



# Sewickley United Methodist Church

## May 2023 Newsletter


### *The Pastor's Peace*

There is a Tanzanian Proverb that says, "little by little, a little becomes a lot." It is hard to do things little by little. We like to see big goals happen quickly, but that is not usually the way it works out. Fitness coaches will tell you to make a smaller achievable goal that can be fulfilled in a short time so that you can build off the momentum of success to ultimately achieve your big picture goal. The same is said when paying off your debt. It's called the snowball effect. You pay off the smallest bill first then put that payment onto the next small amount then put both of those payments onto the next small amount and the monthly payment gets bigger while the debt gets smaller. Not only is this financially effective, it is also psychologically effective as you continue to celebrate wins all along the way, which builds momentum for you to keep going. These small successes ultimately lead you to achieve your big picture goal, i.e. pay off all debt. Here at Sewickley United Methodist Church we have a group of faithful chefs who have worked hard month after month, soup after soup (and hummus), little by little and together have raised A LOT of money to help support the life of our church. Though we will be very sad to see the opportunity to feast on their wonderful soups and hummus go away, we will still have the opportunity to benefit from their faith.

The folks who have made soup and hummus have taught us an important lesson. There is no effort too small. When you do something faithfully, consistently and with others, the impact becomes grand. Eventually that person will hear the truth about Jesus' love for them after the 100<sup>th</sup> time you have told them. Eventually that person will believe they are worthy of God's forgiveness and mercy. Eventually the building will get fixed. Eventually the boiler will stop leaking. Eventually all the keys on the organ will work or the piano will be brand new. Eventually will come. You can choose in which way it arrives. Does it arrive with the faithful success of your small actions taken little by little, or does it arrive with the disappointments of inaction because it wasn't grand enough of an idea?

Thank you to all who have made soup and hummus, thank you to all who made the phone calls, took the money, handed it out, thank you to all who put the details in the announcements and on the bulletin board. Thank you for your continued faithfulness to one soup at a time, one month at a time, one year at a time for seven years of perfection and the completion of the Building of Faith loan. Thank you to those who have supported the sale and little by little contributed to the huge impact. Together we will continue to look for ways to faithfully serve.

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)

**Blessing  
- of the -  
ANIMALS**



Our pets are a blessing to us, so let us gather together and bless them! Join us on **May 7**, at 9am or 11am. All pets are invited to come. Please keep them on a leash or in their crate or cage as necessary. During our Sunday worship services your pet will be welcomed to come forward, and bring you with them, in order to receive a special blessing.

Genesis 1:25 says “God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.” Bring your fur (or not so furry) babies to Sewickley United Methodist Church to celebrate that goodness!

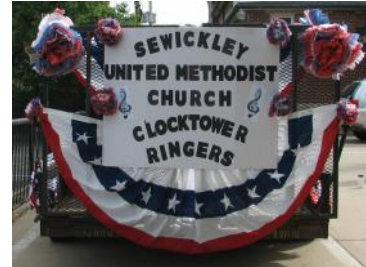
**RING THE BELLS FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**



The Clocktower Ringers will be performing at the Coast Guard Station on **Saturday, May 27th**, at 10:30am prior to the memorial service, which begins at 11. All are invited to what is always a very moving ceremony down by the river (300 McKown Lane, Sewickley).



The Clocktower Ringers will also be participating in the 130th Annual Sewickley Memorial Day Parade on **Monday, May 29th**. The parade begins at 10am. We might very well be the only handbell choir that participates in a parade!



On **Sunday, May 28**, we will observe Memorial Day, a time in which we remember fallen heroes who faithfully served our country in its 247 year history. We will also recognize our veterans and veterans of the Sewickley Valley. As we honor our veterans, everyone is invited to lunch provided by the Nurture Committee in the Simpson Room following the Traditional Service.

**HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES TO BE RECOGNIZED ON JUNE 11 AT 9AM & 11AM SERVICES**



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](mailto:slane819@yahoo.com) or notify the church office (412)741-9430 with additions or corrections.

**High School**

- ◆ Austin Hiles
- ◆ Sophia Geason
- ◆ Blair McCombs
- ◆ Addison Shaffer

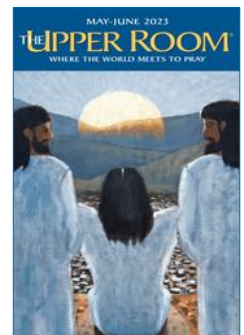
**College**

- ◆ Nina Wiggins
- ◆ Noah Wiggins
- ◆ Lia Warburton



Did you know that we have devotional booklets available to you in the back of the sanctuary on a table and as soon as you come through door #6 on the table. They are called *The Upper Room*. They cover two months at a time and have a mini devotional for each day of those two months. They are short but they are powerful. Part of what makes them so powerful is they lead us in engaging God's word through the eyes of different authors from all over the world. They are intentionally diverse in their writings.

