



# Sewickley United Methodist Church

## July 2023 Newsletter

### *The Pastor's Peace*

At this year's Annual Conference of the Western PA UMC, which was held in Erie, we had some hard work to do. You have heard about that hard work, so I won't take up more of your energy for that. However, there was a moment in the middle of our Friday session where life got real for a moment. A loud wail intruded on the conversation of legislation that was being discussed, followed by some commotion. It was difficult to not turn around and stare at the gathering of people to try and figure out what was going on. It definitely left you wondering if someone was mad about the current discussion or if someone had one of those other-worldly type of sneezes that you just don't understand how they exist. Neither was true.

After a little bit of time, someone went to the stage to inform the Bishop of a crisis that was taking place. A woman had fallen unconscious, and they had to call 911 to the scene. The Bishop stopped the meeting and asked for someone with the gift of healing to come to a mic and pray over the assembly and specifically over the woman. Pastor Michael Airgood got up and prayed and after he sat down the Bishop asked for some silence. I was amazed at how quiet a room of approximately 800 people could get. The paramedics came into the room, got her on a stretcher and took her to the hospital. We spent some more time in silence and then the Bishop asked for someone to play something lightly as we all spent more time in prayer.

The conference resumed and the Bishop received another word about this woman. The person who was sitting behind her said as soon as Pastor Airgood ended his prayer the woman woke from her state of unconsciousness. God is good and that is the church at work.

We will face a lot of division. We will face a lot of conflict. We will face a lot of things that take our attention away from the important work God is calling us to be a part of. But in that moment, we were able to set all of it aside and pour ourselves into the healing we believed could happen in the name of Jesus. In that moment, we set ourselves aside and put Jesus first.

Why do bad things happen? Why do things not go our way? Why do we have to fight and argue? Why can't we all just get along? I don't have an uncomplicated answer to that. I just know when Jesus is put first, good can and will come of it. When Jesus is put first, the church flourishes. When Jesus is sought out and his will is done, grand things happen.

Matthew 6:33 says, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." Seek after the things from above and not of this world. It is easy to get distracted; sometimes I am grateful for the opportunities that reorient our focus to that which really matters. By the way, the woman's name is Sue and she rejoined us at Annual Conference later in the day. She was okay!

From one light to another,

  
Pastor Hannah Loughman

Pastor Hannah's availability: I am available Monday—Wednesday and Friday, 9am—5pm. After 5pm, by appointment only. On Sundays I am available following the church service till 4pm. 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](mailto:pastor@sewickleyumc.org)  
Website: [www.sewickleyumc.org](http://www.sewickleyumc.org)

**Sewickley**  
 United Methodist Church  
**NEW Member Classes**

Beginning August 13, we will be holding New Member classes. We will meet every Sunday, through September 3, following the 11am service in the Simpson Room where a light lunch will be provided. On September 10th we will receive our New Members during the church service in which they typically attend. To learn more, contact Pastor Hannah at [pastor@sewickleyumc.org](mailto:pastor@sewickleyumc.org). Even if you are already a member, this would be a great opportunity to get reconnected to your Methodist roots and the "why" behind intentional discipleship.

# CHANGEMAKERS LAB

## COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

COME LEARN HOW GOD CREATED YOU TO BE A CHANGEMAKER!

**AUGUST 7-10, 6:00 PM-8:30 PM**  
**AT SEWICKLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



OR REGISTER  
 AT [SEWICKLEYUMC.ORG](http://SEWICKLEYUMC.ORG)

ALL KIDS  
 PRESCHOOL-  
 MIDDLE  
 SCHOOL ARE  
 WELCOME -  
 REGISTRATION  
 IS FREE!



