



Sewickley United Methodist Church

September 2023 Newsletter

The Pastor's Peace

Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Change is hard. There seems to be a lot of it going on right now in the life of our church. We are preparing to make a major shift from a Legacy Model of administration that has worked for almost 55 years to a Leadership Board model that is just a baby in comparison.

We are preparing to say goodbye to our ever-faithful Administrative Assistant, Pam Honeychurch. She has been with us for 11½ years and is heading on to a full-time position at the conference center. Though, we are so grateful she will still be a member of our church family and continue in her faithful leadership through Treasurer and other ways.

We are saying our goodbyes to Lauren Lang as she moves across the country and blesses another community as she has us. She stepped into our tech needs and stepped into our hearts. We will miss her.

We have said goodbye to our wonderful Nursery Care Worker, Laura Honeychurch and have missed her dependable and enthusiastic care of our children.

We have said goodbye to Lou Ann Scott as she moved into a new season of life and happy retirement. This will be our first Pumpkin Patch season without her as well as our first Bell Ringing season without her.

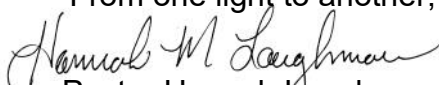
The soup sales will not begin a new this coming season and many are still lamenting the passing of the luncheons.

Change is hard. But when that change has come about due to the faithful discernment of those who are committed to serving the Lord, we can be assured there are good things waiting for us.

Soon we will affirm 9 faithful and committed followers of Jesus Christ who have said yes to helping us successfully usher in the new Leadership Board model. Soon we will get to greet and appreciate the skills and talents that Elizabeth, our new Administrative Assistant, will bring to the life of our church. Soon our young kids will fall in love with Shayla, our new nursery attendant, as she cares for them with fresh energy and grace. Soon the pumpkins will arrive; Diane Bartley and friends will continue to make the "gourd times" roll! Soon many people who pour onto the lawn for those pumpkins will be greeted with kindness and shown the love of Jesus. Soon our halls and loft will be filled with kids who are excited about connecting with each other and learning about the love of Jesus. Soon 14-year-old Ben Ward and his mom, Amanda Pelphrey, will be baptized together as we get to surround, support, and love them on the journey ahead. Soon 10 persons who are excited about serving the Lord, Mary, Sel, Ryan, Amanda, Charlie, Kerry, Michael, Patti, Breonna, and Nicole will make the choice to live out their discipleship as members of Sewickley United Methodist Church. Two others, Kelly and Bill, have recently made that same commitment by way of transferring their membership to Sewickley UMC. Soon 3 little girls, Stella, Maya and Jordyn, will get a new Bible placed into their hands and a whole world of possibilities full of the great love of God will be opened to them.

Change is hard. But God's ways are good. It is in God's hands we commit our future. Amen!

From one light to another,


Pastor Hannah Loughman



Children's Church Starts September 10th

It's almost time for Children's Church to start and we are excited for a new year to be working with your precious children.

The children sit with their families for the first part of the service, and then go up to the children's library loft (11am service) or down to a classroom (9am service) to engage in a variety of Christian Children's activities

(videos, crafts, role plays, games and more) and form friendships.

We could use a few more helpers, so if helping children learn about God is important to you, please consider calling Andrea Lewis, 11am service (412-926-7729) or Bill Utterback, 9am service (412-913-6251). We will be so happy to have you on our teams, with frequency of assistance up to you and your schedule!



On **September 10th** we will receive 10 new members during both services. There will be an opportunity to meet our new members at 10am in the Simpson Room as we have reception in their honor.



Mignon McVicker Emmert passed away peacefully on July 8, 2023, in Louisville, Kentucky, where she had lived since 2009. She was a month shy of being 102. Her loving husband of 48 years, Kenneth Rawlings Emmert preceded her in death.

She was a longtime and faithful member of Sewickley United Methodist Church and loved her church family where she always greeted people with her special infectious smile.

She is survived by numerous dear relatives and friends near and far. She enjoyed keeping in touch by writing often in her beautiful hand writing.

Beside gardening, playing bridge, reading and jigsaw puzzles, she was always working on needlecraft projects to give to others.

She loved people and entertaining and had, on many occasions, memorable meals and parties in her home.

She was a role model to many and will be greatly missed.

