



January 2024 Newsletter

The Pastor's Peace

It isn't over yet. What is your typical practice immediately following the New Year Holiday? Do you quickly begin to make a game plan on when to take down decorations? Have you already returned those well-meaning Christmas gifts, spent those gift cards, and ate all those cookies? Maybe the excitement and the sugar high are wearing off. Now what?

As I write this Pastor's Peace, Christmas day hasn't even come. It feels like a little bit of a letdown to already be looking beyond what to me truly is the most wonderful day of the year. However, even at the time you are reading this, the truth is Advent isn't over yet. We are constantly living in a state of great expectation and preparation waiting for Christ to come again. This does not mean we have to keep our houses decorated or dip into savings some more to keep buying Christmas gifts. I know most of us are glad the business and extra energy the holidays ask of us is coming to an end. However, the waiting for Christ to come again has not come to an end. It isn't over yet. The world around us tells us that we are still waiting for Christ to come again and make all things new.

Sometimes the waiting is the hardest part. We are always looking for things to focus on to help the waiting seem more tolerable. Prayer is a great practice to focus on and there are a lot of different ways to pray. As we are looking into the new year, I want to offer us a potentially new rhythm of prayer. A Sanctified Art uses a prayer practice called "star words." Just as the Magi followed the star to Jesus we will focus on a star word this year that will help lead us to Jesus in our daily lives. Some examples of those words include, joy, rest, bless, restore, affirm, connection, etc. Depending on the day the meaning of that word can change. With that word remaining highly visible each day it offers us an opportunity to ask Christ, "what new thing will you do in me?"

On January 7th, we will celebrate Epiphany Sunday. This is the day we remember the Magi meeting Jesus. When we dig deeper into this meeting, we understand it was the day Jesus was revealed to the gentiles. At both services there will be an opportunity to receive your star word and follow that word to the presence of Christ. If you are not able to make it to a service, the words will continue to be available over the month of January.

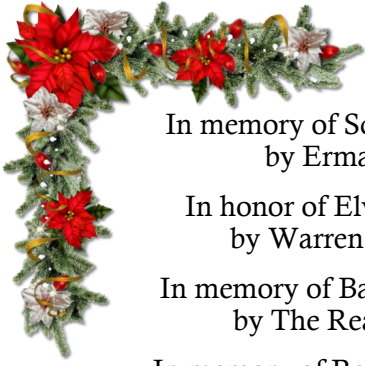
Advent isn't over yet, but the waiting doesn't have to be the hardest part. Even in the weariness we can rejoice as we utilize the tools given to us to keep our eyes fixed on Christ. Amen!

From one light to another,

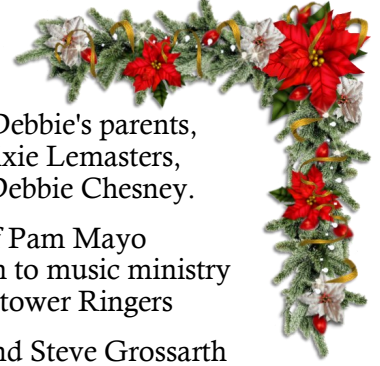
Pastor Hannah Loughman

Pastor Hannah's availability: I am available Monday—Wednesday and Friday, 9 am—5 pm. After 5 pm, by appointment only. On Sundays I am available following the church service till 4 pm. If I am not in the office, I can be reached via my cell phone. I am available after-hours on my cell phone for emergencies. My email address is open 24 hours a day and, with the exceptions of Thursdays, which is my day off, I will respond in a timely manner.

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



Christmas Eve Poinsettia Dedications



In memory of Scott Copenhaver
by Erma Stratus

In honor of Elvira R Kinneer
by Warren R Kinneer

In memory of Barbara McCarthy
by The Ream Family

In memory of Raymon H Kinneer
by Warren R. Kinneer

In memory of her husband, Bob Yant,
and son, Barry Yant
by Dana Yant

In memory of Pat's parents, Anthony and Mary Maminski,
and Bill's parents, B.G. and Margaret Ferguson,
by Pat and Bill Ferguson

In memory of their parents
by Joe & Debbie Consoli

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

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

In honor of Pam Mayo
and her dedication to music ministry
by The Clocktower Ringers

In honor of Pat and Steve Grossarth
by Pam Honeychurch

In honor of our church family at the
Sewickley United Methodist Church
by the Loughman Family

