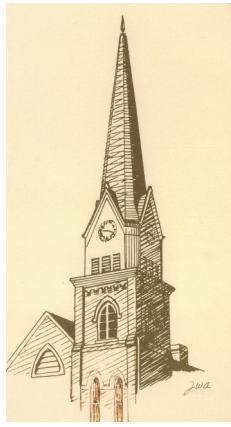


Sewickley United Methodist Church



March 2023 Newsletter

The Pastor's Peace

"We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion, we're marching upward to Zion the beautiful city of God." This is a well-known refrain to a hymn not surprisingly called *Marching to Zion*. The words were written by Isaac Watts, but the refrain was added by Robert Lowry, as was the music. Zion was originally a hill in Jerusalem and then the whole city became known as Zion since that was where the people of God dwelled. Eventually, Zion took on a more spiritual definition to refer simply to the city or the kingdom of God. When we look at the activity of Jesus within scripture, we see him often walking. He is walking through villages, towns, and people's lives. Much like marching, he is moving with purpose. On a couple of occasions he mentions to the people "the kingdom of God is near." For instance, in Mark 1:15, as he is going through Galilee proclaiming the good news he says, "The time has come, "...The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" It is believed that Jesus was referring to himself as the kingdom of God. Jesus, or the body of Christ, is a holy place in which we can dwell, a city that cannot be destroyed, evil cannot inhabit and that has no end.

This time of year offers to many the opportunity to get out your map and check to be sure you are on the right path, the path that leads to Zion. As we are now in the season of Lent, it is encouraged that we take on some spiritual disciplines that maybe have fallen to the way side with time and new circumstances or possibly ones that you have never done before. Much like marching anywhere and much like Jesus' ministry on earth, there are times that checking in through prayer, rest, devotion, worship, fellowship, food, and more are necessary for a successful journey. This is the time to check in with yourself, your habits, your head, and your heart to be sure you aren't wandering away from where you are meant to be. The great thing about Jesus as the Holiest of places is that he has blessed us with an internal light named the Holy Spirit that helps lead the way to the city of Zion.

What are you doing this Lenten season to commune with that guiding light within you? I want to offer some suggestions:

- * **Prayer:** Spend the first and the last 15 minutes of your day talking to God like you would talk with a friend. Set a timer on your phone to remind you about this new habit you are forming until it becomes just that, a habit.
- * **Rest:** This is not sleep, this is something that calms the soul and rejuvenates the Spirit. Therefore, this is highly personal. It could be as simple as laying on the ground, repeating a scripture verse over and over while you focus in on all parts of your body starting on the top of your head and down through your toes. Tighten and then release letting go of the stress you are carrying, while meditating on that one verse. Psalm 46:10 is a great one!
- * **Devotion:** Do you like to write? Spend some time writing a letter to God. Talk about your day, your week, your month, your year. Tell God your goals, your plans, your hopes, your dreams, or your disappointments, and then devote them all to God.
- * **Worship:** Make it a priority to come to church on Sundays and allow yourself to soak in the songs, the liturgy, the collective Spirit and turn it into praise. Then during your week do the same. Take in song, words, Spirit and turn it back into praise.
- * **Fellowship:** Join us every Sunday night for our Ecumenical worship services over Lent. Be intentional about joining with others, not for what you can get from it, but for what you can give.
- * **Food:** Give up a meal, breakfast or perhaps lunch, over Lent or fast a whole day each week. Choose what your health situation can handle. The idea is not to just give up food, but to then use that time doing something that equates to spending time with God.

There are many different options of Spiritual Disciplines you can engage in this Lenten season. You are not limited to the above suggestions. Whatever you choose to do, remember there is a reason they are called disciplines. In Hebrews 12:11 Paul says, "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." It will take intentional effort on your part. Marching upward to Zion is not always an easy task, but it is worth it. By the end of Lent, and hopefully before, you will undoubtedly find you have arrived at a place of peace, hope, joy, and love, because those are the things that make up the city of God, the person of Jesus, and the light that lives within us and guides us. Let's check in with that light and be sure we are on the right path.

