



# INTERPRETATION

Sewickley Presbyterian Church Newsletter  
November/December 2019

“Let the word of Christ **dwell** in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with **thankfulness** in your hearts to God.”

Colossians 3:16

## OFFICE

### Hours

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 5 PM

### Phone

412.741.4550

### Fax

412.741.1210

### Address

414 Grant Street  
Sewickley, PA 15143

### Web Address

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

## 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



## SPC STAFF

### REV. KEVIN J. LONG

Pastor  
home: 412.741.2075  
[klong@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:klong@sewickleypresby.org)

### REV. REBECCA REEDER

Associate Pastor  
[rreeder@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:rreeder@sewickleypresby.org)

### REV. DEREK DAVENPORT

Parish Associate Pastor of Discipleship  
[ddavenport@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:ddavenport@sewickleypresby.org)

### SHARON BARBER

Assistant to the Pastor  
[sbarber@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:sbarber@sewickleypresby.org)

### DAVE BREIT

Media Engineer  
[dbreit@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:dbreit@sewickleypresby.org)

### MIKE CREAMER

Director of Youth Ministries  
[mcreamer@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:mcreamer@sewickleypresby.org)

### R. CRAIG DOBBINS, CCM

Director of Music Ministries  
[cdobbins@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:cdobbins@sewickleypresby.org)

### JEREMY FISHER

Associate Director of Music Ministries  
[jfisher@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:jfisher@sewickleypresby.org)

### JENNY HAY

Director of FriendShip Preschool  
[jhay@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:jhay@sewickleypresby.org)

### SARA HOAGLAND, Interim

Director of Children's Ministries  
[shoagland@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:shoagland@sewickleypresby.org)

### JENNIFER JOHNSON

Director of Communications  
[jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org)

### LAURA MIKUSH, CCA

Business Administrator  
[lmikush@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:lmikush@sewickleypresby.org)

### STEPHANIE SMITH

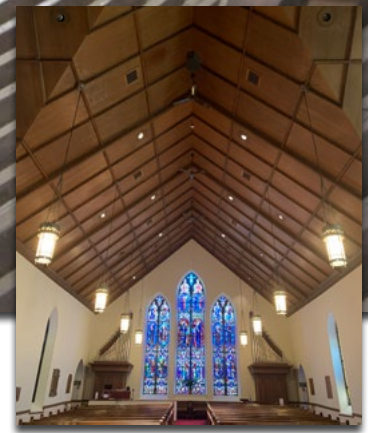
Administrative Assistant  
[ssmith@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:ssmith@sewickleypresby.org)

### ELIZABETH SZUBA

Youth Program Coordinator  
[eszuba@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:eszuba@sewickleypresby.org)

### JOEY TOMALES

Custodial Staff



## UPSIDE-DOWN CEILING

By Rev. Derek Davenport

Every time I stand in the pulpit, I find myself looking at something fascinating. It's something that you can see from virtually any seat in the sanctuary, but I think the best view is probably from the pulpit. It's one of those great details that can be so easy to miss -- the ceiling.

The ceiling of our sanctuary is remarkable. The woodwork is striking - it's clean, precise, and meticulous. More importantly, it's reminiscent of something else.

If you look at a picture (like the one on the right), you may not notice the similarity right away. That's because it's upside down. The ceiling of our sanctuary looks like the hull of a ship. Our church isn't the only one with this imagery. In fact, churches have resembled boats for as long as Christians have been building them.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Christians wrote about their worship practices, and explained:

*"When thou callest an assembly of the Church as one that is the commander of a great ship, appoint the assemblies to be made with all possible skill, charging the deacons as mariners to prepare places for the brethren as for passengers with all due care and decency. And first, let the building be long, with its head to the east, with its vestries on both sides at the east end, and so it will be like a ship."* (Apostolic Constitutions Book II, Section VII, LVII 4th Century)

For 1600 years, we've been designing our worship spaces to look like ships. When you find yourself sitting in the main part of our sanctuary, underneath that ship-like ceiling, the proper term for where you're sitting is the *nave*. The term may sound like the word "navy" or "naval." That's because all three words come from the Latin word *navis*, which means ship. When you come to worship, you sit in the nave - in the ship.

So why do churches look like ships? Why do we use ship-like terminology? One important reason is the association with Noah's ark. In difficult times, it was comforting for early Christians to escape the storms of life, finding refuge in the safety of the church. But one of the great things about worship is that God not only gathers us in, but God also sends us back out. When we find refuge from the storms of life in church, we are also charged to go back out into those storms, whatever they may be, and proclaim the good news of the Gospel.

