

# INTERPRETATION

Sewickley Presbyterian Church Newsletter | March/April 2018







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## NEWSLETTER

The SPC newsletter, **Interpretation**, is published six times a year. Please make submissions to, or if you have any questions contact, Jennifer Johnson at [jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org).

## VISITATION

If you or a member of your family are in the hospital and would like a visit, please call the church office to let us know.

## SOCIAL MEDIA



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WILL BETTS  
JOEY TOMALES  
Custodial Staff

We aspire to be a CHURCH where the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ is  
FAITHFULLY PROCLAIMED and FAITHFULLY LIVED  
in grateful response to God's love.



## RESURRECTION HOPE

I'm sure that every one of us was stunned and heartbroken over the mass shooting that took place on Valentine's Day at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL. Yet another senseless act of violence in a country that seems to have lost almost any sense of a moral compass. After so many similar mass shootings, it is hard to imagine that there will ever be any real action taken that will effectively prevent such horrible tragedies from happening again. It seems likely that we will continue to experience more of the same, and it is hard not to feel hopeless that there will ever be any real peace in our nation or in our world.

I suspect that on Good Friday, Jesus' followers felt this same sense of hopelessness as they watched him being killed on a cross. He was their great hope for change, for an end to all the senseless violence that the Romans so often inflicted on their people. I'm sure that when Jesus died, all of their hopes for a better, less violent future died with him. From then on, it would surely just be more of the same. Of course, that was only Friday.

I'm sure that many of you are familiar with the line that our former Stoner Speaker, Tony Campolo, has made so famous: "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming!" This is one of the most succinct summaries of the hope that we have as Christians. It reminds us that no matter how bad things might seem in our lives or in our world, the story is not finished yet because our God is a God of resurrection, but resurrection doesn't happen until after all of our hopes have been buried in a tomb.

In the late 4th century as the Roman Empire was collapsing, things were extremely bleak for the people of Antioch. Conditions were terrible. There was starvation and rioting. And the people began to lose all hope, sure that things would never improve. But in his Easter sermon, their pastor, John Chrysostom, said to them, "Your resignation assumes that God is dead. Do not be so certain. He who has embraced death, has defeated its power over us. He who went down to hell, liberated every city held captive by hell's despair. Christ is risen! Open the doors of your comfortable despair that the great storms of hope may blow life into us once again."

Right now, many of you may be held captive by hell's despair, whether because of the Florida school shooting or because of something difficult happening in your own life, and hope may be hard to come by. But that's only Friday talking. The story is not over yet. The one who conquered death itself is still on the move, bringing new life and new possibilities in his crucified hands. So "open the doors of your comfortable despair that the great storms of hope may blow life into us once again." After all, Sunday is coming, and not even the gates of hell can stand against it!

In Christ,  
Kevin

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## FRIENDSHIP & EASTER SEALS

By Jenny Hay, Director Of Preschool

Tracey McDonough, Program Coordinator, with Easter Seals of Western PA, recently visited the FriendShip Pre-school PreK classes and brought many exciting hands-on learning experiences to the children. The Building Disability Awareness Program originated as a result of Easter Seals Preschool Integration Program and has grown in popularity due to the number of schools having students with disabilities in classroom settings. Their educational program encourages acceptance, respect and sensitivities towards individuals with disabilities. At the same time, they emphasize the similarities among people with or without disabilities, rather than their disabilities.

The PreK children were able to experience "hands on time" during the presentation by experiencing walkers, crutches, wheelchairs and other equipment. It is the aim of the program to emphasize that Disability Awareness is a daily experience for everyone, not just a one time event. This program remains one of the best teaching tools we have our children experience.

The Fruit of the Spirit for March is Kindness. Sharing what you have with others is being kind. Learning how to nicely share is not always easy.

Patience is the Fruit of the Spirit for April. The children will hear about how God is patient with all of us every day and forgives us when we make mistakes. We need to all learn to forgive people even when they can't say they are sorry to us because God forgives us. Colossians 3:13: "Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Love and kindness are two of FriendShip's words we always strive to live by. God loves us and always wants us to be kind to one another even when it is difficult to do. Matthew 22:37-39: "Love God with all of your heart....and love your neighbor as yourself."



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: MARCH 2

By Ann Strong, SPC Member

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. Each year a different country's committee serves as writers of the World Day of Prayer worship service. This year the women of Suriname call us to worship, considering the words "All God's creation is very good."

This year's service will be held on Friday, March 2 at 1 PM at Antioch Baptist Church, 332 Elizabeth St., Sewickley. Women from nine Sewickley churches will participate in the service. Rev. Travis C. Coon will give the homily. There will be a reception following the service.