From one light to another,


Pastor Hannah Loughman



**LEANING TOWARD THE LIGHT: SOAKING UP THE PRESENCE OF JESUS
ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICES**

During Lent we are gathering to worship with our siblings in Christ at St. Matthews AME Zion, St. Paul's Lutheran and Sewickley Presbyterian Churches. Here is the schedule:

March 5: 2nd Sunday in Lent, 6 pm

Host: St. Matthews AME Zion Church
Preaching: Pastor Emily Miller
Scripture Lesson: John 3:1-17
Fellowship to follow

March 12: 3rd Sunday in Lent, 6 pm

Host: Sewickley United Methodist Church
Preaching: Reverend William Rankin
Scripture Lesson: John 4:5-42
Fellowship to follow

March 19: 4th Sunday in Lent, 6 pm

Host: St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Preaching: Pastor Hannah Loughman
Scripture Lesson: John 9:1-41
Fellowship to follow

March 26: 5th Sunday in Lent, 6 pm

Host: St. Matthews AME Zion Church
Preaching: Pastor Mike Creamer
Scripture Lesson: John 11:1-45
Fellowship to follow

April 2: Palm Sunday, 6 pm

Host: Sewickley United Methodist Church
Preaching: Pastor Charissa Howe
Liturgy of the Passion: Matthew 26:14-27:66
Fellowship to follow

April 6: Maundy Thursday, 6 pm

Host: Sewickley United Methodist Church
Preaching: Reverend William Rankin
Scripture Lesson: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 7: Good Friday, 6 pm

Cross walk, begin at St. Paul's
end at St. Matthews
Host: St. Matthews AME Zion Church
Preaching: Pastor Emily Miller
Scripture Lesson: John 18:1-19:42
Fellowship to follow

April 9: Easter Sunrise Service, 6 am

Site: Sewickley Cemetery Chapel
Preaching: Pastor Ryan Kobert



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Everyone is invited to the 2023 World Day of Prayer, **Friday, March 3, 1 pm**, at St. Matthews AME Zion Church (Walnut & Thorn Streets) followed by tea and refreshments. WDP is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women, representing many cultures, races, and faith traditions, who welcome us to join in collective prayer and action for peace and justice.

This year the women of Taiwan's WDP National Committee have written the program and call us to worship with the words: "I have heard about your faith" (based on the letter to Ephesians 1:15-19). Through this worship we listen to their stories of faith that contemplate issues shared by women around the world... and guide us to prayerful action.

UMCOR SUNDAY



On **March 19th** we will celebrate UMCOR Sunday. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provides relief, response and long-term recovery grants when natural or human-caused disasters overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. For example, UMCOR is

Did you know?

- UMCOR works with local UM Annual Conference disaster response ministries and partner organizations in more than 30 countries. Together, they provided disaster response, humanitarian relief, sustainable development and migration programs to over 425,000 people last year.
- UMCOR stands ready to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery until a "new normal" is established within the community. UMCOR provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery and long-term health and development.
- UMCOR is devoted to the alleviation of human suffering without regard to race, religion, origin or gender.

currently responding to the crisis in Ukraine; earthquakes in Turkey, Syria and Afghanistan; extreme drought in Africa; the migration crisis in the Americas; and numerous hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires and floods across the U.S. The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.

You can donate to UMCOR Sunday through your regular offering or eGiving (please designate "UMCOR Sunday"). For more information about UMCOR or to donate directly online, go to: umcmmission.org/umcor.

Worship Opportunities - March 2023



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

March 5, 2023

**Second Sunday in Lent
 Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Liturgist: Martha Boward

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 4:1-11

Message: "Showdown"

Here it is, the perfect opportunity for Jesus to show his power right out of the gate. God has affirmed him, he has been spending his time fasting (weakening of the body) and praying (strengthening of the soul) and is greeted by the none of than the Satan himself. What better way for Jesus to grab people's attention than a very public display of throwing that snake on the ground and trampling it under his feet. Yet that is not what he does. Jesus doesn't waste his time and energy on big displays but instead, with simple responses, he shows Satan that his evil words are empty and powerless.

March 12, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent

Liturgist: Kim Benjamin

Jr., Rainbow & Clocktower Ringers, 11 am service

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 4:23-25

Message: "Missed Opportunity?"

It appears Jesus keeps missing his opportunity to display his power or take advantage of the situation to show who he really is. He has crowds of people following him. There is so much he could do with their energy to achieve his place as king in the world yet, instead of having them serve him, he serves them. What would you do with true popularity? How would you treat crowds of people following you? Fanfare, after all, is important for getting your message out there. Jesus seems to do things a different way, yet a very effective way, as over two thousand years later we are still hearing about his stories. Maybe there is something to pay attention to here.



LENT

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Liturgist: Jere Cowden

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 15:21-28

Message: "Do You Eat Leftovers?"

Jesus was not the only one to show humility within scripture. It seems as though the tables are turned and it is the humility of one woman that moves Jesus to save her daughter. So often we are offended by only receiving the scraps, but for this woman knowing the scraps are from Jesus was good enough for her. When you have no other option, leftovers satisfy, but when you have plenty, leftovers feel like not enough. Are you easily satisfied or constantly demanding more?

March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Liturgist: Otis McAliley

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 18:15-20

Message: "Humility at Home" Bill Utterback

In a church family, as in all families, we will have moments when we hurt each other. We say the wrong things. We do the wrong things. We agitate and aggravate. Jesus asks us to address those moments with humility and patience. In the moments when we want to rage, He asks us to whisper. And, if we can quiet our rage, He assures us that He will hear us whispering.

