



# INTERPRETATION

Sewickley Presbyterian Church Newsletter  
July/August 2019



Montreat Music Conference  
see page 6



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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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# A WELCOMING FAMILY OF FAITH

Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor

Our Vision statement says that we are members of the body of Christ who strive to be a welcoming family of faith. That sounds lovely, doesn't it? Everyone longs to feel welcome and to be a part of a family. The problem is that this doesn't typically happen all by itself. It takes intentional effort to truly become a welcoming church. That's where the word "strive" comes into play. Unless we deliberately set out to welcome those who come into our church, it often does not happen, at least not very well. Effort is required.

Now, I know that for many of us, when we come to church on a Sunday morning, we see so many friends that we can easily take up the whole morning just catching up and enjoying each other's company. And that is a wonderful thing. When the church gathers together, it should have the celebratory feel of a family reunion. But Jesus doesn't just call us together to celebrate with those who are already a part of his family of grace; he also calls us to welcome all those whom he is calling to become a part of it. That means that we have a job to do.

Just as is true for us as individuals, in order to be a vibrant, healthy church, we need to be dedicated to growing. Of course, this doesn't just mean numerical growth. It also means growth in our spiritual maturity, Biblical knowledge, financial generosity, relationships, and life of service. But it does include numerical growth, something most mainline churches stopped doing long ago. And while many of us are not comfortable with trying to share our faith with people outside the church and inviting them to come, there are so many people who come through our doors uninvited every week. Jesus has brought them to us. The question is: What kind of stewards are we being of the visitors Jesus brings? He wants them to be a part of our family. How well are we welcoming them and making them feel at home?

When visitors come through our doors for the first time, they typically decide within fifteen minutes if they want to come back. The number one reason why people come back or decide to leave is whether or not they felt welcomed. And while most of us may never become great evangelists, all of us can be friendly and introduce ourselves to people we don't know. And this is so important, for as the author of Hebrews reminds us, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (13:2).

You are such a wonderful and gracious congregation. My family has been so blessed to be a part of this church. And I know that you will do an outstanding job welcoming our new associate pastor, Rebecca Reeder, into the family. But don't forget about the new faces who come to worship every Sunday. Jesus is counting on us to welcome them in his name. And who knows? Maybe even Jesus himself shows up sometimes in the face of a visitor, wondering if there is any "room in the inn." Let's make sure he never decides to leave.

In Christ, Kevin



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# WELCOMING OUR NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR

## Rebecca Reeder

This month we welcome our newest staff member, Rebecca Reeder, who is joining the Sewickley Presbyterian Church staff as Associate Pastor. Rebecca was voted in by our congregation on June 30, after being recommended by the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

The APNC began its search for a new Associate Pastor in February of this year. They met every other week to review potential candidates and are incredibly grateful to have found Rebecca.

Rebecca Reeder recently finished a Master of Divinity at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. A graduate of the University of Virginia, she received her undergraduate degree in Engineering Science. Rebecca came to Pittsburgh in 2011 as Campus Ministry staff working with Carnegie Mellon University students in partnership with Shadyside Presbyterian Church and the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO). Soon thereafter, Rebecca began to sense a call to ordained ministry.

Rebecca finds joy in helping to equip and empower individuals and groups to faithfully pursue living into their true identity in Christ, as well as growing ever closer to God in worship, study, and mission. She is excited to be ordained and installed for her first call at SPC. When asked what she is most excited about for starting as the next Associate Pastor, Rebecca says, "I am most excited to become part of a thriving church, staff, and community that loves to worship, grow, and serve together."

Rebecca currently resides on the east side of Pittsburgh with her husband Zach and their adorable 1-year-old puppy, Kieran.

We'll have opportunities for you to meet Rebecca over the next few months. Be sure to check our website to see where you can take part in welcoming her to our church family. You can always stop in the church office to meet her as well!



Rebecca and her husband Zach



Rebecca and Kieran





In January of 2018, we let you know that you could activate Amazon Smile onto your Amazon account. Since then, we've collected \$139.15 in donations from your Amazon purchases. Thank you to everyone who has activated Amazon Smile on their Amazon account.

If you have an Amazon account, all that you need to do is to visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and follow the directions. That's all there is to it! It's super easy!

Amazon will keep track of qualifying purchases and donate the proceeds to our church. Please let Laura Mikush know if you have any questions: [lmikush@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:lmikush@sewickleypresby.org).

