

Sewickley United Methodist Church

July 2021 Minutes

From The Pastor's Heart

My bookshelf is lined with many different books. This means it is lined with many different authors, many different ideals, many different theologies, many different thoughts. Some of the books are fun and exciting and some of them are boring. Some I will re-read and some will just collect dust. Some of the books you will probably hear about in sermons and some I will pass on to other people. No matter what the future holds for each of those books or what purpose was served by them in the past, they all have something in them that made them worth buying. The same thing can be said about you and me. There is something within each of us that was worth purchasing. There is something that was worth Jesus paying the price for on the cross. That something includes stories to tell, things to cry over, jokes to laugh about, lessons to learn. That something includes the hand of God, our Creator, which can be seen in the stories, the tears, the jokes and the lessons. The important thing to do then is to spend some time this summer looking a little deeper beyond the cover and learning what exists inside.

July is the month where many of us will take a vacation or find ourselves going somewhere special for a day trip. It is the busiest travel month for airlines and busways. This also means July is the month in which we have the greatest opportunity to meet new people and spend some time with a stranger. I want to encourage you to pick your head up from your book, take your ear buds out, or put your phone down. Spend a little more time reading someone else's story. The more we learn about others and the life they live, the more we gain in our understanding of who God is. God wants us to know all about our Creator and has placed pieces of God's self within each of us so that with each interaction we have with another, not only will we learn more about God, but we will learn more about ourselves. As you are out on a great adventure this month, don't be afraid of a little self-discovery.

If you are not one of the many travelers this month, do not worry. The church is one of God's grand adventures that offers us opportunities to get to know more about God, each other and ourselves. A great way to do that is through our small groups we offer. Starting July 11th we will be hosting a class for further discovery that will help us understand what Spiritual Gifts are and if we have any. Spoiler alert: you do! Join us at 1 p.m. at the church for that six-week course. You also can still sign up for a Porch Party with the Pastor and her (my) family. That is another great adventure with more great discoveries! Wherever you go this month or if you are going nowhere at all, remember God is always right there with you!

From one Light to another,


Pastor Hannah Loughman

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



Gifts! Do you like gifts? I like gifts! I like getting gifts and I like giving gifts. Do you know who else likes gifts? The Holy Spirit! You might have heard these called "Spiritual Gifts." Do you know what your spiritual gift is? Do you know if you have one? That is exactly what we want to find out. Join us starting July 11th at 1p.m. for a 6-week course. During this course we will be learning about what spiritual gifts there are, what ours are, and how in the world we can use them. If you would like to sign up for this class please email Pastor Hannah at pastor@sewickleyumc.org. We will be using A Network Ministry Resource called *Network* by Bruce Bugbee and Don Cousins with Wendy Seidman. The books are \$10 and have already been purchased by the church. You can pay for yours anytime before or during the class. But don't let the money stop you, talk with Pastor Hannah privately and we can arrange a \$10 gift for you! We hope to see you there!

Porch Parties with the Pastor and Family



Todd and I want to get to know you better and for you to get to know us better. In order to do that, this summer we will be hosting you at our house on our porch. We have a lovely, large front porch that can safely accommodate a family or two. [Please sign up here](#) or contact the office to join us on a Friday evening from 7—9 pm for light refreshments and good conversation! You can sign up with another family if that would make you more comfortable. I will guide our time together so as to avoid any of those potentially awkward silent moments that most of us fear (though I can't promise they won't happen.) If you have allergies or mobility concerns please let me know when you sign up. We are excited to share our beautiful porch with you, show off our energetic family and get to know your hearts!

In person Sunday School classes, which include all ages - elementary, middle and high school - will begin August 29! We are seeking people who have any of the following skills:

- ⇒ individuals who are story tellers of the Bible
- ⇒ individuals who like crafts and can teach all ages. Introduce them to the world of art. Show them Christian art and convey its meaning.
- ⇒ individuals with musical talents. Teach the kids about music, instruments, and our Christian heritage through contemporary and traditional music.