What also makes them powerful is you can be assured other siblings in Christ, both those you know and don't know, are reading the same thing as you on the same day. I have heard countless stories of the way an author from a totally different part of the world spoke directly into people's lives. It's as if the Holy Spirit plays a part in all of this. Of course she does!



## Worship Opportunities - May 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

**May 7, 2023**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Liturgist:** Mitch Hortert

**Scripture Lesson:** Psalm 36:5-9

**Message:** "Purpose and Rest Belongs to All Life Under Heaven"

Mahatma Gandhi said, "the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." We understand that not all animals are dearly loved by us. We don't take them and turn them into pets or fully understand what purpose they serve. To be honest, some of them we smash and/or flush down the toilet because they are where they don't belong. But the statement made by Mahatma Gandhi is true; the way we treat those with less power than ourselves says everything about our moral values. As God was making sure the Israelites took a Sabbath rest, God also made sure the same grace was extended to the animals. Everything created under heaven and on earth has value in the eyes of God.

How do we treat that which God values?

**May 14, 2023**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Mother's Day**

**Liturgist:** SUMC Children

**Scripture Lesson:** Psalm 145

**Message:** "Sharing Prayer"

Psalm 145, attributed to David, says "One generation commends your works to another, they tell of your mighty acts." As a gift to all in the church family who have shared God's love and light with them, the youngest SUMC generation wants to reflect God's light for you. The children will fill this service with music, message and prayer. This will include opportunities to lift prayer in imaginative ways. We will be reminded of Psalm 145:18-20a: "The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. The Lord watches over all who love him."

**May 21, 2023**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Ascension Sunday**

**Baptism of Halsey Jane Baran, 11 am**

**Liturgist:** Lynn Colosi

**Scripture Lesson:** Psalm 47

**Message:** "The Heartbeat of Heaven"

What a somber day it is when the ones we love are no longer with us. Even if within our hearts we find great hope in the resurrection, it is still bittersweet the emptiness that is left in the spaces where their presence is no more. However, when Jesus rose to heaven and the disciples knew his return would not happen again in their time they rejoiced. They continued to gather instead of turning into their grief and they went to the temple filled with joy and praised God. Why? I believe for the same reason Jesus took them to Bethany to be the place where he rose. This was the heartbeat of heaven and the disciples now know they are a part of that.

**May 28, 2023**

**Pentecost**

**Memorial Day**

Clocktower Ringers, 11am service

**Liturgist:** Otis McAilley

**Scripture Lesson:** Psalm 46

**Message:** "Inalienable Rights: Are You Still Fighting for Them?"

The term "inalienable rights" can be found on the Declaration of Independence. It means rights that cannot be given away or taken away. These rights can come under attack, but the morality of them and justice for them demands we challenge the attack and not let the offense against such rights stand. Liberty is one of those inalienable rights. This is the state of being free. Yet with so much that fights for a piece of us, how is one truly free? It is a beautiful thing when the work of humanity and work of God come together to truly set people free. Is this the work we are about?



The Children's Church, May 14, 11:00am service will be cancelled so that our children can be with their mothers and celebrate in a special way (shhhhh)!

Our last Sunday to have the 11:00 Children's Church, will be Sunday, May 21st. We have had a team of wonderful, dedicated volunteers who have provided this service for our children. We have had changes throughout this year as needed, but I want to offer a big shout out to Lauren Lang, Krista Ream, Kim Benjamin, Diane Dripps, Katie Buco, Kandice Kramer, Owyn Loughman, Ben Heinzl, Archer Dripps, and Noah Martinez.

As some of our volunteers may not be returning next year, we always ask for anyone who loves children to volunteer. Please text or call Andrea Lewis at 412-926-7729, and we can talk about your best fit!





The **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)** will hold its Sale for Missions on Friday, May 12, 1 - 7pm & on Saturday, May 13, 9am - 2pm. We appreciate your donations of gently used household items, toys, games, puzzles, books, clean seasonal clothing, shoes, towels, sheets, blankets, and very small pieces of furniture. We

cannot use any electronic items or exercise equipment. Donated items can be brought to the church and placed in the Potato Room. All monies raised support local, national and international mission projects. If you are willing to help set up for the sale or work during the sale hours, please contact Pat Grossarth at 412-741-6208 or Kristine Swaney 412-716-5772. Thank you.

**WALKING TACOS** — On Saturday, May 13, enjoy Sewickley's expanded May Mart. From 10am to 2pm, the Nurture Committee will be selling Walking Tacos from a booth at the corner of Broad & Thorn Streets in front of Howard Hanna. Proceeds benefit the General Fund.



**FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION**

The Sewickley Community Food Pantry needs the following items: Peanut Butter, Soups, Pancake mix, Paper towels, Ritz crackers, Ketchup, Oils, Chili with beans, Meals in a can (like SpaghettiOs), and Pasta sauce. Donations may be placed in the grocery carts in the hallway by the library and by the sanctuary entrance in the Narthex. 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!** — SUMC will participate in Pittsburgh Pride 2023 on June 2nd & 3rd by hosting a booth at the festival and marching in the parade on Saturday. Details are still being worked out, but we will be looking for people to help work the booth and encourage everyone to come march with us. What a wonderful opportunity for us to show God's love to the community!



**VOLUNTEER TO PROVIDE NUTRITIONAL SECURITY** —

Come help distribute produce to about 40 families at the Northview Heights Senior Citizen community room, Saturday, May 6, 9-10:30am, 525 Mt. Pleasant Rd. The weekly produce distribution is a project of the Northside Food Pantry Advisors (NFPA), an affiliate of Church Union. This project provides food and nutritional security to a community in need and is a rewarding undertaking to help our neighbors in the city. 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 also provide transportation to the site if needed.



**REV. PAUL D. TAYLOR ANTIRACISM AWARD DINNER** —

Come to the 1st Annual Rev. Paul D. Taylor Antiracism Award Dinner on Saturday, May 20, 5-8pm at Calvary UMC (971 Beech Ave, Pittsburgh). Rev. Taylor labored tirelessly to dismantle institutional racism in the corporate world and in the church. In honor of his dedication and service, the Pittsburgh District Antiracism Team (Pittsburgh ART) is establishing the Rev. Paul D. Taylor Anti-Racism Award. This year's recipient is Tracy Merrick. Learn more & register: [www.eventbrite.com/e/the-2023-rev-paul-d-taylor-antiracism-award-dinner-tickets-228284193167](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-2023-rev-paul-d-taylor-antiracism-award-dinner-tickets-228284193167).



Rev. Paul Taylor



The Pittsburgh District Antiracism Team (Pittsburgh ART) is launching a newsletter with information on upcoming events, news items and suggested readings to help us all on our antiracism journey. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, please email Susie Moffett at [Susie.fhnc@gmail.com](mailto:Susie.fhnc@gmail.com) and she will get you added to the list.

**Help us celebrate PRIDE!** We will lift up our siblings and the fight for justice and equality within the LGBTQIA2S+ community during our 9 and 11am worship services on June 4th. We will also celebrate our siblings with a special service at 4pm which will include a guest speaker. More information to follow. We are grateful for the diversity and complexity in which God created us. We will not shy away from it or cover it with shame. We will embrace the beauty of who we are and Whose we are in Jesus Christ. Amen!



**CHURCH PICNIC**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC**  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 11**

BINGO				
15	28	37	51	73
6	17	32	45	61
9	15	★	60	70
12	26	44	52	66
7	22	34	48	72

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



Elizabeth Groff is the child we think of as we pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. She is the child who drives us to shop and share and pray through

every OCC campaign.

"I had no personal connection (to God). I didn't know how to pray. Nobody told me I could pray on my own," Groff said of her time as an orphan in Ukraine. "But I was crying out to him with everything I had .... And when Operation Christmas Child came to my orphanage, it felt like a direct response to my prayer."

Groff, now married, living in Texas and expecting her first child, shared her story in several Western Pennsylvania churches in April. It is an incredibly layered story of hope and love to consider as the Sewickley United Methodist family moves toward our 13<sup>th</sup> OCC campaign.

SUMC has contributed more than 1,300 shoeboxes since 2011, and each box is a window for His Light to reach children in ways we cannot imagine.

In January, Groff returned to Ukraine to deliver shoeboxes to orphans in a nation now savaged by war. She remembers an 8-year-old named Natalia who treasured a bright yellow flashlight she pulled from her OCC box.

"Natalia said the flashlight was her favorite gift because now, when the air raids begin and the city goes dark, she will have a light to lead her to safety. It broke my heart to think of that child in the darkness, but now I know she has the Light of Jesus."

Elizabeth's story begins in a village in southern Ukraine. She was happy at times, living with her grandparents and her half-sister, Tonya. They had a garden and some livestock. But happiness faded quickly. Her father died in an alcohol-related accident. Her mother became an alcoholic. Her grandparents were in failing health.

"I was the head of the house at 6 years old," she recalled. "I was taking care of everyone. I went from house to house in the village begging for food."

Her mother had a daughter who died of alcohol poisoning at seven months.

"I felt like it was my fault. I should have been taking better care of her."

In desperation, Elizabeth, then 7, and Tonya, then 5, boarded a bus and traveled toward a new life in another village. The driver never asked for tickets. In the new town, they collected empty bottles and returned them to a store, hoping to earn enough money to buy food. The clerk called authorities. They were taken to a detention center as their families were contacted.