Next time you enter the sanctuary, I encourage you to look at the ceiling. Try to see the upside-down ship hidden all around you. Allow it to be a reminder that when life is stormy, we can find refuge in worship, prayer, and fellowship.



by Jenny Hay, FriendShip Preschool Director

FriendShip lives under the Fruit of the Spirit, and *Faithfulness* was our special October fruit. FriendShip taught the children that being faithful is part of God's character. He will always be with you, because He loves you. "The One who has chosen you is faithful. He will do all these things" (1 Thes. 5:24). The FriendShip II class loved hearing the story of David and Goliath. David had faith he could beat the big, strong giant, Goliath, and the children discussed how God was very faithful to David.

October was full of many exciting fall activities! The FriendShip I, II & PreK children enjoyed walking to the Sewickley Methodist Church to choose a little pumpkin to take home and enjoyed a fall story amongst all the many pumpkins on the front church lawn.

Fire safety is also a very important topic the children learn about. FriendShip is required to have two fire drills every year. Our fire department recently visited FriendShip, complete with showing off their uniforms, equipment and letting the children step onto the big fire truck! Two of our volunteer firemen attended FriendShip as children.

The annual Halloween parade through the church offices took place on October 30 & 31. The children also entertained their parents with a parade around the Robinson Room and sung a few seasonal songs. It is always so fun to wear a costume to school!

## DOLLAR & SENSE

by Laura Mikush, Business Administrator

Did you know during the month of September that 733 square feet of sidewalk was replaced around the church building? This was part of the Capital Projects budget for 2019.

## FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

**Saturday, November 2**

Join us from 9 AM - 12 PM as we clean-up our church property! Bring your rakes, shovels, gloves, blowers, and anything else you think we could use for trimming, raking, blowing, clipping, etc.

All help is appreciated!

## TABLES FOR SALE

by Laura Mikush, Business Administrator

Would you like to own a piece of SPC history? We have two tables that we no longer can use and would like to sell them to anyone who would like to own them.

Laura Mikush will be accepting bids for the tables. If you would like to bid, please give Laura a sealed envelope with your bid inside. The deadline is November 15. Laura will notify the winning bidders on November 16.

The first table is located in the Robinson Room if you would like to see it in person.

The second table is located in the old Session room which is now a part of the Childcare rooms on the first floor.



Middle Picture:  
detail of table one





## A TIME TO GROW

Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” The Stewardship Committee has been working and praying throughout the year to come up with a theme for this year’s Stewardship Campaign, and we believe that the Holy Spirit has led us to this: *A Time to Grow*.

In our tumultuous world, we might feel the need to abandon ship, to close ourselves off, to assume a defensive posture. We are constantly told that the mainline church is in decline and that false Christianity, agnosticism and secularism are on the rise. There is much that tempts us to turn inward.

In the face of these existential fears and the forces that would like to tear us apart, our only choice is to intentionally and faithfully grow together. After all, anything that is not growing is dying. Therefore, in the face of fear, let us choose to grow in faith and hope. In the face of division and derision, let us choose to grow in unity and love. In the face of the collapse of community in our society, let us choose to grow in our relationships with one another and invest in our life together as a family of faith that we might know and understand one another better and love one another as Christ has loved us. It is time for us to sit together at the feet of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and grow.

It is time for us to grow in our relationship with Jesus and our knowledge of God’s Word. It is time for us to grow in our life of service. It is time for us to grow in membership as a church. It is also time for us to grow in our generosity as we join our collective gifts in the spirit of love and gratitude. This church has been a rock in our community for many years, and we must continue in the joyful giving of our tithes and offerings so that the kingdom of God might continue to grow here in Sewickley and beyond. We must also grow in our understanding that, ultimately, what Jesus is asking us to give is our whole selves in service to his kingdom.

Our church is in a wonderful position to grow. But we need everyone’s support to become the church God is calling us to be. So we are asking that each one of us spend time in prayer and make a generous pledge to support the mission of Jesus Christ through our church for the coming year. We need your help! After all, it is time for us to grow!

SPC Stewardship Committee

For everything there is a season,  
and a **time for every matter**  
under heaven.

Ecc.  
3:1

# WELCOMING A NEW U.S.A. CITIZEN

For most of us, being a United States citizen comes naturally because we were born into it. This isn't true for our custodian Heintjoy (Joey) Daymiel Tomales. Joey is from the Philippines. He came to the US (together with his sister Joan) after waiting for 11 years to get his Immigrant Visa (sponsored by his mother). He received his Permanent Visa card after a month of being here. He has been in the US for 5 1/2 years and with SPC for almost 5 years. In July 2014, Joey started the process of becoming a citizen of the US. Along with filling out tons of forms and having to go to various appointments, he just recently passed his final citizenship 'test' which was an interview where he was asked personal questions about himself and questions about US civics and the history of our country. He passed with flying colors!