## FRIENDSHIP CAMP

by Jenny Hay, Director of FriendShip Preschool

The FriendShip Preschool Summer Camp, "Rumble in the Jungle" took place June 3-7 under the direction of the FriendShip staff. FriendShip alumni and church member, Kristina Thomas, also helped to lead our campers. Forty-three campers had an active week exploring life in the jungle amongst the lions, crocs and gators, monkeys, giraffes and elephants. Crafts, games, literature, music and outdoor play filled every exciting day. Everyone had such a fun camp week!

The FriendShip staff will be returning the last week in August to prepare for the 2019-20 school year. School will resume on September 4.

## YOU ARE NEEDED

Would you like to be involved in our church family, but don't have a lot of time to do so? A great way to take part is to be an usher on Sunday mornings. As an usher, you welcome people coming into the sanctuary, hand out bulletins, and help with taking the offering. The only requirements are that you arrive 15-20 minutes before the service begins and to have a welcoming attitude! During the summer months, we need three ushers at the 8 AM service and four at the 10 AM service.

Please consider signing up for a week or two this summer! You can sign-up on our website under **Get Connected**. Please contact the church office with any questions you might have.



## DOLLAR & SENSE

by Laura Mikush, Business Administrator

Did you know that the church was given an original gift in 2014 and a subsequent gift in 2016 from a church family to do something in the Senior Manse to weatherproof the house? The gift totaled \$26,348.70. The Property Committee chose to replace three of the 7 sets of double-doors on the main level (front door -- pictured above, side porch door and back door of the living room). The three custom doors were installed in June. The original idea was that the gift would cover all 7 of the doors, but as they had to be custom made, only three were done. The goal is in the next few years to be able to complete the project.



## MINISTRY ARCHITECTS VOLUNTEER TRAINING

MA will be here on August 17 from 9 AM -12 PM to train volunteers who work with our children and youth. This opportunity is open to anyone who would like to learn more about maximizing their impact on the young people of our church.

Please watch for additional information and sign-ups in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 412.741.4550.



## OFFICER NOMINATIONS

This year's Nominating Committee invites you to serve by suggesting members of our church family to be considered to serve in the offices of elder, deacon and members of the 2020 Nominating Committee.

### How do I recommend someone?

Fill out a recommendation form on our church website or request one from the church office. In considering persons to recommend, you may wish to reflect on the following:

- Is this person faithful in his/her attendance and commitment to the church?
- Does this person demonstrate Christian living in his/her daily life, within the family, at work in the community?
- Is this person involved in this congregation's activities?
- Has this person demonstrated leadership ability through involvement in other community organizations or service at other churches?
- Can this person fulfill the requirements of the office, i.e., attend the meetings?

Please visit our website to learn more. Recommendations are due by July 7. Please submit them online or to Sharon Barber in the church office. Thank you.

## MANUP PITTSBURGH

On Saturday, June 8, over a thousand men from all over the Pittsburgh area gathered together at Victory Family Church in Cranberry for the ManUp Pittsburgh Conference, put on by Urban Impact. It was an inspiring day as we were all challenged to be better husbands, fathers, and mentors to the young people in our lives, communities and city. The keynote speaker, Bryan Loritts, pastor of the Abundant Life Christian Fellowship of Silicon Valley, CA, was incredible, charging us to not try to do it alone as men. We all need other men with whom we can be vulnerable and who will challenge us, confront us and support us as we try to be faithful to God and the people in our lives. Loritts said, "You will never lay claim to the fullness God has for you by yourself, apart from friendships." Pittsburgh Steeler coach Mike Tomlin challenged us to take responsibility for the things we need to do and not blame others for our shortcomings: "A man does what he is supposed to do, when and how he is supposed to do it. And when he doesn't, he accepts the consequences." Tight end Vance McDonald talked about the importance



of our faith and the dangers of our pride and ego which can be so damaging in our relationships. He charged us to be caring, consistent, connected, considerate and courageous. There were also excellent speakers for the morning and afternoon breakout sessions, including one led by Rev. Long. All in all, it was an inspiring and challenging day for both young and old. Don't miss it next year!

## SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Christy Johnson Scholarship is available to a church member or a friend of our church who is under the age of 30 years old. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial support to pursue a broadening experience in

education or service consistent with the unfulfilled desired of Christy's life. You may find an application on our website or in the Robinson Room. Applications are due to Laura Mikush, in the church office, by July 31, 2019.