"We were happy in the detention center. We had food and didn't have to worry about a place to stay."

Tonya's father came for her. No one came for Elizabeth.

"He said, I'm taking Tonya but I don't want you; you're not my daughter."

Elizabeth remembers Tonya turning to wave as she walked away with her father.

"She was smiling. She was happy. So I smiled for her, but inside I was heartbroken. She was all the family I had. I felt abandoned. I felt forgotten. No one cares. What's the point?"

In the orphanage, as an 8-year-old, Elizabeth received her OCC shoebox. She remembers crayons and a coloring book, lots of pink "girl accessories" and a bright yellow yo-yo. A window was opened.

"I didn't know how to use that yellow yo-yo, but it was my favorite," she said. "Those were the first gifts I ever received, and I knew then that I was loved and I wasn't forgotten. God hadn't forgotten me. The yo-yo represented hope."

Elizabeth traveled to the U.S. a member of the orphanage's chorus. The tour was designed to introduce orphans to families interested in adopting. One night, Elizabeth fell asleep in the back seat while traveling to spend the night with a host family. The father chose not to wake her and sat with her quietly in the car.

"While watching me sleep, he heard the voice of God say, This is your daughter and you are her father."

Elizabeth was adopted by the family in North Carolina. They attended a church that conducted annual Operation Christmas Child campaigns. Elizabeth made the connection while shopping in a Target store. Her mother intended to fill two boxes. Elizabeth suggested 100 boxes. They filled 168 that year and more than 200 the following year.

As a student at Virginia Tech, she launched campaigns that filled more than 8,000 boxes in her time on campus. She enlisted the football team.

"We had huge linemen packing boxes with tiny pink gifts for girls and writing the sweetest letters," she said.

Since graduation, she has witnessed around the country on behalf of OCC. She was surprised when she received a call from an agency in Ukraine that connects orphans who had been separated. They had seen her in an OCC video. The agency put her in touch with Tonya, who was still living in Ukraine. They had not seen each other in 20 years. They connected before the war, and since the war Tonya and her son have joined Elizabeth and her husband in Texas.

The windows He opens continually bring light.

"I love telling my story"

*NOTE: The Fellowship of the Cross will be collecting shoebox contributions through September. Our past contributions have twice reached Ukraine, as well as Africa, South America and Central America.*

*Suggested donations 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, toy cars. Flashlights and yo-yos are welcome!*

*We have already received enough toothbrushes, stuffed animals, sunglasses, scissors and rulers to accommodate 100 boxes. We're grateful to those who have made contributions through the winter. The FOTC donation box is located outside the church office, on a shelf beneath the bulletin board.*

Bill Utterback



Jesus understands parents.

We love the illustrations of Jesus embracing children. We know He loves children. We know, from the passage in Luke 18 that he stops to spend time with children. But, as he stops for the children, isn't he answering the prayers of their parents? Isn't he saying, "I know the challenges you're facing and I want to be part of your walk as a parent"?

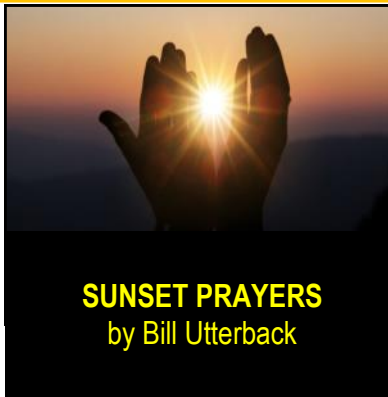
Mother's Day is approaching. Father's Day is on the horizon. Summer, which creates new challenges and opportunities for parents of school-aged children, is near.

Let's pray for parents, and for all of those who have opportunities to grow our children and young people.

On May 7, as the sun sets at 8:22, from wherever you are, with whomever wants to join you, let's lift prayer thanking God for those who parented us and asking Him to continue pouring His Love and His Light into those parenting, and thinking about parenting, in our families, church families and communities.

Let's pray for mothers and fathers.

Let's pray for grandparents, and great-grandparents, and aunts and uncles.



Let's pray for stepmothers and stepfathers.

Let's pray for single parents and those parents distanced from their children.

Let's pray for adoptive parents and foster parents.

Let's pray for families with two dads and families with two moms.

Let's pray for the professionals and the volunteers who nurture and mentor and encourage our children and youth.

As we move through the month, let's pray for the people we see pushing a stroller, pitching batting practice, climbing the steps to the children's library, waiting for the school bus, taking their children to church.

Let's ask God to bless them with peace and patience, with imagination and energy, with strength and stamina.

And, let's consider asking God to shed some of His Light on opportunities for each of us to walk alongside parents. Lord, how can we help? How can we encourage? How can we reflect your Love and your Light in ways that lift parents? Use us, Lord, to love your children and the people caring for them.