For Sunday School, we will utilize a similar format to our VBS format. Kids/Youth will rotate across 3 rooms manned with 2 teachers each. One class will focus on Bible Study and Story Telling, the second will focus on Craft, and the third will be Music and Songs. Depending on the number of kids and the ages, we will divide the children into smaller groups who will transition from one room to another. We will teach age appropriate material, but rotate so no one is bored. 2 volunteers per children/youth class is needed to maintain safe sanctuary requirements.

If you are interested in volunteering or for more information, please contact Laura Powell at 724-316-7895 or lpspapep@hotmail.com.



Congratulations to **Rev. Jeff Canter** who was received into full membership as an Associate Member during Annual Conference on June 18. Sewickley UMC is Jeff's home church and is where he felt his call and began his journey toward being a pastor with Rev. Russel Shuluga as his mentor. He is currently serving as senior pastor, with his wife Kathy by his side in ministry, at both Evangelical and First United Methodist Churches in Youngsville, Pennsylvania.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE ADDITIONAL GRADUATES!

Sammie Jones graduated on June 11 from Blackhawk High School. In August she will attend Thiel College in Greenville, majoring in psychology. She hopes to one day have her own practice to help troubled teens.

Rebecca Lewis received her Master's Degree in Nutrition from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in May. She is working as a Registered Dietitian in Oklahoma City, OK.

Ashleah Kuriger graduates in August from Drexel University as an Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She's worked as an RN in the Cardiac ICU at Children's Hospital for 12 years. After graduation, she will work in the Pediatric ICU at Children's Hospital.



Worship Opportunities - July 2021



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.

July 4, 2021

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
 Sacrament of Holy Communion
 Sacrament of Holy Baptism 11 am Service**

Abigail Rose Rossi

Liturgist: Willie Nicholson

Message: "Interdependence Day"

Scripture Lessons: Mark 6:6b-13 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Do you have any responsibility to any other person on this planet? Do you have to follow a set of laws and moral guidelines in your daily life? Do you punch in and punch out at work every day? These are all questions that make us think about the notion of freedom. Is anyone really free? The truth is, none of us are free and none of us should be free. This life is not worth living unless we are living it in relationship with other people. Too often we value independence when really it is interdependence we were created for. Life with Christ means freedom from sin and death, but it also means responsibility to the other. That is a dependence worth fighting for!

July 11, 2021

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgist: Kim Benjamin

Message: "A Bite on the Butt"

Scripture Lessons: Psalm 85:8-13 Mark 6:14-20

Karma is an idea we have come up with in order to scare people out of doing something bad. If it works, great! But we all know too well that people don't always end up paying for the bad things they do. Fear is a good tactic for temporary change, but what is it that can have a more lasting impact on the moral decisions we have to make in our lives? Join us as we avoid the imaginary ghost who can come back and bite us in the butt.

July 18, 2021

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgist: Barry Lewis

Message: "Established by God"

Bible Readings: Colossians 2:1-15 ESV 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Sunday July 18th is National Sour Candy, Caviar and Ice Cream day. What an interesting combination of food! I can get behind National Ice Cream and Sour Candy Day, but hold the caviar please. That day was clearly not established for me. But do you know what was established for me; a sure foundation that can withstand the chaos of this world. That same foundation was established for you, too. Replace your shaky foundations for ones that last!

July 25, 2021

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgist: Laura Powell

Message: "And it Came to Pass"

Scripture Lessons: Luke 2:1-20 NKJV Ephesians 3:14-21

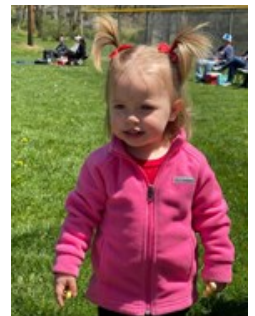
Some of the most encouraging words you can hear in scripture are "and it came to pass." What this tells us is that the things that have once been told came true. The words that once had been spoken unfolded right before our eyes. The promises that God made continue to stand thousands of years later. And it came to pass, God is still good and God's words are still true! There is no reason to wait till December to celebrate the life giving gift of Christ that came to pass one day for us in Bethlehem. Together we shall remember.