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

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

NYADIRE GIRL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

— Have you ever wondered what it would be like to grow up in Zimbabwe, Africa? Follow the 2023 Lenten calendar to learn more about life in Zimbabwe, especially for the girls at the Nyadire United Methodist Mission in northeastern Zimbabwe. The calendar is [here](#) or pickup a printed calendar at SUMC. Funds collected from the calendar program will be donated to The Nyadire Connection (TNC) and designated for the Girl Empowerment Program. Donations may be submitted with your regular offering or through Vanco. Please mark your donation "Nyadire GEP." For more information about TNC and the programs it supports in Zimbabwe see nyadire.org.



The **UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH (UWF)** will hold its March meeting on **Sunday, March 19th** following the traditional worship service. We will meet in the Simpson Room which is the large room across the hall from the front of the Sanctuary. Please bring your own lunch; dessert and beverages which will be provided. **Also please save the date of April 1st.** Our UWF unit will host the Pittsburgh District UWF Spring Day Apart meeting. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided for this event. The District UWF will hold a short business meeting and provide an interesting program. More details will be announced in the weekly bulletins.

EASTBROOK MISSION BARN OPEN HOUSE

The Mission Barn has a new location, 181 Columbus Drive, New Castle, and is hosting an open house on **Sunday, March 26, 1- 5 pm**, with a presentation at 3 pm. The Mission Barn collects, stores, and ships UMCOR kits in the tri-state region, constructs handicap access ramps, provides material support for ERT (Early Response Teams) doing disaster response, and provides education about Christian mission – especially UMCOR and UVMIM (Volunteers in Mission).



OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY CONCERT CHOIR

Saturday, March 4, 7 pm, at Coraopolis UMC (1205 Ridge Ave, Coraopolis). The Concert Society of Coraopolis is excited to host Otterbein University Concert Choir as part of their spring break tour. The ensemble's concert, entitled "Earth, Sacred Treasure," features the music of William Byrd, Mozart, Morten Lauridsen, Andrea Ramsey, Elaine Hagenberg, and Otterbein music faculty member Jennifer Bernard Merkwitz. The performance is free and open to the public. The Otterbein University Concert Choir is the most select of Otterbein University's five vocal ensembles. The choir tours annually to destinations domestic and abroad.



SOUPER THANK YOU! — SUMC members delivered "souper" results and helped the local food pantry tackle hunger by donating \$360 in cash and several dozen cans of soup during the Souper Bowl of Caring. Thank you to all who participated.



EASTER SWEETS TO SUPPORT THE LEARNING TREE PRESCHOOL — If you're looking to fill an Easter basket with some treats - look no further than the beloved local chocolatier, Anderson's Candies. And, your purchase helps to support the Learning Tree Preschool. [View the options here](#) or see the order form in the back of the sanctuary. Please provide your selections **by March 15**, to Sandra (412-841-7169 or email slane819@yahoo.com). Orders will arrive the week before Easter and Sandra will connect with you regarding delivery/pickup.



BRIDAL SHOWER — Ladies, come celebrate Felicity Moffett's upcoming marriage at a bridal shower on **March 18th at 1 pm** in the Simpson Room. Gifts are welcome but not necessary. Please RSVP to Susie at Susie.fhnc@gmail.com. Felicity's registry can be found at TheKnot.com by searching for Felicity Moffett, May 2023.

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

Our records indicate the following church family members will graduate in May/June. Please forgive us for any errors in miscalculating a graduation date or if we missed your student - we want to celebrate all of our graduates. Reach out to Sandra Lane at slane819@yahoo.com or notify the church office (412)741-9430 with additions or corrections.



High School	College
◆ Austin Hiles	◆ Nina Wiggins
◆ Sophia Geason	◆ Noah Wiggins
◆ Blair McCombs	◆ Lia Warburton
◆ Addison Shaffer	



**SAVE THE DATE
May 6, 2023**

Second **BENEFIT CONCERT** for UKRAINE
Sponsored by Three Rivers Young People Orchestras
Sewickley United Methodist Church
Family Friendly
Featuring Solo and Chamber Group Performances
with Musicians from:
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
Carnegie Mellon Music School
University of Connecticut and Longy School of Music
Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras



TUTORING & HOMEWORK HELPERS NEEDED - Church Union sponsors an after school Learning Hub at The Bridge, 1500 Chicago St. in Northview Heights, 3 days a week. Our kids are struggling in their classes at school and they can use some extra tutoring with spelling words, reading & math. We would welcome your help, Tuesdays to Thursdays, 3:30 - 6:30, at the old farmhouse building. You can even have a light dinner with the kids. We welcome volunteers any or all days and we ask that you have clearances and a patient heart. Helping these children learn is a beautiful gift and an act of love. Youth, 16 and up, are welcome too. If you are interested in helping soon, please contact Rev. Beth L. Nelson at 412-398-7894.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NATIONAL

SCHOLARSHIP 2023: The deadline to apply for the United Women in Faith National Scholarship for lay women is **April 18**. The scholarships are designed to be used for undergraduate or graduate study or student internships in religion or a related field such as social work. Preference will be given to people affiliated with The United Methodist Church and women involved with UWF. The average scholarship is \$1,000, and the maximum is \$5,000. [More info.](#)



Easter Egg Hunt!