Invite your friends and family to join the women of Suriname in prayer and song to support ecumenical efforts toward justice, peace, healing and wholeness. The annual offering supports the work of World Day of Prayer, USA and helps meet the needs of families in Suriname and around the world who are victims of many forms of poverty, violence and injustice.

This is the 89<sup>th</sup> year a World Day of Prayer service has been held in Sewickley. The very first service was held at SPC in 1929. It will return to SPC next year for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For more information please visit <http://www.wdp-usa.org>

## DOLLAR & SENSE: Did you know?

By Laura Mikush, Business Administrator

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Sewickley Presbyterian Church is an eligible Smile charitable organization. To date we have received \$40.09 from Amazon Smile. Log into your Amazon account and then in the address bar type [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) and you can pick SPC as your charitable organization and we will get 0.5% on your purchases. Thank you.

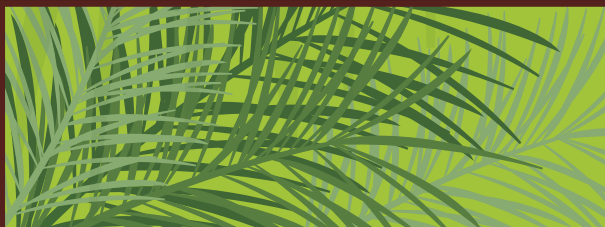
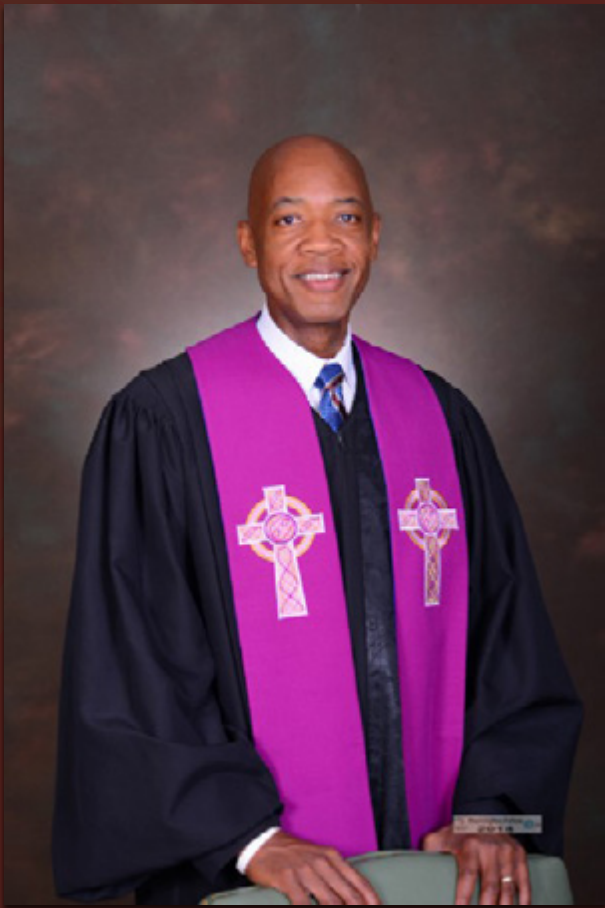


# WILLIAM OLIVER CAMPBELL WEEKEND

April 7 & 8

*Welcomes*

Reverend  
Paul T. Roberts, Sr.



## Schedule of Events



SATURDAY, APRIL 7

9 AM - 12 PM

Church Officer's Retreat for current Elders & Deacons



SUNDAY, APRIL 8\*

9 & 11 Worship Services: "To the Church of Anytown, USA"

Rev.. Roberts will preach at both worship services.

\* No 8 AM worship service

10 AM Adult Sunday School

Rev. Roberts will lead Sunday School.



### BIOGRAPHY

Reverend Paul Timothy Roberts Sr. is President of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA, a position he has held since the spring of 2010. Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary is one of the ten theological schools of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the only one that is historically African American.

Paul is a native of Stamford, Connecticut. However, he grew up in Bradenton, Florida, which he considers his home. Paul graduated from Princeton University in 1985 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Architecture and African American Studies. Prior to his career in ministry, Paul worked for eight years in advertising in New York City. Paul later received the Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in New Testament Studies from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Paul is also an Academic Fellow of The Ecumenical Institute at Bossey in Celigny, Switzerland.

Beginning in 1997 and for the next 13 years, Paul was the Pastor of Church of the Master (PCUSA), a church founded in 1965 as an intentionally interracial congregation. During that period he was active in the work of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, served on several civic boards, and became president of the Seminary's alumni association. Before being elected President/Dean at JCSTS, he served one year as the interim leader of the Seminary.