## MONTREAT 2019

From Sunday, June 16 until Saturday, June 22, twelve members of our congregation attended Week I of the Montreat Conferences on Worship and Music held at the denomination's national conference center in Montreat, North Carolina.

This year the trek was made by Jeanne Bingman, Pam and Ron Charles, Debbie and Steve Day, Gail Gratton, Linda Liechty, Tina Thomas, Yvonne and Don Zier, and Susan and Craig Dobbins. In addition to daily worship services, Bible study, various levels of handbell ringing, and an adult choir, the group took classes on such topics as "Prayerful Listening and Prophetic Proclamation", "Exploring Economic Justice in the New Testament", "Walking How Jesus Walked, Not Where: The Holy Lands Today", "Yoga Voice", and "Hymnody". They also took time to explore the western North Carolina Mountains, dined at the well-known Red Rocker Inn, and a few made the short trek into Asheville to visit The Biltmore.

Montreat Conference Center has been a special place for Presbyterians since 1897. Following our visit, we returned to the outside world feeling refreshed and rejuvenated, having encountered God in different ways.





## “SO, WHAT IS IT YOU DO?”

by Rev. Derek Davenport, Parish Associate Pastor of Discipleship

As a Parish Associate here at SPC, I serve in a part-time capacity. I help lead worship every Sunday throughout the school year and much of the summer. I work with the Discipleship and Adult Education committees regularly and attend staff meetings throughout the year. But my nine to five job is at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Which, naturally, leads to the question - “So, what is it that you do?”

The short answer is that I direct the Miller Summer Youth Institute (SYI) at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, along with my wife, Erin. Which leads to the next question - “What’s that?”

SYI began in 1997, with the goal of helping young people think through two questions - “Who is God calling you to be?” and “What is God calling you to do?” In its first year, SYI functioned as a summer academy for High School students who studied theology with seminary faculty.

SYI has evolved over the years, and today has expanded to offer several different programs. The traditional academy takes place early in the summer, now in conjunction with area colleges and universities who provide college credit. In addition, the institute hosts college interns from around the country who live at the seminary for the summer as they work within their majors. In July, SYI hosts congregations for mission experiences. Throughout the year, the institute supports ministries in Presbyteries, schools, and churches.

### ***So what exactly do I do?***

Throughout the school year, Erin and I design and set up the summer programs. We work with our academic and mission partners, and we recruit congregations, interns, and students for the various offerings. We also lead cohorts of pastors and youth leaders. In addition, I speak, preach, teach, and lead retreats for high schools, colleges, universities, judicatories, and churches both in the region and around the country. I write devotionals, Bible studies, lesson plans, and other resources for the seminary’s website.

During the summer, I mentor our interns and seminary students and oversee the site directors of the High School

Academies and mission programs. Though my schedule can be a bit erratic during the school year due to the timing of events, it’s nothing compared to the summer schedule! SYI’s summer programming spills over into many late nights and weekends.

As exciting as it is to work with a wide variety of ministries, there’s nothing like having a consistent pastoral relationship with a congregation. Over the last six months, I’ve been blessed to have that opportunity here at SPC. In some ways, the connection is only natural. SPC has had a long history with SYI. In recent years, the staff of SPC like Sarah Bird and Mike Creamer contributed to SYI programming. Jeremy Fisher, SPC’s associate director of music ministries, has served as SYI’s music director for the last ten years. A whole group from the church participated in an SYI mission experience last year. But the relationship is much deeper than that. In 1997, the pastors and congregation of SPC were instrumental in designing and starting SYI, even providing staff for the inaugural academy.

### ***“So, what is it that you do?”***

It’s not a question with a short answer. Perhaps the best response is that I continue a legacy of ministry to young people that SPC helped start more than twenty years ago.

As we journey through this time of transition as a congregation, I am so excited to continue in my role as parish associate in the months and years ahead. As my family wraps up their obligations, you’ll start seeing more of them over the coming months. I look forward to continuing my work alongside the outstanding staff here at SPC, and to working with our new associate pastor.







## MATTHEW 25:34-40

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"

And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TRAINING

**NOVEMBER 8 & 9, 2019**

At Sewickley Presbyterian Church, we strive to do ministry with excellence. One of the most important areas of ministry is caring for our congregation. With a church our size, our pastors alone cannot handle all of our congregational care needs. In order to do it well, we also need lay leaders in our church to serve alongside our pastors in making hospital visits, following up on prayer requests, visiting shut-ins, providing one-on-one support for those going through a difficult issue, and so much more.

