

# INTERPRETATION

Sewickley Presbyterian Church Newsletter  
May/June 2019



Sewickley Youth Night  
More pics on page 11



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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



Find us on  
Facebook



Instagram

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Custodial Staff

# A NEW THING

by Rev. Kevin Long



I've heard it said that the only thing that ever remains constant is change. That has certainly been the case during my ministry with you. We've seen many changes in the life of this church these past seven and half years: changes to our main building, including our dining room, office, and children's Sunday school rooms; the addition of the Faith House and parking lot; the removal of the White House; and many staff changes. But sometimes we might wonder why God likes to change things up like that. Can't we just keep things the way they are? Why mess with a good thing?

Sometimes it can be comfortable to remain in the past. But while God wants us to remember his faithfulness in the past, he does not want us to live there. As God speaks through the prophet, "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19a) God is always at work, continuing his work of creation in our lives. And because Jesus Christ is risen, there is just no telling what he might do next. He might even do something new in your life. The question is, are you paying attention? Are we paying attention as a church?

## Change is not easy, even when we know God is at work.

Well, God is certainly doing some new things in our church family. We are once again searching for the new person whom God is calling to serve as associate pastor in the life of this wonderful congregation. We have just moved the childcare rooms from their inconvenient location upstairs to the far more accessible Willets and Session Rooms. We are considering ways in which we might make our Robinson and Campbell Rooms more welcoming and comfortable. We are also looking at our sanctuary, trying to find ways to enhance our worship space for our current and future needs.

Let's be honest, though: change is not easy, even when we know God is at work. But if we keep our focus on Jesus and his mission, especially in the midst of change, I believe we will discover that it is exciting and fulfilling to serve a risen Savior who is always on the move, calling us to follow him into a future filled with hope. After all, Jesus is the only thing that will never change in our lives, for he is "the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb 13:8).

Thanks be to God!

## WHAT'S INSIDE



A New Thing.....	3	Knitting for 5 Years.....	6
Blanket Sundays.....	4	Jazz.....	7
FriendShip Preschool.....	4	Vacation Bible School.....	8
Dollars & Sense.....	4	SPC Kids.....	9
The Word Sung.....	5	Church Picnic/Confirmation Sunday..	10
Summer Choir.....	5	Youth Ministry.....	11
Spring Clean-Up Time.....	5	Mission Matters.....	12
Summer Worship Schedule.....	5	Family Dinner.....	BC
Summer Office Hours.....	5		