Under Paul's leadership, the seminary tripled enrollment, expanded and reorganized its trustee board, set forth a new vision and strategic plan, and is attracting new friends and supporters. He is a contributing writer to *Pastoral Care: A Case Study Approach* by Orbis Books in 1998, and *Feasting on the Gospels* by Westminster/John Knox Press released in December 2013. Paul and his wife, Nina, have three children.









# *For I know that my Redeemer lives*

Job 19:25

## *Palm Sunday, March 25*

### **Worship Services**

8, 9 & 11 AM

### **Sunday School**

10 AM

### **Egg Hunt**

12 PM -- all children are welcome to join us at the Faith House for an egg hunt!

## *Maundy Thursday, March 29*

### **Communion Worship Service | Sanctuary**

7:30 PM -- Join us for communion as we commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus.

## *Good Friday, March 30*

### **Family Service | Chapel**

10 AM -- This service is geared towards children & their families.

### **Egg Dyeing Party | Dining Room**

10:30 AM -- All you need to bring is the eggs! We'll provide the dye & decorations.

### **Tenebrae Service | Sanctuary**

7:30 PM -- In this service, we'll experience the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God.

## *Easter Sunday, April 1*

### **Worship Services**

8, 9 & 11 AM

### **Church Breakfast | Robinson Room**

10 AM

Everyone is invited for a continental breakfast.





**Brass Spectacular**

**March 4 | 3 PM**

An afternoon concert featuring Pittsburgh's finest brass musicians

**8, 9 & 11 AM**

Musicians will also be a part of our musical leadership during worship.

## CHOIR LITE CONCERT

March 18 | 3 PM


Plan on joining us for this fun performance of musical theatre, pop music, and (occasionally) opera. The audience is asked to make a donation of \$10.00 per person. The proceeds will be given to the Quaker Valley Blessings in a Backpack program, which, for thirty-eight weeks of the year, provides non-perishable food for at-risk children for the six meals at the weekend. Plan to attend and invite friends and neighbors to accompany you.



## MARIANNE CORNETTI RETURNS

April 15 | 11 AM Worship Service

Former Mezzo-soprano Soloist/Section Leader Marianne Cornetti returns and will participate in the 11 AM service on Sunday, April 15. Internationally known and respected, Ms. Cornetti served this congregation from 1990 through 1994. During that time, she made her debuts at The Metropolitan Opera and the Washington Opera. Since then, her career has taken her to the major opera houses in Western Europe, Asia, South America, and North America.



**DEEPEN YOUR SPIRIT AS PART OF  
THE FAITH GROUP**

**Wednesdays beginning April 4 - May 23  
7 - 8:30 PM  
Faith House High School Lounge**

For eight Wednesday evenings, Rev. Dr. Graham Standish will lead a small group based on his book, *Paradoxes for Living*. This group is designed to deepen your spirit by helping you grow in faith in a way that makes your life better. You will discover new ways of seeing faith, God, and life. Dr. Standish is the executive director of Samaritan Counseling Center. He recently taught our adult Sunday School classes for five weeks on forming healthy relationships. You can access the class videos on our website.

Please sign-up on our website. There is a limited number of spaces available. Books are available in the church office for \$14. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Bird at 412.741.4550 or [sbird@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:sbird@sewickleypresby.org).

## BEAVER VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

April 15 | 3 PM

The Beaver Valley Choral Society will perform a concert of patriotic music in our Sanctuary. It is open to the public and is free of charge. Church members Rita Niklewicz, Toby Graham, and Tom Graham are members of the choir.

## THE WORD SUNG

April 29 | 11 AM Worship Service

On Sunday, April 29 during the 11 AM service, the Chancel Choir and our Soloists/Section Leaders (soprano Anna Singer, mezzo-soprano Xiu-ru Liu, tenor Colin Farley, and baritone Raymond Blackwell) will be joined by members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and organist C. William Goff to perform the Easter/Ascension portion of Handel's well-known oratorio Messiah. In addition to Part III, they will also perform the well-known chorus "Hallelujah", which concludes Part II of the oratorio. It's a worshipful experience you won't want to miss!