In order to increase our congregation's capabilities in this area, we will be holding a two-day volunteer training event on Friday, November 8 (8:30 AM – 5 PM) and Saturday, November 9 (8:30 AM – 4 PM). Anyone is invited to participate. This is not just a way to serve our church family; it is also a wonderful way to develop skills and comfort in providing care for people in many circumstances in our lives.

After the training event, we will invite a small group of people to be part of a Congregational Care Ministry team made up of active members of our church family who will assist the pastoral staff in providing congregational care.

If you would just like to participate in this training, please contact Sharon Barber at [sbarber@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:sbarber@sewickleypresby.org) and mark your calendars.



## HAVE YOU PUT THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

There are various ways to support our church. One way to provide long-term support is to include SPC in your planned giving. If you would like information about this and other ways to include the church in your will, please call Laura Mikush in the church office.





## WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS

In May we welcomed six new members into our church family. A great way to make them feel welcome is to hear from you! Please consider taking a few minutes out of your day to send them a welcome note or email (or even a call).

Addresses, phone numbers, and emails can be found on our ChurchLife app, through our online directory (located at the bottom of our website), or by calling the church office.



**Josh & Anneliese Perry**



**Peggie Hatton**



**Rosie Wyche**



**Nicole & Bob Hasak**





# A TALE OF THREE DAVIDS

by David Sanberg & David Mitchell, SPC members

David McFarlane retired as Pastor of Presbyterian Church, Sewickley, in 2003. Shortly after he left, church member David Sandberg, for some unknown reason, found himself in that part of SPC's administrative offices and spied a leaded glass, Celtic cross in Rev. McFarlane's vacated office. The cross was an interesting artifact, obviously very old. With its lead came joints very brittle with age, and many small broken pieces of glass. It was leaning in a corner, and bending precariously.

Sandberg recognized it as an important relic of the church and felt that it should somehow be preserved. Having had some experience with designing and making leaded glass windows, he asked Laura Mikush if he could take it home, study it, and determine if it was repairable. Laura consented, and Sandberg took it to examine it more closely. After scrutinizing it, he concluded it to be a more daunting project than he had originally thought. The lead joints were very old and had become very inelastic and resistant to any annealing with new lead. Also, the many pieces of broken glass would be very difficult to replace.

The cross hung on a chain by David's workbench for a while. He would examine it from time to time, scratch his head, and the cross would continue to hang. It eventually found its way to a shelf above the workbench, and for all intents and purposes was almost forgotten, except for Sandberg's nagging conscience.

A windstorm visited Sewickley around 2008 that toppled three large trees on Sandberg's property. Church member Dave Mitchell learned of Sandberg's dilemma of fallen trees and his need to clear them and convert them to two-foot fireplace logs – more than he could handle by himself. True to form, Dave Mitchell volunteered to help and showed up one morning with two chain saws. On a break from cutting wood, and over cups of coffee and some idle conversation, Sandberg showed Dave Mitchell the leaded glass cross. He was intrigued with its antiquity and felt as Sandberg did that it should somehow be salvaged and eventually featured in the Church. Over subsequent meetings, Mitchell came up with the idea of a light box and how it could be displayed in some prominent area of the Church.

The Sandbergs sold their house in 2010. As the Sandbergs settled into a new home, and with the move out of the way, David Sandberg's interest in the cross was rekindled. But he couldn't find it! He mistakenly concluded that it must have been left behind in the previous residence and asked the new owners several times to search various nooks and crannies where it might have been stored. Fortunately, the cross was found.

After ruminating over the annealing problem, Sandberg figured out how to solve it: copper. He had a roll of sticky-backed copper foil, about ¼" wide. Cutting about 400 pieces into ¾ inch lengths, he stuck them on the perimeter of the cross, thereby making it possible to anneal new copper-wrapped glass to the old lead of the cross. The cross was augmented with new glass, converted to a frameable rectangle, and delivered to Dave Mitchell to fit within a lightbox.

Mitchell designed the light box, four inches deep, wired it, lighted it with LED lights, stained the box, and designed a base for it. Dave Mitchell was also instrumental in conceiving the Faith House restoration. It was timely that the construction of the light box and completion of the Faith House coincided. For a while, the completed framed cross resided there, but now is better displayed at the entrance to the Church's administrative offices.