Emma Grace and Luke James Mounts received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on June 6th. They were born on April 15, 2019. They are the twin daughter and son of

Lauren and Dustin Mounts. 6-year-old Olivia is their big sister, and their grandparents are Bill and Lindsay Merryman, and Roger and Carol Mounts.

On June 27th, Emma Elizabeth Day received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. She was born on November 26, 2019, in Sewickley. Emma is the daughter of Eric and Lindsey Day and little sister of 5-year-old Mason Her grandparents are Robert & Jan Farrington, and James & Amy Day.



FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION — The target item for July for the Sewickley Community Center Food Pantry is ADULT cereal - lower sugar cereals have been requested. Some suggestions are Total, Wheaties, Corn Flakes, Special K, Unsweetened Chex, Fiber One, Unsweetened Cheerios, etc. You may bring your donations at any time, as the carts are in the hall outside of the Simpson Room.



UMVIM SUMMER MISSION ACADEMY

Save the date! From July 27th to August 7th, United Methodist Volunteer in Mission (UMVIM) will be running Summer Mission Academy serving all. The event will be online, beginning each evening at 6:30 pm, and will feature a keynote by Roland Fernandes, the new General Secretary of Global Ministries for the United Methodist Church. A variety of mission topics will be presented, from engaging kids in mission work to long-term recovery projects. Registration will be available later this month, with more information found in the most [recent UMVIM newsletter](#).



UMCOR CLEANING KIT COMPONENTS NEEDED –

SUMC will not be assembling full cleaning kits, but the Eastbrook Mission Barn Supply Depot needs the following NEW items that are frequently missing from the kits. With recent storms throughout the



USA, cleaning kits are in great need. During the month of July, SUMC will accept donations of:

- ◆ Pump-style (not aerosol) insect repellent (you may find this in seasonal items, as well as hunting, camping or disinfecting/cleaning supply areas of stores such as Walmart)
- ◆ Clothesline – must say clothesline, not just rope – 50 ft to 100 ft (Dollar Tree may have 70 foot clothesline)
- ◆ Latex Reusable Gloves (you may find these at Dollar Tree, Dollar General, Big Lots, etc.)

You may place your donations in the basket outside of the church office. If you are unable to shop but wish to donate funds for the purchase of these items, mark your gift “UMCOR Kit.”

BLESSING BAGS – On Sunday, July 18th, following each worship service, join the Outreach Committee to assemble Blessing Bags for distribution through the Daily Bread Meal Ministry on the North Side (some bags will be made available to the congregation to keep in their vehicles to give to persons in need). Each bag will contain white socks, wash cloth, bar soap, disposable face masks, deodorant, packaged snack (such as a granola bar or other hot weather tolerant item) and a bottle of water. Outreach will provide the socks, wash cloths and face masks. Please consider donating some of the other items; the goal is 75 completed kits. Funds may also be donated by marking your gift “Blessing Bags.”



VITALANT BLOOD DRIVE RETURNS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

- Save the date (and your blood donation) for this drive being held at the church. If you regularly donate blood, please keep in mind that you need 56 days between donations. Therefore, you may donate up to July 31st and again donate at the church drive. Watch church emails for further details and a link to secure your donation appointment. Questions about blood donations? Go to www.vitalant.org.



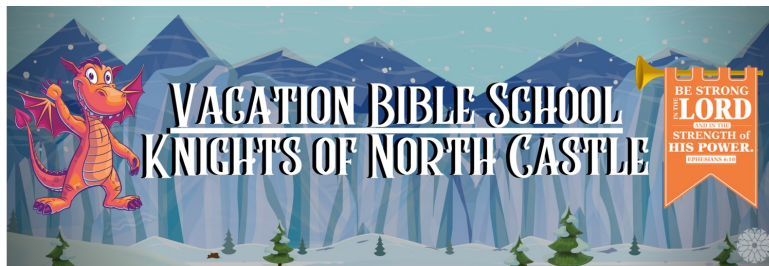
PICNIC AND GAMES BY THE PLAYGROUND

Everyone is invited to celebrate summer at the church picnic on Saturday, August 7th. Our St. Matthews AME Zion friends are invited too. We'll gather at 4:30 pm and dinner is served at 5:30. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and Lew's great wings will be provided. Bring your favorite dish to share. We'll have tables and chairs under pop up shades in the church parking lot. The playground will be open and, of course, there will be our famous BINGO for everyone! Thank you to the Library Committee for setting up this fun time for everyone!



