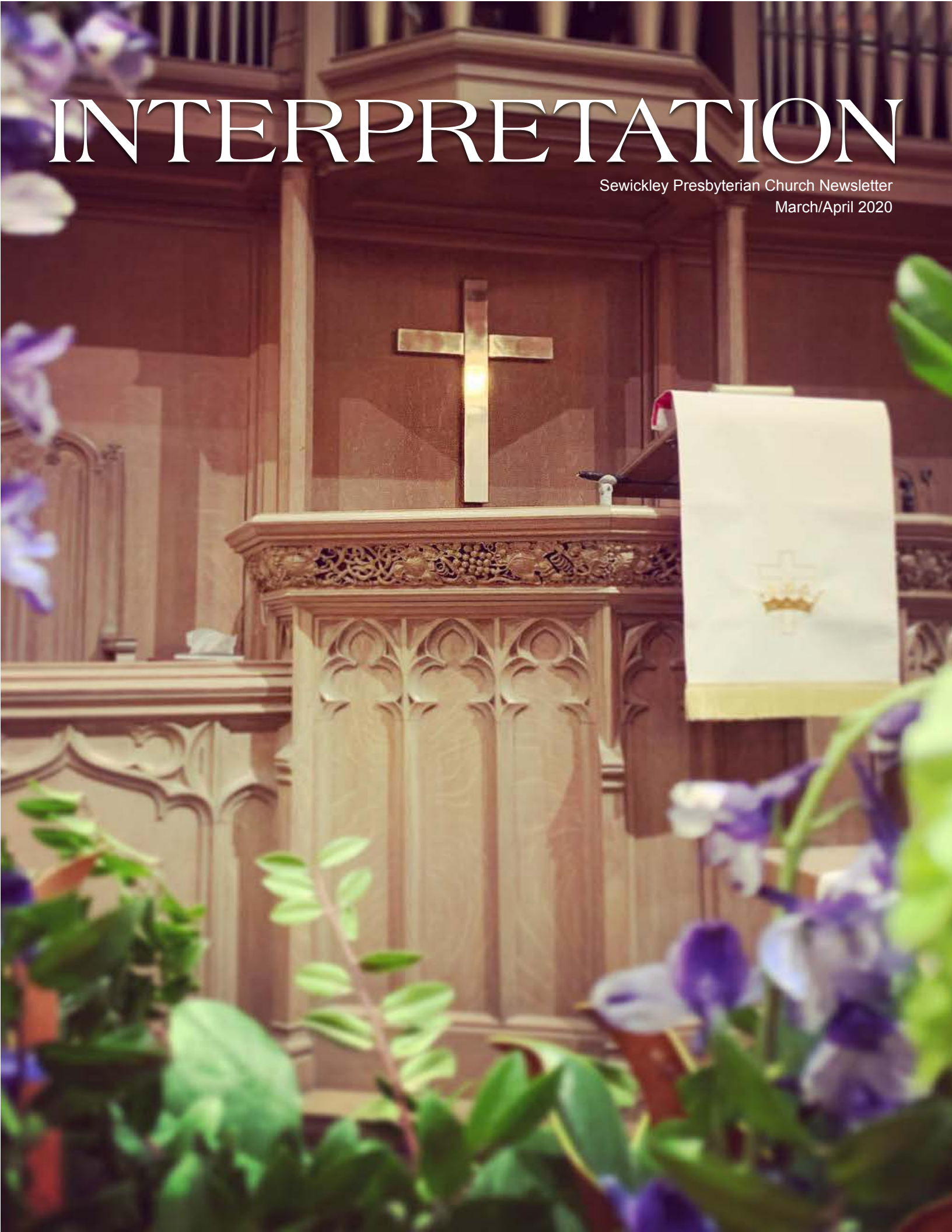


# INTERPRETATION

Sewickley Presbyterian Church Newsletter  
March/April 2020



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## NEWSLETTER

The SPC newsletter, **Interpretation**, is published six times a year. Please make submissions to, or if you have any questions contact, Jennifer Johnson at [jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org).

## VISITATION

If you or a member of your family are in the hospital and would like a visit, please call the church office to let us know.

## SOCIAL MEDIA



Find us on  
**Facebook**



**Instagram**

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Custodial Staff



# THE LIE: “I Should Be Further Along By Now”

By Rev. Rebecca Reeder

While on vacation recently, I finished reading the book *Girl, Wash Your Face* by Rachel Hollis. In it, Hollis writes about the lies she used to believe that prevented her from living into the person she was meant to be. One of those lies was, “I should be further along by now.” She says this comes up especially around birthdays when we recognize the passing of time.

Think about it -- we’ve all made plans throughout our lives. Plans about what trajectory our careers would take, what our relationships and family would look like, or how much money we would make. Maybe we dreamt about places we would see and important people we might meet. But then the days turned into months, which turned into years, and the passing of yet another birthday reminds us not that we’re looking or feeling older necessarily, but that we haven’t achieved all that we expected to by now.