Both Daves who worked on the project contacted David McFarlane in Charlottesville, Virginia, in an effort to discover the origins of the old cross. McFarlane's recollection was that the Church's one-time custodian, Pete, would often find old curiosities in the basement of the Church and show them to Rev. McFarlane. Other than that, nobody seems to know of the history of the cross. Nevertheless, it must be very old and a part of SPC's 181-year old history. Perhaps someone in the Church's membership may eventually read this and be able to shed light on the mystery as to whether was a part of the current structure or built prior to the Civil War.



# GOD IS GOOD!

by Brian Mack, Director of Children's Ministries

If our kids have learned anything at VBS this year, it is that God is good! As I'm writing this, our Vacation Bible School has just ended and I'm slowly working my way through the mess of the week. On the first day of camp every year there are naturally tears, kids who don't want to leave their parents, an overwhelming room packed with more than 70 kids and teenagers, and not seeing a friend your mom promised was going to be there are all a perfect recipe for anxiety. Through my work with the preschool and our Sunday School classes, I knew most of these crying faces, and there was one in particular that I was sure wasn't going to make it. We'll call this Child A. Child A rarely attended our events, was often plastered to mom or dad's leg, and was, for lack of a better word, very shy. I introduced Child A to some of their group leaders, and crossed my fingers that it would work out, but I wasn't very confident. After all, what could a couple of teenagers do that I couldn't? I am happy to say that I was proven very wrong. I poked my head into games that day, and there was Child A, laughing, running, and having a very intense stare down with one of the counselors. The next day, Child A ran into our sanctuary with a high five and a happy face and never looked back. It's in VBS each year that I see the vast reach of the Kingdom where a group of volunteers join together to spread the love of Christ.

One thing I've seen from working in ministry for so long is that if you know where to look, you'll see Jesus. He shows up, seemingly out of nowhere, and unexpectedly changes someone's life. Jesus showed up with Child A and the counselors. He left his mark all over the Faith House and the stories that were shared between children as they heard about the far reaches of God's Kingdom. He was there the Sunday after camp in a card, telling of the impact this church had on someone's grandchild, and He showed up in worship with thunderous applause in our sanctuary.

As many of you know, this will be the last article you will read from me this year. This church has been a blessing to me and my family, and I look forward to sharing the gifts and skills that I've learned here as I continue to do God's work elsewhere. As I look forward to what lies ahead, I want to thank you all for the kind words and open arms. Thank you for trusting me with the children of this church. They have truly touched my heart. And thank you again for the lovely send off. It takes a lot to get Presbyterians to clap in church, so I must have really earned it! As I look ahead, I am reminded of our VBS themes, and that "When life is unfair, scary, sad, changes, and especially when it is good, God is good!"

Are you wondering how you can help in this time of transition? Now more than ever, we will need some extra volunteers. Children's Church is still running throughout the summer. We need storytellers and a second set of hands. If you think you can spare 30 minutes on any particular Sunday this summer, I encourage you to contact the church office to be in touch with our Children's Ministry committee, or sign up on our church website to help. And don't forget about volunteering for the fall!

Visit our [YouTube channel](#) to watch a video of our VBS highlights!







by Mike Creamer, Director of Youth Ministries

Summer is here, but that hasn't stopped us from having a blast together. We were so excited to confirm 15 students this June. Although the church picnic was inside we still were able to have a great time of fellowship and celebrating their official membership in the church! We also took our annual trip to Steeltown Paintball and sweat all day together as we goofed off in the sun (thank you Tom Szuba for helping to control the chaos that day!). We also have started two new recurring events this summer: High School Fellowship Nights and Middle School Bible Study.

We were ecstatic to have 15 high schoolers join us at the Braksick's house for a pool party where we dove (quite literally) into all kinds of fun, from slushies and basketball to hearing from Julia Weicht sharing about her faith journey in college. It was a great way to kick the summer off together and we are immensely grateful to Leslie and Matt for hosting!

As for Middle School Bible Study, we had a great time learning a bit more about the history of the Bible, how the famous stories (and not so famous stories) all fit together, and then reading through and studying the book of Jonah. Leave it to our middle schoolers to make sense of different Bible translations by comparing them to how formal your shoes are! If you want to learn how formal YOUR Bible is, just ask some of our middle schoolers and they can fill you in.

We have a bunch of cool stuff still planned for the rest of the summer, so we hope you will join us over the next few months!











