

Newsletter of Sewickley Presbyterian Church

# INTERPRETATION

# THE HEAVENS declare the glory of God



Psalm 19:1

May 2017

# SPC STAFF

REV. KEVIN J. LONG Pastor home: 412.741.2075 klong@sewickleypresby.org

REV. SARAH BIRD Associate Pastor sbird@sewickleypresby.org

REV. STEWART LAWRENCE Volunteer Parish Associate jeanstewl@gmail.com

SHARON BARBER Assistant to the Pastor sbarber@sewickleypresby.org

DAVE BREIT Media Engineer dbreit@sewickleypresby.org

RICI BROCKINSON Childcare Supervisor rbrockinson@sewickleypresby.org

MIKE CREAMER Director of Youth Ministries mcreamer@sewickleypresby.org

R. CRAIG DOBBINS, CCM Director of Music Ministries cdobbins@sewickleypresby.org

JENNY HAY Director of FriendShip Preschool jhay@sewickleypresby.org

JENNIFER JOHNSON Director of Communications jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org

BRIAN MACK Director of Children's Ministries bmack@sewickleypresby.org

TRICIA MACK Interim Music Associate tmack@sewickleypresby.org

LAURA MIKUSH, CCA Business Administrator Imikush@sewickleypresby.org

BETH ROM Volunteer Coordinator bethrom@live.com

STEPHANIE SMITH Administrative Assistant ssmith@sewickleypresby.org

ELIZABETH SZUBA Youth Program Coordinator eszuba@sewickleypresby.org

CHARLES BARNHART WILL BETTS JOEY TOMALES Custodial Staff



# OFFICE

Hours Monday - Friday 9 AM - 5 PM

PhoneFax412.741.4550412.741.1210

Address 414 Grant Street Sewickley, PA 15143

Web Address www.sewickleypresby.org

# NEWSLETTER

# **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.

# **MEMBERSHIP**

New Member classes are held several times throughout the year. Please call Sharon Barber in the church office to sign up or you may sign up online.

🙆 Instagram

The SPC newsletter, **Interpretation**, is published once a month. The deadline for submitting content is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

twitter

Please make submissions to Jennifer Johnson at jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org.





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#### **A REASON FOR HOPE**

You are what you eat. Isn't that what we've always heard? Of course, what this means is that our physical well-being and even our mental health are determined largely by the quality of food we consume. If we eat unhealthy things like processed foods, trans fat, corn syrup, fried foods, and lots of sugar, we will more easily get sick because those things slowly destroy our bodies. If we eat good foods like fruits and vegetables, we will be much healthier and have strong immune systems to fight off disease and illness because those foods have nutrients that build up our bodies. Even back in 1923, one advertisement read, "90% of the diseases known to man are caused by cheap foodstuffs. You are what you eat." While that might seem like exaggerative advertising, recent nutritional research, along with current rates of disease in our country, have only confirmed that there is more truth to this than most of us realize. We really are what we eat.



This isn't just true of our physical bodies. It is true of our spiritual selves as well. My mother has often reminded me over the years that we are formed by the kinds of things we take into ourselves, the books and magazines we read, the music and radio programs we listen to, the movies and TV shows we watch. Whether we realize it or not, all of these things are kinds of spiritual food that form and shape who we are inside, just as much as worship, reading our Bibles, and spending time with Jesus in prayer and devotions. Depending on what we choose to consume, it will either build us up or slowly destroy us.

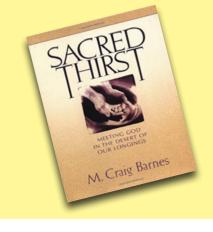
Now this choice isn't always as easy as it might seem. In our culture, we certainly have our work cut out for us. I continue to be shocked by the violence, language and immorality I see on TV these days. Even the video games our children play are becoming more graphic and violent. Pornography is still a multi-billion dollar industry in our country and readily available. I have become increasingly disturbed by the political climate in our country as politicians and popular political personalities become more hostile, divisive, manipulative, deceiving and downright mean, not to mention the way they try to fill us all with fear about how their opponents are out to get us. And all of these things we consume are subtly forming who we are because we are what we eat. But we have a choice in what we take in.