**“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’;  
The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard,  
a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”**

Matthew 11:18-19

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## HANGING OUT WITH JESUS

by Brian Mack, Director of Children's Ministries

Throughout Jesus' ministry, he was criticized for a lot of things by the Pharisees and religious leaders of the time. "He hangs out with unclean fishermen!" "Who does he think he is, talking with Samaritans and sinners?" and in contrast to John the Baptist, Jesus was criticized for basically partying. Jesus was different from John the Baptist and many prophets from the Old Testament. He was (is) a man of the people, always with the crowds, feeding them, going to weddings, and "hanging out" where they lived and worked. He even changed water into wine, so the wedding party could keep going! Jesus' ministry focused on fellowship, and being together with people from all walks of life, and I'd like to invite you to do the same.

In March and April, we have two parties that you can be a part of. The first is our Parent's Night Out on March 16. We will be providing childcare and activities, in conjunction with our Middle School students, as both a night off for parents and a fundraiser for their Summer Mission Trip. Our night of fun will start at 6 PM with dinner for the kids, followed by plenty of games crafts and activities (all led by our middle schoolers), and finishing off the night with a movie to cool everyone down before the pickup at 9 PM. We are asking for donations as the cost for the night, and that you RSVP by March 9 to ensure a spot.

Our second party is our Family Game Night on April 20 at 6 PM. We encourage your whole family to sign up and join us for a meal and some fun and competitive games.

Our church is full of life and activity, and while that may have turned off some Pharisees from our church, I know that Jesus approves of us and all of our "parties!"



**March 16**

**6 - 9 PM | Dining Room**

**Donations Accepted**

**Register your kids online by March 9**



**April 20 | 6 PM**





## Middle School Lock-In

March 9 & 10 | 5 PM - 8 AM

After being a huge hit last year, we are bringing back the middle school Lock-In yet again with some new tricks up our sleeves to make sure that this year is *legendary*, filled with laughter, games, and challenges that will test your skills at every turn.

We're excited to announce that this year we will be spending a portion of our time at the YMCA. This will give us the opportunity to do some swimming, play some sports, and hopefully make everyone really tired, very fast!

And yes, I know you are wondering -- so I will confirm that the Pineapple Games are returning. What are the Pineapple Games, you ask? Nothing too special I guess. They are only the single greatest combination of challenges, obstacles, and opportunities to prove oneself to be worthy of the golden pineapple.

So don't delay! Sign-up for the Lock-In as soon as possible online or by emailing Mike Creamer directly. The cost is \$30 and is open to all students in grades 6 - 8!

## Confirmation Retreat

April 8 | 4 - 8 PM

In April, we will be having our spring Confirmation Retreat and gearing our students up for a time of prayer, reflection, and growth as we continue on the journey of confirmation together. This is something we are very excited for and look forward to spending this special time with our students as well our guest speakers Derek & Erin Davenport.



## High School Paintball

**When?** Saturday, April 14 | 1 PM  
**Where?** Steeltown Paintball  
**Who?** Grades 9 - 12  
**Cost?** \$35

## Sewickley Student Ministries Night

April 15 | 6 - 7:30 PM | Tull Family Theatre

We are very excited to announce a collaborative youth group night for all of the youth ministries in Sewickley. Paul tells us in Romans 12 that we are one body made of many members. Sometimes we forget that the body of Christ, the Church, is more than just the church we attend-it's every church! The evening will be a time for us and the other youth groups in the area to laugh, sing, play games, and worship God together as one body. We hope you will join us!

**Who:** Grades 6 - 12  
**What:** Sewickley Student Ministries Night  
**When:** Sunday, April 15 | 6 - 7:30 PM  
**Where:** The Tull Family Theatre (meeting room)  
**Why:** Because it is gonna be AWESOME!





## Youth Sunday

by Mike Creamer, Director of Youth Ministries

If you weren't able to join us in worship in February 4, then you missed something very special. Our students led us, yet again, in our annual Youth Sunday service and it was an amazing experience.

There is something so powerful about seeing the next generation using their gifts to lead others in their faith, and we had the privilege to be a part of that. From the greeters and ushers to the readers and musicians, it was evident that the Holy Spirit was in the midst of our students, the services, and our church.

One of the more unique and special parts of the service, compared to what's been done before, is that we had both a youth praise team and a youth orchestra leading us in song. Jeremy Fisher's leadership with those two groups was astounding, and the end result was nothing short of joyous praise. Seeing our students up in front of the congregation without missing a beat reminded me of how God is always at work, and sometimes we need to recall just how much He is working in the lives of those around us. And man, the preaching was impressive to say the least! There's nothing like hearing teens share their faith and preach the Word with confidence and courage. I hope you were able to be a part of this with us, but if you weren't, you have to go listen online. Seriously, stop reading right now and go!



Visit our Facebook page for more pics!



