



# Sewickley United Methodist Church

## June 2023 Newsletter

### *The Pastor's Peace*

This is the time of year when we start planning for and praying over the Western PA Annual Conference. This year we will gather in Erie on June 14<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. I am asking you to join me in prayer now more than ever for this meeting of the Annual Conference. On Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup> we will have a Special Session to vote on the churches that are choosing to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. This means they will no longer be governed by the polity of the United Methodist Church as found in the Book of Discipline. They will no longer be labeled as or identify as a United Methodist congregation. Some will choose to join the Global Methodist Church, some will go non-denominational, and some are still figuring out where God is calling them to next. Each of these churches met with their District Superintendent and held a special Church Conference where the members of the congregation voted to stay or to leave the UMC. As of now, out of 766 churches that make up the Western PA Annual Conference approximately 300 churches have voted to disaffiliate. Some churches have voted to close instead of disaffiliating. There are a few things I want you to be aware of.

1. God is still in control. The church is still the body of Christ. The UMC might be splitting but the Body of Christ will remain until one day when Christ comes again and tells us differently. We will still be in connection with our siblings in Christ no matter what denomination they identify as.
2. With that said, the UMC will look different. As churches leave, the reality is finances leave our conference. The conference staff will change, and our districts will reorganize. Pray for our conference leaders as they faithfully decide how to be good stewards of the people and of the resources that remain in our Annual Conference.
3. Not every church took a vote to disaffiliate. This vote was not a requirement. Only those churches who were considering the possibility of disaffiliating took a vote. We held a meeting last year to talk about what was happening in the UMC and I did not gauge nor hear any feedback that there was interest in the possibility of disaffiliating.
4. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns that you would like to discuss regarding what is happening, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Laura Powell, our Congregational Leader, is also available to answer any questions you might have.

Please continue to faithfully be in prayer as the time draws near to gather one last time with so many who have long been our United Methodist kin. This is a sad time in our life together. Many are speaking harsh words to others out of a grief that has not made us the best we can be. Many who are choosing to stay United Methodist will say goodbye to churches they were raised in or have committed their time and resources to for a season of their life. Many of these folks will find themselves looking for a new church home. Please be in prayer for all who are affected by this time in our life together.

I cannot leave you with this word of sorrow. Regardless of what we face, with Christ there is always hope. 1 Peter 2:10 reminds us, "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy." We (all who belong to the UMC and all who do not) ultimately belong to God. Our life is in God's hands and there is no better place for them to be.

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)

## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

The Sewickley United Methodist Church will celebrate the Class of 2023 during the worship service on June 11. Best wishes to our graduates as they start a new chapter in their lives!

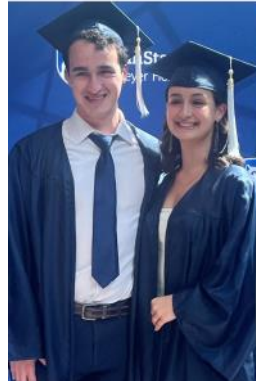


**Blair McCombs** will graduate on June 10 from Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School, where she studied prelaw in the arts. She will be attending Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, studying criminology.

**Lea Warburton** graduated from Penn State University May 6th with a bachelor's degree in marketing. She plans to enter the workforce.



**Kaylee Kennedy** graduated from Cornell High School on May 26. She plans to move to Florida with her best friend, Calliegh, for a gap year. Kaylee plans to study business and possibly get her real estate license.



**Nina Wiggins and Noah Wiggins** both graduated with high honors from the Schreyer's Honors College at Penn State on May 5th and from Penn State on May 7th with degrees in bio-behavioral health. **Nina** enters the School of Optometry at Ohio State University in Columbus this fall. **Noah** is pursuing a healthcare technology business. He was one of 8 candidates selected for the Invent Penn State Summer Founders Program, a 13-week program to help him develop his endeavors.



**Austin Hiles** graduates from Moon Area High School on June 2. He will be attending Kent State University to study aeronautics/professional pilot.

**Addison Shaffer** graduates June 2 from Ambridge Area High School. In the fall she will begin studying physical therapy at Slippery Rock University.



**Sophia Geason** will graduate from Quaker Valley High School on June 2. She plans to take a gap year and perform in community theatre.

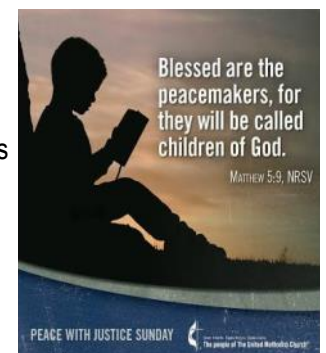


### NEW Member Classes

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. 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.

### PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

On June 4th, SUMC will celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday. We are called to love our enemies, seek justice and serve as peacemakers. The United Methodist Church is committed to leading social transformation. Peace with Justice donations will be used to provide grants to United Methodist congregations and organizations that support Ethnic/Minority Local Church ministries and to programs advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs focused on Economic, Health and Gender Justice priorities. Half the receipts will be used for programs in the Western Pennsylvania annual conference. The other half will be forwarded to the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) to support national and international programs. You can donate through your regular offering or eGiving (select Peace with Justice) or at the UMC website: [UMC.org/SSGive](http://UMC.org/SSGive).



## Worship Opportunities - June 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

**June 4, 2023**  
**Trinity Sunday**  
 Liturgist: Ron Smith  
 Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
 Message: "Fruit of the Spirit: Love"



When we think about love, we often think about the strongest type of love as being between a parent and a child or two people who have said "I do." Those are both valid and very real forms of love, but they are not the love that is spoken about when we refer to love as a fruit of the Spirit. Those are types of love that anyone can experience. However, the love that comes from walking with the Spirit is a deeper love that goes beyond the boundaries and expectations of a human relationship. This type of love is one that does not seek benefit or count the cost but gives and does so in such a way that it manifests the power of Christ among us.

**June 11, 2023**  
**Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Recognition of Graduates  
 One Single Service at 10:30am  
 with St. Matthews AME Zion  
 Sewickley UMC Sanctuary  
 Scripture Lesson: Psalm 16  
 Message: "Fruit of the Spirit: Joy"

What is it about the laughter of a child that can bring us such great joy? What is it about watching someone walk across the stage and receive their degree that can bring us such joy? What is it about getting lost in a worship song that can bring us such joy? Happiness and joy are both feelings, but biblical joy is extravagant happiness with a purpose. It is the feeling that leads us looking forward to the future. It is the knowledge of security and the presence of God. Biblical joy is a gift from the Spirit that is not temporary but a deep celebratory conviction that is contagious and paves the way to peace.

**June 18, 2023**  
**Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Father's Day  
 Juneteenth  
 Liturgist: Willie Nicholson  
 Scripture Lesson: Psalm 85  
 Message: "Fruit of the Spirit: Peace"

There are many different types of peace. We understand peace to be something that can be accomplished within our hearts and within our lives. We understand peace to be a state of being in our minds, regardless of the chaos around us. We also understand that Jesus says, "blessed are the peacemakers." Peace is something that most of us desire but it also requires work to achieve. However, because the Holy Spirit is a generous giver, this peace is not outside our reach.

**June 23, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Liturgist: Martha Boward  
 Scripture Lesson: Psalm 37:1-9  
 Message: "Fruit of the Spirit: Patience"

It does not take an expert at reading emotions to be able to tell when someone has grown truly impatient. Impatience is often accompanied by huffs and puffs and creasing of the brows and rubbing of the temples. Impatience produces a physiological response within us that aids in the heightening of our tempers that can lead to regretful choices in the moment. However, the Spirit gifts us with the ability to remain patient. Remaining patient gives us the ability to listen, hear and understand. Patience is often what keeps us from having to say I'm sorry or feel shame. Patience is a gift to us and a gift to others.

### CELEBRATING PRIDE!



Join us as we celebrate PRIDE month! As faithful followers of Jesus Christ and his word, and as a Reconciling Ministries Network congregation, we will join our siblings in celebrating the LGBTQIA2S+ community and their achievements. We are hosting a special service on **June 4 at 4pm** at SUMC. Leap of Faith will lead us in worship as Rev. Michael Airgood provides the message. Rev. Airgood pastors Pine Run & Glassport UMCs He was selected as one of Allies for Health + Wellbeing Bright Young People of 2023. His work in the LGBTQIA2S+ community has not gone unnoticed. As Allies for Health + Wellbeing said he is a part of "people who are making a real and tangible difference in our community and working toward a bright future, particularly in the realm of diversity, equity and inclusion." This worship service is open to all. You are welcome here!

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:  
PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION TO  
RESIDENTS OF NORTHVIEW  
HEIGHTS**

— Are you looking for a chance to help others without a big time commitment? Help distribute fresh produce to about 40 families in Northview Heights (525 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Pgh) on Saturday, **June 10, 9-10:30am**. The families come to the site. This is a project of the Northside Food Pantry Advisors (NFPA), an affiliate of Church Union. Pastor Hannah and her family helped with a distribution in May and enjoyed the experience! All you need is a little time, a willingness to help others, and a smile. The smiles will be returned! Sharon Cowden, a member of the SUMC Outreach Committee and NFPA, is coordinating this effort. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, contact Sharon at 412-292-5637. She can provide transportation to the site also.



**VBS DECORATING PLANNING**

Anyone interested in helping create a plan for VBS decorations this year is invited to a meeting at Sewickley UMC on Thursday, June 8, at 7 pm, in the Simpson Room. Please enter the church through door #6 by the office. If you'd like to help, but are unable to attend, contact Pamela Mayo (pemayo@verizon.net) to be put on the email list for the decorating committee.



**JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL** — The Sewickley Community Center will host a Juneteenth Festival on **June 17 from noon to 5pm**. Juneteenth is an American holiday commemorating the June 19, 1865, announcement of the abolition of slavery. The village of Sewickley and its surrounding communities played a vital part in the

migration of former slaves to the North—this migration helped the area to prosper richly, resulting in the uniquely diverse and culturally thriving community that we live in today.

We invite you to become a part of this growing and evolving Sewickley tradition. It will be a full day of fun for the entire family that includes kids activities, local vendors and artists, a variety of food options, opportunities to purchase unique merchandise, great music to end the celebration and, of course, the opportunity to learn about the unique, deep-rooted history of the communities that make up the Sewickley Valley.. For more information, visit [sewickleycommunitycenter.com](http://sewickleycommunitycenter.com).

**LENTEN FINE COLLECTION UPDATE** — Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2023 Lenten Fine Calendar and made financial donations. We collected \$515 to support the Girl's Empowerment Program at the Nyadire United Methodist Mission in Zimbabwe. The donations will help empower girls to attend school during their monthly menstrual cycle and keep up with their academic studies.



**CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC  
SUNDAY, JUNE 11**

Please come to our annual church picnic where we break bread with our family at St. Matthews AME Zion Church. We will provide the beef and veggie burgers and hotdogs.



**Time:** Gather at 12:30; prayer and the feast begin at 1pm  
**Where:** War Memorial Park, Shelter #1 (Blackburn Road, pass YMCA, make left into lot after paddle courts)

**Bring:** Lawn chairs (available seating is limited) and a side dish or dessert to share. If you have kids, there is playground & creek access so you may want to bring water shoes and towels as well

**Expect:** FUN!!! FOOD!!! and Bingo, of course



**FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION**

The Sewickley Community Food Pantry is experiencing an increase in patrons needing food assistance. The most needed items are 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. Contributions of non-perishable food items and paper products are always welcome. 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.



**SUMC has PRIDE!** — Sewickley UMC, First UMC and the Reconciling Ministries Network are working together to have a presence at the Pittsburgh Pride Revolution 2023 Festival on June 2-3. We will be hosting a booth at the Festival (Allegheny Commons Park behind the Aviary) on June 2 & 3 and marching in the parade on June

3. We invite you to participate with us and look forward to sharing the love of Christ with our community! You can sign up to help [here](#).

Specific details will be distributed in the days leading up to the event, but please contact Susie Moffett at [Susie.fhnc@gmail.com](mailto:Susie.fhnc@gmail.com) or Laura Geason at [lageason@gmail.com](mailto:lageason@gmail.com) with any questions. You can also find more information about the event at [lgbtqpittsburgh.com](http://lgbtqpittsburgh.com). Thanks for your support and let's go show our Pride!

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





Congratulations to Felicity Moffett and Eric Johnston, who were married on May 21 in an outdoor ceremony at Succop Nature Park in Butler



We're looking for changemakers - people who like to help others, improve the world and think with their hearts - to attend our 2023 Community Vacation Bible School, sponsored jointly by Sewickley United Methodist, St. Matthews AME Zion and St. Paul's Lutheran churches. The theme is "Changemakers Lab" and will run from 6pm until 8:30pm, August 7 through 10, at SUMC. VBS is free for anyone from any community and will involve children entering kindergarten through fifth grade, with possibilities including preschoolers and middle schoolers. Online registration will be up soon.

For more information, contact Grace Rogansky, Pamela Mayo, Bill Utterback or Pastor Hannah. We're looking for adult and teen volunteers to invest in the imagining, preparation, and presentation of our Changemakers Lab. Changemakers - people who like to help others, improve the world and think with their hearts - are needed to join the VBS volunteer team. Here's a [link](#) to a form for anyone interested in volunteering.



Halsey Jane Baran received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on May 21, 2023. She was born on May 15, 2022, in Pittsburgh and is the daughter of Joshua and Brooke Baron. Halsey loves to wave, point at airplanes and share her snacks with the dog.

John A.  
 Jonny B.  
 Hurst Bartley  
 Brady  
 (Kristen Ryerson's dog)  
 Don Brandt  
 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  
 Family of Hank Graham  
 Clyde Grossarth  
 (Steve's brother)

Candy Grudovich  
 (Joe Boward's sister)  
 Judith Hall  
 Rev. Jim Hamilton  
 Beate Henkel  
 Brandy K.  
 Grace King  
 Mike Kolesar  
 Henrietta Kretzler  
 Beatriz L.  
 (Emily Liska's daughter-in-law)

Ben McGuigun  
 Tom Moog  
 Sandra Obeng  
 Lorraine Offner  
 Dominic Odom  
 Jeremy Pegher  
 (Dana Yant's grandson)  
 Heather Rose  
 (Jennifer Jones' cousin)  
 Jim Rogansky  
 C.R. & Lorraine Simpson  
 Bill Teed  
 Ernest Wallace  
 Rich Z.  
 Dennis Zeveny

Let's bend the rules this month. Let's not wait until the first Sunday, as is our tradition, to lift our next sunset prayer.