The new flag on the church flagpole is a gift from Barry Lewis and his sisters, Sylvia Gledhill and Brenda Isner. The flag was presented to their mother, Virginia, at their father's memorial service in November 1969. Their father, Howard Lewis, served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. The flag was raised on the church flagpole on June 14th, Flag Day.

Dear SUMC Family,
 Thank you so much for all the cards, notes, prayer, love and faith you shared during my lengthy hospital experience. I was lifted by all of it, and it reminded me of the story of the paralyzed man carried by four men to Jesus (Mark 2). I felt your hands on my blanket as you carried me into the presence of our Healer. I left everyone of you in prayers of Thanksgiving.
 Love,
 Bill Utterback



Sewickley Community VBS

Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor

**invites children to be strong in the Lord
 and in the strength of his power by exploring
 how we put on the armor of God**

Children going into kindergarten through 6th grade, please join us Monday - Thursday, August 9-12, 5:30 to 7:30 pm
 Sewickley United Methodist Church, 337 Broad Street, Sewickley

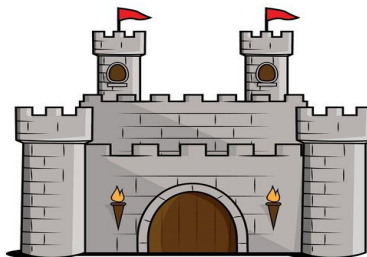
[Click here to register](#)

Leaders and helpers are needed to fill various roles including VBS leader, Assembly leader, Science leader, Music leader, Recreation leader, Craft leader and Story leader.
 Please contact Laura Powell at 742-316-7895 or lpspapep@hotmail.com to get involved.

We are in need of supplies to create our castle theme for VBS this year. Our decorations "wish list" includes:

You can place your donations in the Youth Room, which is on the Thorn Street side of the large basement room **by July 11**.

- ◆ large cardboard boxes (the taller, the better - but we'll take anything right now)
- ◆ large cardboard tubes
- ◆ large flat pieces of cardboard
- ◆ sheathing insulation panels or foam core
- ◆ polyester fiberfill or stuffing used for crafts
- ◆ toilet paper tubes, paper towel tubes, wrapping paper tubes



- ◆ duct tape
- ◆ dowel rods, to use for support
- ◆ tulle
- ◆ red tissue paper

- ◆ White poster board
- ◆ 2 large sponges (like those used for grouting or washing cars, about 5"x7" - don't have to be new, as we will be using them to paint "stones")
- ◆ 2 smaller sponges
- ◆ 6 cans of black spray paint
- ◆ Gray paint (not spray paint, as we'll be dipping the sponges in it to make the stones)
- ◆ Plastic rectangular table cloths in a variety of colors

If getting them to church is a problem, contact Pamela Mayo for pickup: pemayo@verizon.net or text: 412-977-0865. Thanks!



As Sewickley Methodist Episcopal Church celebrated the 60th Anniversary of its incorporation and the 75th Anniversary of its organization on Sunday, November 17, 1912, they reflected on the recent history of the church. Here is a review of 1903 through 1908

In 1903 the present steam heating plant was installed, at a cost of \$1458, to which the Ladies Aid Society contributed \$150, and the Mothers Jewels \$100. Previous to that we had various experiences with the hot air furnace, which were anything but satisfactory. The present system is giving good service.

In this year also electric lights were placed in the chapel.

Also in this year an advance was made in the matter of church management. Before that time the Trustees had their meetings and the Stewards had theirs, with the results that the Official Board was not given the recognition which it deserved. It was felt that better work could be done if the boards worked more together, and to this end the Board of Stewards was reduced from 13 to 7 members, to correspond with the number of Trustees, thus giving each Board the same representation on the Official Board.

This was a wise move, and since that time the Official Board has accomplished a great deal by this harmonious working of all concerned.