HOSTED BY ST. MATTHEWS AME ZION, ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN, AND SEWICKLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

## Worship Opportunities - July 2023



Contemporary Worship Service: 9am  
 Traditional Worship Service: 11am  
 Our Worship Services are live streamed on  
[sewickleyumc.org](http://sewickleyumc.org) and [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

The recorded services are also available later on Sunday afternoon



**July 2, 2023**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
 Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Liturgist:** Lynn Colosi

**Scripture Lesson:** Romans 2:1-16

**Message:** "Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness"

I have a shirt that says "Be Kind." This seems to be a popular phrase that can be found on shirts, bumper stickers and hats. It seems like such a simple thing to do, yet it is not always our first go to behavior when interacting with others. Actually, when someone is kind it stands out and it makes our day. Kindness really can go a long way. The kindness that comes as a fruit of being connected to the Spirit of God can go even deeper, it can transform a life and completely redirect the path of an entire day, week or even year. It can be as simple as "be kind" especially when we are connected to the Spirit of God.

**July 9, 2023**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Liturgist:** Carole Ford

**Scripture Lesson:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

**Message:** "Fruit of the Spirit: Generosity"

Do you want to be a magician? Have you always wanted to do a magic trick? Here is an idea, be generous. It is amazing to me the way you learn you have more than enough when you give more than you think you can. It is easy to give a little bit of what we have. It is easy to give our leftovers after we have been well taken care of and are stuffed. It is not as easy to give when it hurts, or to give before you receive. It is not as easy to give off the top instead of off the bottom. Generosity as a fruit of the Spirit never returns to us empty. When we are generous as an act of gratitude for God's generosity to us, we always find our resources multiplied. This is the only area in scripture that God says, "test me." Give generously and see the way in which the blessing is returned to you.

**July 16, 2023**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**Christmas in July**

**Liturgist:** Kim Benjamin

**Scripture Lesson:** Hebrews 11:1-40

**Message:** "Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness"

Faith seems like such an unattainable thing sometimes. We struggle with faith because we think if we do not believe exactly as the preacher teaches us, or as we learned in Sunday school, or as has been passed down through church history as central to our "faith" then we must be faithless. But what is faith really? What does it mean to have it and how can it ebb and flow and yet still be a constant reality in our lives? With so many questions and ideas about faith, how can I be sure about anything regarding it? Go for a ride on the struggle bus with me as we take a deep dive into understanding faith.

**July 23, 2023**

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Liturgist:** Jere Cowden

**Scripture Lesson:** Philippians 4:4-9

**Message:** "Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness" - Bill Utterback

Sometimes, the smallest words are the most challenging. As he closes his letter to the church in Philippi, Paul urges all of us to "let your gentleness be known to all." Gentleness is not the challenge in Paul's charge. We all have gentleness to share with children and puppies and people we love. The challenge comes when Paul writes "all." Can we summon gentleness when we're anxious, angry, agitated or afraid? Do we have gentleness for people who provoke us? The friend sitting across from me at Panera's restaurant said, "It feels like your getting angry with me." My gentleness, for a heartbeat, had left the table.

**July 30, 2023**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Liturgist:** Susie Moffett

**Scripture Lesson:** 2 Timothy 1:3-11

**Message:** "Fruit of the Spirit: Self-Control" - Mitch Amago

Self-control can be a very powerful spiritual habit as well as a very difficult one. It covers a variety of situations and can often be difficult to reign in — from busy schedules, wandering thoughts, and sitting in traffic — self-control can be a challenge. When we don't have it, we can say and do things that we later regret. How do we work on self-control? What are some tools we can use to help center ourselves daily? What can we do in those hard to control moments?

**HELP BRING THE VBS CHANGEMAKERS LAB TO LIFE!**

On **Thursday evenings, starting July 6th**, we will be meeting in the basement to begin creating the decorations that will transform the spaces for our upcoming Vacation Bible School kids. Feel free to drop in any Thursday between 6:30 and 9pm, using door #6 - the office door off the parking lot / by the ramp. You don't have to be particularly "crafty" to help, as we will have jobs for all skill levels. Hope you can join us!



**LADIES OUTING** — Come have a lovely afternoon in July. Join the Ladies Group for lunch on **Thursday, July 13th** at Narcisi's Winery. Rides are provided from the church parking lot at 11:30am. Call

Donna Sawhill (412) 916-0854 or Sandy Kuriger (412) 552-9652 to save your spot by July 10th.

**FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION**

The Sewickley Community Food Pantry is serving more people who need help with food. Contributions of non-perishable food items and paper products are always welcome. These are the most

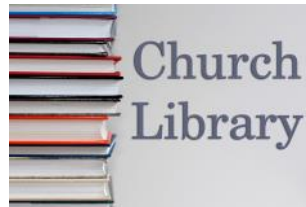


needed items: Peanut Butter, Soups, Pancake mix, Paper towels, Ritz crackers, Ketchup, Oils, Chili with beans, Meals in a can (like SpaghettiOs), and Pasta sauce. Donations may be placed in the grocery carts in the hallway by the library and by the sanctuary entrance in the Narthex. The Pantry (15 Chadwick St.) is open to all in the 15143, 15056 and 15108 zip codes every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 11:30am-1pm.

The **KIDS' COMMUNITY CLOSET** "free-cycle" space at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (616 Washington St, Sewickley) is open on Saturdays, 10am to 1pm for everyone. There are no income guidelines, applications or donations necessary to shop at no cost. They are also taking donations of kids' clothes, newborn to youth, on an ongoing basis.



The **LIBRARY COMMITTEE** is looking for new members. The committee meets 1-2 times a year to discuss library financials and helps with the items listed below. Please reach out to Warren Kinner (wkinneer@yahoo.com) or Sandra Lane (slane819@yahoo.com) to learning more.



- ◆ Annual Church Picnic (June)
- ◆ Graduate gifts (June)
- ◆ Third Grade Bibles (September)
- ◆ Breakfast for Jesus gifts/wrap/distribute (December)
- ◆ Yearly maintenance/upkeep of library space

**MULCH SPREADING PARTY:**  
**Saturday, August 26, 8:30am start**

It's time to add mulch to the playground!! 40 yards will be delivered and that's a whole lotta mulch. Can you please join us, even for a short while? Helpful items to bring are a firm metal rake, shovel and/or wheelbarrow.



We must know who plans to come, so please let Sandra Lane know in advance if you plan to volunteer. She will not assume you'll be there; please tell her. If there are not enough church people she needs time to arrange for outside help. Text or call her @ (412) 841-7169 or email at slane819@yahoo.com. Many thanks!

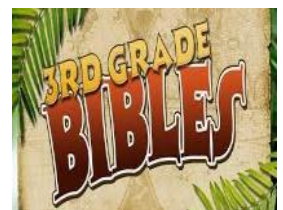


The United Women in Faith (UWF, formerly United Methodist Women) presented Special Mission Recognition Pins to Bill Utterback, Susie Moffett and Lauren Lang at the contemporary service on June 18. Special donations were made

to UWF mission projects in honor of Mr. Bill, Miss Susie and Miss Lauren for their mission outreach work in the form of the podcasts they created. Thanks to their work creating and posting their podcasts on the internet, our church family has ventured into a mission field of countless viewers with entertaining, Christ-centered messages. Although the messages are primarily for children, they bring Jesus "alive" to people of all ages. The podcasts entitled "I Hear Jesus" may be found via a link found on the church's website, [sewickleyumc.org](http://sewickleyumc.org).

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR 3RD GRADERS!**

The Library Committee is in search of our children entering 3rd grade in the fall. We like to recognize those students with their own commemorative Bible.



Please help us fill in the blanks and accept our apologies if we've missed your child or misspelled a name.

Here's who we have on our list so far:

- ♥ Stella Dripps
- ♥ Jordyn Loughman

Contact the church office or Sandra Lane (412) 841-7169 to add your child's name.



**Congratulations to Mitch Hortert and Melchizedek Amago who were united in marriage on June 10th. Judge Spurgeon officiated and Pastor Hannah participated in the wedding held at Sewickley UMC. Mr. Mitch Amago & Mr. Mel Amago live in Sewickley.**

**Peach Festival  
and Ala Carte Goodies**

**Saturday, July 15, 11 am — 4 pm**

**Sewickley United Methodist Church**

**Peach Cobbler with Ice Cream and Beverage \$6**

**Ala Carte Items**

**Hotdogs Ham BBQ Sandwiches**

**Chips Beverages**

**Dine in or Takeout**

John A.  
Jonny B.  
Hurst Bartley  
Carrie Blanchard  
Don Brandt  
Family of Edmund Brown  
(Charlie Brown's father)  
Betty Burrows (Wilma  
Hamilton's sister-in-law)  
Nancy Carson  
(Diane Bartley's mom)  
Jack Certain  
Bruno Crapis  
Mollie Devine  
(Renee Gittins' sister)  
Betty Dornetta  
Cinnamon Evans  
(Pat Grossarth's niece)