I love the story about the elder Cherokee Indian who was once teaching his grandchildren about life. He said to them, "A fight is going on inside me. It is a terrible fight, and it is between two wolves. One wolf represents fear, envy, anger, resentment, greed, arrogance, self-pity, shame, pride, deceit, selfishness, violence and hate. The other wolf stands for joy, peace, love, hope, friendship, generosity, humility, kindness, compassion, truth, faith, and forgiveness. This same fight is going on inside each one of you and inside every other person as well." The children thought about it for a minute, and then one child asked his grandfather nervously, "Which wolf will win?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one I feed."

So, which wolf are you feeding?

-- Rev. Kevin J. Long

Recommended reading: Sacred Thirst by M. Craig Barnes



# SAVE THE DATES for JUNE

Baccalaureate

**17** Day on the Lawn Donation Drop-Off Day

**4** Confirmation Sunday Church Picnic **18 - 24** Buckhannon, WV Mission Trip Montreat Trip

### **NEW WORSHIP LEADER AT SPC**

We are so excited to announce the hiring of our new Worship Leader for the 9 AM service. Jeremy Fisher will begin leading worship with us on Sunday, May 21. Jeremy is a guitarist, vocalist, trumpeter, band leader, composer, arranger, and jazz musician who has performed in a variety of venues around Pittsburgh.

Jeremy has a BA in Music from West Virginia Wesleyan. He is currently an adjunct music faculty member and private guitar instructor at The Ellis School. For the past 12 years, Jeremy has served as the Music Director at Hilltop Community Alliance Church in Pittsburgh. He has also been the Music Director for the Miller Summer Youth Institute at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary since 2010. In addition to Jeremy's musical talents, he also holds a Master's Degree in Theology from Pittsburgh Seminary where he won awards for excellence in academic merit, Hebrew and church history.

Jeremy is married to Kristan, and they have one daughter, 2-year-old Madeline. They currently live in Point Breeze.

When you see Jeremy and his family, take a moment to welcome them to our church family!



# C.S. LEWIS GROUP

Mere Christianity

#### Begins Monday, May 1 7 - 8 PM Faith House Sun Porch

C.S. Lewis brings a unique perspective to Christianity as he was an atheist for more than 30 years before joining the faith; therefore, much of his writing addresses and unravels many arguments against the Christian faith in a very masterful and at times poetic way.

Join us as we read and discuss *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis, led by Mike Creamer and Rev. Sarah Bird.

"...The great thing to remember is that, though our feelings come and go, <u>His love for us does not.</u> It is <u>not wearied</u> by our sins, or our indifference; and, therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to Him."

• C. S. Lewis • Mere Christianity •

# Dollar Sense by Sally Shipley

Day on the Lawn (DOL) is a great day in our community, and so many benefit: those who donate have a less cluttered home, those who volunteer, either in the weeks prior or on the Day, are enriched by the experience, shoppers who find just the right bargains leave the event happy. Of course, the mission is Mission, right? Our efforts are blessed when we're able to share the Day's proceeds with our many and varied mission partners.

DOL is a BIG event and we incur significant expense as we put all the pieces together to make it run smoothly.

DID YOU KNOW you can help with Day on the Lawn by underwriting one of more of the items needed to run the sale (no sweat or sore muscles required!)?

Following is a list of costs for DOL:

Food Cost (Café)	\$ 610.00
Publicity (banners, permits, signage)	\$ 1,800.00
Presale Bracelets	\$ 30.00
Port-a-John Rental	\$ 145.00
Tents	\$ 5,500.00
Tables	\$ 810.00
Professional Movers	\$ 1,470.00
Dumpster (two needed)	\$ 450.00 each
Cotton Candy & Nacho Cheese Machines	\$ 250.00
Off Site Storage	\$ 104.00/month
POD rental	\$ 300.00/month

Please consider sponsoring one or more expenses – you can see what a BIG difference you could make!

# **TUESDAY NIGHT MEN'S HUDDLE**

The Tuesday Night Men's Huddle is an ecumenical group of men that meets each Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM in the Faith House. It is open to all men of our church and the community. SPC sponsors the Huddle in cooperation with Locking Arms Men, a Christian men's ministry that is active throughout Pittsburgh. Beginning on May 9, we will begin our next session where we will dig deep into Paul's letter to the Philippians. We begin each meeting with prayer and a simple meal together, and then break into our study groups, usually finishing by 8:30 PM. This is a great opportunity! Please contact Rich Weber (rdweber@pennenergyresources.com) if you have an interest in participating.





