

INTERPRETATION

Sewickley Presbyterian Church Newsletter
September/October 2019



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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.

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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LISTENING TO GOD'S CALL

Rebecca Reeder, Associate Pastor Elect

Dear SPC Family,

I can honestly say that after only two months in this community, you all feel like family. It's the kind of experience that drew me to church in the first place and kept me coming back between Sundays – church always felt like “home.” As a child and youth, the church played a significant, formative role in my life that would eventually lead me to pursue ordination.

When asked how or when I received a call to ordained ministry, I have to reply honestly that for a long time I never saw myself as a pastor. I was always heavily involved in church, but only ever viewed myself as a volunteer leader. Maybe I should have seen it coming after years of participation in Sunday School, Youth Group, and Youth Choir, or when as a senior in high school I was asked to be “Head Chorister” in the Youth Choir as well as serve as a youth deacon. But I left for college still determined that God meant for me to be an engineer. Maybe I could have guessed it when I arrived at Carnegie Mellon University on a Sunday morning, and after unloading my belongings in my dorm room, I walked down to Shadyside Presbyterian Church to meet the campus minister with whom I connected prior to even arriving. From day one of college, church and campus ministry were high priorities for me. By spring semester, I was invited onto the leadership team of the fellowship group I joined.

Fast forward three years after I struggled through a transfer to the University of Virginia and a degree program I didn't truly love, I was still actively participating and leading with a campus ministry fellowship. I probably should have seen God's calling throughout that time, especially with a good friend and mentor regularly saying to me, “I don't know why you're studying engineering; you're going to be a campus minister someday.” I stubbornly always told Kayla she was wrong. But Kayla was right. When it came time to apply to jobs, I applied to one engineering company and one campus ministry organization, the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO). I realized how many hours I was giving to my Christian fellowship (over 20 per week by senior year) just because of the joy I found in the work, and as the doors to engineering jobs and fellowship programs closed, while multiple CCO offers came in, I recognized God calling me into ministry.

Two years later I started coursework at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as a part-time student while working for the CCO. I saw the degree as purely professional development, still refusing to picture myself as an ordained minister. Once again, I neglected to give much weight to the words of friends, mentors, and parishioners saying they thought I should be a pastor. Looking back, I know it was God trying to speak to me through the people closest to me, but I was terrified of what a call to ordained ministry might mean or look like. Having grown up and been heavily active in church, and then working for a church for six years, I saw the toll that ministry could take on pastors. I have seen the good, sometimes the bad, and even the ugly of being part of a church family and the pressures felt by church leaders. Also, I was terrified of preaching, having been totally embarrassed in middle school when I gave a public speech and vowed to never do public speaking again.

God calling me to ordained ministry was a gradual process -- baby steps, one at a time. Only after seven years working in campus ministry – six in partnership with Shadyside Presbyterian Church, three years of part-time seminary classes, and numerous conversations with mentors, my therapist, a spiritual director, and my new husband at the time – did I become open to a call to be a pastor. Faith has always been at the core of my identity and making the decision to pursue a lifelong vocation in the area closest to my heart felt risky and scary. But God continually encouraged and walked alongside me through prayers, daily devotional habits, faithful friends, and a loving church family.

In the past two years as I finished my seminary degree full-time, I went from being barely open to God's call to feeling calm, confident, and excited about a call to parish ministry. I can only explain this drastic change of heart as the work of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. I enter this new season of life humbled and expectantly looking for God's ongoing direction in my own and now our life together in ministry at Sewickley Presbyterian Church.

Thank you for inviting me to join this community and serve you as together we pursue living as a church family, growing as disciples of Jesus, and serving in God's mission in this world!

Grace & Peace -- Rebecca



DOLLAR & SENSE

by Laura Mikush, Business Administrator

Did you know? There is a plaque in the Sanctuary that lists all the pastors of Sewickley Presbyterian Church, entitled "Ministering Spirits Serving the Lord." It is inscribed with:

This roster of Ministers of the church is placed here in memory of he who for many years served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees-Charles Mowell 1821-1904.