The final step will take place on November 20. Joey will attend a Naturalization Oath Ceremony where he will swear his allegiance to the United States of America. This is the final step to being a citizen.

When you talk with Joey you can hear the excitement in his voice about becoming a part of our country. Make sure to congratulate him when you see him!

## SACRED JAZZ at SPC

by Craig Dobbins, Director of Music Ministries

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

During worship hear Pittsburgh-born and currently NYC-based jazz pianist Deanna Witkowski lead the musical portions of our services. She'll be solo in the chapel for the 8 AM service, but will be joined at the 9 AM and 11 AM services and the 2 PM concert by drummer Thomas Wendt and Tony DePaolis, bass player. Invite your neighbors and friends to join you. Your feet will be tappin' and you might find yourselves clappin' along!

## WORD SUNG

by Craig Dobbins, Director of Music Ministries

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24**

On Sunday, November 24 during the 11 AM service, members of the Chancel Choir will join with organist C. William Goff and members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra to perform Part I (better known as the Christmas portion) of Händel's well-known oratorio Messiah. It's a worship service you won't want to miss and to which you'll want to invite others to accompany you!

## ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 | 4 PM**

Bring your friends and neighbors with you to this annual Advent service. In addition to hearing scriptures associated with Jesus' advent, appropriate carols will be sung by the congregation and Chancel Choir, as well as performed by handbells and instrumentalists. Plan to mark the beginning of your journey to the manger by being in attendance.



# Who Is Jesus?



November 3, 10 & 17  
10 AM | Dining Room

What does history tell us about the life of the man we gather to worship? What do we learn about Jesus from the Bible? What do we learn from other sources?

Join us for a 3-week series where we will consider questions like these. Gather with Professor Tucker Freda from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as he shows us more about someone we know so well.





**25 Volunteers**  
**50 Sunday Schoolers**  
**25 Club 345ers**  
**1 Incredibly Blessed Children's Ministry!**

by Sara Hoagland  
Interim Director of Children's Ministries

A gracious thank you to all of our volunteers who have helped to make this fall an amazing start to our Children's Programs! It is a privilege to serve alongside you.

Sunday School is off to a fun start with our phenomenal teaching team and with Jeremy Fisher leading the children in music. The kids even enjoyed a visit from bagpiper Richard Horne last week! Our Family Fall Festival was a great evening with over 150 people enjoying chili and s'mores by the fire pit!

We are excited for our new Children's Worship experience held in the Chapel during the 11 AM service. Children worship and participate in a child-g geared service that includes music, scripture, a sermon, offering, and prayer. Kids are even learning the Apostles Creed and Lord's Prayer, so be sure to ask them to say it with you! I encourage parents to come visit for a service and see our young worshipers experience God's love.

Club 345 is busy living out God's mission this year. We shared the Fruits of the Spirit on Kindness Rocks placed around the property, did a collection drive for No Crayon Left Behind, and baked Fall cupcakes for The Center For Hope. We are looking forward to our Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes, helping with the Deacon Food Baskets, and hosting folks from Masonic Village for an evening of hot chocolate and music in December.



**Friday, December 13 | 6 - 9 PM**

Enjoy a kid-free night! Relax during this busy time of year, or cross those last things off your list while your kids have pizza, play games, do crafts, and watch a movie! There will be a suggested donation to support the Youth's fundraiser for The Center For Hope.



## **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**Sunday December 15 | 11 AM Worship Service**  
It's back! And Better than Ever!



by Mike Creamer, Director of Youth Ministries

## A BIG THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who bought chili from the youth this past Sunday. We sold 60 quarts of homemade chili and also chocolate chip cookies to help support the Center for Hope Christmas Stocking project. Every year our youth fill 100 stockings to be given to the youth at the Center and your support helps to purchase items to fill the stockings. Our goal is to raise \$1,000. This fundraiser brought in \$800! We will have a bake sale at the end of November to help reach our goal.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



### LAURELVILLE RETREATS

One of our favorite traditions with our teens is going with the PKF to Laurelville. It's the perfect change in pace after a few months of school. There's plenty to keep you busy over the weekend, from dance parties and pieing your leaders to the mud pit and football. It's a great time to just hang out, catch up, and take a breather. We hope you will join us!