On November 23rd of this year Edw. R. Kramer, our treasurer, died. Brother Kramer had been treasurer of our church for a great many years, and in those troublous days when we were often confronted with urgent bills and no money in the treasury, he would arrange somehow to get the money. We never went to him in vain. He was like a rock in a weary land. His father, John P. Kramer, was on the Board as far back as 1856, and his son, Tracy, is on the Board now. Three generations. This is a record to be proud of. We have a number of instances where son has succeeded father on the Board; there are the Gastons, Whites, the Johnstons, the Ritcheys and others.

In 1904 A new parsonage was discussed at a corporation meeting, and the Trustees were requested to take the matter up. Also in that year a new dining room was put in at a cost of \$1100. Concrete walks were put in from the pavements to the doors at a cost of \$130.

Also in this year the present individual communion service was presented to the church by the little band of irrepressibles the Mothers Jewels, under the management of Miss Ringley and Miss Moore.

Doctor Crissman became pastor of the church this year.

In 1905 on February 13th the question of building a new parsonage was again discussed, also improvements to the Chapel, and a committee was appointed to examine the building and report. Also to employ an architect.

On March 13th the architect reported that it would cost to remodel the parsonage \$4450, and to improve the chapel \$5500.

After thoroughly considering the matter it was felt that this was too much money to put in an old building, and on March 20th the committee was authorized to secure plans for a new

parsonage and report the cost. On May 6th at a corporation meeting the Trustees were authorized to build a new parsonage at a cost of not over \$9000, and on May 15th it was decided to prepare plans to improve the chapel at the same time. Accordingly on June 4th the matter was presented to the congregation and between \$9000 and \$10,000 was subscribed.

On July 11th the Official Board adopted plans for a new parsonage to cost \$8000.

It was decided to raise \$16,000, payable in three years. 1333 shares were issued at \$12 a share, payable quarterly at the Sewickley Valley Trust Co.

In this year the pastor's salary was increased from \$1800 to \$2100.

In 1906 the leader of the choir was paid \$300 a year. Before that the choir was entirely voluntary. Also a new pavement was laid on Thorn Street and Broad Street at a cost of \$200.

On March 29th of this year, John N. White died. Brother White had been for a quarter of a century superintendent of the Sunday School, had held every office in the gift of the church, and was a loyal and faithful supporter of Methodism, a duplicate in that respect of his father the late Judge White. This is another of the old Methodist name in the Valley, his grandfather, John White, having been the first preacher in 1839. God's workmen die, but the work goes on.

In 1907 in July Doctor Crissman was appointed president of Beaver College, and Appleton Bash was appointed by the presiding elder Thomas N. Boyle to fill the unexpired term.

In May this year a committee was appointed to go over the charter and suggest such changes as seemed desirable to bring it more within the needs of modern methods in church management, and under the rules and regulations of the Discipline.

In 1908 on May 2nd at the corporation meeting the committee to revise the charter made its report, which was adopted, and the committee instructed to take the necessary legal steps to have the amendments made.

In this year gutters of copper were placed on the church at a cost of \$385. Before that we had constant trouble and damage from leaky gutters, but since that time we have had no trouble whatever. It has been policy of the Board to make permanent improvements, even if the first cost does seem high, knowing that it is cheaper in the long run.

In March this year a general revision of the church membership was made. There were names on the books of persons who had moved away years ago, and some whose whereabouts were unknown. This weeding out brought the membership down to 587 names; but they were all bonafide members in good standing.

Dear Sewickley UMC,

Just a note to let you know that Amy and I moved to Wheeling, WV. We have always loved this church and its atmosphere of support and acceptance. We pray that we'll be able to find another community of faith in our new city. Thank you for everything you have given us and done for us. We will miss you all.