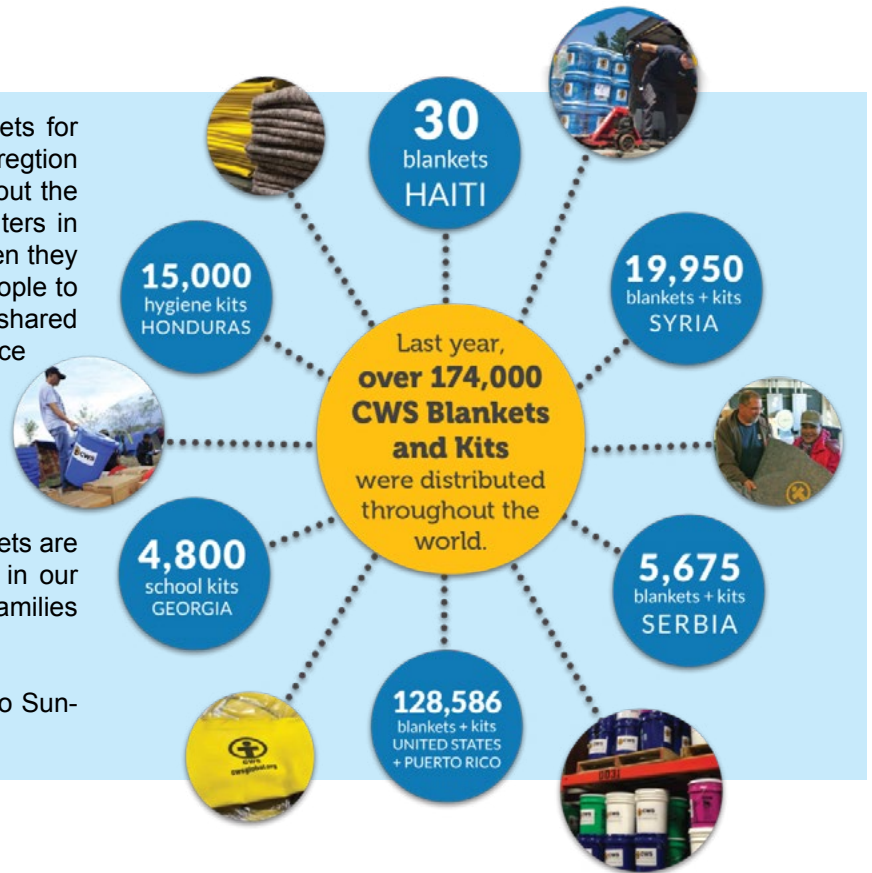
# BLANKET SUNDAYS

May 5 & 12

Thank you for your dedication to providing blankets for Church World Service (CWS) each year. Our congregation helps to provide CWS blankets to people throughout the world. Thanks to you, families in emergency shelters in the United States and overseas have blankets when they arrive at the shelters. Your support helps these people to stay warm in their time of need. You have also shared God's grace with people and have made a difference in their lives. In just the past two years, we have raised over \$3,500 for Blanket Sundays. That is amazing!

This year we will be collecting \$10 donations on May 5 and on the following Sunday, May 12. Blankets are a wonderful way to honor all the special women in our lives who have provided warmth and comfort for families and friends.

Please join us in the Robinson Room on these two Sundays to see how you can help!



## RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE SUMMER CAMP

June 3 - 7  
9 AM – 12 PM  
(lunch not included)

The FriendShip Preschool summer camp, *Rumble in the Jungle*, is accepting applications for campers who are 2 years old to 5 years old (entering kindergarten).

The cost of the camp is \$125 for the week. Younger children may sign up for individual days (\$25 per day) if an entire week is too long. The campers will play and learn under the guidance of the FriendShip staff.

Call Jenny Hay, FriendShip Director, [jhay@sewickley-presby.org](mailto:jhay@sewickley-presby.org) for more information or to obtain registration form.

## DOLLARS & SENSE

If you've ever used room 2A in the Faith House for a meeting then you know how uncomfortable the chairs were to sit in for any length of time. Fortunately (and thankfully!), church members Matt and Leslie Braksick donated funds to purchase a new conference table and 12 comfortable chairs for the room. Stop by and try them out!

Thank you Matt and Leslie!



## THE WORD SUNG

**May 5 | 11 AM**

Don't miss this special service! Instead of our pastor proclaiming the Word of God, our Chancel Choir and soloists will sing it. This is always a beautiful worship service. We hope you will join us.

The Choir will be joined by organist C. William Goff and members of the Pittsburgh Symphony orchestra to present J. S. Bach's *Cantata 104* (You Shepherd of Israel, Hear) and Georg Phillip Telemann's *Overture in D Major*. They will be conducted by our Director of Music Ministries, Craig Dobbins.



## SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE!

For a moment, imagine driving down the road, with your windows down, while you sing along with the radio playing your favorite song and feel the summer wind all around you. We've almost all experienced that at one point or another in our lifetime. Why not take that same energy and enjoyment and spend it with our church choir this summer?

On May 26, our summer worship schedule begins! We'll have worship at 8 AM and 10 AM in the Sanctuary. On that Sunday, the Summer Choir has its first rehearsal. Practice is at 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary.

The Summer Choir provides a wonderful opportunity for returning college students or persons who travel greatly during the week to raise their voices in song. Others who are interested in trying the choir in a less formal setting are also invited and encouraged to participate. You need not make a weekly commitment, simply drop by as your schedule permits.

If you have any questions or for further information, please contact Craig Dobbins at 412-741-4550 or [cdobbins@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:cdobbins@sewickleypresby.org).



## SPRING CLEAN-UP TIME

**May 18 | 8:30 AM**

Spring has sprung and it's time for a little spring clean-up around our beautiful church property. We'll be doing the usual mulching, edging, trimming, digging, planting, joking, and laughing! Bring your kids, your spouse, your friends, your neighbors, your neighbors' friends, and even your neighbors' kids! All are welcome! Also, bring your usual gardening tools and some water to drink.

Contact Mark Gensheimer: [mgensheimer@CSMCKEE.COM](mailto:mgensheimer@CSMCKEE.COM).

## SUMMER WORSHIP

**May 26 - September 1**

- 8 AM & 10 AM Worship Services
- Both held in the Sanctuary
- Sunday School classes do not meet in the summer

Visit our website to see groups and events held throughout the summer months.

## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

From May 28 to August 30, the church office will be open from 9 AM - 4 PM, Monday - Friday.

## APNC: IN THE KNOW

Our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has been meeting twice a month to review possible candidates. You can find updated meeting minutes on our website, along with the names of committee members. If you'd like additional information on how the process is going, please reach out to one of the committee members.