#### Middle School

November 8-10 | Cost: \$160

#### High School

November 15-17 | Cost: \$160

### NOVEMBER

**3.....Gaming Night | 4 PM | Faith House**  
**24....Bake Sale | Robinson Room**

### DECEMBER

**1.....No Sunday School/Youth Group**  
**2.....Center for Hope stocking shopping**  
**7.....Open Hands Ministry Service Day**  
**14....CFH Stocking Party**  
**15....All Youth Christmas Party**  
**22....No Sunday School/Youth Group**  
**29....No Sunday School/Youth Group**



## FALL KICK-OFF

We were thrilled to have our friend Mark Williams join us from the Pittsburgh Project to kick things off for the youth this year. From his storytelling and scatting to breaking out into song spontaneously, we were captivated by his passion for sharing the Gospel. It was so cool to have someone show us what connecting our faith to our lives outside of Sunday looks like. Everyone has been talking about getting him back as soon as possible, so we are working on it! We cooked out and played some games as we waited for the Steelers' game and had plenty of laughter in between. The youth have been having a blast and the kickoff was definitely the springboard to get things rolling.

## HS CAMPING TRIP

Last year we took an overnight camping trip with a few kids to see if they might like camping. This year we took nine high-schoolers for two nights to Raccoon Creek State Park and had an amazing time goofing off and getting outside. There's nothing like sleeping on the ground for a night or two, disconnecting from phones and social media (mostly), and going for a nice hike! A huge thank you to Matt Doebler and Erika Ferderbar for being our fearless leaders on this trip. We had a day of 75 degree weather and then the next morning was 33 degrees, so we got the full spectrum of camping! We are looking forward to the next trip, and who knows -- maybe we'll even do some backpacking!



## CONFIRMATION

This year we have 10 students going through confirmation with six mentors. We've been diving into the Bible the last few weeks, talking about what it is, how it works, and why we read it. One of the crucial parts of the confirmation process is learning what it means to be the Church, which means learning to live in community. With that in mind, we have had some confirmation fellowship nights where we get together with students and mentors and just eat, laugh, and talk together. We had a pumpkin carving contest last week and the results were...interesting. But it's one part of a bigger picture of what doing life together looks like. We're looking forward to a great year.



## CALLING ALL FOODIES! DEACON'S CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET PROGRAM

### **Question:**

How often do you think about food? Be honest.

Three times each day?

Ten times each day?

Thirty times each day?

Almost constantly?

Let's face it. Food is essential to sustain life. In fact, it forms the very foundation for our development as human beings.

Don't underestimate the power of food in our lives. Our personal choice of food is a major determinant of our health and well-being. It serves as a social common denominator, keeping us connected with family and friends. It is a source of comfort in our lives. It's no wonder that food is uppermost in our thinking.

Now, consider how your life would be different if it became a struggle to feed your family. Food insecurity is defined as the inability, at times, to secure an adequate supply of food for all members of one's household. The USDA estimates that 1 out of 6 American households experience food insecurity on a daily basis.

This under-served need is the driving force behind the Deacon's Christmas Food Basket Project. For 21 years, SPC has partnered with local social service organizations and Safran's Market to deliver a week's supply of groceries to 100 needy families in the Sewickley – Ambridge area.

Here's how the project works. Local social service organizations provide SPC with the names, addresses and contact information of needy households. Safran's Market provides perishable food items at cost. And SPC members donate cash, non-perishable food and deliver food baskets to needy households in our area.



*...continued on next page*



## CALLING ALL FOODIES! DEACON'S CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET PROGRAM continued...

This project is a large undertaking that is dependent on four inter-related levels of support from SPC members and friends, as follows:

1. **LOAD UP** your grocery cart with some or all of the non-perishable food items on the shopping list below. During the month of November, place the items in the large food baskets conveniently located at each entrance to SPC. Then watch the food items stack up in the Campbell Room.
2. **PAY UP** by contributing generously to the Deacon's Food Basket Project. Drop a check in the offering plate with Deacon's Christmas Food Basket in the memo line. This will help to defray SPC's cost of purchasing supplies and perishable food items from Safran's Market.
3. **SIGN UP** to deliver food baskets to needy households. The Deacons need a total of 50 volunteers to deliver 100 baskets of food. Your participation is vital to the outcome of the Christmas Food Basket project. You may sign up in the Robinson Room or on SPC's website.
4. **SHOW UP** in the Robinson Room on Saturday, December 14 between 9 AM and 11:30 AM to pick up the food baskets for your designated recipient and receive delivery instructions. Deliveries will be made to recipients at addresses in locations between Glenfield and Ambridge. When you arrive at your destination, take the time to warmly greet your recipients. Soak in the satisfaction of having participated in the project. You will surely be blessed by the experience.