John A.  
Jonny B.  
Hurst Bartley  
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

Jason G.  
Shirley Gerthung  
(Wilma Hamilton's sister)  
Dan Gittins  
Donna Gleason  
Family of Hank Graham  
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  
Family of Jack Morrow

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

## Ways to Give



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

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

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

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

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

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH FLOWER PLANTING**



Sunday, May 21st, will be the final morning of the 2022-2023 Children's Church school year. Following tradition, the children will be planting flowers around the church during their time together during the 9 and 11am services. Please have your children dress to dig in the dirt and bring gardening gloves and trowels if they have them. We will also have some at church for them to use.

Additionally, we would welcome sun-loving flower donations for planting. Flowers may be left under the bushes beside the steps at the door (#6) outside the office after May 15th. Donations to purchase flowers are also gratefully accepted and may be made through the offering plate, in the church office or through the Vanco Mobile Faith app. (note "flower planting" on your giving) If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bill Utterback, Grace Rogansky or Pamela Mayo.

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 Zarembo
Virginia Harriger	



**Easter Flower Dedications**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p>In memory of their Parents,<br/>by Gordon &amp; Debbie Chesney</p> <p>In memory of their son, Michael,<br/>and granddaughter, Jessica,<br/>by Mom and Dad</p> <p>In memory of Joe and Esther Boward<br/>by Joe and Martha Boward</p> <p>In memory of her husband,<br/>David A. Ford,<br/>by Carole Moore Ford</p> <p>In memory of Bola Nicholson<br/>by Pam Honeychurch</p> <p>In memory of Barry Lewis<br/>by Andrea Lewis</p> <p>In memory of Eleanor and David Schmitz<br/>by Jere and Sharon Cowden</p> <p>In memory of their Parents<br/>by Sandy and Bill Kuriger</p> <p>In loving memory of her son, Barry,<br/>by Dana Yant</p> <p>In memory of Loved Ones.<br/>by Shawn &amp; Lou Ann Scott</p> <p>In memory of Pat Leiphart and Pam<br/>Smith by Pat and Steve Grossarth</p> <p>In memory of her mother,<br/>Normal Tesreau, by Dorritt Field</p> | <p>In memory of his parents,<br/>Mary Martha &amp; J. Russell Emmert,<br/>by John Emmert</p> <p>In memory of her parents,<br/>Lucille and Louie Martin,<br/>by Liz Brown</p> <p>In memory of Mildred and Chester Tahl<br/>by Jere and Sharon Cowden</p> <p>In loving memory of her husband, Bob,<br/>by Dana Yant</p> <p>In memory of Chuck Egenlauf<br/>by His Children</p> <p>In loving memory of their Parents<br/>by Joe and Debbie Consoli</p> <p>In memory of Bettye and Clair Cowden<br/>by Jere and Sharon Cowden</p> <p>In memory of Don and Ruth Idecker<br/>by Joe and Martha Boward</p> <p>In honor of Rebecca and Michael Lewis<br/>by Andrea Lewis</p> <p>In honor of his mom, Elvira R. Kinneer,<br/>by Warren R. Kinneer</p> <p>In honor of Loved Ones<br/>by Carole Moore Ford</p> | <p>In honor of their children,<br/>grandchildren and great grandchildren<br/>by Sandy and Bill Kuriger</p> <p>In honor of Carol Egenlauf<br/>by Her Children</p> <p>In honor of their children, Mike, Alissa<br/>and Beth, by Jere and Sharon Cowden</p> <p>In honor of her children, Erik and Laura,<br/>by Pam Honeychurch</p> <p>In honor of Dan and Amanda Hooper<br/>by Mom and Dad</p> <p>In honor of their grandchildren, Blake,<br/>Mya, Victoria, Claire, Phoebe &amp; Avyn,<br/>by Jere and Sharon Cowden</p> <p>In honor of their children,<br/>Joe, Sarah and Rachel,<br/>by Joe and Martha Boward</p> <p>In honor of Alec Hooper<br/>by Grandma and Grandpa</p> <p>To the Glory of God<br/>by The Powell and Jankowski Families</p> <p>To the Glory of God<br/>by Dorothy A. Jadlowiec</p> <p>To the Glory of God<br/>by Pat and Steve Grossarth</p> |
|--|---|---|



## SAS: SIMPLIFIED ACCOUNTABLE STRUCTURE TOWN HALL

Join the SAS Communications team for a light lunch on May 7th following the 11am Traditional service. During our lunch we will look over the Guiding Principles that would govern the Leadership Board and take a peek at the new suggested administrative structure in graph form. The drafted guiding principles are below. Look them over and come prepared with questions. We hope to see you there!