Let's step into Pride month, celebrated June 1 through June 30, with prayer. In the process, we can cover the events June 2-4 in which our church family will be involved.

On June 1, from wherever you are, with whomever wants to join you, as the sun sets around 8:45pm, let's pray for all of our LGBTQIA2S+ siblings in our church family, in our communities and across the planet.

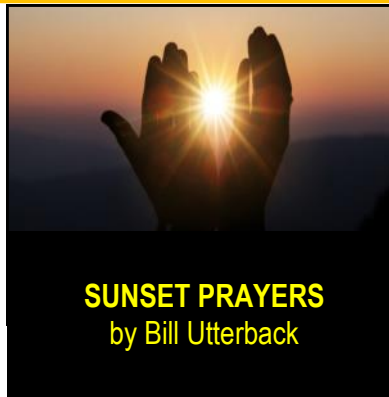
Lord, bless them with love and hope and peace, with freedom and justice and opportunity, with acceptance and encouragement and faith. Let them feel your loving presence. Let them see your Spirit moving in their lives.

Let's pray for their families and friends. Lord, help us see every opportunity to reflect your love and light for them.

Let's pray for our governments, communities, schools and employers. Lord, let us, in every environment, embrace every person as a member of your family, as a reflection of your imagination, as a work of your creation.

Let's pray for our church and for all churches. Lord, as we remember your commandment, help us to love one another just as you have loved us.

Let's pray for those from Sewickley UMC who will be participating in Pittsburgh Pride 2023 by hosting a booth at the festival on June 2



and June 3, and marching in the parade on June 3. Lord, use us to share your love and your hope and your peace in every encounter.

Let's pray for Pastor Hannah as she prepares and leads us through Pride month. Lord, please continue to share your Light with her. Protect her and guide her.

Let's pray for Hannah, our music ministry, worship leaders and everyone planning and participating in our contemporary and traditional services on June 4, our special Pride service on June 4, and all our services and communication throughout the month.

Lord, help all of us at SUMC to live into the words we've posted on our website and professed for several years: "... we celebrate human diversity and all persons as children of God. Our church adamantly and enthusiastically welcomes persons of all ages, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities (the entire LGBTQ community), family configuration, economic conditions, marital status, and mental or physical abilities to attend, join and participate fully in the life of our congregation."

Let us, as we look forward, pause and lift a prayer of thanksgiving for the pastors and church leaders who have encouraged us to "celebrate human diversity" and be adamant and enthusiastic in our love. And let us give thanks to our LGBTQIA2S+ siblings and others who have joined us, shared with us, been patient with us and continue trusting in our promises.

Let's not delay this prayer. Let's pray today.





We help to keep the Sewickley Community Center food pantry well stocked. For those of you who do know this, you have done a wonderful job of being generous with your donations. For those who do not know, every month we include a list of items in the newsletter and in the announcements with suggestions of what you can donate. As we seek to make this ministry more accessible to all our folks, we have put an


additional donation cart in the Narthex (the space right inside door number 2 or through the doors of the back of the sanctuary.) The other cart remains located in the hallway between the Simpson room and the restrooms. There are many within our community who depend upon this pantry and others like it to provide for their family. Thank you for being a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ and providing for the needs of others! See page 4 for this month's suggested donations.





## Ways to Give


  
In Person

  
Automatic Giving

  
Online Banking

  
Online

  
Mobile



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!

## WESTERN PA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

When you hear the term “annual conference,” it could be referring to any one of three things. The annual conference is a regional body, an organizational unit AND a yearly meeting.

### Regional body

The annual (sometimes referred to as ‘regional’) conference is described by the church's Constitution and (other parts of the) Book of Discipline as the “basic unit” of the church.

In the United States, an annual conference may cover an entire state, only part of the state, or even parts of two or more states. There are also three missionary conferences in the United States, which rely upon the denomination as a whole for funding.

The United States has 54 annual conferences, supervised by 46 bishops. There are 75 annual conferences in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, which are supervised by 20 bishops.