She has been cremated and will be buried in Sewickley Cemetery next to her husband, mother and sisters. The date has not been determined, but probably in the summer of 2024.

If desired, contributions in her memory may be made to the Sewickley United Methodist Church or the Sewickley Public Library.



Worship Opportunities - September 2023

Contemporary Worship Service: 9am
 Traditional Worship Service: 11am
 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

September 3, 2023
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Liturgist: Donna Sawhill
Scripture Lesson: Psalm 67
Message: "Post Worthy!"

I was scrolling through TikTok the other day and it absolutely amazes me the stuff that people are capable of doing! People have incredible skills and athletic ability. I watched them jumping over multiple cars, riding their bikes down a mountainside at top speeds, riding skateboards on handrails and juggling seven balls at one time while doing flips and tricks. Seriously, you watch this stuff and think how is that even possible? But no matter how cool those things are, it isn't as cool as saving the world! Only one person has done that, and his name is Jesus. Now that is totally post worthy!

September 10, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Reception of New Members
Liturgist: Jere Cowden
Scripture Lesson: Psalm 105:1-5
Message: "Did He Drink the Water?"

When it comes to telling people about Jesus, the Bible shows us multiple ways to "evangelize." We can show them who Jesus is by the things we do, share our stories of who Jesus is to us, help others understand how we see Jesus at work around us or speak simply and plainly about who Jesus is according to scripture. If people get caught up in the unimportant details like, "did he drink the water or not," we can remember faith in Christ isn't always instantaneous, sometimes it takes time and that's not up to us. Above all, remember it is GOOD news, not bad, sad, or scary. It is GOOD!



September 17, 2023
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Liturgist: Lynn Colosi
Scripture Lesson: Psalm 96
Message: "Live Aware"

Why would you continue to read something you can't understand? That is what the Ethiopian Eunuch was doing. There was something about what he was reading that he could tell was full of mysteries waiting to be revealed. There was something hidden within the words that he knew could change his life. Even though he didn't know what it was, he kept on reading. This is where Philip falls from the sky to help the Ethiopian Eunuch understand. Sometimes God puts us right in the middle of an opportunity to share what it is we already know. For those who live aware, this is evangelism.

September 24, 2023
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Liturgist: Carole Ford
Scripture Lesson: Psalm 119:41-48
Message: "How Will They Know?"

In Matthew 11:29-30 Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." When it comes to telling others about Jesus, we often feel all the pressure to succeed on our shoulders. At the end of the day, it is the power of the Holy Spirit that will change their hearts or not. It's not up to us. It is a blessing to be used by Jesus for such a task, but we must remember when we work with Jesus he can carry a much heavier load than we can. By his power and might, not ours, change will happen. Breathe and release.



Come join the **Walking with Jesus** group for adults on Sunday mornings at 10am in the parlor. Bring your coffee, your ideas, and your faith. See Willie Nicholson or Sandy Kuriger with questions.

Christ is Counting on You

Join our diverse group Sunday mornings at 10am. in the Library to discuss societal issues and Jesus-based ways we can make a difference.



FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Our September focus for the Sewickley Community Food Pantry is Italian-themed foods such as canned tomatoes, shelf-stable grated cheese, tomato sauce, pasta sauce and pasta. Other non-perishable food items & paper products are also always welcome. Donations may be placed in the grocery carts in the hallway by the library & by the sanctuary entrance in the Narthex. The Pantry (15 Chadwick St.) is open to all in the 15143, 15056 and 15108 zip codes every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 11:30am-1pm.



The annual Cookie Walk will be **November 18th**. This is the sweetest and fastest fundraiser the church has, with the proceeds benefiting the General Fund. Please be thinking of your favorite cookie and candy recipes and we will be asking you to sign up at a later date. So save the date and if you have any questions contact Debbie Consoli (412-722-9131 or conjd2@verizon.net). Thank you for all your help and cookie donations.



HELP PROVIDE NUTRITIONAL SECURITY - SUMC will support the Northside Food Pantry Advisors by passing out fresh produce to residents at Northview Heights in

Pittsburgh on Saturday, September 16th. A few more volunteers are needed to help with the distribution, which takes 2-3 hours in the morning. Interested in volunteering or have questions? Contact Sharon Cowden (412-292-5637) or Barbara Bower (412-741-9665). Transportation to the site can be provided, if needed.