## ASP TRIP

by Mike Creamer

This was our first year taking a group of students to serve with Appalachia Service Project (ASP), a mission organization that works with the impoverished families all throughout the Appalachian Region which spans five states and is one of the most impoverished parts of the United States. We learned a lot about the poverty cycle, the history of Appalachian culture, and the needs of those in the communities. We took one crew led by Tim Bingman, Annie Gensheimer, and myself with five students and worked with a family to help build a back porch so that they had an additional way out of their home in case of emergencies. Just last year they lost their garage in a storm. If the same thing had happened to their front porch they would be completely trapped in their home. But the building project isn't what made this trip special (though it was part of it). We got to know our homeowners, hear their stories and share our own, and break bread with them. We had a great time bonding with the other two churches with us and hanging out back at the center every day. It was a special week and I am immensely grateful that I could share it with our team.

*"I really enjoyed the fun we had and how it brought us closer together. It's also just really satisfying work. The togetherness of the whole experience was awesome."*

*"I really enjoyed making new friends at ASP. I'm glad we met and sad that we had to go our separate ways. I also liked building the deck for our homeowner. I will always remember her reaction when she saw her brand new deck. I will definitely do ASP again."*







*"I liked the amount of time I got to spend with everyone from our church as well as getting to know Becky and her family. It also felt great to help someone out who really needed it, and hopefully make a difference in her day to day life."*







## MEET OUR FIFTH MISSION PARTNER

by Barb Swan, SPC member

"If one member suffers, all suffer together." 1 Corinthians 12:26. SPC has developed a strong relationship with Meeting God in Missions (MGM), and the people who work in the sugar cane fields around Hato Mayor, Dominican Republic. We have made four trips to Hato Mayor, and are planning a fifth in January, 2020. During these trips, we have met Dr Yasquina Benjamin, a young woman who grew up in the cane fields, went to medical school in DR, and returned to her home batey (village) to provide medical care to those who live and work in the cane fields. Most of these people do not have ready access to even basic medical care.

Some of us helped MGM build her home and small clinic in Marguarita, the batey where she lives. Those of us who do the medical clinics have worked alongside Yasquina for the last three years. Two separate years, we collected money to pay for surgery for a broken leg for two young men, who would otherwise be disabled for life. Yasquina facilitated these surgeries, and negotiated with the surgeon for a lower price. The Swans have paid her tuition for training in ultrasound, allowing her to better diagnose problems without X-ray.

The Mission Committee has approved \$10,800 per year to support Yasquina in her work. This will help with her living expenses and cover the cost of her medical supplies. Groups from SPC visit DR for one week every January, but through our support of Yasquina, we can also be present the other 51 weeks of the year.

### CAN YOU NAME OUR OTHER MISSION PARTNERS?

- The Center for Hope in Ambridge
- Floyd Faulkner, the Quaker Valley School District Community Youth Worker
- Chonde CCAP, through the Pittsburgh Presbytery International Partnership with Blantyre Synod, Malawi
- Czech Republic through the Charles Seminary Protestant Theological Faculty, the Diakonia, the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (ECCB), and the Prerov congregation, pastored by Marek Zikmund.



**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP  
JANUARY 18-25  
Limited Spots. Register ASAP.**

<https://gomgm.org/event/january-18-25-2020-week-3/>



One of the important missions we host and support is Samaritan Counseling. If you or anyone you know is in need of child, adult, marital, or family therapy, please encourage them to contact Samaritan at [www.samaritancounseling.net](http://www.samaritancounseling.net).



## CAMPBELL MEMORIAL RECIPIENT NOTE

Mission Committee member, Barb Swan, recently received the letter below from a recent Campbell Memorial Scholarship recipient:

*Dear Ms. Swan,*

*Good morning! I am a recipient of the Dr. and Mrs. William Campbell Memorial scholarship this semester and I would like to share with you and your church my journey this term.*

*This semester was a very huge blessing and adventure for me. I started working as Graduate Assistant for Community Engagement which gave me the opportunity to work with organizations in Harrisonburg. The more I am exposed, the more I realized how indigenous peoples seem to be invisible. I rarely hear their narratives and I have only met one indigenous person since coming here. It sort of became my advocacy to include indigenous peoples' voices in whatever I am doing or at least to ask where they are. At the end of semester, the Center Justice and Peacebuilding (CJP) gave me a recognition because of that. It was a beautiful surprise!*