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR EASTER EGG HUNT

The SUMC Education team is collecting prizes - candy and small toys - for our 2023 Easter Egg hunt for the children. Anything that fits in plastic Easter eggs - and reminds our youngest church family members that they are loved and included in the glory of Easter - is acceptable. Keep in mind that preschoolers will be participating. Edible treats must be individually-wrapped. We cannot accept homemade treats. Donations can be left in the Fellowship of the Cross collection box outside the church office anytime in March. Details concerning the Easter Egg hunt will be revealed in early March. As always, we are looking for volunteers to assist us. Please contact Bill Utterback or Pastor Hannah for more information.

Easter Flowers Order Form

To sponsor flowers to adorn the chancel on Easter, you may [order online here](#) or complete this form and bring/mail it to the church office on or before Wednesday, March 29.

PLEASE DON'T INCLUDE PAYMENT WITH YOUR OFFERING. WRITE A SEPARATE CHECK OR PUT YOUR CASH PAYMENT IN A SEPARATE ENVELOPE MARKED "EASTER FLOWERS." IF USING VANCO, PLEASE INCLUDE THE SERVICE FEE.



Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Payment: Vanco Cash Check # _____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Indicate below what type of plant(s) you will order:

<input type="checkbox"/> 6 1/2" Pot Mum @ \$ 10 ea. # _____ of Plants Colors: <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Purple	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 1/2" Pot Easter Lilies @ \$12 ea. # _____ of Plants Color: White—1 stem, 3 blooms & up
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 1/2" Pot Hyacinths @ \$10 ea. # _____ of Plants Colors: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Pink <input type="checkbox"/> Blue	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 1/2" Pot Tulips @ \$10 ea. # _____ of Plants Colors: Assorted Colors

To be published in Easter Sunday's Bulletin:

In Honor of: _____ In Memory Of: _____ Given by: _____

In Honor of: _____ In Memory Of: _____ Given by: _____

In Honor of: _____ In Memory Of: _____ Given by: _____

Do you wish to keep plant (s)? Yes No Plants not taken will continue to be used on the chancel

LOOKING BACK TO THE YEAR



1. John F. Kennedy was assassinated
2. Chips Ahoy cookies were "invented"
3. Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary closed
4. A Big Mac cost 45¢
5. The United States Postal Service launched the ZIP Code system
6. The Beatles released their hit song, "I Want To Hold Your Hand"

7. Jack Nicklaus won his first Masters golf tournament
8. The average cost of a new car was \$3,233 and a gallon of gas was 30¢
9. Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman in space
10. Meg Mayo was born!



Meg is turning 60 on March 3rd. To celebrate this milestone, we're inviting you to join us in wishing her a happy birthday on **Sunday, March 5th**, in the Simpson Room between the two services. No gifts, please, but there will be cake!

Dear Church Family,

The Fellowship of the Cross youth and leadership would like to extend our thanks for your vigorous support of our "Candygram" fundraiser in February. We raised enough money to pay for tuition and school supplies for the two young women we support in Zimbabwe (through the Nyadire Connection) for another year.

The candygrams were a new project for us, but you responded with a familiar generosity. As always, we are encouraged by your response to our efforts at mission and ministry.

In addition to your support, we were lifted by the way you used the candygrams to show your love, appreciation and encouragement for each other in the church family. The children charged with delivering the candygrams may have been exhausted at the end of the morning, but they understood that every delivery carried a blessing of love and gratitude.

Sincerely,
 Grace Rogansky
 Pamela Mayo
 Bill Utterback
 The Fellowship of the Cross



Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Thank you for your contribution to the ministry of the Eastbrook Mission Barn. Your support of UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) and the Eastbrook Mission Barn has helped countless persons in Western Pennsylvania and around the world in the name of Jesus Christ!

Lives are changed because of the gifts you give to Eastbrook Mission Barn. If you want to know more, you can follow the work of UMCOR at www.umcor.org. And you can follow "Eastbrook Mission Barn" on Facebook.