SEEKING 3RD GRADERS! The Library Committee is in search of our children in the 3rd grade. We will recognize them with their own commemorative Bible during the services on September 17th. Please help us fill in the blanks if we've missed your child. Here's who we have on our list so far:



- ♥ Maya DeSouza
- ♥ Stella Dripps
- ♥ Jordyn Loughman

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

JOIN OUR PRAYER GROUP — Everyone in the Sewickley UMC church family is invited to participate in our monthly prayer gatherings, held at 10am on the second Wednesday of each month in the parlor. We pray into SUMC ministries and events, as well as families and individuals, communities and schools, our nation and our world. You do not have to pray aloud. Our next gathering is September 13. For more info, or to submit prayer requests, contact Bill Utterback (utterbac@earthlink.net).



TAKE A WALK WITH A TACO — Come get a "Walking Taco" during Sewickley's Harvest Festival on Saturday, **September 9th**. They will be available with all the toppings 10am-1pm for \$5 each on the front lawn. Lemonade free with purchase. Proceeds benefit the church's General Fund.

POP-UP FREE SHOP — What if some of the unsold items from the Rummage Sales for Missions were taken to Northview Heights and made available for free to the residents? In August our third such event took place when two vehicles packed full of household and kitchen items, along with shoes, clothing, coats, toys, bedding, and other assorted items were offered for free to anyone who wanted them. The event was a huge success and the customers were very thankful. The United Methodist Church Union has an over 50-year history of offering services in the Northview Heights community. Over the years Sewickley UMC has partnered with Church Union through various ministries in Northview Heights. Thanks to leftover donations from the SUMC Rummage Sale for Missions, we have this new ministry.



Cookie Ministry **JOIN THE COOKIE TEAM** — The Witness Committee is hoping to grow our "cookie team" to provide snacks, once a month, for the Alcoholics Anonymous meetings held in our building. We have been supporting the Tuesday night group, and could consider supporting the groups that gather on Monday and Friday nights. Cookie team members would be asked to provide, by baking or shopping, a snack to serve 24 people several times throughout the year. We know the AA groups are providing a unique and necessary window for God's Light and healing in our families and communities, and we need to encourage them. For more information, contact Bill Utterback (utterbac@earthlink.net).

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



HANDBELL CHOIR — The Clocktower Ringers will begin rehearsals for the upcoming season on Thursday evening, September 7th, from 6:15 - 7:15pm in the sanctuary. The bell choir meets every week to rehearse and plays for the 11am service once a month from October through May. If you are interested in ringing with us or have questions, feel free to contact Pamela Mayo (pemayo@verizon.net) or stop in on a Thursday evening to have a listen.

**LET'S GO ON
A HAYRIDE**



SAVE THE DATE — Come to the Annual Hayride & Bonfire on **Saturday, October 14**, at Sandy & Bill Kuriger's home (91 Hill Rd, Sewickley), 6 to 9pm. Hotdogs & buns, hot chocolate and water will be provided. Bring: blanket, chair, roasting forks, flashlight, snack to share, or makings for S'mores. Don't miss

this opportunity to have a great time of fellowship with your Church Family.

RUMMAGE SALE FOR MISSIONS

The United Women in Faith (UWF) will host a sale on **Friday, Sept. 8, 1—7pm** and on **Saturday, Sept. 9, 9am—2pm** at the church. Previously owned treasures, including household items, seasonal clothing, shoes, books, puzzles & much more, will be available. All proceeds help fund local, national and international United Women in Faith mission projects.



We appreciate your donations to our sale, but we are not able to accept electronics and exercise equipment of any kind as well as large pieces of furniture or rugs. Small tables, chairs, nightstands, plant stands and rugs are acceptable. Donations may be put in the large basement room or Potato Room.

If you would like to help us with this sale, please contact Pat Grossarth (412-741-6208) or Kristine Swaney (412-741-2092). Any amount of help is appreciated with the set up, the sale itself and the clean up afterwards.



Hello from North Carolina to my wonderful church family. Just a note to thank you for the prayers and well wishes for my retirement and our move to North Carolina. We are adjusting well and loving every minute here.

That's not to say that I don't miss y'all. No, I am not getting a southern slang

yet. I am watching the service online as my connection to "back home." If you're ever in the area, I invite you to drop in to say hello. Here's my new address: 2023 Hidden Cove Lane, Edenton, NC 27932. One last note, I wish you luck on the 2023 Pumpkin Patch season. I will miss that sea of orange. Good luck.