Katie and Amy Napierkowski






Remember our Shut-ins

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

Sylvia Bajsec Mignon Emmert Renee Gittins Atleah Grubb Virginia Harriger Brad and Jan Jones B.J. (Elizabeth) Manzinger Pat Rudy Patricia Smith Shirley Sye	
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 <p>Prayer Requests</p> <p>John A. Megan B. Wes B. Hurst Bartley Cathy Lauren McAliley Cephus (Otis McAliley's daughter) Jack Certain Irene Chenot (Beth Zeanchock's mom) Chris Christy John Cummins</p>	Nancy Erdmann Pat Fulton (Scott Matthew's mom) Larry G. Jean Gionfriddo Dan Gittins June Graham (Carole Ford's sister-in-law) Bob and Sal H. Jim Hamilton Doris Harris Angela Helms Baby Julian (Carole Ford's great-grandnephew) Ceel Janosik Wayne Johnson Brenda Kinney Joe L.	Daniel Lewis (Susie Moffett's dad) Vic M. J.R. McFadden Michelle Malito Mary Maminski Marian Martin (Liz Brown's sister) Tony Morgan (Dominic Odom's cousin) Bola Nicholson Karen Nickell Rich Ochman Paula Odom (Dominic Odom's sister) Lorraine Offner Jim Rogansky Linda Rummens Blake S.	Karen Shong C.R. & Lorraine Simpson Brenda Smith Ron Smith Ronli Smith (Ron Smith's son) Linda Sollinger (Travis Sollinger's mom) Pam Squires Bill Utterback Ernest Wallace (Otis McAliley's stepson) Charles Wilson Family of Barry Yant (wife of Karen, son of Dana Yant, sister of Lou Ann Scott) Rich Z. Lura Zaremba Dennis Zeveny
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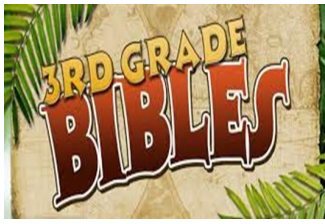
BUILDING OF FAITH UPDATE

In 2013, the Sewickley UMC sanctuary went through a major renovation. The church was made more accessible to all with the removal of the steeply slanting sanctuary floor and the addition of a ramp to the chancel. The chancel space was also enlarged and reconfigured to better accommodate the needs of our growing music ministries. Additionally, new lighting and air conditioning (ahhh!) were installed, and much needed restoration work was completed on our historic organ.



The 5-year "Building of Faith" capital campaign covered a good amount of the costs, but we continue to carry a loan. In 2019, Miracle Sunday was celebrated with the largest offering in SUMC's history. Miracle Sunday donations allowed us to lower the loan principal by \$65,094.60 and designate \$21,898.20 for ministries. 100% of the proceeds of the Soup & Hummus sales go toward the loan principal, and from 2016 through June 2021 have lowered the loan principal by \$22,657.35!! The balance of our loan, as of June 27, is \$55,263.59.

Loan payments are \$1300 per month and are funded by donations. Please consider making donations beyond your regular giving, designated as "BOF," to help fund the monthly loan payments.



The Sewickley United Methodist Church will have the honor to present our Third Graders with their Bible during the worship services on September 12. The 2021/22 third graders are unknown to the Library Committee due to all of the changes and restrictions of the last 15 months. If your student is entering the third grade this coming school year, please contact the church office, Sandra Lane or Warren Kinneer with their name. Parents are invited and encouraged to be there for the presentation.

The 11th-annual Operation Christmas Child campaign at Sewickley United Methodist Church will accelerate with contributions sought from the congregation between July and September.



The SUMC church family has combined to fill 1,001 shoeboxes in the past ten years, at least 100 in each of the past nine years. Our contributions in 2020 reached children in Ecuador. In previous years, we reached children in Ukraine, Columbia, the Bahamas, Honduras, Mexico, multiple countries in Africa, including Burundi and Mali, and at least one nation whose identity could not be revealed for safety and security reasons.

Each of the shoeboxes, filled with small gifts, is delivered with literature celebrating Jesus and an invitation to attend classes to learn more about Jesus and His love for all of us.

Through September, we will be collecting the following gift items:

- ⇒ Health and personal care items such as bar soap, washcloths, toothbrushes, adhesive bandages, combs, hair brushes, hair accessories, socks, and sunglasses
- ⇒ School supplies such as crayons and markers, pens and colored pencils, pencil sharpeners and erasers, scissors and glue sticks, and notebooks that fit easily into a shoebox
- ⇒ “Wow” toys, including dolls, balls, stuffed animals, ball caps, and jewelry

The Fellowship of the Cross donation box is outside the church office.