Easter Seals recently visited the two FriendShip PreK classrooms and presented a program about children and adults with disabilities. They have been coming to the preschool every year since 2002. Their educational/hands on program for children encourages acceptance, respect and sensitivity towards individuals with disabilities. At the same time, they emphasize the similarities among people with or without disabilities, rather than their differences.

The children are allowed "hands-on" time and are able to experience using a wheelchair, crutches, walkers and other equipment Easter Seals brings with them. It is the aim of the presenters to teach the children that Disability Awareness is not just a one day program, but should be a daily experience for everyone. It remains one of the best teaching tools we have that our children experience throughout the year.

-- Pictured above: Preschoolers pretending to be 'blind' by closing their eyes

# MEN'S BREAKFAST LEADERSHIP

For the last eleven years, Art Bomberger has been serving our congregation in a variety of ways. He was a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee that called Rev. Long to SPC. He currently serves as an elder on Session, chair of the Personnel Committee, member of the Mission Committee, and co-chair of Day on the Lawn Sub-Committee. But Art has also served the men of our church for the last decade by organizing and providing food for Men's Breakfast which meets the first Saturday of every month. If only Art could be a little more dedicated to this church!

As of April, 2017, Art has stepped down from his leadership role for Men's Breakfast which elder Matt Braksick has graciously offered to take over. We are so thankful for Art's selfless and servant leadership to this church for so many years. Please say thank you to Art when you see him! And thanks also to Matt Braksick for his leadership in carrying forth the torch for Men's Breakfast.



### SPC DEACON'S MINISTRY

In the month of April you may have seen the Deacons busy at work as ushers during worship, serving communion, delivering meals to a family with a new baby, planning the Progressive Dinner, or attending the Officer's Retreat. If you haven't tried ushering during worship, it's a fun way to greet and serve our church family. It doesn't require any special skills or training -- just a big smile and a warm heart. Don't wait to be asked! Go to the Sign-Up Here tab on the Church website, and make a difference!



church and others are participating. It retreat for men and women who are survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

Led by Carla Sandy and Susan Young rates soothing music, art, writing and

> reflect on your journey of hope and healing

create resources to raise awareness of abuse and keep children safe

see yourself and the world the way God intended you to experience it

healing and spiritual enrichment.



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#### **OFFICER'S RETREAT IN APRIL**

On Saturday, April 8, the Elders and Deacons of our church met with our 2017 Campbell Preacher, the Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes, for an officer retreat. The theme for this retreat was Biblical Perspectives on Leadership in Conflict, a topic of much relevance today. Conflict is an inevitable and necessary part of life, even as Christians. If we look at Jesus, most of the conflict he gets into he started. He chose the situations where he would engage in a conflict, however, and did not take on every one that came his way. Why would Jesus instigate conflict, when most of us try to avoid it? Barnes replied, "Jesus could have left well-enough alone. But it wasn't well-enough, so he didn't leave it alone." Dr. Barnes then led the officers through several passages of Scripture that deal with conflict.

In Genesis 4:1-10, we looked at the story of Cain and Abel, where Abel's offering was accepted but Cain's was not. Cain's conflict was never with his brother but with God, which is where much of our conflict is rooted. Out of his confusion and hurt over God's rejection of his offering, Cain tried to resolve it by taking out his anger on his brother, which is what we often do. When our lives do not go the way we had hoped, when God does not deal with us according to our expectations, we take out our disappointment on one another. Even in the church, most conflict is not the "presenting issue," but is rather something lying under the surface. Outrworst conflicts tend to get buried, just as Cain tried to bury Abel. Churches often want to move past certain conflicts because it is painful, so they try to bury the conflict and pretend it is behind them. The problem is that buried conflicts never stay buried, and if we try to hide them, we will continue to repeat them.

In Exodus 32:1-14, we looked at the story where Aaron makes the golden calf for the Israelites because they have grown anxious and afraid since Moses has been gone so long. Of all the emotions, Barnes said, fear is the least useful for spirituality. When we are afraid, we tend to enter into conflict. We also make idols because we want something easy for us to manage and control. Leaders must always try to distinguish between an idol and a symbol. Aaron tried to placate the people by making the idol of the calf so that their fear would go away. He gave the people what they wanted. But servicing the complaint is not leadership. Complaints are really vague yearnings for God. Good leadership seeks the will of God for the people, and prayer is the primary way this is achieved. Leaders pay attention to what God is doing among the people and attend to the people's souls along the way. remembering that it is God alone who can get them to the Promised Land.