*This summer, I searching for ways to engage with the Monacan nation. It is my hope that they will engage with CJP in various ways to teach us their story and teach us what would peace and justice look like for them. Then again, that would be up to them. My topmost objective is to visit them to pay my respect as an indigenous person to another indigenous peoples. Pray with me for this?*

*This summer, I am taking classes for the Graduate Certificate for Social Entrepreneurship. It has been very interesting to be in a class with MBA students. I also got two mentors this semester. Both of them are our teachers. They taught me a lot and loved me a lot too! They are two of God's most beautiful blessings for me this term. It confirmed AGAIN that I always am in the right place at the right time.*

*Fun fact! I finally got a GPA of 4.0 this semester. Thank you again for believing in me. Warmest hugs,*

*Tala Bautista*

## KNITTING FOR MISSION BUSY THIS YEAR!

Our Knitting 4 Mission group has been VERY busy this spring and summer! This group, made up of both church and community members, has made 656 items to be given to the Honduras Mission with Action for Education.

The bags are used to carry medicine for clients of the mission and the knitted animals and dolls are given to children. Check out these impressive numbers:

Knitted & Crocheted Bags: 450

Knitted & Crocheted Cats: 65

Sock Dolls: 125

Knitted Dolls & Bears: 16





# DAY ON THE LAWN

## IT'S COMING!

September 7, 2019

Most of us know that Day on the Lawn is coming up VERY soon! If you are new to SPC, here's what you need to know: Day on the Lawn is the biggest and best rummage sale you could ever dream of being a part of.

Every September, for one day only, our church campus is taken over by merchandise of all shapes and sizes AND by countless people who come to shop for the best deals around! Last year, DOL raised over \$60,000 for mission! It's an incredible day and one that most of our church family takes part in one way or another. It's also a great way to get to know others in our church.

We've been holding donation drop-off days since May and we still have quite a few left. Please consider volunteering to work one of the days. You can find additional details (what it's like to volunteer, when you can volunteer, times/dates) on our website or you may sign-up in the Robinson Room as well.

We also need your stuff! Please visit our website to see a list of items we aren't able to take. If you would like to donate furniture and need some help with getting it to the church, please contact Ann Strong: 412.741.7274.

### DONATION DROP-OFF DAYS

#### 9 AM – Noon

Saturday, July 13  
Saturday, July 27  
Saturday, August 10

#### 5 – 8 PM

Wednesday, August 21

#### 9 AM – Noon

Friday, August 30  
Saturday, August 31

### PREPARATION WEEK & SALE DAY

September 1 - 6 & September 7

Each department is responsible for setting their own set-up schedule. Sign-up for a department and you'll be contacted about the schedule.

Join us for this great day! Volunteers begin the day with a breakfast served by men of the church. After breakfast, we all meet at the front of the church and pray for the day. Then the sale begins! We need cashiers, those to help customers, with security, and cleanup. Get to know others in the church by taking part in this mission project. You won't be sorry!

Sign-ups will be available our website and in the Robinson Room this month -- so be on the look out! If you have any questions, please contact Becky Senior at 412.741.7274 or the church office at 412.741.4550.

### AVAILABLE DEPARTMENTS

Antiques  
Bakery/Deli  
Books  
Cafe  
Clean-Up Crew  
Electronics  
First Aid  
Furniture  
Jewelry  
Lawn/Garden/Pets

Linens  
Seasonal  
Security  
Set-Up Crew  
Sporting Goods  
Square Cashiers  
Toys  
Transporter Crew  
White Elephant  
Cashiers





# MEMORIES FROM 2018

## DAY ON THE LAWN







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



# Backpacks in July

It's that time of year again! Throughout July, the deacons will be collecting backpacks filled with school supplies for students at the Center for Hope in Ambridge. This year, the CFH has asked us to provide 50 backpacks for grades K - 6 and 50 backpacks for grades 7 - 12.

To participate, all you have to do is sign-up in the Robinson Room, take a backpack tag/supply list, and go shopping! If you are unable to shop, you may also make a monetary donation. The backpacks need to be returned to the church by July 31. There will be large, rubber bins in the Robinson Room for you to place them. They will be distributed to the CFH on August 2.

The deacons thank you for your generous support and for your faithfulness to this mission. If you have any questions, please contact Gretchen McAdams: [rbmgem@prodigy.net](mailto:rbmgem@prodigy.net).