Operation Christmas Child does not accept toothpaste, any liquids (including shampoo), candy, or war-related items such as toy guns or knives.

Financial donations are welcome as well to help buy additional items to fill the boxes. There is an Operation Christmas Child option on the EasyTithe menu available through the church website. Financial contributions can also be made through the offering or church office; please mark them “OCC.”

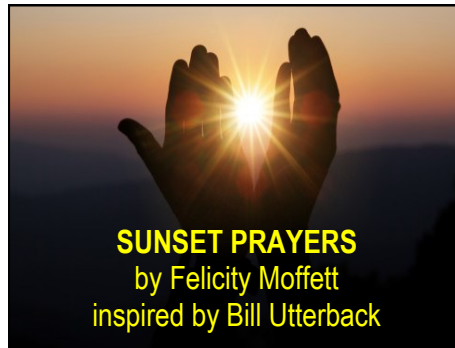


Sewickley United Methodist Church—Financial Summary through May 2021



	2021 Budget	Budgeted to Date	Through May	Over or (Under) Budget
TOTAL EXPENSES	268,982.53	123,399.60	121,701.76	(1,697.84)
TOTAL RECEIPTS	244,090.00	94,807.50	106,960.41	12,152.91
OVERAGE (DEFICIT)	(24,892.53)	(28,592.10)	(14,741.35)	

I am currently helping teach the confirmation class and as I am writing this we have just finished our first meeting. We started the class off by talking about who Jesus is and there were no wrong answers. Over our lives and our faith journeys we learn more about who Jesus is. We start our journey thinking he was a guy who wore a white robe, had incredible sandals, and lived a long time ago. Then we start to learn more about the miracles he did and the love he spread. We see how he's changing lives around us today and wonder if that will happen to us too. And then one day it clicks. Whether you realize there's been a guiding light throughout your life or if you realize on your darkest day you aren't alone; something clicks and you begin to understand the true, never-ending love of Jesus.



Today I think of Jesus as a close friend. Always there for me to listen on my hard days and celebrate my achievements. But that's not who he's always been to me. I grew to know him better and I cannot wait to see who he becomes to me as I continue in my faith journey.

In John chapter 14, verse 6 Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." This month on the first Sunday (July 4th) at 8:54 pm from wherever you are, join me in prayer so that we can all get to know Jesus a little bit better, and through him, his father.

PUMPKIN PATCH 2021 UPDATE

We haven't heard from you! Can you help in any way at this year's pumpkin patch? Keep in mind that this is one of the biggest fundraisers for SUMC.

We would like to fill the following chairperson positions in order to alleviate numerous duties of our current chairs: Lou Ann Scott and Diane Bartley.

- ⇒ Pallet – Someone to organize, pick up, and return the pallets as needed.
- ⇒ Rotten Pumpkins – Someone to chair the disposal of the rotten pumpkins during the month and dispose of the remaining pumpkins at the end of the month. We have some contacts!
- ⇒ Scheduling – Someone to schedule volunteers and to remind them of their shifts. Pam, our wonderful secretary, puts a sign up calendar online but you will need a list of volunteers to call if there is an opening.
- ⇒ Layout – Someone to organize the layout of the patch the day of the pumpkin arrival.

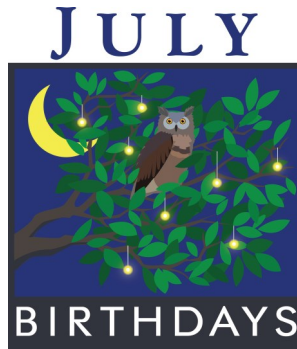


Of course there is always the opportunity of working a shift at the patch. You meet some wonderful people and make some children very happy!

Diane and I have decided to keep our 20th celebration of the pumpkin patch small in order that we don't hurt our manpower at the Patch and overwhelm ourselves. We will let you know plans as soon as they become concrete, but one idea is to have a special project each Saturday in October, i.e. pumpkin painting, face painting, and maybe give out some cookies or something. Your suggestions are always welcome.