The plaque is located on the wall on the Grant Street side back near the sound board. The plaque was at capacity after we added Rev. Kevin Long. Thanks to SPC member Keith Boyer and Thomas Jewelers, the plaque has been restored and the name plates redone, to allow additional pastors names in future years.



by Jenny Hay, FriendShip Preschool Director

The FriendShip Preschool will be welcoming in a new school year on Wednesday, September 4. The staff and I have been busy preparing the upstairs classrooms. There are 94 children who will fill our seven classrooms! FriendShip hosts a "Meet and Greet" a few days before school begins to welcome the children and their families. The beginning of a new school year is always such an exciting time for children!

FriendShip is happy to welcome Erin (Birnie) Leghorn as the new Children's Corner Head Teacher. She has seven years of classroom teaching experience and 20+ years of working with children in a variety of work and volunteer positions. Erin is replacing Stacey Engel who left her role to pursue an opportunity for full time employment.

Erin's roots began in Sewickley. She is the daughter of SPC members Don and Jane Birnie. Erin grew up in the Sewickley Presbyterian Church and even attended our preschool. Her husband, Jeremy, is a Captain in the Navy, and they have lived in quite a few locations. Erin's love of Sewickley brought the family here this summer to plant roots for their two daughters, Emma and Cate. Emma attended FriendShip I when she was three years old. FriendShip is thrilled to welcome Erin back home to SPC and to our preschool staff. We wish her many happy years with FriendShip.

BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR CHURCH!

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

October 20

Dinner with Kevin & Rebecca Long

October 27

Class & Lunch

November 3

Meet with elders at 10 AM and join at the 11 AM worship service

Are you interested in learning more about our church? Have you thought about joining our church family? The only requirement is a profession of faith in Christ Jesus and a commitment to active participation in the ministry of SPC.

The class goals are to increase awareness and understanding of:

- the central beliefs of the Christian faith
- the Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Sewickley Presbyterian Church

Please contact Sharon Barber in our church office with any questions or to register:

sbarber@sewickleypresby.org or 412.741.4550

MUSICAL ENSEMBLES RESUME REGULAR REHEARSALS

Our Youth Praise Team, Youth Orchestra, All-Church Orchestra, and Westminster Ringers are open to any interested persons. The Praise Team and Chancel Choir are open to all ninth grade and above.

Rehearsal Start Dates, Times & Places

Praise Team	9.4	7 PM	Sanctuary
Westminster Ringers	9.12	6:45 PM	Handbell Room
Chancel Choir	9.12	8 PM	Choir Room
Calvin Handbells	9.15	12:15PM	Handbell Room

The Calvin Handbell Choir is our only musical ensemble that requires an audition.

For further information on the Praise Team, Youth Praise Team, Youth orchestra, and All-Church Orchestra, please contact Jeremy Fisher, Associate Director of Music Ministries, at jfisher@sewickleypresby.org.

Questions regarding the Westminster Ringers, Chancel Choir, or Calvin Handbell Choir, please contact Craig Dobbins at cdobbins@sewickleypresby.org or 412-741-4550.

OPENINGS IN WESTMINSTER RINGERS

The Westminster Ringers will have a couple of open positions in the 2019 – 2020 ringing year. Prior ringing experience is NOT required nor is the ability to read music, although it is helpful. We will train you on how to play!

Rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 12 and continue through the annual Advent Lessons & Carols Service, which this year will be on Sunday afternoon, December 8. Midweek rehearsals resume in early January and continue into May. In addition to the Advent Lessons & Carols Service, the ringers usually participate in services three other times during the year.

If you are interested in ringing or would like to learn more about, please contact Craig Dobbins, our Director of Music Ministries, at either cdobbins@sewickleypresby.org or 412-741-4550, x205.



25 YEARS of SERVICE!

On September 1, 2019, Jenny Hay will celebrate 25 years of service in our FriendShip Preschool program.