Love,
Lou Ann

Dear Church Family,

We are thankful for everyone who brought the concept of "changemaker" to life for the children who attended our 2023 "Changemakers Lab" Community Vacation Bible School in August. We are thankful for more than 40 volunteers, and for those who prayed for us, for those who provided for us, and for parents, grandparents, and caretakers who brought children to us.

You brought science to life. You brought music, art, refreshment and games to life. You brought Bible stories to life. You brought relationship to life. You brought faith to life. Your energy and imagination created a loving space for the love and light of Jesus to touch young hearts in new ways. You touched some older hearts, too. You were changemakers.

The volunteer team included many who are with us every year, and some who joined us for the first time. It involved many, including youth and young adults, who extended in new ways to share Jesus with our children. It is our hope that every volunteer left knowing all they shared was appreciated and impactful, and we hope you left inspired to find new ways to connect and share. Your gifts for ministry are abundant.

Sincerely,
Grace Rogansky, Pamela Mayo and Bill Utterback

Hurst Bartley	9/1
Ross Lenhardt	9/2
Kaylee Kennedy	9/5
Elliett Briggs	9/8
Todd Loughman	9/8
John Erkert	9/10
Dan Gittins	9/11
Dorothy Jadowiec	9/11
Ben Heinzl	9/17
Pam Honeychurch	9/17
CJ Jones	9/17



Christian Miller	9/18
Eva Ream	9/18
Addie Williams	9/18
Karen Nickell	9/20
Laura Powell	9/20

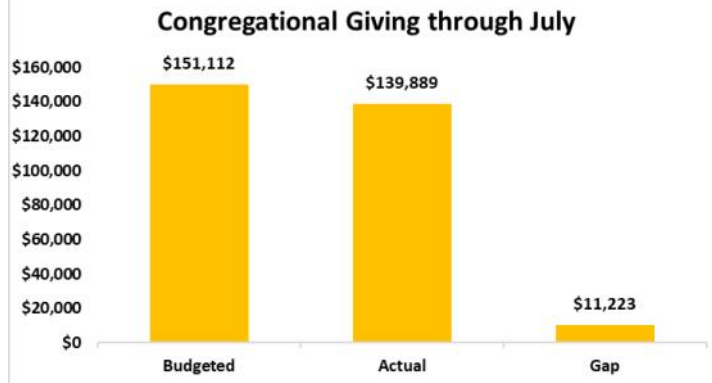
Lincoln Loughman	9/21
Amelia Leety	9/22
Lucas Leety	9/22
Allen Gleason	9/24
Sean McCombs	9/24
Sandy DeWitt	9/25
Addy Leety	9/25
Fay Wright	9/25
Amelie Canfield	9/28
Edie Erkert	9/29
Tami Ozegovich	9/29

A CONGREGATIONAL GIVING UPDATE

We understood that due to rising costs, especially related to utilities and building maintenance needs, 2023 would be a challenge and this has proven to be true. We understand that the same is true for many of us in the congregation.

The good news is that Year to Date expenses are somewhat below budget but, unfortunately, year to date congregational giving below budget by a wide margin. Through July, contributions are \$11,223 below budget and if this trend continues, contributions will be somewhere between \$15,000 and \$20,000 below budget by year end. We bring this up in hope that some of us will be able to increase giving to help reduce or, God willing, eliminate the projected deficit.

The chart shows a summary of actual giving vs. budgeted giving as of the end of July.



We ask that those who are financially able to, prayerfully consider, increasing your giving or to give a one time gift to help close the gap.

Thanks for your consideration,
 Jere Cowden
 Finance Committee Chair

2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH JULY



	2023 Budget	Budgeted to Date	Paid/Received to Date	Over or (Under)
TOTAL EXPENSES	312,098.44	185,997.24	179,400.11	(6,597.13)
TOTAL RECEIPTS	312,098.44	168,016.11	155,842.90	(12,173.21)
OVERAGE (DEFICIT)	0.00	(17,981.13)	(23,557.21)	

SAFETY MINISTRY NEWS — AIR HORNS

In the event an immediate evacuation is necessary from the building, you can notify people using the Air Horns we have in place.

Throughout the church, in plain sight (but out of reach of children) you will find Marine Grade Air Horns to be used by anyone to help warn people in the church or pre-school of an immediate evacuation.