In Luke 4:16-30, we looked at Jesus' provocative sermon in his home town. where he identifies himself as the Messiah. The people want Jesus to fulfill their Messianic expectations, but instead he talks about God's concern for Gentiles, which made them try to throw him off a cliff. But leaders cannot allow the expectations to come from the community because they will limit what God can do among them and can lead to resistance. The church is not a club where we just seek to do whatever the people want. Instead, leaders need to seek God's expectations for the people. This can lead to disappointment, but as Barnes quoted one author, "Leadership is disappointing people at levels they can handle." Some disruption is necessary in order to create change. But you can't make changes so fast that you lose too many people along the way. Without the disruption, however, change will not happen. But when conflict arises as a result of the disruption, leaders must walk through the conflict and not avoid it, always taking the long view as to where it will ultimately lead, even if it is beyond the leader's tenure.

In Acts 15:36-41, we looked at the passage where Paul and Barnabas part ways over a disagreement about John Mark who had once abandoned them earlier on the journey. Instead of allowing the conflict to derail the mission, however, they each took a new partner and continued the mission, effectively doubling their missionary force. This is because leaders need to remain clear about the mission and not let conflict get in the way. Consensus is never the mission. We can disagree about decisions, but if our unity is in Christ, it will never be broken by disagreement, and the mission can continue. Also, leaders know that, just as John Mark eventually became dearly beloved to Paul, so, too, in Jesus' timing can anything that is broken become healed. Even conflict can be redeemed to enhance the mission.

We finished the morning by looking at a fascinating case study of conflict that took place at another church, examining the situation from various angles. All in all, it was a fascinating and helpful look at conflict in the church and in our everyday lives. We are grateful to Dr. Barnes for leading us in such an excellent officer's retreat.



# SPC MUSIC NEWS.



# CALVIN HANDBELL CHOIR PARTICIPATING IN FESTIVAL

Our Calvin Handbell Choir will participate in a handbell festival on Sunday, May 21 at St. Stephen's Church, Sewickley. They will be joined by ringers from Sewickley and Coraopolis United Methodist Churches, St. James Catholic Church, and the host church. They will gather at 2 PM to set up the bells and equipment. Rehearsals begin at 2:30 PM and the day will conclude with a concert at 7 PM which is open to the public in Grace Commons at St. Stephens.

# **NEW PIPE ORGAN THIS SUMMER**

The organ to be installed in our chapel's balcony in the latter half of July, is well under way in The Bedient Pipe Organ Company's headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska. The photos to the left demonstrate some of the wood sections of the new organ being built.

The Chapel Organ Committee is greatly appreciative of the gifts received thus far toward the balance. The congregation was previously informed that more than seventy percent of the cost of the instrument is covered by a gift from the late Jean and Donald Clem. The committee is accepting any and all contributions. Should you have any questions or concerns about the instrument, please do not hesitate to contact one of the members of the Chapel Organ Committee. They are George Craig, chair; Timothy Bingman, Scott Schober, David Swan, and Craig Dobbins.

# **BACH'S LUNCH**

The Chancel Choir greatly appreciates the support they received from the congregation from their sale of Bach's Lunches in the Summer and early Fall of 2016. There will be one final sale on Sunday, May 7. Order forms are available in the church office and will also be available this Sunday, April 30, in the worship bulletins. Copies of the choir's CD "Journey", which features hymns and carols for the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons, as well as a large mug commemorating the trip, will also be available at a cost of \$10.00 each on May 7.



# THE WORD SUNG

On Sunday, May 21 at the 11 AM service, The Word will be sung rather than proclaimed through a sermon. The Chancel Choir and Director of Music Ministries, Craig Dobbins, will feature some of the music the choir will sing in Scotland together with five other church choirs representing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at the closing concert of a festival celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation on Saturday, August 5, 2017.







#### WOMEN'S RETREAT

November 4 & 5, 2017 Antiochian Village

Cost: \$150 single occupancy \$115 double occupancy

Sign-ups are now being taken on the church website or by calling Sharon Barber in the church office at 412.741.4550.

The deadline for registration and submitting room payment is July 18. Submit payment to the church office.

Please contact Jane Shadle with any questions at <u>jershadle@gmail.com</u>.

# TECHNOLOGY TIDBITS

# **PRINT & SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

Below you will find our recently adopted Print and Social Media Policy.