Jason G.  
Shirley Gerthung  
(Wilma Hamilton's sister)  
Dan Gittins  
Donna Gleason  
Clyde Grossarth  
(Steve's brother)  
Candy Grudovich  
(Joe Boward's sister)  
Judith Hall  
Rev. Jim Hamilton  
Beate Henkel

Mary Beth Johnson  
(Pam Mayo's sister)  
Family of Jan Jones  
Brandy K.  
Grace King  
Mike Kolesar  
Henrietta Kretzler  
Ben McGuigun  
Megan and baby Madelyn  
Tom Moog  
Sarah Oba  
Sandra Obeng

Lorraine Offner  
Dominic Odom  
Linda Rath  
Heather Rose  
(Jennifer Jones' cousin)  
Jim Rogansky  
Kristen Ryerson  
C.R. & Lorraine Simpson  
Ed Schrieber  
Bill Teed  
Ernest Wallace  
Rich Z.  
Dennis Zeveny

# CHANGEMAKERS LAB wish list

## 2023 Sewickley Community VBS

Registration is open at [sewickleyumc.org](http://sewickleyumc.org)

To help create our science-based VBS theme this year, we are in need of the following decorating supplies. Donations may be put on the marked table in the back of the Simpson Room by the prayer display.

- large cardboard boxes - the larger the better, think refrigerator size, to be used to make facades of houses and other large things
- white or light cream colored flat bed sheets (not the fitted ones)
- large wicker baskets/hampers to be used to re-create a village market
- 3-4 packages of tissue paper in bright colors
- posterboard in white and other bright colors
- construction paper in a variety of colors
- remnants of any kind of flexible tubing
- flexible dryer vent hose in aluminum
- white balloons
- variety of clear glass or plastic bottles in shapes that look like they could be found in a science lab

I struggled as I tried to conceive this month's prayer prompt.

As Independence Day approaches, I wanted to suggest a prayer for our nation.

I wanted us to pray into gun violence and domestic violence. I wanted us to pray into hunger and housing insecurity. I wanted us to pray into racism and immigration and acceptance. I wanted us to pray into anxiety, addiction and fear. I wanted us to pray for our leaders, our first responders, our teachers, our pastors, our parents of children and youth.

I wanted us to pray into an election season that, in its early days, promises to be hateful and hurtful.

For the first time, I launched an Internet search for help. How do we pray for our nation? What scripture can guide us through a time when our challenges seem so immense?

I found many suggestions, all of them sound. I found the most practical response, the most promising response, at the bottom of a column posted in 2019 at a site called [Embracing.life](http://Embracing.life). The author, Jenn Soehlin, who describes herself as a mother of two, suggested 15 pieces of scripture to use in praying for our nation. These are the passages I found most encouraging:

**Pray that our hearts would love generously and help those in need in our country. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of others." Philippians 2:3-4**

**Pray that our hearts will let go of any anger or bitterness toward those with different ideas and show them love and respect. "Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:31-32**

Could we become a nation that values others and looks away from our own interests?

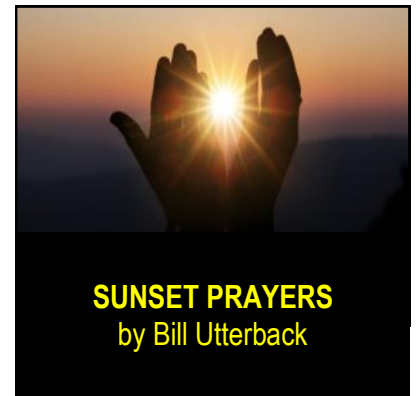
Could we become a nation that is kind and compassionate and forgiving?

On July 2, as the sunsets around 8:55pm, from wherever you are, with whomever wants to join you, let's pray together for God's Light in helping us transform into a nation that values every individual and meets every opportunity with kindness and compassion.