A Christmas ornament is in the process of being designed at Wendell August Forge to mark our 20th year anniversary. Get your Christmas lists ready. This will be an additional fundraiser for the church. We know you are going to love it!

Spencer Clifford	7/3
Jim Canfield	7/5
Otis McAliley	7/5
Aimee Thornton	7/7
Hank Graham	7/11
Dawn Cannister	7/16
Alisa L.	7/17
Jenine Furry	7/18
Owyn Loughman	7/20



Riley Benjamin	7/21
Steven Powell	7/21
Belinda Resler	7/23
Cara Dotterer	7/27
Gordon Chesney	7/30
Hannah Loughman	7/30
Grace King	7/31
Nick Leety	7/31
Lee Ann Reardon	7/31

If you or a family member is missing from our birthday or anniversary list, please let the office know. We don't want to leave anyone out of special wishes.

To The People of Sewickley United Methodist Church,



I want to congratulate and personally thank your congregation for demonstrating your faithfulness to our United Methodist connection by paying 100% of your apportionment covenant in 2020. Because you fulfilled your commitment, despite the pandemic, the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference was able to adapt and continue our ministry by providing leadership, connection and resources to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Through sacrifice and with God's grace, our annual conference is able to make a difference in people's lives and demonstrate Jesus' love locally and around the world.

Your gifts, along with those of many other faithful congregations, support vital ministry and mission. In 2020, as our pastors and church leaders struggled to connect with their congregations despite restrictions to stem the spread of Covid-19, your Conference staff and leaders offered support through weekly webinars and online information on topics ranging from the federal Payroll Protection Program to Building Community through Social Media and Online Worship to Navigating Conflict. Digital resources for worship and ideas for reaching those without internet connections were shared. Working with our Abundant Health Team, guidelines were provided to help church leaders make decisions on whether or how to offer in-person worship without endangering even the most vulnerable members of the congregation.

As ministry continued online, in parking lots and other venues, new people connected with our congregations, hungry people received food, ramps were built, and we were able to continue our support of global ministry and mission through denominational agencies like UMCOR.

Our apportioned giving also provides support and training for those who respond to God's call upon their lives by serving as lay servant ministers, ordained clergy, local pastors or missionaries.

What we do together as United Methodists is far more than any one congregation can do by itself. Your commitment through apportioned giving makes you a significant partner in the connection of the church we can all celebrate. We are truly blessed by our connection.

I praise God for the faithfulness of His people. I thank God for the ministries that have been supported and the disciples that will be made because of your faithful giving.

Blessings,
Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Resident Bishop

JULY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 6:30 PM AA 7 PM AA	3
4 9 AM Contemporary Service 11 AM Traditional Service	5 7 PM AA	6 8 PM AA	7 6 - 8 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	8	9 6:30 PM AA 7 PM AA	10
11 9 AM Contemporary Service 11 AM Traditional Service 1 PM Spiritual Gifts Class	12 6 - 9 PM VBS Decoration Prep 6:30 PM Finance Committee 6:30 PM Trustees 7 PM AA 8 PM Council Meeting	13 8 PM AA	14 6 - 8 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	15	16 6:30 PM AA 7 PM AA	17
18 9 AM Contemporary Service 11 AM Traditional Service 1 PM Spiritual Gifts Class	19 6 - 9 PM VBS Decoration Prep 7 PM AA	20 8 PM AA	21 6 - 8 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	22	23 6:30 PM AA 7 PM AA	24
25 9 AM Contemporary Service 11 AM Traditional Service 1 PM Spiritual Gifts Class	26 6 - 9 PM VBS Decoration Prep 7 PM AA	27 7 PM VBS Meeting 8 PM AA	28 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	29	30 6:30 PM AA 7 PM AA	31

 <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: blue;">JULY</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">ANNIVERSARIES</p>	Barry & Andrea Lewis	7/2
	Jim & Wilma Hamilton	7/12
	Ronna Sue & Donald Vangura	7/18
	Roger & Pam Wright	7/20
	Jack & Susie Moffett	7/27
	Bill & Pat Ferguson	7/30