#### Everyone (Minor and Adults)

We post names, pictures, and videos on Web Content and in Print Materials with out seeking prior, written permission.

To the extent possible, we respect written requests to not have individual names or images posted as Web Content or in Print Materials.

#### Notice

#### We post signs:

"Video and audio recording systems in use" located at all entry points to the building.

Notice in each weekly bulletin:

"Services at Sewickley Presbyterian Church are live-streamed to the Internet and recorded for future playback. By entering our building and participating in the service, you are consenting to your voice, image, and likeness being used by us at our discretion."

All musical performances by SPC members and employees that take place on SPC premises, utilizing SPC equipment, may be posted on Web Content without seeking further consent.

All worship services are subject to being live streamed, recorded, and posted as Web Content.

We do not tag individuals in Web Content.

Written requests to opt-out of our Print and Social Media Policy are to be sent to Jennifer Johnson, Director of Communications at jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org.

#### WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!



Katie Callender Chloe & Logan McAnallen



Brian & Ann Wood Luke & Peyton



Bob & Peg Baycer



John, Jack, & Natasha Schuyler



Hal & Bobbi Bonnett



Kristi & Jesse Dickens Landri & Natalee

anno.

# MISSION MATTERS =



# NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The next time you are in the grocery store why not pick up an extra item or two and donate it to Neighbors in Need?

Neighbors in Need is a mission project launched several years ago to collect full size personal care products for those in need served by the Sewickley Community Center, the Center for Hope and the Ladle. Brown woven collection boxes are located at all church entrances and copies of the Neighbors in Need Shopping List are available in the Robinson Room and below. Thank you for your generosity!

shampoo - conditioner toothpaste - toothbrushes feminine products - mouthwash bar soap - diapers hand cream - shaving cream deodorant - detergent

# HUNGER OFFERING

Have you ever wondered what programs our special third Sunday Hunger Offering supports? Several times a year the offering goes to the Pittsburgh Presbytery Hunger Fund. In April, the Hunger Fund Task Force awarded \$7,000 in grant money to feed hungry people in our Presbytery. Groups that received funds include: Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community, Community 341, Valley View Presbyterian Church, The Open Door Presbyterian Church, and Northside Common Ministries. If you work with a 501(c)3 organization in our Presbytery that feeds hungry people and needs funds to buy food, the next grant application deadline will be October 31. Contact Sarah Heres or Diane Glas for more information.

# **BLANKET SUNDAY & MOTHER'S DAY**

As Mother's Day approaches, consider giving your mom a gift that will change someone's life. Contributions to Blanket Sunday means Church World Service will be ready to help families around the world recover from disasters and build viable, sustainable lives and communities. Please stop by the table in the Robinson Room to learn more and support Blanket Sunday with a \$10 donation on May 7 and May 14.

# **MALAWI GREETINGS!**

Easter Greetings from Chonde CCAP, our partner church in Blantyre Synod, Malawi

Easter Greetings to our brothers and sisters at Sewickley Presbyterian,

We hope you had a wonderful Palm Sunday as Chonde did. Today, the day before Easter, we have Session at 8 AM. Tomorrow Easter Sunday will have Holy Communion. The pastor will carry out various activities such as baptism of children.

Below find pictures that show part of our Palm Sunday's procession, led by our pastor.

Yours in Christ, Ganizani Mpisa







Get your donations ready! Donation dropoff days are beginning soon. You can find a list of items that we do not accept on our website.

Please also consider joining the DOL team this year! We NEED your help. You can find a task list of jobs available on our website as well. Thank you in advance!

# DONATION DROP-OFF DAYS

Saturday, May 20 | 9 AM - 12 PM Saturday, June 17 | 9 AM - 12 PM Saturday, July 15 | 9 AM - 12 PM Saturday, July 22 | 9 AM - 12 PM Saturday, August 5 | 9 AM - 12 PM Saturday, August 19 | 9 AM - 12 PM Wednesday, August 23 | 9 AM - 12 PM Friday, September 1 | 9 AM - 12 PM Saturday, September 2 | 9 AM - 12 PM



#### **2017** VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

#### July 31 to August 4







# SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



Easter has just passed and Summer is right around the corner, which means our school year is almost done! It's crazy how fast this year has gone by! Looking back on Holy Week, we started things off waving palms and having our annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Faith

House (a few pictures below). There were over 20 kids helping collect eggs, from 8 months old all the way to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We had some beautiful weather, and much like the original Holy Week, it started off on a high note. Moving on to Good Friday, we had a great turn out for our family service and egg dyeing party. Good Friday is always a tricky thing to convey to kids, but everyone can connect with loss, confusion, and sadness; and in the same way, everyone can connect with the hope, joy, and happiness that comes with Easter. It also helps to have the joy of egg dyeing following our service, where kids and parents alike spent time together and got into the spirit of Easter.