In honor of her children,
Erik and Laura
by Pam Honeychurch

In honor Owyn, Jordyn,
and Lincoln Loughman
by Todd & Hannah Loughman

To the Glory of God
by The Kuriger Family

JOIN US ON JANUARY 14th as we recognize and remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the work that he did alongside so many others. We will gather with our siblings from St. Matthew AME Zion, Sewickley Presbyterian and St. Paul's Lutheran churches for a time of food, fellowship and worship. A catered lunch in the Simpson room will begin at 1:30 p.m. At 2:00 p.m. while gathered in the Simpson room we will hear from 8 youth who will be reading a 1 page paper about what the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. means to them. At 3 p.m. we will move to the sanctuary for a time of worship with a special guest speaker, Rev. Arthur L Holloway, the pastor at St. Luke AME Zion Church in Newcastle, Pa., to give the message. Please join us for this special day!

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION - The Sewickley Community Food Pantry continues to serve more families who need help with food. In January the greatest needs are canned fruit, jars of applesauce, cold cereal, boxed (shelf-stable) milk, ketchup, mustard, mayo and salt. Paper products are also welcome. Donations may be placed in the grocery carts in the hallway by the library and by the sanctuary entrance in the Narthex. The Pantry (15 Chadwick St.) is open to all in the 15143, 15056 and 15108 zip codes every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 11:30am-1pm.

2023 GIVING - Per IRS guidelines, all donations for 2023 must be received in the church office or be post-marked no later than by Dec. 31, 2023.

SUMC YOUTH—An update about events for January: Unfortunately we missed the registration deadline for Current, we are sad we will not be able to go but will make sure we keep an eye on the dates for next year. Instead, Winter Jam is coming back to Pittsburgh this year so we are shifting directions and making plans to go! Winter Jam is a night of concerts with a variety of Christian bands spanning the full range of genres. It is the evening of Friday, January 19th. If you are interested in looking at the line-up you can follow this link. If you would like to go to the concert please let me know so we can make car pool plans. Tickets are purchased at the door so youth will need to bring \$10 with them and then money for food if they would like to get any. We also wanted to mention the remind group! You can either click on this link or you can text: "@sumc-youth" to 81010 to join. If you have any questions about this please let Felicity know.

New Year, New Committee Membership:

Please look through the Nominations Report on page 4 to pray for our committees in the new year. Also, please pray for the members who have faithfully agreed to be on the new Leadership Board. We have an important and difficult task ahead of us learning and implementing a new way of doing our administrative work together. We are excited for what's ahead and rely on your prayers to hold us accountable to doing good work as God wills us to.

As a reminder our Leadership Board is made up of:

Class of 2024: Mark Benjamin, Laura Powell, Dan Gittins

Class of 2025: Kristine Swaney, Ron Smith, Jere Cowden

Class of 2026: Lynn Colosi, Pam Honeychurch, Jenine Furry

We will have our first retreat January 5th - 6th, 2024

Worship Opportunities - January 2024



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.

January 7, 2024

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Baptism of the Lord

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Liturgist: Martha Boward

Scripture Lessons: Matthew 2:1-12

Message: "How Does A Weary World Rejoice? We Follow the Star."

Like the guiding light of a light house, a star appeared and led the three Magi to exactly where they needed to be. As we look ahead at what this new year has to offer we can find comfort knowing that if we are following the light of Jesus, where this year takes us will be exactly where we need to be.

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Liturgist: Carole Ford

Scripture Lesson: Luke 3:21-22

Message: "How Does A Weary World Rejoice? We Trust Our Belovedness."

We began our series by acknowledging our weariness and asking, how does a weary world rejoice? As we bring this series to an end we recognize that our ultimate ability to rejoice lies in our understanding that we belong to God. Just as God claimed Jesus for all to hear upon his baptism so to God has claimed us and has called us beloved.

January 21, 2024

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Liturgist: Kim Benjamin

Scripture Lesson: Exodus 3:1-10

Message: "Calling and Career"

Many of us have made a New Years Resolution. We have set a goal to better our lives in some way. The truth is, many of us will not finish out this year sticking to that New Years Resolution or achieving this goal.

There are ways to better increase our chances at success. It starts by asking and answering the question, "how do we burn bright without burning up?"

January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Liturgist: Lynn Colosi

Scripture Lessons: Exodus 3:9-15

Message: "Who Am I?"

How do we burn bright without burning up? God told Moses to tell the people that God is "I Am." This couldn't be more clear and more vague when it comes to helping us understand who God is. Yet somehow, when we seek to understand this nugget of truth we also end up learning something about ourselves. Know who we are through our Creators eyes helps us to burn bright without burning up.