The air horn instructions are as follows:

1. Remove can from wall mount or shelf
2. DO NOT shake
3. Press white button in short multiple bursts
4. Run to the nearest exit
5. Call 911 on your mobile phone and notify the operators of the emergency

Air Horn Locations: Please take the time to become familiar with the locations of air horns throughout the building.

- A/V booth in sanctuary
- Guardian camera station on back of sanctuary
- The mailbox cubbies across from the men's room.
- Parlor, behind the door on the junction box
- Library (bookshelf behind desk)
- In the nursery next to the bulletin board (top, right on wall)
- Every Sunday school classroom has one located on a top shelf of bookcase
- Above the fire extinguisher in the downstairs kitchen
- Church office, next to bulletin board
- Learning Tree classroom
- Children's loft bookshelf
- Youth room bookshelf
- Choir room bookshelf
- Each lectern in the sanctuary





HERE COME THE PUMPKINS FOR OUR 22ND YEAR



For those of you who are new to SUMC, the whole month of October we sell pumpkins from our front lawn. It takes many people to make this the success it has been. This is our biggest annual fundraiser, averaging over \$5,100 for the month in profit.

The **PUMPKINS** are scheduled to arrive on **September 30 at 9am** and we need **YOU** to help unload this precious orange cargo. The more people we have, the faster the truck gets unloaded. If you know of any organizations that need community service hours, please let Diane Bartley or Pastor Hannah know so we can reach out to them soon. When our Pumpkin Patch opens for customers on September 30 we need volunteers to run the Patch every day. There is no need to lift pumpkins at this beloved community event. We just need friendly faces. Please consider signing up for 2 (or more) hour shifts. **Maybe even the same shift each week.** [Here's the link to volunteer to work at The Patch](#) or visit sewickleyumc.org. **Please sign up now so we are ready to go on September 30.** Some shifts need multiple volunteers. The schedule shows those who are signed up and the openings.


Signing up is so easy!

1. Go to the [schedule](#)
2. For the dates/times you want to volunteer, click the Sign Up button on the right of the slot—it will change to Selected
3. Click Save & Continue at the bottom of the screen
4. Enter your name, email and phone number
5. Click the Sign Up Now button at the bottom

We are using the free version, so you will see some ads. If you add your email address when signing up for a shift, you will automatically receive a reminder email a couple of days before your shift. Including your phone number is helpful in case the person working before or after you needs to be in contact with you. If you want to change a time you signed up for, you can create a sign up account and edit it yourself or contact the office or Diane Bartley.

Please [go here](#) to let us know if you will help unload the pumpkins on September 30 or if we can put you on the "on call" list when we have last minute Pumpkin Patch volunteer cancelations.

A few people are needed to head up some sub-committees for this fundraiser/outreach project along with someone to work with Diane this year to help head up this project for next year. Please consider this as we don't want to see this go away. Many people in the community and surrounding areas look forward to it. See Diane Bartley, Sharon Cowden or Pastor Hannah with any questions!

Helpful Tip  Jump to a date on the schedule by using your device's find function (Command F, Ctrl F, or Find in Page).
Ex: finding **15** takes you to October 15th.

Jim Rogansky & Pamela Mayo	9/10	
Steve & Pat Grossarth	9/14	
Ross & Alisa Lenhardt	9/18	
Diane & Andrew Dripps	9/19	
Eric & Amanda Miller	9/21	

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



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

**OCC Packing Party!
You're invited!**

The Fellowship of the Cross is hosting its annual Operation Christmas Child packing party on **September 24** in the Sewickley UMC basement classrooms. The Children's Church kids will pack boxes during the 9am and 11am services, and all are invited to join us in the 10am hour. Any remaining boxes will be filled following the traditional service.

This will be our 13th year contributing to Operation Christmas Child. Our boxes will be blessed during worship services in November and delivered to a regional collection center. In past years, our boxes reached children in Ukraine and multiple nations in Africa, South America, Central America and the Caribbean. Each box is delivered with the opportunity to learn more of the love and light of Jesus.

We have 100 shoeboxes - beautifully wrapped by Kara and her daughters - and nearly enough gifts to fill them. If you are looking to shop, we could still use a few pencil sharpeners, washcloths, combs, adhesive bandages and small toys.