Lord, help us step away from our anger and bitterness and selfish ambition. Lord, help us to see each other, serve each other and value each other.

Lord, raise leaders among us who see value in all people and are committed to protecting and providing all of us.

Lord, help us to be leaders – in our church, in our neighborhoods, in our schools and workplaces, in our family and friend circles – who value all people and commit to protecting and providing and sharing your glorious Light. Amen.



## SIMPLIFIED, ACCOUNTABLE STRUCTURE



A Simple Structure for Missional Effectiveness

At the Church Conference held on June 29, we voted to adopt the Simplified, Accountable Structure. 26 church members were present who were able to vote and 24 votes were received. There were 21 votes to adopt the SAS and 3 votes against.

I am grateful to those who came to the meeting, asked some thoughtful questions and helped to discern the will of God for our church. I am also grateful to Donna Sawhill, Jenine Furry, Pam Honeychurch, Mark Benjamin, Jim Canfield and Laura Powell who served on the Communications Team and worked diligently to understand this model and helped to communicate it to others. Last, but certainly not least, I am grateful to Bill Utterback, Rosemary Herring, Kristine Swaney, Donna Sawhill, Warren Kinneer, Jim Hamilton and Wilma Hamilton who faithfully gathered monthly to pray us through this time of discernment.

### What is next?

On August 19th there will be a workshop led by Kay Kotan, co-author of *Mission Possible: A Simple Structure for Missional Effectiveness*, for those who are serious about living into this model. Any who wish to know more and attend are welcome to do so. Please let me know at [pastor@sewickleyumc.org](mailto:pastor@sewickleyumc.org) so I can add you to our group.

The nominations committee will begin to meet to do the work that has now been entrusted to us to do. We will nominate the slate of leaders for the Leadership Board and they will be voted on at our Church Conference in the fall.

This new model will officially begin to be lived into on January 1, 2024. I am excited and feel some positive energy surrounding what lies ahead for us. I fully believe we have taken a step of faith and allowed God to guide us into something new. Though we don't yet fully understand it or know what will come from it, God does and our trust is in our God. God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path and we will follow that light one intentional movement at a time.

With gratitude for your trust and support as we walk together,  
Pastor Hannah Loughman

## FROM LAURA POWELL, YOUR CONGREGATIONAL LEADER



### WHAT DOES WELSEY SAY?

As a priest in the Church of England, John Wesley was discouraged by the powerlessness of the church to reach British people. He felt something needed to change, so he abandoned his church's conventional ministry approaches and experimented with seven new practices. To everyone's surprise, spiritual revival broke out in England and beyond.

These seven practices can provide inspiration to SUMC. They can be used to improve our connections with the unchurched. Over the next several issues, I will introduce a summary of each practice and explore ways for us to practice these Wesleyan practices. The details of each practice can be found in *Wesley's 7 Ways to Share Faith*. Abingdon Press, 2015.

### Practice 1: Be Devoted to Prayer

"Wesley rediscovered what the church of his day had forgotten: prayer releases the power of God. He called prayer "the grand means of drawing near to God" and found believing, persistent prayer to be the necessary first step to see God move. He modeled this conviction by devoting at least two hours a day to personal prayer and made fervent prayer a hallmark of the movement."

Practice: Can you increase your time on prayer? Each day add five minutes to your prayer time. Each day, your increased time will give you confidence to talk to God and get into the details. You will be able to expand your prayer scope. Then, you may sit in silence and be present with God.

### Practice 2: Go Where the People Are

"When the love of Jesus Christ gripped Wesley's heart, he knew he couldn't keep it to himself. There had to be some way to reach the vast masses of people who would never darken a church door. Initially, Wesley was convinced the gospel could only be preached in the stained-glass setting of a church building. But with so few people attending church services, he was forced to consider other options. Reluctantly, Wesley began preaching in the open air. He would find a high spot on the edge of a city and speak to whomever would listen. Crowds of three, five, even ten thousand people would gather. Many of them were touched by the spirit of God and awakened to their spiritual state. A revival in England was born largely because Wesley was willing to take the gospel where the people were."