*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.  
Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven  
and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."*

Malachi 3:10

## DEACON'S CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET SHOPPING LIST

- boxed cereal such as corn flakes, Cheerios, etc.
- oatmeal
- canned or pre-packaged tuna (in water) and chicken
- canned kidney beans, black beans & chickpeas (prefer 16 oz. each)
- low sodium canned soup (prefer 14 oz.)
- peanut butter (prefer 28 oz.)
- jam or jelly (prefer 18 oz.)
- mustard, mayo and ketchup (prefer 14 oz. each)
- spaghetti and pasta sauce (prefer 28 oz.)
- tea bags
- coffee
- cocoa
- dried fruit
- nuts
- raisins

by Eric Fulmer, SPC member & Mission Committee





## SUPPORTING M.B.F.

by Barb Swan, SPC member & Mission Committee

Medical Benevolence Foundation is one of the agencies supported by SPC mission dollars. In the words of Andrew Mayo, MBF CEO: "Our approach in medical missions is premised on strengthening the church in the developing countries so they can help their neighbors. We mobilize churches in the US to equip the local churches with medical networks, skills, and resources for holistic ministry; both through the Gospel of Jesus and compassionate actions of our partners."

One of the ways MBF works to strengthen local capacity in developing countries is through nursing education. MBF sponsors nursing scholarships in seven nursing schools in Africa and Haiti. It has helped develop new BSN programs in Kenya and Malawi, as well as a new Masters Nursing program in Haiti. MBF is also working to set up a surgery residency program in Malawi. The goal is to train surgeons who can work at partner mission hospitals, providing needed services and bringing income to help the hospitals become self-sustaining. Through its LifeSavers Clinic Network in Malawi, it is working with 12 rural, church-owned medical clinics to improve the quality of medical care and their financial sustainability.

In 2018, we donated \$4,500 to Medical Benevolence Foundation. SPC has given mission dollars to MBF for at least 10 years. SPC member Barbara Swan serves on the board.



## C.F.H. AUCTION

Every year in December, the Center for Hope holds its only major fundraiser: the CFH Christmas Auction. This event includes lunch along with a Chinese auction, a silent auction and a live auction, and typically attracts over 100 people.



As our most broad based local mission partner, the Center serves the low income Ambridge community in a myriad of ways, one being its food pantry. All auction proceeds go to support the food pantry. This pantry serves 500-700 individuals each month, including an average of 170 children. Last year's auction proceeds enabled the Center to distribute an adequate supply of Ensure to its cancer patients on a monthly basis.

Please consider getting together with a friend or a group of friends to create a basket for this event. The baskets are auctioned off at the event. Have fun coming up with a theme! Past baskets have included breakfast goodies, a wine sampler, Apple products (think iPad!), family movie night items and more! The Center would like to receive the baskets by Thanksgiving. You can drop your creations in the church office or take them directly to the Center for Hope by November 27.

## BACKPACKS IN JULY





## SIGN-UP TODAY!

Be a part of our new church directory! Registration for photo sessions is now open. Sign-up in the Robinson Room on Sunday mornings or you may visit our website to register. Sessions are filling up fast, so schedule yours today!

### PHOTO SESSION DATES

Wednesday, November 13 | 2 – 9 PM  
 Thursday, November 14 | 2 – 9 PM  
 Tuesday, December 3 | 2 – 9 PM  
 Wednesday, December 4 | 2 – 9 PM  
 Thursday, December 5 | 2 – 9 PM  
 Friday, December 6 | 2 – 9 PM  
 Saturday, December 7 | 10 AM – 5 PM  
 Sunday, December 8 | 9 AM – 4 PM



## DO YOU USE OUR CHURCH-LIFE APP?

Our Church-Life App makes it easy to find church member's contact information, access the church calendar, and your financial records. To get log-in credentials, use the link on the bottom of our website marked "Church Member Log-In" and then click "*Need a login? Click here.*" Your log-in info will be emailed to you.

Use your smart phone and download the Church-Life App. Use the log-in info you received via email to gain access to the app.

If you have any questions or need some help, please contact Laura Mikush in the church office ([lmikush@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:lmikush@sewickleypresby.org)/412.741.4550).



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



## Mark your Calendars

**Christmas Pageant**

December 15 | 11 AM

**Youth Christmas Party**

December 15 | 4 PM

**Christmas Eve Worship**

December 24 | 5, 8 & 10 PM

**End of the Year Worship Service**

December 29 | 10 AM only