2024 CHURCH LEADERSHIP BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Church Officers

Congregational Leader.....Laura Powell
 Leadership Board ChairJenine Furry
 Lay Member to Annual Conference..... Martha Boward
 Treasurer..... Pam Honeychurch
 Nurture Chair.....Sandy Kuriger

Outreach Chair Barbara Bower
 Witness Chair Susie Moffett
 Library Chair Warren Kinner
 United Women in Faith President Kristine Swaney
 Marketing Chair Jack Moffett
 Memorial Chair Wilma Hamilton

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

Rev. Hannah Loughman, Chair
 Laura Powell, Cong. Leader
 Johnathan Burnett
 Richard Farley
 Donna Sawhill
 Jim Hamilton
 Barbara Bower
 Laura Geason
 Felicity Moffett
 Bill Utterback
 Kelly Herman

Kandace Kramer
 Pat Grossarth

Outreach (Missions) Committee

Barbara Bower, Chair
 Pam Honeychurch
 Wilma Hamilton
 Mark Benjamin
 Jim Hamilton
 Sharon Cowden

Bill Utterback

FOTC

Pam Mayo
 Bill Utterback
 Grace Rogansky

Communion Steward

Pat Grossarth

Library Committee

Warren Kinner, Chair
 Sandra Lane, Librarian

Worship Committee

Rev. Hannah Loughman, Chair
 Pat Grossarth
 Sandy Kuriger
 Jennifer Jones
 Pam Honeychurch
 Kelly Herman
 Jack Moffett

Holly Burnett
 Jenine Furry
 Laura Geason
 Alisa Lenhardt
 Pat Ferguson
 Pat Grossarth
 Steve Grossarth

Memorial Committee

Wilma Hamilton, Chair
 Pat Grossarth
 Sandy Kuriger
 Kim Benjamin
 Dorothy Jadlowiec
 Bob Jordan
 Dana Yant

Witness Committee

Susie Moffett, Chair
 Edie Erkert
 Bill Utterback
 Jenine Furry
 Laura Geason
 Jim Canfield

Cont. Music Coordinator

Kelly Herman

Head Ushers

Steve and Pat Grossarth

Marketing Committee

Jack Moffett, Chair
 Pastor Hannah Loughman
 Sandra Lane
 Grace Rogansky
 Bill Utterback

Building and Maintenance Team

Allen Honeychurch
 Sandra Lane
 Greg Lane
 Ray Pluechel
 Charles Jones

Education Committee

Jim Hamilton
 Wilma Hamilton
 Andrea Lewis
 Bill Utterback
 Grace Rogansky
 Amanda Pelphrey
 Felicity Moffett
 Pamela Mayo

Hand Bell Choir

Pam Mayo

Children's Bells

Grace Rogansky

Liturgist Coordinators

Wilma & Jim Hamilton

Altar Guild

Carol Egenlauf
 Pat Grossarth

Certified Lay Servants

Kim Benjamin
 Pam Honeychurch
 Jack Moffett

Other Work Areas

Jack Moffett, Website
 Kristine Swaney, UWF
 Elizabeth Powell, Membership Secretary
 Barbara Bower, Church Union
 Warren Kinner, Historian
 Carole Ford, Historian
 Sandy Kuriger, Meals Coordinator

Nurture Committee

Sandy Kuriger, Chair
 Donna Sawhill
 Debbie Consoli

Youth Group

Felicity Moffett

Children's Church

Andrea Lewish

Certified Lay Speakers

Bill Utterback

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

The Fellowship of the Cross youth would like to thank everyone for supporting our Ornaments 4 for Orphans campaign again this year. We were able to raise more than \$750 for children and families in Uganda, Kenya, Nepal and Peru. As always, we are encouraged by the ways our SUMC family so generously shares God's Love and Light.

Blessings, Grace Rogansky, Pamela Mayo and Bill Utterback

To my church family, on behalf of my family, we want to thank you for your generosity and love that you have poured upon us this Christmas season. Thank you for the gifts and cards that you have shared with us and reminded us yet again how very blessed we are! THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!

-Pastor Hannah

Christmas Blessings: Thank you to all who donated toys and other gifts to 27 children at The Bridge's Kidcelerate program (formerly Bethany House) and to the Walking the Talk toy drive. Hundreds of local children will have a brighter Christmas because of your generosity. This was the first year that SUMC co-hosted the Walking the Talk toy drive with St. Matthews AME Zion Church. Over 270 families participated in the event. Parents or other caregivers were allowed to select gifts for over 700 children. Additional toys were offered to Kidcelerate and other local charities that serve children and families. Staffers were very appreciative of SUMC's volunteers and its willingness to open up the Simpson Room for this year's event.