We are also accepting financial donations to help meet the shipping costs of \$10 per box. Financial contributions, which can be made through any of the SUMC giving options, will be accepted through November 1.

The Fellowship is grateful for all who have contributed gifts, prayer, energy, imagination and encouragement to our 2023 OCC campaign.



I don't often pray into our work lives and workplaces.

I pray for our families and relationships. I pray for our physical, mental, and emotional health. I pray for our ministries. I pray for our students and their schools. I pray for our communities, our nation, and our world.

I admit I often neglect the places where we spend 40 or more hours each week. I also don't pray into our commutes, or the off-hours where job stress spills and stains. I may pray that you find what you're seeking, but I don't often pray that you find what you need today.

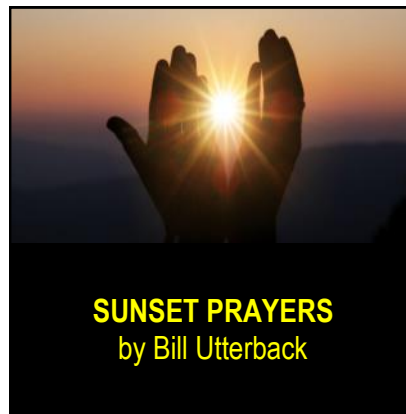
I've sensed a lot of job stress swirling around me in recent weeks. I know older folks looking toward retirement with uncertainty. I know younger folks looking for a path. I know people in the middle questioning their chosen paths. I know people moving into new jobs.

I've sensed a need for more of His presence in our work lives.

It's Labor Day. Let's pray.

On September 3, as the sunsets around 7:50pm, from wherever you may be, with whomever wants to join you, let's pray together for more of His Light and His Peace and His Hope in our work lives and workplaces.

Pray for people among your family, friends and neighbors who work, and pray with thanksgiving for all who have retired from work after years of providing and producing.



Let's pray for people looking for work.

Let's pray for young people searching for a path.

Let's pray for older folks looking toward retirement.

Let's pray for people seeking new opportunities and moving into new positions.

Pray for those who work as first responders and in medical and caring professions.

Pray for everyone involved in educating and caring for our students as the new school year launches.

Pray for the people we see every day as they work to improve our lives, and for the ones we never see who work to nourish, protect, and provide for us.

Pray for those whose calling is at home, and for those called to volunteer.

Pray for people in your workplaces, and for people with whom you once worked.

Pray that, while at work, we can see and hear and support each other more impactfully.

Lord, help all who labor to find encouragement and opportunity and growth as they work. Help people in every workplace to see and serve, appreciate, and encourage each other. Help people to find relationship at work. Help people to see You more clearly as they work.

Amen.

BEING A CHANGEMAKER & MAKING SPACE FOR OTHERS

by Bill Utterback



Maya and I didn't want Vacation Bible School to end.

Maya, who has since started third grade, wanted one more day with her friends from the yellow group – Jordyn, Stella, Amelie, Gideon and Christian. She wanted more science, more art, more singing, and more games on the lawn.

"Why can't we come back on Friday?" she asked multiple times.

I wanted one more opportunity to talk with all of the children.

We spent Monday through Thursday exploring the possibilities involved in being a changemaker for Jesus. We talked about asking good questions, working together, sharing and building bridges. But, in our time together, I realized something important that wasn't in any of the leader's guides.

From Wren, a preschooler, I learned that a changemaker makes a place for someone new.

Wren gathered with the other preschoolers on the carpet in the center of the Simpson Room. As I sat with them one evening, she offered to share her Lego blocks.

"Will you build with me?" she asked.

We worked together for a few moments before I was pulled away by another task, another detail. I promised to return, and I did. She pointed to the blocks I had left behind.

"Now will you build with me?"

The following evening she invited me to join her again in the moments before VBS began. I had more tasks, more details, and my anxiety was swirling. Are we ready? Is everybody here? Is everything in place? Where's my pig nose? Where's my tail? But, sitting with Wren for a moment, my anxiety melted away.

Wren made a space for me, and patiently kept a place for me. My VBS experience was changed by a preschooler. In my experience, the most impactful changes begin when someone creates a space for me.

We become changemakers when we create space for each other. Positive change surfaces when we invite and include each other. Isn't the Gospel rooted in the good news that Jesus has created a space for all of us? Isn't His walk through scripture filled with stories of him making space for new people, for fishermen and tax collectors and a woman at the well?