### Organizational body

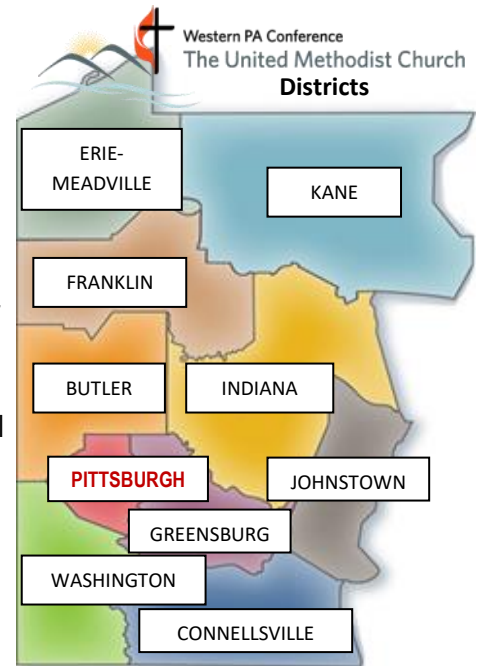
In the U.S., the annual conference has a central office and professional staff that coordinate and conduct ministry and the business of the conference. It likely has a director of connectional ministries, treasurer, directors of program areas (such as camping), communications director, and other staff as deemed appropriate for the annual conference and as required by the Book of Discipline. Clergy and laypersons may also serve on conference boards, commissions and committees.

### Annual Conference sessions

Each typical year an equal number of clergy members and lay members attend their conference's Annual Conference session for worship, fellowship, and to conduct the business of the conference, which may last 3-5 days. During these sessions, members of the conference hear reports of past and ongoing work; adopt future goals, programs and budgets; ordain clergy members as deacons and elders; and elect delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences (every 4 years). The bishop presides over these meetings.

Sewickley United Methodist Church is part of the Northeastern Jurisdiction, which includes all of the UMCs of Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia. Within the Jurisdiction, we are part of The Western Pennsylvania Conference, which is made up of nearly 800 local churches in 23 western Pennsylvania counties. The Western Pennsylvania Conference is further broken down into 10 districts, Sewickley UMC being part of the Pittsburgh District.

This year's Annual Conference of the Western Pennsylvania Conference is taking place June 15—17 with a Special Called Session on June 14th. During this Wednesday session we will be voting on the churches who have already voted to disaffiliate. We will be represented by Pastor Hannah and our Lay Member to Annual Conference, Mitch Hortert. Lay Equalization Members from our congregation are Martha Boward and Wilma Hamilton. Lay Equalization Members help balance out the number of laity with clergy. Rev. Jim Hamilton, a retired elder, and Pastor Laura Powell, a Local Licensed Pastor serving in extension ministry as a Chaplain, will also be there. Please be in prayer for our Annual Conference and all those attending.



### FROM LAURA POWELL, YOUR CONGREGATIONAL LEADER



**WHAT DOES WESLEY SAY?** Change is hard for most. Even small things like changing dinner plans cause us to pause, rethink, and act anew. God has big plans for his people, and he wants us to change. Through God's grace, he gives us a way to change. As Christians, we seek to emulate Christ. Wesley believed in Christian perfection, a Christian state where one achieves conformity to God's will and an unbroken strong relationship with God. Wesley believed that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the world can be transformed one person at a time. Through God's justifying grace, a person can seek forgiveness and begin again. Through God's sanctifying grace, people can engage in a personal transformation with each step bringing them closer and closer to God.

According to Wesley, when people feel sanctifying grace, an enormous overwhelming love from God is placed in their hearts which, in turn, creates a love for all humankind. Through the Holy Spirit, the people's knowledge and love for God expands and their love and compassion for the world extends.

*Practice:* Through your love, how can you respond to the world's needs and make a positive and significant impact to your local or global communities?

*Blessing:* Through your actions may God's peace and light shine replacing evil and darkness. Amen.



**STEWARDSHIP: AN UPDATE**

by Jere Cowden, SUMC Finance Chair

As previously mentioned, SUMC is in the early stage of planning a stewardship initiative with a focus on:

1. Creating a capital fund adequate to the needs of the very visible, beautiful and complicated building with which we have been entrusted. Currently there are a few areas needing significant attention, in some cases requiring large expenditures within the next year; others will be addressed on a planned basis over the next several years. A few examples include:
  - Boiler and related plumbing, with leaks and malfunctions being both costly and the possibility of serious leaks and or ruptures being a threat to our building and facility integrity
  - The roof is a constant irritant and in need of ongoing repair and will require replacement sometime within a few years
  - Gutter and downspout repair or replacement
  - Concrete work
  - Ongoing maintenance, including but not limited to, brick work, windows and doors, clock tower and bell, painting, and flooring

A detailed plan addressing the long-range needs of our building, as well as financial goals, will be forthcoming as it is developed.

Please note that the Church Council approved a budget which includes the separate identification of Capital Contributions, which we hope are beyond contributions pledged or planned for general operating expenses; several of our congregation have already made these earmarked contributions.