## KNITTING FOR 5 YEARS!

Our Knitting for Mission group recently celebrated their 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary! This group has been meeting faithfully on Thursday afternoons where they create a variety of different knitted items for mission needs both here at home and abroad. The group consists of both church members and community members. Knitters of all skill levels are always invited to join in. Would you like to learn how to knit? This is the place to be!

**WHEN & WHERE?** Thursdays from 1 - 3 PM, Faith House 2A



**Top picture:** Front row (left to right): Peggy Dury, Cathie Johnson, Marnie Haines, Helen Prine, Velma Saire.  
Back row (left to right): Nancy Merrill, Mandy Ticknor, Susie Wardrop, Stephanie O'Kane, Sandy Drant, Lannie Garner  
**Bottom left:** Charlene Beck and Velma Saire sort a treasure trove of yarn donated to our Knitting for Mission group by members of the Sewickley YMCA during the month of March.  
**Bottom right:** Stephanie O'Kane organized a closet in the Faith House to store the yarn.





# JAZZ

**FEATURING**

Jeremy Fisher Jr. with  
Thomas Wendt, Theron Brown & Paco Mahone

**5.19.2019**  
**SUN | 3 PM**

Also featuring musicians:  
Eric Fulmer, Hayden Moyer, Bob Niklewicz,  
Nathan St. Germain and Luke Wood

The musicians will also  
be leading worship on  
May 19.

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



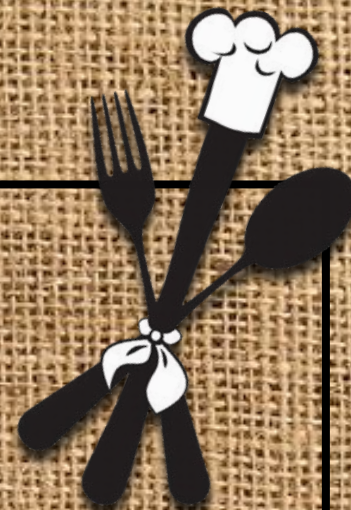




**“Remember the Lord, who  
is great and glorious.”**  
(Nehemiah 4:14)

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
June 17-21 | 9 AM - Noon





It's that time of year again already! School is almost over, and summer is right around the corner. As we close out the school year there are a few big events that you should know about. First, and maybe most exciting, is our Family Dinner and a Movie at the Faith House on May 17. The fun starts at 6:30 PM with dinner, games, and free time to get your face painted, request a balloon animal, or hang out by the fire. We'll provide burgers, hot dogs, and ice cream from the Sewickley Confectionary! All you need to do is RSVP by Monday, May 14 where you can sign up to bring a side if you'd like. After everyone has eaten their fill and we've successfully worn out our kids, we'll gather on the Faith House Lawn to watch a movie! All are welcome to this event, and we hope you'll join us for this night of fellowship and fun!

Speaking of fun events for the whole family, all are welcome to join us during our annual trip to Kennywood on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27. We'll rent a pavilion for the day (typically #4 just behind the Jackrabbit) where we will provide sandwiches and drinks, as well as a space to put your things down and rest. There's no need to RSVP, but if you are coming we ask that you bring a snack, salad, or dessert to share. This is a laid back event where we have a chance to hang out with our church family and enjoy all that Kennywood has to offer!

Finally, let's talk about Vacation Bible School! VBS takes place from Monday, June 17 through Friday, June 21. Our theme this year is "Roar: Life is Wild, God is Good!" The memory verses this year come from the Psalms and the prophets, and they remind us that no matter what life throws our way, God is good! Kids will sing and dance and roar their way through songs each morning when they arrive, and we'll end with more singing when we leave as we learn about God's stories! We'll enjoy themed snacks each day and get to experiment with different things that help remind us that God is good. Kids will also hear stories about other kids who help remind us of this point. We'll fill out the day with games and Bible lessons, and that's VBS is a nutshell! It is a lot of fun and I can't wait to share this week with all our kids and helpers! Kids from 4 years old through 5th grade are welcome to attend. You can sign up on the website at any time or call the church office if you have any questions. The cost is \$25 per child, with scholarships available for anyone in need.

Many hands make light work, If you have any interest in helping with VBS, or if you want to find out more, call the church or email me: [bmack@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:bmack@sewickleypresby.org). We can always use your help!