A Simple Structure for Missional Effectiveness

### Draft Guiding Principles

1. All references to the Church Council, Board of Trustees, Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee, and Finance Committee, in all congregational policies as of \_\_\_\_, and in all references to the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, shall be understood to refer to the Leadership Board beginning \_\_\_\_.
2. Once the budget is approved, those responsible (i.e., staff and team leaders) for the various ministry areas have the authority to spend their budget to align with the objectives for their ministry area approved by the pastor. No further approval is needed to access the budget in their area of responsibility.
3. The pastor is responsible for reviewing line items within ministry areas with the appropriate staff or team leaders for accountability from the staff and to the board.
4. Any member of the Building Maintenance Team has the authority to purchase supplies for building maintenance and improvement up to \$50 without approval. The Building Maintenance Team leader can authorize purchases for building maintenance and improvement up to \$500. Purchases up to \$1,000 can be approved by the pastor. Any purchases over \$1,000 need Leadership Board approval unless the expenditure is already approved in a capital expenditure line item in the approved budget.
5. Any expenditure over \$10,000 will require three bids unless a vetted contractor is preferred. Preference will be given to hire local companies offering competitive bids within 5% of other bids. Minority and women owned businesses should be given the opportunity to submit bids. If the expenditure is already approved in the budget and meets the previous criteria, there is no further approval needed. The ministry team leader or staff member responsible for the purchase will provide documentation of the bids to the Leadership Board for purposes of a paper trail only.
6. The treasurer must be consulted concerning any single purchase or expenditure over \$10,000 for purposes of cash flow. The treasurer does not approve or deny purchases but rather confirms large purchases will not create cash flow issues.
7. The Leadership Board will identify the positions that are authorized church issued credit cards and will establish credit card policies and limits.
8. Church purchases should be made using sales tax exemption.
9. Expenditures, other than recurring bills such as utilities, need to be submitted to the Treasurer for payment or reimbursement by completing a disbursement voucher with the receipt/invoice attached. The pastor, leadership board chair or ministry team leader whose budget funds are being used will sign the voucher as the approval authority. A person cannot approve funds to themselves or a family member.
10. The authority to hire and terminate employees of the church shall be vested in the Leadership Board. The pastor shall have the authority to advertise open positions and interview and recommend candidates to fill open staff positions. The Board shall have the sole authority to determine the number of staff positions, approve job descriptions for each staff member and set the salary paid to each staff member. The Leadership Board delegates to the pastor the authority to supervise, discipline, and manage paid staff as outlined in the SUMC Employee Handbook.
11. The pastor and a Leadership Board representative will review all paid staff annually using the approval evaluation process in the employee manual dated \_\_\_\_\_. The pastor will meet with team leaders at least quarterly to review, evaluate and revise, as necessary, the direction and focus of the team.
12. The Learning Tree Board is fully amendable and accountable to the Leadership Board and shall submit an annual budget and recommended policy changes to the Leadership Board.
13. The board recognizes and approves the Building Usage Policies dated \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The board recognizes and approves the Building Security and Key Policies dated \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The board recognizes and approves the Financial Control Policies dated \_\_\_\_\_.
16. The board recognizes and approves the SUMC Personnel Policies dated \_\_\_\_\_.
17. All meetings of the Leadership Board shall be open to the public, with the exception of any meeting or portion of a meeting in which a personnel matter or a matter of legal negotiations is considered. In those cases, the Board will transition into executive session. Minutes of executive session agenda items shall be available to all with the exception of those concerning personnel matters will be kept separately as part of the "S/PPRC" files.
18. Leadership Board members are nominated by a separate and independent Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development, chaired by the pastor, and elected by the Charge Conference as described in the BOD. The Nominations Committee will be responsible for developing new leaders and equipping them for future Leadership Board positions.
19. Due to Leadership Board's serving as the congregation's Staff-Pastor Relations Committee, no immediate family member of the pastor or other paid staff person may serve as a member of the Board, Due to serving as the congregation's Board of Trustees, only Leadership Board members over the age 18 will have voting privileges in matters of property, incorporation, legal matters, contracts, insurance, investments, or other matters described in the BOD ¶ 2525--2551.



**What is a changemaker?**

The young people in the Fellowship of the Cross, anticipating Vacation Bible School, posted that question on a bulletin board in the Simpson Room. The responses they've found pinned to the board are inspiring.



"A Changemaker is ...

- " ... someone who thinks from the heart."
- " ... a person who tries to improve the world."
- " ... someone who likes to help others."
- " ... someone who cares about their community."
- " ... bold."
- " ... humble and fierce."
- " ... someone who values everyone."

There is time for you to add your thoughts to the board.

More significantly, there is time for you to be a changemaker and help us grow young changemakers at 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 the camp will run from 6pm until 8:30pm, August 7 through 10, at SUMC. The camp 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 launch in May.

Changemakers - people who like to help others, improve the world and think with their hearts - are needed to join the VBS volunteer team.

For more information, contact Grace Rogansky, Pamela Mayo, Bill Utterback or Pastor Hannah. 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.