I watched the blue group – Logan, Waylon, Arabella, Mia and Lucy – bond on the first night. After closing, the girls – who attend different schools and churches – hugged. VBS creates a sisterhood! On the following night, Aaliyah joined them. I worried that she would have trouble bonding. It is difficult coming into a circle a day later than the others. But it was Aaliyah, on the final night, saying, "I'm coming back next year, and the next year, and every year." The blue group made a place for her.

On the final night, Paisley and Mercy joined the blue group. They attend a different school and church than the others, but they were welcomed immediately. They were among the last to leave that evening, running around the Simpson Room in their bare feet with Arabella, Jordyn, Gideon and the others, wearing my pig nose and tail. The children made a place for them.

We had more than 40 volunteers involved this year. Each of them worked to make a space for the children, and I'm certain every one of us felt like the children were also making a space for us. To be a changemaker, you have to be willing to be changed.

Genevieve reminded us that, like members of a marching band, we need to be aware of each other, set an example for others, and encourage the people next to us.

Willa and Clara, high school soccer players, told us that anybody on a team can be a changemaker. It doesn't have to be the biggest, fastest or most experienced athletes. A changemaker is the one who cares about their teammates, keeps a positive attitude and supports everyone.

Mrs. Ada M., a career nurse who spent time as a school nurse, was asked who were the worst patients, boys or girls? There are no bad patients, she said. She reminded us that we are all God's children, and we need to see God in each other. We visited that insight every night as we evolved into changemakers.


Firefighters Sarah, Dom and Grace (yes, our Grace!) of the Cochran Hose Co. in Sewickley visited us and shared some insight into being changemakers in our communities. They were asked if they were ever afraid. Sarah said "Yes" and pointed to the words on Grace's T-shirt: "When I am afraid, I put my trust in God."

Courtney of mission-based DTCare (Paisley and Mercy's mom!) visited and reminded us that as we follow Jesus and "love our neighbors," we can be changemakers for neighbors all across the world.

Our visitors made a space for us, and our children made a space for each of them.

I did have an opportunity to talk to the children about being changemakers as they return to school. We talked about working together, sharing and building bridges in our classrooms, in the cafeteria, on the bus, on the soccer field, at dance class, in scout troops, at swim lessons.

I wish I had thought to share my experience with Wren and her Lego blocks. But, reflecting on our time together, I think the children understood how important it is to make a space for someone new.

 <p>The People of Maui John A. Hurst Bartley Carrie Blanchard Family of Don Brandt Jaqui Brown (Otis McAliley's granddaughter) Betty Burrows (Wilma Hamilton's sister-in-law) Jack Certain Anne Clifford (Jenine Furry's sister-in-law) Bruno Crapis</p>	<p>Bud Devine (Renee Gittins' brother) Mollie Devine (Renee Gittins' sister) Nick Devine (Renee Gittins' great-nephew) Betty Dornetta Family of Mignon Emmert Cinnamon Evans (Pat Grossarth's niece) Shirley Gerthung (Wilma Hamilton's sister) Clyde Grossarth (Steve's brother) Candy Grudovich (Joe Boward's sister) Judith Hall Rev. Jim Hamilton</p>	<p>Beate Henkel Lucas James (Sel Dean's brother) Mary Beth Johnson (Pamela Mayo's sister) Grace & Murch King Family of Eugene Klein Mike Kolesar Henrietta Kretzler Carol Lewis (Susie Moffett's mom) Megan and baby Madelyn Karen Newman Family of Chieko Oba Sarah Oba Sandra Obeng Lorraine Offner Family of Gary Pflug</p>	<p>Heather Rose (Jennifer Jones' cousin) Jim Rogansky Jasmine Ross Megan Shong (Renee Gittins' great-niece) C.R. & Lorraine Simpson (Edie Erkert's parents) Jacqueline Stancil Sandy Stroebel (Greg Lane's sister) Bill Teed Lauren Tillman Rich Zahrobsky Dennis Zeveny Family of Jim Zoretich</p>
---	---	--	---



WHAT DOES WESLEY SAY?

From Laura Powell, Your Congregational Leader

This month we will continue to explore John Wesley's seven ways to share faith and explore how we can practice these Wesleyan practices. The details can be found in *Wesley's 7 Ways to Share Faith*.