Throughout 2022, we were able to build 35 ramps/steps and take down 10 ramps. We shipped close to 15,000 kits around the world and have another near 10,000 in inventory. We are continuing to seek ways to expand community ministries and bring in new volunteers. 1000 of the kits distributed were hygiene kits shared with shelters and agencies to help people stay clean and safe during the pandemic - in Western PA, West Ohio, and East Ohio conferences. We continue to host teams of 2-20 people during warm weather and 2-15 volunteers during the colder months. Your continued gifts will assist us in supporting these ministries. Please consider making the Mission Barn a regular part of your mission prayer support list and budget.

Thank you again for your support.

Grace and Peace,
 Katie Peterson
 Director of Operations
 Deaconess, Church and Community Worker

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!

Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms - sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need!

Together, 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 genuine love for our neighbors.

Grace and Peace,
 Roland Fernandes, General Secretary



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Hurst & Diane Bartley | 3/19 |
| Steve & Cara Dotterer | 3/21 |
| Hannah and Todd Loughman | 3/23 |
| Bill & Laura Kuriger | 3/25 |



One of the great joys of late winter and early spring is imagining summer. Join us in our joy as we imagine VBS 2023.

An education team from SUMC, St. Paul's Lutheran Church and St. Matthews AME Zion Church met and made some key decisions toward providing a free community VBS again this year.



Theme: "Changemakers Lab," which uses examples from New Testament scripture to help kids learn to ask questions, trust Jesus and work together to serve people and solve problems. "Changemakers" includes a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) presence.

When & Who: August 7 – 11, 6 to 8:30 pm Sewickley UMC campus
For kids entering Kindergarten through 5th grade, with both Pre-K and middle school options as a possibility.

Registration: Opportunities will become available in May.

Next meeting: March 12, at 12:15 pm in the Simpson Room.

To grow children as "changemakers," we need to assemble a team of youth and adults who want to be changemakers for our children. We're looking for volunteers to invest in the imagining, preparation, and presentation of our Changemakers Lab. Here's a [link](#) to a form for anyone interested in volunteering.

All are invited to the planning meeting in March. Attendance is not a commitment to participation, and it is not a requirement. For more information, contact Grace Rogansky, Pamela Mayo, Bill Utterback or Pastor Hannah.



EASTER FOOD BAGS FOR SEWICKLEY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY



Sewickley UMC is collecting Easter Bags for the food pantry. You are asked to take a bag with the grocery list attached, purchase the non-perishable items, and return the filled bag with the list attached.

Alternatively, you may donate cash, which will be used to purchase eggs, fresh produce and other perishable products. Completed Easter Bags and cash donations are needed **by Sunday, March 26**. Grocery bags with lists are available in the back of the sanctuary and outside the office. You may also use one of the lists below on your own bag or box. Cash donations may be included with your regular offering or by e-giving – please indicate "Easter Bags."

FOOD PANTRY EASTER BAGS GROCERY LISTS
Print out at home and attach to your own bag

EASTER BAG – SMALL FAMILY
Serves 2-4 people
All items must be non-perishable

- 3 cans of vegetables
- 1 muffin or roll mix
- 2 cans of fruit
- 1 cake mix
- 1 can of Icing
- 1 boxed potatoes (mashed, scalloped, au gratin, etc.)
- 1 egg dye kit
- 1 small bottle of vinegar (for dyeing eggs)
- 2 bags of Easter candy
- 1 dozen plastic Easter eggs

EASTER BAG – LARGE FAMILY
Serves 5-8 people
All items must be non-perishable

- 5 cans of vegetables
- 2 muffin or roll mix
- 3 cans of fruit
- 1 cake mix
- 1 can of Icing
- 2 boxed potatoes (mashed, scalloped, au gratin, etc.)
- 1 egg dye kit
- 1 small bottle of vinegar (for dyeing eggs)
- 4 bags of Easter candy
- 2 dozen plastic Easter eggs

THIS YEAR'S BUDGET

FEW THOUGHTS FROM JERE COWDEN, THE NEW FINANCE CHAIR

Being a new committee chair is a learning and discerning process, a process which includes understanding how things are done and with input from many others, attempting to identify opportunities for improvement. Working in collaboration with the various committees and fundraising groups, a somewhat delayed draft 2023 Budget was prepared, sent to and approved by Church Council at the February meeting. This process involved wonderful people all focused on helping SUMC maximize our positive impact in spreading God's message of hope to our community while meeting the needs of our members and others in our church community.

Our goals are to provide all interested stake holders with regular information about church finances and to broaden opportunities to both serve our members and our broader community, as well as assuring the long-term viability of maintaining the beautiful and very prominent building we have been entrusted. In this regard, a Capital Budget designated contribution line of \$10,000 was added to the budget with the hope that in addition to your regular giving, you will consider designating additional giving for "Capital." The budget reflects an increase in expenses, significantly impacted by large increases in utility costs stemming from increased unit costs as well as post Covid increased usage of facilities as well as other inflationary cost increases.