Hadley Boyle	5/2
Joe Consoli	5/3
Paige Lenhardt	5/3
Emilia Martinez	5/6
Kurt Gaebel	5/7
Nancy Plum	5/8
Pam Wright	5/11



**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Violet Lewis	5/14
Nina Wiggins	5/14
Noah Wiggins	5/14
Debbie Consoli	5/17
Wilma Hamilton	5/24
Susie Moffett	5/28

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

**SAFETY MINISTRY NEWS**

An evacuation at SUMC may occur due to a fire, an active shooter on site, or a natural disaster.

In the event of an immediate evacuation, on any Sunday, please follow the instructions of the Guardian on duty or follow your instincts and exit the building as quickly and safely as possible.

During worship service hours (9-noon), should evacuation be necessary, exit the church by walking (don't run) and gather in one of our 3 assembly locations to shelter in place until emergency personnel indicate it's safe to return:



- 1) The Pastor's Front Porch (home next door to playground, 333 Broad Street)
- 2) St. Stephen's Church Door #12, adjacent to our parking lot. See picture to the right for the location.
- 3) AME Zion Church (corner of Walnut and Thorn Streets) any door will be open

When inside at SUMC, familiarize yourself with the nearest available exit doors and the above evacuation locations.

All children in the nursery and Sunday School classes will be evacuated at the guidance of their caregiver/ teacher.



## FROM LAURA POWELL, YOUR CONGREGATIONAL LEADER

As your congregational leader, I have some questions for you. If anything is on your mind that you would like to share, please call and talk with me. (724-316-7895 / [lpspapep@hotmail.com](mailto:lpspapep@hotmail.com)). Are you worried about the disaffiliation happening in our denomination? Are you thinking about our potential change to a SAS model – Simplified, Accountable Structure for SUMC? Is there something during worship service that you desire to add or change? Other? Please let me know.

### WHAT ABOUT WESLEY?

During this time which our church is in the media, I thought it might be helpful to remind ourselves why we love being Methodists. Over the next few newsletters, I will share highlights of John Wesley's life and theology which serves as our Methodist foundation.

While at Oxford in 1737, John and his brother Charles formed a religious organization called the "Holy Club" with other students at Oxford. They decided to conduct their lives based on rules and methods, so they called themselves "Methodists" for the methodical way in which they carried out their Christian faith.

When John Wesley traveled to Georgia at the request of Governor Oglethorpe, he worked as a missionary to the Native Americans. On the ship to America, he met a band of Moravian missionaries. He was impressed by their spiritual strength and joy in the Lord. During a terrible storm, the Moravians remained calm and faithful and continued to worship the Lord. Inspired, Wesley talked with the Moravians throughout the storm and into the night discussing evangelistic preaching, instantaneous conversion, and holiness.

Two years later, John Wesley returned from America in despair as he considered his mission a failure. He and his methods were not accepted by the settlers. Back in England, Wesley struggled with his sins and his desire for salvation. He received spiritual counsel from Peter Boehler, a Moravian leader he met on the ship. Boehler taught Wesley about instantaneous conversion by faith alone. Wesley, supported by Boehler's guidance, began to **extemporaneously pray** whenever he desired. Wesley read scriptures and prayed for an understanding and experience of salvation through faith.

On May 24, 1738, during a Fetter Lane Society meeting at Aldersgate, Wesley experienced God's saving grace and wrote, "I felt I did trust in Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

**What is an extemporaneous prayer?** An extemporaneous prayer is one that you create from your heart. It is an impromptu prayer which enables you to talk to our Creator intimately. There is no specific liturgy with memorized words. Extemporaneous prayers are ones that are very special to Methodists as we believe that we have a direct line to God, and we can share anything with him at any time.

- Practice:
- 1) Talk to God as though he is sitting next to you and tell him what is on your mind
  - 2) Start now and don't put it off
  - 3) Be honest with God — He is your Creator
  - 4) Do it frequently



John Wesley

Dear SUMC family,

The education team would like to thank everyone who contributed toward the Easter egg hunt we held between services on Easter. We had a beautiful morning and more children participating than we have seen in recent years. We are especially thankful to the Tuesday morning "Women's Sharing Group" who took on the challenge of filling nearly 300 eggs with candy and small toys. It was incredible to see how much those women could pack into each small plastic egg. We're grateful to all who contributed treats and toys for the children and want you to know everything was wonderfully well-received and we're certain each child left knowing they are loved by Jesus and church family.

Sincerely,  
Grace Rogansky  
Pamela Mayo  
Andrea Lewis  
Bill Utterback



Thank you very much for the Easter plant. It's full of flowers and I will enjoy it for a long time.