Practice: How can SUMC take the gospel to the streets? One example was our participation in the Pride parade. What can we do to emulate Wesley's preaching approach? What can each committee do to move their activities outside the church? As you experience your day, be intentional about bringing the gospel to people along your way.

To The People of Sewickley United Methodist Church,



I want to personally thank and congratulate your congregation for demonstrating your faithfulness to our United Methodist connection by paying 100% of your apportionment covenant in 2022. Because you fulfilled your commitment, the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference was able to 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 making a difference in people's lives and demonstrating Jesus' love locally and around the world.

Your gifts and those of many other faithful congregations support vital ministry and mission. In 2022, your Conference staff and leadership focused on congregations poised for renewal and equipped church leaders to create new places for new people. We continued to support the educational endeavors of young people through scholarships and awarded grants to innovative ministries. Recognizing a persistent sense of post-pandemic burnout and grief, an emphasis was placed on caring for the mental health of our clergy and laity through programming and resource sharing. Additionally, our Conference Commission on Religion and Race hosted a multi-day summit to continue the work of dismantling racism.

Through our commitment to mission, hundreds of UMCOR hygiene and menstrual kits were assembled and distributed to people in need. Youth continued to grow as leaders at SPARK and served multiple communities by participating in Uth 4 Missions. Our apportioned giving also provided 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 connectional ministries of the church that we all can celebrate. We are truly blessed.

I praise God for the faithfulness of His people. I thank God for the ministries we've supported and the disciples being made because of your faithful giving.

Blessings,  
Cynthia Moore-Koikoi  
Resident Bishop

Did you know you can dial 911 for an emergency situation which may arise at the church?

The Safety and Security Ministry at SUMC recommends the following protocol in the event of an emergency on site at the church:

Dial 911 on your mobile phone. **DO NOT HANG UP** until the dispatcher tells you to do so.

Information you will be asked to provide may include:

- **Address of the emergency:** our church address is *337 Broad Street, Sewickley, PA 15143*
- **Description of the emergency and required need for help**
- **Explain the current assistance that has been provided to the person(s) in need**
- **Specify the location within the building** (reference the door numbers if possible)

Without putting yourself in harm's way, **in the case of an active shooter**, it will be helpful to provide the 911 dispatcher with this information:

- **The location of shooter within the building** (reference door numbers if possible)
- **The number of shooters**
- **Description of shooter**—physical features, clothing, race, gender
- **Number and type of weapons** held by shooter(s)
- **Location and number of victim(s) or hostage(s) within the building**

**DO NOT HANG UP - EVERYTHING THE DISPATCHER CAN HEAR IN THE BACKGROUND COULD BE HELPFUL.**

If you have any questions, please reach out to Sandra Lane or Pastor Hannah.







We were visited by a Secret Santa in June, and we're hoping for a few more as we turn toward July.

On **July 16**, Sewickley UMC will celebrate Christmas in July during both worship services. We will have a tree in the sanctuary and share some Christmas music. The Fellowship of the Cross is encouraging our church family to bring some Operation Christmas Child gifts to place beneath the tree.

In the past two years, Christmas in July has become a key gathering point for our OCC campaigns.

In June, a friend of the SUMC family stopped by the church office with a dozen nylon backpacks filled with a variety of gifts. There was an additional shopping bag filled with gifts that didn't fit into the backpacks. We gratefully accept contributions throughout the year and

we're very thankful for the backpacks.

As we move through our 13<sup>th</sup> OCC campaign, we have been blessed with more than enough toothbrushes, sunglasses, rulers, scissors and stuffed animals to accommodate 100 boxes.

Christmas in July arrives at the same time as many vendors offer sale prices on back-to-school supplies. We need pens, pencils, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, glue sticks and notebooks.

We also need wearables (T-shirts, socks, caps), personal grooming items (brushes, combs, adhesive bandages) and "wow" gifts such as dolls, balls, jewelry, hair accessories, and toy cars.

We also accept financial gifts to cover shipping costs. We will be gathering gifts and financial contributions through September and will schedule our annual packing party in late September or October.