As we move into May, there are a few things of note right off the bat. Our Cinco de Mayo family dinner is taking place on (you guessed it), May 5 at 6 PM. RSVP by Wednesday, May 3 to save your spot at our dinner and to sign up to bring some of the fixings. We're asking that each family provide one aspect of the meal (cheese, salsa, guacamole, lettuce, etc.), and we will provide the tortillas and meat. There will also be other activities, and entertainment for the night (sorry, no margaritas). Everything will take place at the Faith House. If you can't make it to our Cinco de Mayo party, or if you want to double up on family fun, you can join us at Kennywood on Memorial Day (May 29). We will be in Pavilion 3 until 8 PM, with drinks and sandwiches. All we ask is that you bring an appetizer, snack, or dessert to share. No need to RSVP, just enjoy a fun day at Kennywood with friends.

Our last day of Sunday School is May 21, with Children's Choirs ending on the 10<sup>th</sup> and Club 345 finishing up on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Finally, don't forget about VBS, July 31-August 4. If you have any questions, or want to be involved with VBS in any way, please contact me at the church office and I'll be happy to help. I'm looking forward to all the events we have coming up, and I hope you are too!

-- Brian Mack





## WHY I AM A PART OF OUR YOUTH PROGRAM

The commitment to volunteering in our youth program was an easy decision, as my heart felt led to serve the Lord and His people through the youth.

Serving in this particular area is important to guiding youth as they grow and develop in their own faith journeys. It is life affirming to witness youth share their unique talents and perspectives, whether playing in a competitive sport or board game, during bible study or in a thoughtful conversation. The youth have inspired me to have a child-like faith, to be curious and have an eagerness to learn and grow; I am reminded to keep a simple approach and encouraged to have a genuine sense of wonder. Most of all, in youth group, we laugh a lot, and it is such a joy.

-- Caryn Doege





## **MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN**

This year we held our first Middle School Lock-In, the beginning of the Pineapple Games. With almost 20 middle school students hyped up on sugar, we split up into three teams and began to compete in various games throughout the night. From Egg Russian Roulette and Musical Chairs to Cookie Face and Mario Kart, we had a variety of games that tested how badly each team really wanted the glorious pineapple. In the middle of the evening we took a trip through a monsoon of rain to the Tull Family Theater to see Beauty and the Beast which was a great intermission to all of the competition going on. In the end, one team emerged victorious: The Walls. You can decide how creative their team name actually was, but until the next lock-in, they will be our reigning champions.



# **ALL-YOUTH GAME NIGHT**

The weather shifted for us just in time as we held our All-Youth Game Night in April, allowing us to play some intense rounds of both kickball and capture the flag. You can tell a lot about someone's personality based on his/her capture the flag strategy. Are you someone who runs around aimlessly as a distraction (Ellie Bates), someone who is a constant defender (Sophie Gledhill), a ninja-like infiltrator (Carter Siuciak), or the Olympian hurdling others to make the grab for the flag (Paul Bates)? It is always a blast being able to get outside and goof off with our teens, and the game night was the perfect afternoon to do so!



414 Grant Street • Sewickley, PA 15143

Dated Material PLEASE EXPEDITE!

This newsletter is published by Sewickley Presbyterian Church www.sewickleypresby.org



#### SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning Sunday, May 28 8 & 10 AM Worship Services ......Held in the Sanctuary .....No Sunday School classes until the fall

### SUMMER CHOIR SCHEDULE

The Summer Choir has its first rehearsal on May 28. Unless otherwise noted, on Sundays between May 28 and September 10, those in ninth grade and older are invited to arrive in the sanctuary at 9 AM to prepare music for that day's 10 AM service, as well as for the following Sunday.

The Summer Choir provides a wonderful opportunity for returning college students or persons who travel a lot during the week to raise their voices in song.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Craig Dobbins at 412-741-4550 or <u>cdobbins@sewickleypresby.org</u>.