--Brian Mack, Director of Children's Ministries



# PICNIC & CONFIRMATION



Join us on  
**JUNE 2**

**8 & 10 AM Worship**

**11 AM Church Picnic**  
**Front Lawn**





Spring is officially here and we are so thrilled to finally enjoy some warm weather again. We have had an eventful winter, but we are excited to get outside and look ahead to the summer! We have just a few weeks left of our school year programming before we begin our summer schedule. It is going to be a fun summer!

First, we are excited to be taking a group of high schoolers to West Virginia to work with Appalachia Service Project (ASP). ASP helps families in need throughout the Appalachia region with home construction. We are also excited to be making our return to Surf City this year in August, especially since we are going to have some of our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders joining us to help run the week serving on the work crew. Just a reminder that we are still taking sign-ups for Surf City (as long as there is space), so invite a friend and get ready for the week of a lifetime! Scholarships are available.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 19.....Move-Up Sunday  
Confirmation Lunch with Church Elders  
May 27.....Kennywood Day  
June 2.....Confirmation Sunday  
Church Picnic



## SEWICKLEY YOUTH NIGHT

This April we hosted our third official Sewickley Student Ministries Night. Collaborating with the other youth groups in Sewickley has been such a rewarding experience for our teens as we learn more about what it means to be a Church that is bigger than our differences. Hanging out at the Tull Theater, playing some games, and hearing about God's power in our lives were just a few of our favorite moments. Any opportunities to see us come together in our faith are more than worth celebrating! More to come in August!







## DAY ON THE LAWN 2019

Day on the Lawn is the BIGGEST rummage sale ever! All proceeds go to missions! It takes a lot of work to make this successful and a huge part is because of the generosity of our church members and the Sewickley community.

If you would like to donate items for the sale, please plan on dropping items off on the dates listed below. Please also review the Donation Guidelines which can be found on our website. Thank you!

### 9 AM – Noon

Saturday, June 1  
Saturday, June 29  
Saturday, July 13  
Saturday, July 27  
Saturday, August 10

### 5 – 8 PM

Wednesday, August 21

### 9 AM – Noon

Friday, August 30  
Saturday, August 31

## PRODUCE 2 PEOPLE

Thank you to the many volunteers that helped sort apples, green peppers, and distribute almost 15,000 pounds of fresh produce on April 13. It was a beautiful morning and we served 320 households by noon. Our next volunteer date will be October 19.



## CENTER FOR HOPE STATS

Thank you to the many church members who give of their time and talents each month to service in God's mission at the Center for Hope. Check out the dinner statistics for 2019 so far:

### JANUARY

Volunteer Cooks/Servers	31
Dinners Served	81
Take Out Dinners	28

### FEBRUARY

Volunteer Cooks/Servers	30
Dinners Served	76
Take Out Dinners	30

### MARCH

Volunteer Cooks/Servers	36
Dinners Served	132
Take Out Dinners	15

### APRIL

Volunteer Cooks/Servers	43
Dinners Served	98
Take Out Dinners	25

<b>TOTAL VOLUNTEERS</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>TOTAL DINNERS SERVED</b>	<b>387</b>
<b>TOTAL TAKE OUTS</b>	<b>98</b>

## AMIGOS IN SPRINGTIME

Our church has many opportunities to serve others. One of those is with the Amigos. The Amigos Fellowship is an interdenominational fellowship program for teenagers and adults with developmental challenges.

The Amigos meet year round, usually on two Friday evenings each month. Some activities such as holiday parties, bingo, and craft and games night are held at the church. Other events such as the progressive dinner, a Sewickley Academy basketball game, and our service project at World Vision are held off campus. We also have an annual retreat at Camp Crestfield on a Saturday in September. The group always convenes at the church and returns to the church after each activity.

Volunteers are always needed to help with activities at the church and to provide transportation to off site events. This is a great way to spend a few hours a month! Please let Ann Strong know if you are available to volunteer. You can find a schedule of events on our website.

Ann Strong: [astrong409@verizon.net](mailto:astrong409@verizon.net)





## HOPING TOGETHER

by Deborah Murdoch, SPC member

*For in hope we were saved.*

*Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.* Romans 8:24-25

From April 1-5, the PC(USA) and Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (ECCB) hosted a partnership conference at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. The conference is held every three years for congregations participating in the partnership and alternates between the US and the Czech Republic. Over 50 people attended from the PC(USA) and ECCB as well as ecumenical partners from the Lutheran Church and the Church of Scotland. Charlene Beck, Deborah Murdoch, Joan Murdoch, and Ann Strong attended from SPC, and Rev. Marek Zikmund, who visited SPC for several months with his family in 2007, represented our partner congregation in Pířerov.