Practice 5: Place Everyone in a Small Group for Spiritual Growth

As Wesley began preaching outdoors, he noticed a troubling pattern. Without intentional support and encouragement, people who felt a strong relationship with God while Wesley was preaching would gradually move away from that feeling during the week. To help this situation, Wesley would only preach in venues where

spiritually awakened people were placed in small groups. His goal was for the small "spiritual group family" to experience faith in Christ together, rather than individually during the week, and then return to the full worship service on Sunday.

Practice for SUMC:

- Expand the number of small spiritual family groups in our church
- Create spiritual groups in all mission, nurture, and outreach teams along with project teams such as Halloween and Pumpkin teams

Practice 6: Give the Ministry to the Laity

Wesley allowed laypersons, both men and women, to oversee small groups and preach. When he released the energies of the laity, the ministry multiplied even faster.

Practice for SUMC:

- Seek opportunities for the laity to preach
- Seek opportunities for laity to witness
- Seek opportunities to combine the services to increase laity faith energy during service

Practice 7: Use Mass Communication to Get the Word Out


Wesley wrote numerous sermons, treatises, and books that were distributed to a wide audience to fuel the movement. Thousands of people who never heard him speak came to know Christ and grow in Christ through his writings.

Practice for SUMC:

- Select new ways to provide sermons to our targeted geographic area
- Select witness projects to deliver sermons with worship service to area assisted living, etc.
- Develop worship service at the playground – invite all kids to hear the "message"
- Provide sermons in large print to assisted and skilled living centers, etc.
- Create a list of available downloadable contemporary music

SEPTEMBER 2023

*Nursery offered during Sunday morning services

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:30pm AA	2
3 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 10am Fellowship 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service 12:15pm New Member Class	4 7pm AA	5 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Revelation 7pm AA	6 6:30pm Leap of Faith	7	8 3 - 7pm Rummage Sale for Missions 6:30pm AA	9 9am - 2pm Rummage Sale for Missions 10am - 1pm Walking Taco Sale
10 9am Contemporary Service 10am New Member Fellowship 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	11 6:30pm Finance Committee 6:30pm Trustees 7pm AA 7:30pm Council Meeting	12 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Revelation 7pm AA	13 10am SUMC Prayer Group 6:30pm Leap of Faith	14	15 6:30pm AA	16
17 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service 12pm UWF (UMW) Luncheon Meeting	18 7pm AA	19 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Revelation 7pm AA	20 6:30pm Leap of Faith 6:30 - 8pm Library Committee	21	22 6:30pm AA	23
24 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 9am - 1pm OCC Packing Party 11am Traditional Service	25 7pm AA	26 6:30pm Growth Group Study: Revelation 7pm AA	27 6:30pm Leap of Faith	28	29 6:30pm AA	30 9am Pumpkin Unloading  11am - 7pm Pumpkin Patch

<----- Rummage Sale for Missions Setup ----->

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!

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES SCHOOL



Lay Servant Ministries is a program to provide training opportunities and experiences to equip disciples of Jesus Christ to realize and respond to their personal call to ministry. Since each disciple is 'gifted' with one or more spiritual gifts (skills given by the Holy Spirit for the express purpose of serving the body of believers and thereby God), Lay Servant Ministries strives to help disciples become aware of their particular gift or gifts by offering educational events to enhance and develop the skill level necessary for the full fruition of these gifts. It is an excellent vehicle for servant ministry skill development and has aided thousands of church members to be better servants of Jesus Christ, to become stronger church family leaders, and to more capably assist their pastors.

The Fall 2023 Pittsburgh District Lay Servant Ministry School is pleased to be offering the classes listed below to help laity respond to their personal call in ministry and the life of the church. Each class is being held on different dates, allowing you to take more than one class if you wish. There is a \$15 fee per class plus you need to purchase the class book. [This flyer](#), which is also in the back of the sanctuary, has more information. You may register [online here](#) or through the flyer.

- The BASIC Course (Saturdays, 9/30 & 10/14, 9am - 2:30pm)
- Leading Worship (Saturdays, 10/29, 11/4 & 11/11, 2 - 5:30pm)
- From Your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon (Sundays, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22 & 10/29, 2 - 4pm)
- Fear of the Other (Friday, 10/6, 6-9pm & Saturday, 10/7, 9am-5pm)

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
Website: www.sewickleyumc.org

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.