I spent some Saturday evenings in a church where the final worship service of every year is an “open mic” event.

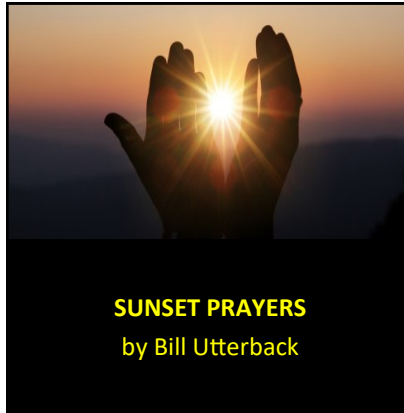
Where did you see God moving in the past year?

Where do you want to see more of Him in the New Year?

Gratitude and hope. Who wants to share? People shared life-shaping events, and they shared the quiet moments. I always left the building encouraged and purposed and more keenly aware of the ways God touches our lives.

In recent years, I stood at the door step of the New Year, looking back and then looking ahead, and asked God to show me ministries beyond the children’s hour on Sunday mornings. I felt like I had time and energy to contribute in new ways, but couldn’t see opportunities. His Light led me to some extraordinary people and places.

In the process, I began to see the New Year as a wonderfully enriching prayer season. We pour a lot of spiritual energy into Advent and Christmas, and we don’t often look at the New Year as a faith holiday. But we can make it a faith holiday. We can make it a time of renewal. Nothing refreshes like gratitude and hope.



This week, on any or every evening between Dec. 31 and Jan. 7, as the sun sets around 4:54 p.m. in western Pennsylvania, from wherever you are, with whoever wants to join you, let’s step into the New Year with prayers of gratitude and hope. Let’s give thanks for all he has provided and revealed, and let’s ask for new Light.

Lord, we are immensely grateful for everything you shared with us as individuals, as families and as a church family in the past year. We thank you for weddings and baptisms and new

members. We thank you for our pastor, our music and worship teams, our children’s ministries, our growth groups and our ministries to our communities, nation and world. We thank you for unyielding accessibility on the brightest days and the darkest days.

And, Lord, as we look toward 2024, we ask for more of your Light so we can see new opportunities to share your love and your hope and your peace. Show us where we can find you. Show us where we can serve you. Show us how we can love in bigger, brighter ways.

In Jesus name, always and Amen.

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

Sylvia Bajsec	B.J. (Elizabeth) Manzinger
Olive & Jim Chewning	Pat Rudy
Renee Gittins	Shirley Sye
Shirley Graham	Lura Zaremba
Virginia Harriger	



Peace in the Holy Land

John A.

Hurst Bartley

Mike Bowles

Betty Burrows (Wilma Hamilton’s sister-in-law)

Anne Clifford (Jenine Furry’s sister-in-law)

Bruno Crapis

Mollie Devine (Renee Gittins’ sister)

Betty Dornetta

Nick Devine (Renee Gittins’ great nephew)

Clyde Grossarth (Steve’s brother)

Steve Grossarth

Candy Grudovich (Joe Boward’s sister)

Rev. Jim Hamilton

Beate Henkel

Lucas James

(Sel Dean’s brother)

Matthew Kania

Grace & Murch King

Henrietta Kretzler

Carol Lewis (Susie Moffett’s mom)

Sandra Obeng

Lorraine Offner

Keith Pelphrey

Jean Reed

Family of Heather Rose

(Jennifer Jones’ cousin)

Jim Rogansky

Jasmine Ross

Megan Shong (Renee Gittins’ great-niece)

C.R. & Lorraine Simpson (Edie Erkert’s parents)

Jacqueline Stancil

Bill T

Lauren Tillman

Karen Yant

Rich Zahrobsky



With December finances yet to be finalized, here is a summary of our budget through November 2023. Throughout the year, income has been below budget. Thankfully, expenses through November have also been below budget, resulting in a small deficit. As we finish out the financial year, look for a summary of 2023 in the February newsletter as well as a breakdown of the 2024 budget.—Pam Honeychurch, Treasurer