Jenny Hay began her career with Sewickley Presbyterian Church on September 1, 1994 as the Children's Corner Assistant and Stay and Play Leader. In September of 1996, Jenny became the head teacher for the FriendShip II class and also taught the FriendShip I class for several years. In January 2004, Jenny took over as the Director of the Friendship Preschool and continues in that role today.

Jenny is an outstanding leader and church employee and is a wonderful person and valuable asset to our church and the Friendship Preschool program.

She is married to Tom and is the mother to Thomas (Janice), Elizabeth (Jim) and Sarah (Thompson) and grandmother to four grandchildren. Her undergraduate work was done at Mary Washington College, and graduate classes taken at the University of Virginia, School of Education. She earned her Masters in Special Education from the University of Pittsburgh. She has been involved with Child Health Association, Parents Anonymous, volunteer work with local schools, and has been a Sunday school teacher and church group leader in her home church over the years.

Thank you, Jenny, for 25 years of service to the children and families of Friendship Preschool! Congratulations!

Please make sure to congratulate Jenny when you see her!



KOINONIA: A WELCOMING OPPORTUNITY

Ladies -

Are you seeking an opportunity to grow in your faith by dedicating one morning a week to a time of devotion, prayer and study?

Would you like to experience koinonia (fellowship) with other sisters in Christ, as we share our prayer concerns and have lively discussions in our book study?

Koinonia is open to women of all ages and all stages of their faith journeys. We meet every Tuesday from 9:15 - 11 AM in the Campbell Room. This is the perfect time to join us as we start up for the year. Koinonia is a casual, friendly group; there is no pressure to participate in discussion if you'd rather just listen.

Please join us for our kick-off meeting and brunch:

**Tuesday, September 10
9:15 AM
Faith House Lounge**

At the brunch we will be welcoming our new Associate Pastor, Rebecca Reeder, who will be leading us throughout the year.

With Blessings to All,

The Koinonia Planning Team: Rita Hoepp, Joan Murdoch, Jane Shadle, Velma Saire and Susie Wardrop

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY

This group meets bi-monthly. The next meeting is on September 15 from 7 - 830 PM in the Faith House. New members are always welcome to join at any time. Please contact Rita Hoepp if you are interested: reetz50@comcast.net

MONDAY MEN'S HUDDLE

Welcome Back BBQ

September 9

Weber's Home: 620 Pine Rd Sewickley
6:30 PM

The Huddle resumes on September 17 and meets weekly in the Faith House. Please visit our website for a schedule of chapters and meeting dates. Contact Rich Weber with any questions: rdweber@pennenergyresources.com

BIBLE BASICS

Resumes on September 18 at 11 AM in Ansby Hall. All are invited to study the book of Matthew with our pastor, Rev. Long. Open discussion and questions are encouraged! Bring your Bible and enjoy the fellowship with other SPC members.

KNITTING 4 MISSION

This amazing group meets every Thursday from 1 - 3 PM in the Faith House, room 2A. Knitters of all levels are welcome (and we will teach those with no experience!). Knitting projects are worked on that benefit mission organizations both here at home and abroad. Please contact Nancy Merrill with any questions: nancy.merrill125@gmail.com

JOURNEYMEN

Resumes on September 20. This group is open to all men of the church and meets in the Campbell Room. Take part in a Bible study and discussion with others in our church family.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Resumes on October 5 in the dining room. This men's group meets once a month on the first Saturday for breakfast, fellowship, and a devotion. All are welcome! Contact: Matt Braksick braksick@icloud.com



WORSHIP THIS FALL

September 1

8 & 10 AM Worship Services

September 8

10 AM Worship Service

September 15

8, 9 & 11 AM Worship

Sermon Series: *Philippians*

10 AM Sunday School for all ages

Visit our website for a list of classes.





SEWICKLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Invites You
To the Ordination of

Rebecca Reeder



**Sunday, October 6
5:00 p.m.
Sanctuary**

The ordination service will be
followed by dinner in the
Dining Room.

RSVP by September 22
on our website or in the
Robinson Room.