Here is a comparison of the 2022 actual and 2023 budget

	2022 Actual	2023 Budgeted (includes new Capital line)	Difference	% Difference
Congregational Giving	\$240,780	\$270,313	\$29,533	12.3%
Total Income	\$291,074	\$312,098	\$21,024	7.2%
Expenses	\$292,016	\$312,098	\$20,082	6.9%
Net	-\$942	\$0		

A few areas we will be exploring in 2023 include:

- A stewardship focused educational program
- Potential use of tax advantaged giving for those of us over 72 with retirement accounts
- Use of wills and trusts to benefit the mission of the church now and after each of us move on to our heavenly home
- As guided by our Trustees, the intentional building of a more substantial Capital Fund, to both relieve annual budget stress when major repairs or maintenance are required, as well as better assuring the ability to maintain our beautiful building

It should be noted that with a combination of special designated giving, focused fundraising, and allocation of margin (profits) in very good years; we have been able to pay off the substantial loan used to partially finance the 2014 sanctuary project. It is my hope that a portion of special giving associated with loan repayment will be directed to the Capital Fund.

We appreciate your patience and welcome suggestions and comments.

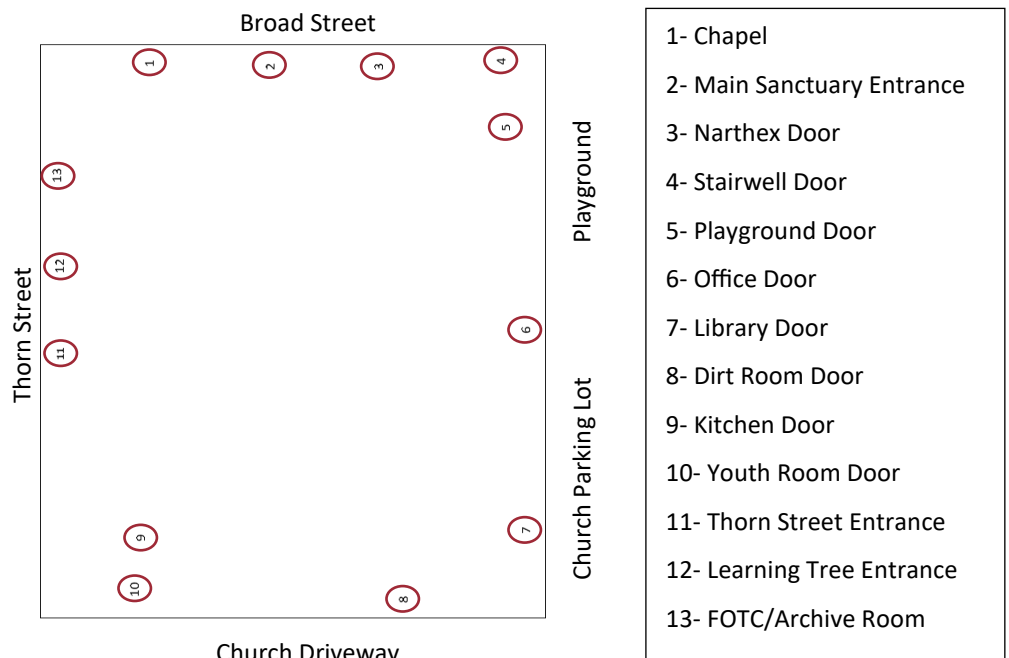


SAFETY AND SECURITY SNIPPETS

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.





CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!!

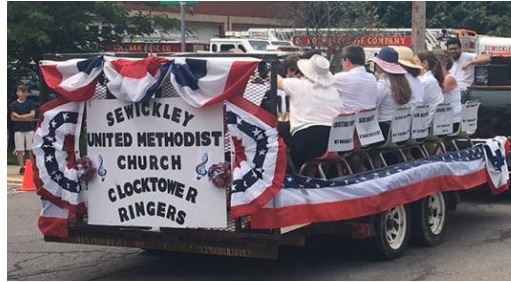
On Sunday, March 12th, we will be celebrating 20 years of the handchimes and handbells music ministry at Sewickley UMC, with music from the SUMC Clocktower Ringers, the Jr. Clocktower Ringers, and the Rainbow Ringers. We launched this music ministry in 2003 with the purchase of 3 octaves of Schulmerich handchimes, and a new adult choir called "Labyrinth," under the direction of Richard Stout. There are quite a few members who have been a part of the ministry from the beginning, including Jenine Furry, Pam Honeychurch, Sandy Kuriger, Alisa Lenhardt, Pamela Mayo, Lou Ann Scott, and Kristine Swaney. Jack Moffett was originally a substitute ringer in the beginning, but soon became a full member of the choir. Two other founding members of the choir were Donna Sawhill and Dana Yant, along with Kim Benjamin, who was another of our early substitutes (and later joined the choir for several years). Within a few months, Richard Stout moved away from the area and Pamela Mayo became the new director.