FOTC donation boxes are located outside the church office, on a shelf beneath the bulletin board, and on the table in the Narthex by the main sanctuary entrance.

Since 2011, the SUMC family has contributed more than 1,300 boxes that have been presented, along with an opportunity to know Jesus and grow in His Light, to children in Ukraine, Africa, South America, Central America, and Caribbean nations.

## Ways to Give



Your generosity and financial partnership are how we are able to impact our community and beyond. Vanco is our eGiving portal and allows for simple, secure giving. It is available through our website, [sewickleyumc.org](http://sewickleyumc.org), and through the Vanco Mobile Faith app.

Vanco provides an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or saving account, or processed using your credit or debit card. This giving option offers convenience for you and, if you setup recurring giving, provides donation consistency for our church family.

To get started, visit [sewickleyumc.org](http://sewickleyumc.org) and the [donate tab](#), or install the Vanco Mobile Faith app on your smartphone. The first time you visit, you will create your secure account.

Then you can setup your recurring donation(s). *We encourage you to turn on the option to cover the processing fee which will help offset the processing and transaction fees the church pays.*

If you prefer to give the traditional way — by check or cash — please continue to do so!



Spencer Clifford	7/3	Riley Benjamin	7/21
Jim Canfield	7/5	Steven Powell	7/21
Otis McAliley	7/5	Cara Dotterer	7/27
Aimee Thornton	7/7	Gordon Chesney	7/30
Dawn Cannister	7/16	Hannah Loughman	7/30
Alisa Lenhardt	7/17	Grace King	7/31
Jenine Furry	7/18	Nick Leety	7/31
Owyn Loughman	7/20		

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



I offer prayerful thanksgiving for Pastor Hannah, for Susie and Laura G. and the Worship Committee, for Jack and the Marketing Committee, for Leap of Faith and for everyone who participated in our LGBTQIA2S+ programming in June.

I am especially thankful for everyone who spent time at our booth during Pittsburgh Pride, for those who marched in the parade and for those attended the special worship service.

It is beautiful to know that we are creating an identity as a church intent on sharing and celebrating the inclusive love of Jesus. That identity requires active participation. It requires connecting and listening and encouraging and inviting. It requires extending, and I was encouraged to see so many of us extending to share His love. I was lifted by all of you and for the hope you created as we move forward in our ministries.

Sincerely,  
Bill Utterback



Alison Trexel and her family are thankful for the show of support through the many letters and kind words following the passing of her mom, Jan Jones.



*"...when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me." - Jesus (Matt. 25:40 CEB)*

Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gifts for our response to help those impacted by the war in Ukraine and for those in the US impacted by natural disasters may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be - Thank you!

And through your financial support you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in the U.S. and in more than 60 countries in which UMCOR and partnering agencies engage in direct ministry to persons in need.

May we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Grace and Peace,  
Roland Fernandes, General Secretary  
United Methodist Commission on Relief

Dear Sewickley UMC,

In a world full of choices, thank you for choosing United Methodist Church Union. Your check designated to Northview Heights Kids' Ministry was received and deposited.

Why choose United Methodist Church Union?

Because gifts like yours have blessed us with an ever-increasing ability to help those in need within the Greater Pittsburgh Area. Year after year, we are able to record measurable progress in the growth of Church Union's ministries - more children fed in the summer through Kids Meal Network, more schools coming on board with the Reading & Mentoring Program, and more neighbors experiencing homelessness being fed by Daily Bread. But just as important may be the immeasurable achievements:

- Churches and community groups, 22 in the Greater Pittsburgh Area, volunteer at Daily Bread's year-round program, serving meals three times per week and striving to serve with compassion and grace. Over 16,000 meals were served in 2022.
- Seniors who volunteer with our Reading & Mentoring Program (some of whom are residents of Church Union's senior housing) find themselves newly engaged in the community and experience the heartwarming rewards of helping a child. In 2022, over 100 students across three different school districts were served.
- Congregations reconnecting with their communities by getting to know the children in their neighborhoods by name. More than 9,000 nutritious meals were served to children dealing with food insecurity during the summer of 2022, along with a big helping of fun through recreational activities.