COME SUPPORT REBECCA

In order for Rebecca to be ordained, she must first be approved by our Presbytery. You are welcome to attend the Presbytery meeting at Camp Crestfield where Rebecca will defend her Statement of Faith and be questioned by members of our Presbytery. This is a great opportunity not only to learn more about Rebecca, but to also see how our Presbytery conducts business.

**September 19, 2019
10 AM - 3 PM
Lunch is available for \$10**

Additional information will be available the second week of September. Please contact Sharon Barber if you are interested in attending the meeting or would like more details.

Sharon Barber: sbarber@sewickleypresby.org



Check out what's happening this fall!



September 15

10 AM & 11 AM

In a few weeks, we welcome everyone back to Sunday School! Kids ages Pre-K to Grade 5 are invited to the Children's Studios every Sunday at 10 AM. The children will learn more about Jesus' love and how to be a part of God's family. Also, during the 11 AM service, kids are invited to attend Children's Church. You don't want to miss it!



September 18

3:45 - 5:15 PM

Kids in grades 3, 4 & 5 are invited to this weekly, after-school program where they can have fun in a safe environment. Each week kids will partake in a mission project, play games, have a snack and enjoy time with leaders Mike Creamer and Rebecca Reeder. There's no need to register -- just show up each week at the Faith House!

October 18

6:30 PM

Have fun with the entire family! Enjoy an evening of games, treats, s'mores around the fire pit, and dinner! There will also be other surprises for extra fun!

There is no cost to you -- just bring your kids (& yourself) to our Family Fall Festival.





YOUTH FALL KICK-OFF

September 15 | 10 AM - 1 PM and beyond...

We welcome all students in grades 6 - 12 to join us at the Faith House for our kick-off event where we will be having our friend Mark Williams from the Pittsburgh Project join us as our guest speaker for the Sunday School hour.

Our kick-off theme this year is to "Come as you are", and with that in mind we encourage students to dress for being active as opposed to "dressing up" for church as we will be doing a lot of activities together that morning and afternoon. Plan on attending the 9 AM service that morning so that you can enjoy all that we have planned from 10 AM - 1 PM, but if your family would prefer to go to the 11 AM service we will still have plenty to do after 12 PM including games, contests, raffle prizes, basketball, Xbox, lunch, and more. For anyone that wants to stick around after 1 PM, we will be

streaming the Steelers game in the Faith House and would love for you to join us.

Parents, we will be having a parent meeting in the Faith House at 12:15 PM for about 15 minutes. We encourage you to join us for that so we can fill you in on everything happening this fall!

KICK-OFF SCHEDULE

10 AM..... Sunday School Kick-Off with
Guest Speaker Mark Williams from the Pittsburgh Project
11 AM..... Games, contests, raffles, & more
12:15 PM..... Lunch
12:15 PM..... Parents Meeting
1 PM..... Steelers Game

AN AMAZING SUMMER

by Mike Creamer, Director of Youth Ministries

What an amazing summer we had in youth ministry here at SPC. From Bible studies and pool parties to gaming nights and campfires, we have been having a lot of fun in the sun!

We were excited to have a huge crew go with us to Surf City this August with a few of our college and high school students who came along as leaders for our students. It's always fun to watch our students let loose at camp and lean into their faith with all of our neighboring churches from the greater Pittsburgh area.

We also are grateful to both the Braksicks and Stevensons for hosting our crazy kids this summer for pool parties and high school nights. We know it can be a little chaotic to have so many people together at once, but their willingness

to have us in their homes gave us a nice change of pace for fellowship this summer and a beautiful view of what living in our community looks like.

We capped off the summer with a fantastic leadership training with our friends at Ministry Architects. Our focus this year is on relational ministry. We are excited about kicking off the year with a special speaker and a huge lawn party and cook-out. Our adult leaders and students will be there to welcome in the new season.

As school and sports start back up, we hope you all are looking forward to things starting back up here with your SPC family. Keep an eye out for some of our major events coming up (check them out on the next page).