2. The Operating Budget is facing inflationary pressures, especially related to rapidly rising utility costs as well as rising building insurance costs and, of course, general inflation will increase our base operating costs by approximately 10% for 2023. Since the February newsletter, which provided a brief overview of the budget needs, we have been blessed with an uptick in general contributions, however we are still running behind our goals for the year, but we should be able to recover if a few more of us increase our giving as able. See page 11 for a financial summary.
3. Increasing our service to our members and broader community, including adding programs and depth for children and youth, will be critical to retaining and growing our church and will require allocating additional human and spiritual resources; currently there are no specific programs or initiatives in place, however it is reasonable to presume added financial resources will be very helpful in reaching many in our community who have no church home as well as to better meet the needs of our growing children's program.
4. Planned giving, including remembering SUMC in your wills and estate planning, will be addressed later this year or early next, however if anyone would like help in this area in the near term, please let Pastor Hannah, Pam Honeychurch (church treasurer) or me know and we will be glad to introduce you to someone who can help immediately.

Please feel free to direct any questions or comments to Pastor Hannah, Greg Lane (especially related to Building matters) or me.

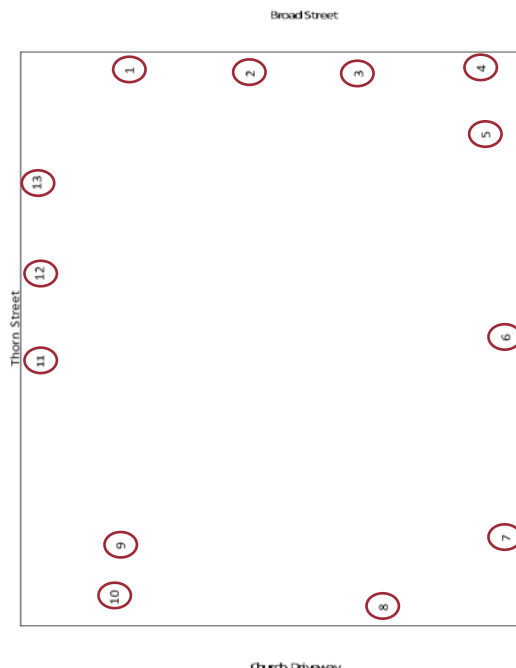


**SAFETY AND SECURITY SNIPPETS**

Doors are numbered at the church for easy identification, please familiarize yourself with these door #'s.

On Sunday, Door #2, 6 and 11 are unlocked and open for the public.

Here is an Identification Map for you.



- |                            |
|----------------------------|
| 1- Chapel                  |
| 2- Main Sanctuary Entrance |
| 3- Narthex Door            |
| 4- Stairwell Door          |
| 5- Playground Door         |
| 6- Office Door             |
| 7- Library Door            |
| 8- Dirt Room Door          |
| 9- Kitchen Door            |
| 10- Youth Room Door        |
| 11- Thorn Street Entrance  |
| 12- Learning Tree Entrance |
| 13- FOTC/Archive Room      |





As we step into June, we find 38 shoeboxes wrapped in bright Christmas paper sitting on a table in one of our basement classrooms.

Operation Christmas Child is accelerating at Sewickley UMC.

Kara W. and daughters Elliott and Evarett, as they have for so many years, wrapped and delivered the shoeboxes. We're thankful for their continuing support, and we're thankful for the reminder that a successful OCC campaign requires energy and imagination from spring through summer into fall.

The Fellowship of the Cross, leading our OCC drive for the 13th year, has also received enough sunglasses, toothbrushes, scissors, rulers and stuffed animals to accommodate 100 shoeboxes.

Our needs include school supplies (pens, pencils, crayons, notebooks and glue sticks), 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.

The FOTC donation box is located outside the church office, on a shelf beneath the bulletin board.

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.

**THE SALE HAS ENDED—THE SOUP POT IS EMPTY**

by Pam Honeychurch

In 2016, the Soup & Hummus sale was started by Donna Sawhill, Sandy Kuriger, Sandra Lane and myself, with the goal of raising funds to help pay down the sanctuary renovation loan. When we met to plan the 2022-23 year, we decided to make this, our 7th year, our last. We envisioned the loan being paid off (it was!!) and felt we accomplished what we set out to do.

Our sale was successful thanks to the many soup and hummus lovers who faithfully supported the sale and thanks to the dedication of the soup and hummus team, which also included Bola Nicholson, Belinda Resler, Jeff Moore, Rhonda Coles, Nancy Shuluga, Bill Kuriger, Jr., Pat Grossarth, Jenine Furry, and Susie Moffett, all of whom stepped in to make soup, helping to give Donna, Sandy and me an occasional and much appreciated month off from soup making.

By the time the sale was over, \$27,276.52 was raised and applied to the loan principal, with an additional \$4,603.51 from the sale going into the Capital Fund to help care for our church building. The total raised throughout the 7 years was \$31,880.03. For the most part, the ingredients for the soups and hummus were covered by the "chefs," which further helped maximize the funds raised through the sale.