Sincerely,  
Dotty Price

EASTER OUTREACH THANK YOU! - Because of generous member donations, SUMC was able to provide complete Easter meals - including fresh produce and a grocery gift card - to 16 families. We were also able to provide a generous cash donation to the Sewickley Community Center food pantry so they can purchase fresh food to supplement their regular supplies. In addition, the Lenten fines collection yielded \$515, which will be sent to The Nyadire Connection in Zimbabwe to support their Girl Empowerment Program.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your kindness. I'm thankful for your cards and the flowers I've received. Thank you for thinking of me.

Sincerely,  
Jan Jones

# MAY 2023

\*Children's Church & Nursery offered during Sunday morning services

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	1 7pm AA	2 10am Women's Sharing Group 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Mark 7pm AA	3 6:30pm Leap of Faith	4 6:15pm Bell Choir	5 6:30pm AA	6 5:30pm Ukraine Benefit Concert
7 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service 12pm SAS Townhall 7pm - 8:30pm QVHS Band Banquet	8 6:30pm Finance Committee 6:30pm Trustees 7pm AA 7:30pm Council Meeting	9 10am Women's Sharing Group 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Mark 7pm AA	10 10am SUMC Prayer Group 6:30pm Leap of Faith	11 12 - 1pm Learning Tree Mother's Day Celebration 6:15pm Bell Choir	12 12:30 - 1:30pm Learning Tree Mother's Day Celebration 3 - 7pm Rummage Sale for Missions 6:30pm AA	13 9am - 1pm Rummage Sale for Missions 10am - 2pm Walking Taco Sale @ May Mart
14 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	15 7pm AA	16 10am Women's Sharing Group 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Mark 7pm AA	17 6:30pm Leap of Faith	18 6:15pm Bell Choir	19 6:30pm AA	20
21 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service 12pm UWF (UMW) Luncheon Meeting	22 7pm AA	23 10am Women's Sharing Group 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Mark 7pm AA	24 6:30pm Leap of Faith	25 6:15pm Bell Choir	26 12:30pm - 1:30pm Learning Tree Graduation 6:30pm AA	27
28 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	29 7pm AA	30 10am Women's Sharing Group 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Mark 7pm AA	31 6:30pm Leap of Faith	1 6:15pm Bell Choir	2 6:30pm AA	3

## 2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH MARCH



	2023 Budget	Budgeted to Date	Paid/Received to Date	Over or (Under)
TOTAL EXPENSES	312,098.44	86,953.08	90,401.34	3,448.26
TOTAL RECEIPTS	312,098.44	69,601.97	65,656.45	(3,945.52)
OVERAGE (DEFICIT)	0.00	(17,351.11)	(24,744.89)	

- Pete & Gail Hiles 5/4
- Nancy & Russel Shuluga 5/4
- Greg & Sandra Lane 5/15
- Tony & Krista Ream 5/16
- Nancy & Mark Wiggins 5/17

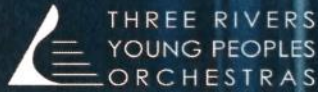


MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- Lou Ann & Shawn Scott 5/18
- Kim & Mark Benjamin 5/23
- Lisa & Ron Jankowski 5/25
- David & Rebecca Malarik 5/27
- Lauren & Geoff Roebuck 5/28



# SECOND BENEFIT CONCERT FOR UKRAINE



THREE RIVERS  
YOUNG PEOPLES  
ORCHESTRAS

MAY 6, 2023 AT 5:30 PM  
SEWICKLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Complete this form to reserve your seats and make a donation, or scan the QR code to register online

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

*Family Friendly suggested 10 years old+*

\_\_\_\_\_: I will not be able to attend but would like to make a donation to Benefit Ukraine

Donations per person: \_\_ \$50 \_\_ \$100 \_\_ \$150 \_\_ \$500 Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to TRYPO with Ukraine Benefit in the memo and mail to:

TRYPO, 212 9th Street, Suite 601, Pittsburgh, PA 15222



## Featuring Solo and Chamber Performances by:

**Cynthia Koledo DeAlmeida**

Principal Oboe, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

**Sung-Im Kim**

Assistant Teaching Professor of Collaborative Piano,  
Carnegie Mellon University

**Rodrigo Ojeda**

Assistant Teaching Professor of Collaborative Piano,  
Carnegie Mellon University

**Dr. Solomiya Ivakhiv**

Violinist from Lviv, Ukraine  
Head of Strings, University of Connecticut

**Katia Manukyan**

Soprano and Teaching Associate Professor of Slavic  
Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh

**William Caballero**

Principal Horn, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

**Victoria Luperi**

Associate Principal Clarinet,  
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

**Featured TRYPO Students**

Youth Chamber Connection 2022-23 Ensemble

Seven-foot Steinway Grand Piano, courtesy of Fort Pitt Piano Company

[trypo.org/ukrainebenefit](http://trypo.org/ukrainebenefit)

## 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.*