MAJOR EVENTS THIS FALL

High School Camping Trip
October 11-13
Raccoon Creek State Park

Middle School Laurelville
November 8-10
Laurelville, PA

High School Laurelville
November 15-17
Laurelville, PA





Dominican Republic Jan. 2019



PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION!

What? Mission Trip Opportunity with Meeting God in Missions

Where? The Dominican Republic

Why? To grow in your faith and to participate in Christ's mission in this world.

When? February 1-8, 2020 (Week 5)

How Much? \$1090 (Scholarships are available)

How? Register online at www.gomgm.org/events/

Rev. Kevin Long will be the primary preacher for the week.

For more information, go to www.gomgm.org.

Questions? Contact Rev. Long: klong@sewickleypresby.org



BACKPACKS IN JULY

For those who haven't heard, our Backpacks in July project was again a wonderful success! We provided the Center for Hope with 100 backpacks filled with school supplies, eight scientific calculators, and \$400 for Sue Otto, the Center for Hope director, to use during the school year for student needs.

This is a wonderful project our church family takes on each year, and we are thankful for the generosity and willingness of everyone to provide to those in need. Thank you!

NEW WELLNESS CENTER SET TO OPEN AT CFH

By Carol Weir, Mission Committee

Over three years in the planning, the Center for Hope's Wellness Center is now a reality!

A partnership effort between the Center for Hope, Robert Morris University (RMU) School of Nursing and Primary Health Network, the Wellness Center is designed to provide health and wellness counseling, transportation to medical appointments and overall navigation through the many complex issues surrounding the health care system.

Planning for the Wellness Center began in 2016 when the Director of RMU's School of Nursing identified the Center for Hope as an excellent place for RMU nursing students to receive practical experience in community health. Sue Otto, the Center for Hope's Executive Director, and members of the Center's Board of Directors knew from experience that many of the center's clients were in need of health and wellness advice as well as other assistance.

Over the next two years, RMU staff and student nurses made regular visits to the Center to become familiar with its operations/programs and to speak with clients, assessing their needs and building trust.

As planning around staffing, budgeting, health provider partners and much more continued, a proposal for funding was submitted to the Robert K. Mellon Foundation. In

early 2019, a three-year grant of \$356,000 was received from the Foundation.

According to Sue Otto, "Our clients are very excited about the new Wellness Center. Over 100 families attended an introductory Open House in June! They were able to tour the two comfortable rooms set aside for counseling. People expressed interest in getting help with weight management, dental problems, breathing issues, diabetes and a host of mental health issues including depression, anger and anxiety."

Center for Hope Board of Directors Chairperson Nancy Woods added "Thanks so much to each of the SPC members who share their love and support to help our Board and staff. By volunteering your time and talents you make such a difference in the lives of the people we serve. Please come visit the Wellness Center to see the results of your support. Consider yourself hugged!"

There is no doubt that The Wellness Center, set to open in mid-September, is an important addition to the already comprehensive list of resources the Center for Hope offers to individuals and families in Ambridge. Its success may well position it as a model for other organizations looking to provide accessible community health services.





MALAWI YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

By Barb Swan, Mission Committee

In July, Barbara Swan and Hudson Miller were members of a team of 5 adults and 9 youth from 5 churches in Pittsburgh Presbytery who traveled to Blantyre Synod, Malawi, with the Pittsburgh International Partnership. It was a packed two weeks. Our first Sunday, we all worshiped at Interande Church, in the ghetto of Blantyre. The area is densely populated, noisy, and visibly poor. The worshipers were not poor in spirit, however. There was a lot of lively singing, and a great sermon delivered by Rev Jessica McLure Archer, from Samson's Mills Church.

As this was a Youth Pilgrimage, we attended three youth conferences organized by Blantyre Synod. The interactions between youth from US and Malawi was especially rewarding. As we compared experiences and challenges, it became clear that there are more similarities than differences between the two countries. One challenge that came up in all three conferences was that youth have limited opportunities to participate in the leadership of the church. Keep in mind, youth in Malawi includes up to age 35 - they combine what we consider high school and young adults. After hearing these concerns at the conferences, we were gratified to see many young adults serving in leadership positions at Chonde, CCAP, our partner congregation.