"Loved One" campaign and were able to secure the rest of the money needed to purchase 3 octaves of Schulmerich handbells. Each of the bells was sponsored by individuals/groups who "bought" a bell in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one. Those dedications are memorialized on a plaque in the hallway outside the Simpson Room.

Over the years, we have rung for numerous church services, performed in handbell festivals, and given concerts for various organizations in the community – and changed the name of the adult choir to the SUMC Clocktower Ringers. The highlight has been the opportunity to play in the Sewickley Memorial Day parade, as we think we might very well be the only handbell choir in the country that regularly participates in a parade!

Thanks, again, to everyone who contributed to help us cover the cost of refurbishing the bells in 2022 so they'll be ready for the next 20 years of ringing!

After 3 years of ringing the handchimes, the choir decided they wanted to learn how to play handbells, so the fundraising began. We received several generous donations from within the church and community, held a Christmas wreath sale, and sold hand-knitted scarves, enabling us to raise more than half of the cost of new handbells. We then had a Valentine's Day "Buy a Bell for a



SOUP & HUMMUS SALE FOR THE BUILDING OF FAITH

All proceeds from this sale go toward the care of our church building.
To order, [click here for the online order form](#), call 412-741-9430 or email (secretary@sewickleyumc.org), bring your form to the office or place it in the offering plate.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Cash Amount: _____ or Check (made to SUMC) # _____ or Vanco Total Amount Enclosed: _____



Choices	Indicate quantity below	
	\$9 Quart	\$6 Pint
Chicken Gnocchi Soup: Chicken, chicken stock, butter, olive oil, onions, celery, carrots, garlic, flour, 1/2 & 1/2, spinach and potato gnocchi		
Southwestern Bean Soup (Vegetarian): Boca Burger crumbles; Shoepeg corn; Rotel diced tomatoes; kidney, pinto & black beans; taco seasoning, Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing seasoning		
Wedding Soup: Chicken Broth, Chicken Meat, Ground Beef/Pork, Onions, Pastini and Spinach		
Sandra's Hummus (vegetarian/vegan - chickpeas, lemon juice, garlic, tahini, spices)	\$5 for 1/2 pint	

Orders are due by Sunday, March 26 and will be ready for pickup Friday, April 7 or Sunday, April 9. Include payment with your order or pay when you pickup your soup or hummus. *If using eGiving, please include the processing fee.*

A year ago, before we replaced the carpeting in the Sunday school rooms, I drew a chalk line across the classroom floor. I then shared the story of Jesus healing 10 men from Samaria.

Do you recall the story?

Luke begins the passage with this phrase: "Now on his way to Jerusalem ..."

Jesus has turned toward the city where he will soon die. He has turned toward the cross. In a way, this is a Gospel portrait from the first Lenten season.

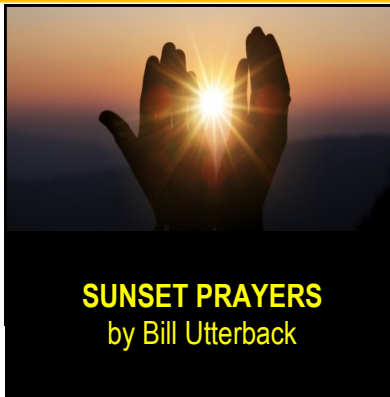
Luke adds another phrase: "... Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee ..."

People on opposite sides of the border didn't appreciate each other. They didn't associate with each other. But the Samaritan men, suffering from leprosy, had faith in Jesus, and Jesus responded to their cries. Together, they obliterated the border.

In my classroom, as I shared the story, the children used their hands and feet to erase the chalk line.

Can we look at Lent as a season of erasing borders?

In our Sunday evening Lenten worship services – a series entitled "Leaning Toward the Light: Soaking up the Presence of Jesus" and shared with siblings from St. Paul's Lutheran, St. Matthews



AME Zion and Sewickley Presbyterian churches, we will see Jesus crossing into difficult places. We will see him meet with Satan in the wilderness, with Nicodemus at night, with the Samaritan woman at the well and with Mary and Martha as they grieve the death of their brother, Lazarus.

Why did Jesus cross into those difficult conversations? To obliterate borders, to knock down fear and resentment and temptation and pain.

Can we look for borders to cross as we walk through Lent this year? Can we erase lines that separate us? Together, let's pray into the possibilities.