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

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



The Ambridge Volunteer Fire Department would like to express our sincere gratitude for your thoughtfulness and generosity for providing food to the department for our event on May 13.

Thank you,  
Michael Mikulich  
Secretary

# JULY 2023

\*Nursery offered during Sunday morning services

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>25</b> 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	<b>26</b> 7pm AA	<b>27</b> 7pm AA	<b>28</b> 6:30pm Leap of Faith	<b>29</b> 7pm Special Church Conference	<b>30</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	<b>3</b> 7pm AA	<b>4</b> 7pm AA	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Leap of Faith	<b>6</b> 6:30pm - 9pm VBS Decorating	<b>7</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Finance Committee 6:30pm Trustees 7pm AA 7:30pm Council Meeting	<b>11</b> 7pm AA	<b>12</b> 10am SUMC Prayer Group 6:30pm Leap of Faith	<b>13</b> 6:30pm - 9pm VBS Decorating	<b>14</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>15</b> 11am - 3pm Peach Festival
<b>16</b> 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	<b>17</b> 7pm AA	<b>18</b> 7pm AA	<b>19</b> 6:30pm Leap of Faith	<b>20</b> 6:30pm - 9pm VBS Decorating	<b>21</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	<b>24</b> 7pm AA	<b>25</b> 7pm AA	<b>26</b> 6:30pm Leap of Faith	<b>27</b> 6:30pm - 9pm VBS Decorating	<b>28</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	<b>31</b> 7pm AA	<b>1</b> 7pm AA	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Leap of Faith	<b>3</b> 6:30pm - 9pm VBS Decorating	<b>4</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>5</b>

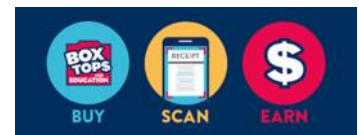


## HELP EARN MONEY FOR THE RED BIRD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL WITH BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Clipping has been replaced with an app! Install the Box Tops for Education app on your smart phone and select the Red Bird Christian School. Use the Box Tops app to scan your store receipt within 14 days and instantly

add online earnings to the Red Bird Christian School or the school of your choice. From playground equipment to technology to library books, schools can use this money to help teachers and students get the supplies they need.

Receipts from these and other stores qualify: BJ's Wholesale Club, Costco, CVS, Giant Eagle, Instacart, Rite Aid, Sam's Club, Target, Walgreens, and Walmart. You can learn more at [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com).





Jim & Wilma Hamilton	7/12
Ronna Sue & Donald Vangura	7/18
Roger & Pam Wright	7/20
CJ and Jennifer Jones	7/23
Jack & Susie Moffett	7/27
Bill & Pat Ferguson	7/30

### 2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH MAY



	2023 Budget	Budgeted to Date	Paid/Received to Date	Over or (Under)
TOTAL EXPENSES	312,098.44	136,765.16	133,125.98	(3,639.18)
TOTAL RECEIPTS	312,098.44	117,714.15	110,772.31	(6,941.84)
OVERAGE (DEFICIT)	0.00	(19,051.01)	(22,353.67)	

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

Remember our Shut-ins

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

### SEWICKLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

337 Broad St., Sewickley, PA 15143  
 Rev. Hannah Loughman, Pastor  
 412-741-9430  
 secretary@sewickleyumc.org  
 sewickleyumc.org



*Adult Sunday School: 10am  
 (September—May)*  
*9am: Contemporary Worship  
 & Children's Church*  
*11am: Traditional Worship  
 & Children's Church*

*Sewickley United Methodist Church is a faith community that meets in the building with the clock tower, which stands at the entrance to the village.*

*Our motto is: "The Church with Time for You."*

*In a world that knows hostility, we give time for hospitality, community, and fellowship.*

*In a world that knows aimless searching, we give time for spiritual development.*

*In a world that knows idols, we give time to creatively worship the God of love.*

*In a world that knows ignorance, we give time to hear and learn the biblical story.*

*In this world God loves, we seek to be followers of Jesus, the one who gave His life to demonstrate trust, hope, and love.*

*As we use the gift of time to meet on Sundays for education and worship, we invite you to meet with a community that gathers under the clock to pay attention to the One whose love is ever timeless.*