Over the seven years, 2,721 quarts and 544 pints of soup, and 654 containers of hummus were ordered. These counts don't include the uncounted extras that were sold. Often, extra soup was given to people going through challenging times as well.

We also didn't shy away from trying different soups, and in total offered 33 different varieties: Beef Barley Vegetable, Black Bean, Broccoli Cheddar, Butternut Squash, Chicken & Wild Rice, Chicken Tortilla, Chicken Gnocchi, Creamy Chicken Noodle, Chili, Corn Chowder, Corned Beef & Cabbage, Cream of Potato, French Onion, Gazpacho, Hearty Bean & Barley, Ham & Bean, Ham & Potato, Lentil, Minestrone, Mushroom Bisque, French Onion, Pasta e Fagioli, Peanut, Sweet Sausage & Tortellini, Southwestern Bean, Stuffed Pepper, Tomato, Tomato Dill, Vegetable Beef, Vegetable Cheddar Chowder, Vegetarian Vegetable, Wedding, and Zuppa Toscana.

We didn't let the pandemic stop us! Early in the pandemic when there were shortages of food items, it became challenging to find the ingredients we needed, but we persevered. When we couldn't meet in person for worship and luncheons for people to have access to order forms, we moved to phone calls and online ordering, which continued until the sale ended.

The sale taught me that a small idea can make a big difference. All of us, soup & hummus makers and soup & hummus lovers, came together in a beautiful and yummy way and made a huge impact! Thank you!!



**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

Nancy Wiggins	6/1	Pamela Mayo	6/18
Genevieve Moffett	6/5	Scott Spencer	6/19
Elise Powell Biolsi	6/6	Lindsay Merryman	6/20
Amie McCombs	6/6	Emma Miller	6/20
Jade Burnett	6/8	Rachel Patterson	6/20
Jan Jones	6/8	Sylvia Bajsec	6/25
Pam Dotterer	6/9	Pete Hiles	6/26
Clara Herman	6/10	Johnathan Burnett	6/14
Willa Herman	6/10	Luna Dotterer	6/15
		Grant Lane	6/18
		Brenda Smith	6/29

*If you or a family member is missing from our birthday or anniversary list, please let the office know*

Dear Church Family,

Please join me in lifting a prayer of thanksgiving for everyone working in our Sunday morning basement ministries during the past school year.

I am thankful for Sophia G. (and Dilly!), who has spent many mornings over the past two years working with our elementary-age children. She spent time in my classroom as a child and returned to help nurture the present group of children. She has been a blessing to all of us.

I am also grateful for Jim C. and Roberta D. for all the time they spent guiding and growing children in our classroom this year.

I also extend congratulations to Miss Grace and Ben as they completed their first full year of bells ministry with the children. It has been a joy to hear them rehearsing and see the children running to their classroom.

I am also thankful for Laura H. and all the volunteers in the nursery who maintain their corner of the basement as a loving, nurturing space.

If anyone, after the Mother's Day services, felt enchanted and encouraged by the children and would like to join any of us in the new school year, please let Pastor Hannah or any of us know of your interest. There is room for you in the basement, too.

Blessings,  
Bill Utterback

Dear Sewickley United Methodist Church:

Thank you very much for providing the Subway lunch for the "Sound the Alarm" event held at the Ambridge Fire Department on Saturday, May 15. The event was very successful in that we installed 194 smoke alarms in a total of 74 homes, making 181 people safer through these efforts. Your gracious assistance providing the lunch was very much appreciated by everyone. Thank you for your kind support.

Sincerely,  
Mike Blessel, Coordinator - Home Fire Safety  
American Red Cross, Beaver County Office

A huge shout-out to all of our wonderful volunteers who made the 11:00 Children's Church possible! We had a great group of kids, some of whom are "graduating," and we look forward to welcoming new children, ages 4-5th grade, next year!

Thank you to our great team: Kim Benjamin, Katie Buco, Diane Dripps, Ben Heinzl, Kandice Kramer, Lauren Lang, Owyn Loughman, and Krista Ream.

Thank you,  
Andrea Lewis

Dear SUMC Family,

We would like to thank everyone for your support of our children's ministry in May.

We are grateful for the space you created in your morning and in your hearts as our children led worship on Mother's Day. We would like to thank Pastor Hannah, Matt M., Lauren L. and everyone in Leap of Faith for providing opportunity, encouragement and accompaniment. It was a joy to walk with you through this special event.

We would like to thank Pam H. for all the energy and insight she contributed toward shaping the worship services. We thank Andrea and the 11 am children's church leadership team for accommodating and encouraging us.

We appreciate the families who shared your children with us. It was a joy to partner with you and feel the love your children have for God and church family.

We are grateful to everyone who participated in the prayer stations and demonstrated, for the children and for all of us, your faith in God and prayer.

Children and youth (Ben!), thank you for your enthusiasm for the Mother's Day opportunity. We hope you were reminded that you are beloved members of God's family and our church family and we treasure your participation in all that we do.