We had time to see the beauty of Malawi. The highlight of our visit to Lake Malawi was a boat ride on the lake and the opportunity to swim in the lake - with the many species of cichlids that live there. We also saw several sea eagles. We hiked part way up Mount Mulanje, and the brave among us swam in very cold water at the base of a beautiful waterfall.

We saw many ways God is at work in Blantyre Synod. We toured Mulanje Mission Hospital, where we learned the children's ward is now too big, due to an indoor spraying pro-

gram that has dramatically decreased malaria in the area. We visited Zomba Theological College, where we delivered books for their library. We toured the Synod offices and saw the studio for Blantyre Synod Radio. We planted trees at Naming'adzi Farm, a training and demonstration farm run by Blantyre Synod. We also delivered 15 suitcases of medical supplies to Blantyre Synod Health and Development Commission.

Our time ended with the group splitting up to visit our partner churches. Barbara and Hudson went to Chonde, CCAP, about an hour outside of Blantyre. We were hosted by Do-reen and Andrew Machinjili. The Machinjilis hosted Barbara 4 years ago when she visited Chonde, and Andrew visited SPC last year. We were recipients of amazing hospitality. We met with various groups in the church and visited the prayer houses. We saw the new manse under construction, and visited some of the homes funded by SPC after floods four years ago. Saturday evening, we were presented with clothes made for us to wear to church Sunday morning. Again, there was lots of spirited singing. Hudson read scripture, and Barbara preached. Most preaching in Malawi is done by the church elders, as there is a severe shortage of pastors. Imagine trying to recruit elders for SPC if they had to preach on a regular basis!

This trip was a humbling and uplifting experience. As Barbara told the Chonde Partnership Committee, the partnership is an exchange between equals. Those of us in the US may have more financial resources, but the Christians in Malawi have amazing spiritual resources. We can learn a lot from them.

Mulungu akudalitseni (God Bless You), Barbara Swan





A fun treat for everyone who came to The Ladle's Summer Picnic -- Kona Ice!

LADLE SNAPSHOT

Join us on November 4 & December 23!

- SPC has partnered with the Ladle since its founding in 2005
- SPC serves dinner at least four Mondays every year
- 21 additional partner churches and organizations serve at the Ladle
- Almost 61,000 meals are served – typically 4,000 per year
- Serves 80 – 100 people every Monday evening
- Offers a Food Pantry, bus and grocery gift cards, and emergency housing funds
- SPC supports the Ladle through volunteerism, Mission funds, the Hunger Offering and Neighbors in Need

SPC will serve at The Ladle on Monday, November 4 and at a special Christmas season serving on Monday, December 23.

Please contact Carol Weir, mcmweir@gmail.com, if you wish to be added to the email list for the Ladle volunteer opportunities.

DAY ON THE LAWN

IT'S ALMOST HERE!
There's STILL time to be a part!

PREPARATION WEEK & SALE DAY

September 1 - 6 & September 7

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!

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

Sign-ups are available on 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	Linens
Bakery/Deli	Seasonal
Books	Security
Cafe	Set-Up Crew
Clean-Up Crew	Sporting Goods
Electronics	Square Cashiers
First Aid	Toys
Furniture	Transporter Crew
Jewelry	White Elephant
Lawn/Garden/Pets	Cashiers





Sewickley Presbyterian Church

LIVE · GROW · SERVE

414 Grant Street | Sewickley, PA | 15143

www.sewickleypresby.org

Dated Material
PLEASE EXPEDITE

This newsletter is published by
Sewickley Presbyterian Church



*Save
the
Date!*

November 2019

November 3

Food Basket Collection Begins

November 8 & 9

Congregational Care Ministry Training Seminar

November 10

Jazz concert

November 24

Word Sung