	2023 Annual Budget	Year to date Budget	Received/Paid to date	Over (Under) Budget
Income Sources				
Congregation's Giving	270,313.32	235,482.58	220,502.50	(\$14,980.08)
Facility Use	11,100.00	9,508.33	10,542.50	\$1,034.17
Miscellaneous Sources	15,950.00	15,950.00	18,919.99	\$2,969.99
Trusts & Estates	14,735.12	12,545.34	13,407.15	\$861.81
Total Income	312,098.44	273,486.25	263,372.14	(\$10,114.11)
Expenses				
Payroll taxes SUMC Share	4,676.00	4,286.34	3,947.24	(\$339.10)
Connectional App.	31,327.00	28,717.00	28,717.00	\$0.00
PASTOR & STAFF	160,073.44	146,846.49	143,123.11	(\$3,723.38)
FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT	57,662.00	54,780.25	52,613.13	(\$2,167.12)
UTILITIES - CHURCH	27,666.00	25,360.50	25,552.54	\$192.04
UTILITIES - PARSONAGE	9,444.00	8,679.00	8,667.01	(\$11.99)
CHURCH ADMIN	5,800.00	5,383.33	5,221.50	(\$161.83)
WORSHIP	5,300.00	4,858.33	2,922.96	(\$1,935.37)
EDUCATION COMMITTEE	1,750.00	1,687.50	1,335.30	(\$352.20)
NURTURE COMMITTEE	1,600.00	1,466.67	1,094.43	(\$372.24)
OUTREACH COMMITTEE	3,800.00	3,483.33	3,630.79	\$147.46
WITNESS COMMITTEE	200.00	200.00	0.00	(\$200.00)
FINANCE COMMITTEE	800.00	733.33	823.06	\$89.73
MARKETING COMMITTEE	2,000.00	1,833.33	1,423.68	(\$409.65)
Total Expenses	\$312,098.44	\$288,315.40	\$279,071.75	(\$9,243.65)
Net Income	\$0.00	(\$14,829.15)	(\$15,699.61)	(\$870.46)

Wendy Shepard	1/2	Allison Lenhardt	1/14	Frank Cannister	1/18
Chris Thornton	1/2	Holly Burnett	1/18	Cheryl Barwell	1/20
Linda Wellner	1/4			Mike Swaney	1/24
Jeremy McCoy	1/5		Benjamin Spencer	1/26	
Dominic Odom	1/7		Bo Lenhardt	1/27	
Bonnie Stoicovy	1/9		Bill Merryman	1/27	
Bella Burnett	1/10		Chris Williams	1/27	
Elle Williams	1/12		Dot Speak	1/30	
Carol Egenlauf	1/13				

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Joe & Martha Boward
January 1

JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7pm AA	2 6pm Growth Group Study: Daniel 7pm AA	3 6:30pm Leap of Faith	4 6:15pm Bell Choir	5 6pm –9pm Leadership Board 1st Meeting 6:30pm AA	6 9am –4pm Leadership Board
7 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 10am Guardian Training 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	8 6:30pm Finance Committee 6:30pm Trustees 7pm AA 7:30pm Council Meeting	9 6pm Growth Group Study: Daniel 7pm AA	10 10am SUMC Prayer Group 6:30pm Leap of Faith	11 6:15pm Bell Choir	12 6:30pm AA	13
14 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service 1:30pm MLK Jr Luncheon	15 7pm AA	16 6pm Growth Group Study: Daniel 7pm AA	17 6:30pm Leap of Faith	18 6:15pm Bell Choir	19 6:30pm AA	20
21 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	22 7pm AA 7pm Marketing Committee	23 6pm Growth Group Study: Daniel 7pm AA	24 6:30pm Leap of Faith	25 6:15pm Bell Choir	26 6:30pm AA	27 10:30am –1:30pm Ashram Board (for United Christian WPA Ashram)
28 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	29 7pm AA	30 6pm Growth Group Study: Daniel 7pm AA	31 6:30pm Leap of Faith			

WALKING WITH JESUS — Come join the Walking with Jesus group for adults on Sunday mornings at 10am in the parlor. Bring your coffee, your ideas, and your faith. See Willie Nicholson or Sandy Kuriger with questions.

THE WOMEN'S GROWTH GROUP—All women are invited to the Growth Group that meets at 10am on Tuesdays in the Church Library. Activities include Bible study, prayers and praise, fellowship, and service to others. Come add your ideas to this lively and inspiring group. They are currently studying the story of Ruth

FELLOWSHIP OF THE CROSS (FOTC) - meets at 11am on Sundays in the Simpson Room to work on service projects. All school age children and youth are welcome to be part of FOTC. Contact Grace Rogansky for more info: vgrogansky@gmail.com.

CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU — Join our diverse adult group Sunday mornings at 10am. in the Library to discuss societal issues and Jesus-based ways we can make a difference

A CROCHET AND KNITTING CIRCLE has been formed by Amanda Pelphrey and Patti Ellis. They will meet at 10am in the Simpson Room in between Sunday services. Be sure to bring your hooks and needles and join in!