On March 5, as the sun sets around 6:15 pm, from wherever you are, with whomever would chose to join you, let's pray together asking Our Lord to show us borders we can cross.

Lord, help us to cross racial and cultural borders to share your love. Help us to cross borders created by age and gender. Help us to cross borders to connect with your LGBTQ+ children. Help us to create borders created by economic differences.

Lord, on our way to Jerusalem with you this year, help us to obliterate all the chalk lines drawn between us. Amen.

- Shirley Graham 3/2
- Bill Ferguson 3/3
- Paige Geason 3/3
- Meg Mayo 3/3
- Liam Spencer 3/8
- Lisa Jankowski 3/10
- Tom Barwell 3/15
- Lucia Martinez 3/15
- Murch King 3/19



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Luke Spencer

3/20

- Gideon Burnett 3/22
- Sebastian Cymbalak 3/23
- Shirley Sye 3/23
- Steve Grossarth 3/24
- Don Dotterer 3/26
- Krista Ream 3/26
- Ginny Heinzl 3/27
- Chase Ozegovich 3/30
- Joe Lombardo 3/31

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.

John A.
Jonny B.
Hurst Bartley
Betty Burrows (Wilma Hamilton's sister-in-law)
David Call (Bonnie Stoicovy's son)
Jack Certain
Bruno Crapis
Betty Dornetta
Jason G.
Shirley Gerthung (Wilma Hamilton's sister)
Donna Gleason



Rev. Jim Hamilton
Beate Henkel
Brandy K.
Grace King
Mike Kolesar
Henrietta Kretzler
Beatriz L. (Emily Liska's daughter-in-law)
Heather Lowman

Ben McGuigun
Tom Moog
Family of Jack Morrow
Sandra Obeng
Lorraine Offner
Dominic Odom
Heather Rose (Jennifer Jones' cousin)
Amy Richert

Jim Rogansky
Sayed
Karen Shong
Richard Shroyer
C.R. & Lorraine Simpson
Family & friends of William "Weasel" Striffler
Bill Teed
Ernest Wallace
Ryan Warden
Betsy Warner and Family
Rich Z.
Dennis Zeveny

MARCH 2023

*Children's Church and Nursery offered during services

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9am Contemporary Service* 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service* 6pm Ecumenical Lenten Service & Fellowship @ St. Paul's Lutheran	27 7pm AA	28 10am Women's Sharing Group 7pm AA	1 6:30pm Leap of Faith	2 6:15pm Bell Choir	3 6:30pm AA	4
5 9am Contemporary Service* 10am Adult Sunday School 10am Birthday Reception for Meg Mayo 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service* 6pm Ecumenical Lenten Service & Fellowship @ St. Matthews AME Zion	6 7pm AA	7 10am Women's Sharing Group 7pm AA	8 10am SUMC Prayer Group 6:30pm Leap of Faith	9 6:15pm Bell Choir	10 6:30pm AA	11
12 9am Contemporary Service* 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service* 12:15pm VBS Planning Meeting 6pm Ecumenical Lenten Service & Fellowship @ SUMC	13 6:30pm Finance Committee 6:30pm Trustees 7pm AA 7:30pm Council Meeting	14 10am Women's Sharing Group 7pm AA	15 6:30pm Leap of Faith	16 6:15pm Bell Choir	17 6:30pm AA	18 1 - 3pm Bridal Shower for Felicity Moffett
19 9am Contemporary Service* 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service* 12pm UWF (UMW) Luncheon Meeting 6pm Ecumenical Lenten Service & Fellowship @ St. Paul's Lutheran	20 7pm AA	21 10am Women's Sharing Group 7pm AA	22 6:30pm Leap of Faith	23 6:15pm Bell Choir	24 6:30pm AA	25
26 9am Contemporary Service* 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service* 6pm Ecumenical Lenten Service & Fellowship @ St. Matthews AME Zion	27 7pm AA	28 10am Women's Sharing Group 7pm AA	29 6:30pm Leap of Faith	30 6:15pm Bell Choir	31 6:30pm AA	1 7:30am - 2pm UWF District Spring Day Apart

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
 Jim and Olive Chewning
 Mignon Emmert
 Renee Gittins
 Hank & Shirley Graham
 Virginia Harriger

Jan Jones
 B.J. (Elizabeth) Manzinger
 Pat Rudy
 Shirley Sye
 Lura Zaremba

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Sewickley United Methodist Church on **Wednesday, April 19.**



A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

1. **Carotid Artery Screening** (Plaque) — An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.
2. **Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening** — An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.
3. **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** (AAA) — An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a serious medical emergency.
4. **Atrial Fibrillation** — A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.

These 4 vital screenings cost \$149 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/HC>.

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, 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 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!

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: 10 am
(September—May)

**9 am: Contemporary Worship
& Children's Church**

**11 am: 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.