# Urban IMPACT

**Wednesday Evenings**

**6 - 7:45 PM**

**March 7  
March 14  
March 21**

## LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & STUDIES CONTINUE

Our Lenten Soup Suppers & Studies have started, but there is still time to take part. For three more Wednesdays, we'll meet in the Dining Room for a soup supper, and then adults and teens will remain in the Dining Room for their study and kids will go with Brian Mack to the Children's Studios for their study.

A variety of people from Urban Impact are leading our Lenten Study. You can expect to hear a testimony of a student who has been directly affected by U.I.'s ministry, a guest speaker, and special music, too.

The main focus of the study is the Ancient Gospel and how it applies to our lives today. Find out how Christ's mission and your mission are similar, how Christ Jesus is redeeming your life today, and how the mission in Pittsburgh is a mirror of Jesus redeeming Israel. Pastor Ed Glover, Seth Reichart, and Nate Glover are the speakers.

Kids are learning about Jesus, the Living Water, and growing in their relationships with Him by telling Bible stories together through activities, crafts, prayer and fellowship.

Please make sure to RSVP for each week you will be attending. Also, if you would like to donate your favorite soup, you can sign-up for that as well. Sign-ups are available on the church website. If you have any questions regarding soup and/or food donations, the sign-up sheet has instructions at the top, or you may contact the church office.



## PARTNERS IN PRAYER

by Barb Swan, Mission Committee

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. (Ephesians 1: 16)

I hope you have noticed Chonde CCAP listed in the Prayer Corner in our bulletin and the Thursday emails, and include Chonde CCAP in your prayers throughout the week. Would you like a more personal connection to our partner church in Malawi? We are organizing prayer partners between SPC and Chonde. The hope is to pair members of each congregation who will agree to pray for each other. In this age of electronic communication, partners can be in touch via email or WhatsApp. It's a great way to travel to Malawi without leaving your home. If you are interested, please contact Barbara Swan ([barbdavidswan@comcast.net](mailto:barbdavidswan@comcast.net)).

## MIRACLE IN THE DR

by Barb Swan, Mission Committee

During our trip to Dominican Republic in January, we learned of a young man who needed surgery for a broken leg. His family could not pay for the surgery, so he was destined to be disabled. For someone living in the sugar cane fields, this means no work, no income, no future. We made an announcement at dinner one evening to the 130 missionaries who were spending the week at MGM. By the next morning, we had collected over \$900 - in cash - more than enough to cover the cost of the surgery and after care. It is amazing to see God work through a group of people to help someone in need. The young man, Jesus, will have surgery later this month. He is with his parents (below) and Dr. Yasquina Benjamin, who helped arrange for the surgery.





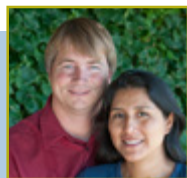
# 2018 WORLD MISSION INITIATIVE CONFERENCE

## All God's Children: Justice in God's Mission

April 13-14, 2018



### Keynote Speakers



**Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado**  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Mission Co-workers, Frontera de Cristo,  
U.S.-Mexico Border



**Brian Cress**  
Director of Denomination  
and Youth Mobilization,  
International Justice Mission

### Workshops

Workshops topics include:

- Immigration
- Refugee Crisis
- Church Planting
- Homelessness
- Race
- Justice
- Human Trafficking
- Poverty
- Engaging Your Church in Mission

Conference participants can pick up to three of 16 workshops offered during the conference. Workshops will be taught by mission leaders and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary staff and faculty.

### Registration Information

#### Early Bird by March 13

Individuals	\$50
Churches/Groups	\$250

#### After March 13

Individuals	\$65
Churches/Groups	\$275



Registration fee includes Saturday lunch for individuals and churches/groups. Members of sponsoring congregations can attend the conference for free with online registration as a member of their church's group.

Please let Sharon Barber, in the church office, know if you'd like to attend. We will use the church/group registration fee.

She can be reached at 412.741.4550 or [sbarber@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:sbarber@sewickleypresby.org).



World Mission Initiative  
of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary  
616 N. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
412-924-1449

[www.pts.edu/wmi-conference](http://www.pts.edu/wmi-conference)





# Dominican Republic Mission Trip

January 2018 -- See more pictures on our Facebook page!











Sewickley Presbyterian Church

**LIVE · GROW · SERVE**

414 Grant Street | Sewickley, PA | 15143

[www.sewickleypresby.org](http://www.sewickleypresby.org)

**Dated Material**

**PLEASE EXPEDITE!**

This newsletter is published by  
Sewickley Presbyterian Church



**YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER!**

**APRIL 28 · 5 PM**

**Registration will begin on April 1!**