In addition, we thank everyone who contributed to our traditional May flower-planting event with the children. The flowers planted around the church campus remind us of the beauty in His Creation and our responsibility to nurture, appreciate and encourage all of it.

Sincerely,  
Grace Rogansky  
Pamela Mayo  
Bill Utterback

The United Women in Faith (UWF, formerly UMW) thank all of you who made our Spring Rummage Sale for Missions a huge success. We raised \$2567.00 through sales and monetary donations over the course of two weekends. Thank you to all who donated items, donated money, bought items, sold items, carried items up and down stairs, unpacked bags, boxes and totes, set up tables and filled them with treasures, took down tables, put up signs, took down signs, packed up the leftovers for further distribution, tore down and recycled cardboard boxes, or provided food, beverages and/or treats for hungry workers. Every bit of help and support is appreciated. Thank you for helping us help others, especially women and children, in need here at home and around the world. Kristine Swaney 412-716-5772.



Aimee & Chris Thornton	6/10
Michelle & Jason Garofalo	6/16
Gordon & Debbie Chesney	6/18
Don & Pam Dotterer	6/18



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Jenine Furry & Paul Clifford	6/24
Laura & Steven Powell	6/25
Bill & Lindsay Merryman	6/26
Jill & Scott Matthews	6/30

# JUNE 2023

**\*Nursery offered during Sunday morning services**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:15pm Bell Choir	2 6:30pm AA	3
4 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service 4pm Pride Worship Service	5 7pm AA	6 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Mark 7pm AA	7 6:30pm Leap of Faith	8 7pm VBS Decoration Planning Meeting	9 6:30pm AA	10 11am Wedding
11 10:30am Combined Worship Service 12:30pm Church Picnic	12 6:30pm Finance Committee 6:30pm Trustees 7pm AA 7:30pm Council Meeting	13 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Mark 7pm AA	14 10am SUMC Prayer Group 6:30pm Leap of Faith	15	16 6:30pm AA	17
18 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	19 7pm AA	20 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Mark 7pm AA	21 6:30pm Leap of Faith	22	23 6:30pm AA	24
25 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	26 7pm AA	27 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Mark 7pm AA	28 6:30pm Leap of Faith	29	30 6:30pm AA	1

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

### 2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH APRIL



	2023 Budget	Budgeted to Date	Paid/Received to Date	Over or (Under)
TOTAL EXPENSES	312,098.44	112,372.12	113,165.16	793.04
TOTAL RECEIPTS	312,098.44	95,855.06	92,264.82	(3,590.24)
<b>OVERAGE (DEFICIT)</b>	0.00	(16,517.06)	(20,900.34)	

There was, for at least one morning, an energy, an intention, an attitude swirling in the SUMC sanctuary.

*“Speak out in defense of those who face oppression”*

*“Speak for those no one listens to”*

*“Strive for equality ... notice who is left out and why that is ... work to include and welcome them”*

The Fellowship of the Cross youth, through a prayer station on Mother’s Day, asked their church family, “How can we shine brightly for Jesus in a dark world?”

We wrote our answers on paper stars and hung them on the walls of the tech booth. Our responses clustered around a common theme.

*“Be inclusive in all we do”*

*“Have courage to show God’s love to all”*

*“Stand up for one another”*

*“Love everyone”*

*“Acceptance”*

There was a call to well-established fundamentals.

*“Pray and be joyful”*

*“We need to pray and have faith”*

*“Learn more about Jesus’s love for us”*

*“Pray that we all keep love in our hearts”*

*“...pray for the afflicted”*

*“Shine with joy and thankfulness”*

*“Shine your light for all to see”*

# PRAYER STATIONS

*Prayer Changes Things*

*“Welcome all with love and understanding”*

There was energy to nurture within the walls of the church.

*“Pray for people who are here”*

*“We should be intentional about growing in faith”*

There was an energy to go beyond our walls.

*“ ... reach out ... ”*

*“Keep making disciples”*

*“Love and respect each other, we need to invite people to join us”*

*“...go out to people instead of waiting for people to come here”*

*“Be open and active in helping others”*

There was consideration for our youth.

*“Connect with young people”*

*“Encourage young people”*

There was confidence

*“We need to trust each other and do the right thing”*

We have intention. We have energy. What do we do with it?

(Note: The prayer stations offered by FOTC on Mother’s Day generated more than 300 prayers. We tied 100 ribbons to a wooden cross as a thanksgiving prayer for the women in our lives. We pushed more than 120 pins into maps, lifting prayer that touched every continent and more than 30 states, and Puerto Rico. We lifted prayer for more than 40 people who influenced our faith walks. We had more than 40 responses to the “How can we shine ...?” challenge. We’re not sure how many prayer were buried in the sand boxes. The Fellowship of the Cross thanks all who participated.)

## 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.*