The conference provided opportunities to learn about the biblical and theological understandings of hope from seminarians representing Columbia Theological Seminary and the Protestant Theological Faculty in Prague. We also spent time in worship led by each of the congregational partnerships between PC(USA) and ECCB churches. During the worship led by SPC and Pířerov, Marek played the guitar as we sang, We Shall Overcome. The following day, the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, we heard the song sung by community members and Dr. King's family during a wreath laying ceremony at the MLK Center.

After the conference, Marek and two representatives from the Diakonie of the ECCB, Lucie Slámová and Stepan Brodsky visited SPC. We enjoyed worshipping together, learning about their faith in the context of the history of the Czech Republic, and spending time together in fellowship. Marek participated in the local missions of SPC by helping to serve dinner at the Ladle. They also toured downtown Pittsburgh and cheered on the Penguins at the last game of the regular season.

We are encouraged by the faith and witness of our Czech partners and look forward to the opportunity to meet again.







## SUPPORTING OUR JEWISH NEIGHBORS

by Eric Fulmer, SPC member

In response to the horrific events at Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill on October 27, 2018 and in support for our neighbors, the SPC Mission Committee approved donations to the local response efforts of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh and Jewish Family & Community Services (JFCS).

The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh connects learning about the Holocaust history with the injustices of today. As stated in the Center's blogpost following the events of October 27, "Each community member and organization plays a part, and ours is education... If one individual can shatter the hearts of an entire community, then surely one individual has the same capacity for good. The difference is made through the education they receive." Members of our congregation visited the Center's Butterfly Exhibit in preparation to the visit to Terezin, a Nazi concentration camp and ghetto, during our 2018 mission trip to the Czech Republic. SPC members (pictured above) also visited the Stitching History from the Holocaust Exhibit which was a testament to the incalculable loss of the Holocaust through the story of Hedwig Strnad, a seamstress from Prague. Sadly,

the recent anti-Semitic attacks in Pittsburgh bring an even greater sense of urgency to the Center's efforts to educate against all forms of hatred.

JFCS was one of the first organizations, alongside the Jewish Community Center of Pittsburgh and the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, to provide resources for victims, their families and the community at large. JFCS facilitated training in trauma response to religious and lay leaders and continues to provide counseling for anyone

affected by the tragedy. Jordon Golin, CEO of JFCS recently wrote, "Even now, months later, it's hardly possible to fathom such a violent act being perpetrated on Jews while they worship.

While we are no strangers

to anti-Semitic behavior, this particular event that took place in our own community has shaken us all. But even in the midst of such intense darkness, we found light. That very day, waves of shared outrage, grief, sympathy and even hope began to pour in from all over the world."

**"In the midst of such intense darkness, we found light."**





**MAXIMIZE  
YOUR IMPACT** IN YOUR HOME,  
NEIGHBORHOOD,  
AND CITY

Hosted by:



**JUNE 8, 2019**

## **REGISTER ONLINE**

**[WWW.CVENT.COM/EVENTS/MANUP-PITTSBURGH-2019](http://WWW.CVENT.COM/EVENTS/MANUP-PITTSBURGH-2019)**

Join Steelers Coach Mike Tomlin, Urban Impact and over 1,500 men for an encouraging day of worship, prayer, dynamic breakout sessions, and powerful messages.

### **SCHEDULE**

Saturday, June 8, 2018

- Registration & Breakfast: 7:30–8:30 AM
- Morning Program with Bryan Loritts
- Morning Breakout Sessions
- Lunch Program
- Afternoon Breakout Sessions
- Closing Program with Coach Mike Tomlin
- Conference ends at 3:30 PM

### **COST**

Registration fee \$49.  
Register by June 6.

### **LOCATION**

Victory Family Church  
21150 Route 19  
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

Every year, Urban Impact teams up with Coach Mike Tomlin of the Pittsburgh Steelers, to present the ManUp Pittsburgh conference to over fifteen hundred men from the tri-state area. ManUp encourages and teaches men to be godly leaders for their families, and raises awareness of the detrimental impact of fatherlessness among youth today. Prominent local pastors join the mission each year to lead breakouts, including sessions specifically targeted toward young adults, coaches, veterans, fathers, and husbands. This year Rev. Long will be joining ManUp as a breakout speaker. You don't want to miss it!







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



**FRIDAY, MAY 17 | 6:30 PM**

**DINNER, GAMES, MOVIE, BALLOON ART, FACE PAINT, BON FIRE**  
**RSVP by MAY 14 ON OUR WEBSITE**