Thankfully Scripture gives us countless examples of plans interrupted and detours along the road. Abraham was told to go to the land of Canaan but got sidetracked in Haran and settled there until God called him again. The Israelites were detoured in Egypt for 400 years before God rose up Moses to lead His people to freedom. Eventually the Israelites were exiled in Babylon, far from where they were supposed to be.

At some point or another, all of our lives take unexpected turns and detours; we get sidetracked and end up in hard places where we did not plan to be. Sometimes in those moments we’ll try anything to get our lives back on track, back to where they “should” be. What we forget in those moments is that God takes detours very seriously. In a sermon about the Israelites exiled in Babylon, Craig Barnes reminded listeners, “you go nowhere by accident ...[and] that means nothing is wasted. There is no wasted time, there is no wasted experience, there is no wasted hurt.”

In Hollis’s book she talks about the arduous journey her family was flung into when they decided to adopt their daughter, Noah. The adoption took longer and contained more ups and downs and hurts than Rachel and her husband could have imagined. And yet she confidently writes, “God has perfect timing...Nothing is wasted. Every single



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moment is preparing you for the next. But whether or not you choose to see this time as something wonderful – the time when God is stretching you and growing you or maybe forging you in fires hotter than you think you can withstand – all of it is growing you for the person you’re becoming, for a future you can’t even imagine.”

Craig Barnes would call this time of stretching and forging and growing as a time of building gravitas – a weightiness to one’s soul. The question is not whether you’re on the right road today or you’ve come far enough, but “whether you’re being faithful to your mission in life right where you are, even if you think you’re lost and on a long detour.” Barnes goes on to say, “From the perspective of Heaven nothing is more heroic than ordinary faithfulness lived day in and day out in the life you have... still choosing to be faithful in the place where you are.”

As we enter the season of Lent, we enter into the forty-day fast that Jesus undertook in the wilderness. In God’s timing, a future full of hope will unfold before us, but it is preceded by days of ordinary faithfulness in which we move slowly enough to see the ways that grace and beauty are embedded in every day. Then we may celebrate the passing of time with joy that doesn’t come from getting what we want, but from the surprising realization that the road we thought was a detour is in fact the road to salvation.

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

By Nancy Bunce, SPC Member

*We aspire to be a church where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is faithfully proclaimed and faithfully lived in grateful response to God's love;  
LIVING as a church family,  
GROWING as disciples of Jesus,  
& SERVING together in God's mission in this world.*

Every Sunday when Kevin welcomes us to worship, he reminds us of our church's vision. After attending the two days of congregational care ministry training last November, it occurred to me that establishing a Congregational Care Ministry Team will help us achieve the second part of the vision: LIVING as a church family, GROWING as disciples of Jesus, & SERVING together in God's mission in this world.

Our church has been blessed with clergy who are exceptional by all standards. Each one gives thought-provoking sermons, penetrating Bible studies, and loving, pastoral care. However, with a congregation our size, they cannot possibly meet the needs of each of us. To assist the clergy with pastoral care, the congregational care ministers (CCMs) will be trained to make visits to hospitals, nursing homes, and shut-ins; be active listeners and support those struggling with difficult issues such as anxiety, depression, chronic illness, parenting, divorce, grief and many more. Working closely with clergy, CCMs will follow up with phone calls, personal notes and email. Confidentiality is an important attribute of providing congregational care. Everyone who receives care from a congregational care minister can be assured that everything that is shared will remain confidential. The goal as lay ministers is to be a presence of calm assurance. This ministry of care and compassion will help bring us closer together to be truly LIVING as a church family.

"In all things pray first" was the most important lesson in our training. We cannot provide care through our own strength, but only by turning to our Lord in prayer. Thinking about it, it is an essential life lesson for all of us, regardless of decisions we need to make or work we need to do! Each CCM will pray for guidance to know what to say and what to do and will pray with the person they are helping. Through praying together CCMs "try to take people out of the chaos of the world and help them rise above whatever is hurting or worrying them." Praying together helps all of us to be GROWING as disciples of Jesus.

Lastly, the Congregational Care Ministry will add to our church's many ministries of SERVING together in God's mission in this world. As we grow in actively caring for one another we will be better equipped to care for and serve the wider community.

# DOLLAR & SENSE

By Laura Mikush, Business Administrator

Did you know we purchased a new first aid kit for the main building? The kit is located in the Flower Room along with an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). A first aid kit is also available in the kitchen of the church and the Faith House.



By Jenny Hay, Director of FriendShip Preschool

PEACE was the February Fruit of the Spirit in the FriendShip Preschool. The students were busy this past month preparing for Valentine's Day and creating special hearts and cards for those we love. The lesson we taught the children was that in order to maintain love and friendship with people, we have to treat others the way we want to be treated or things won't be happy and peaceful. This is known as the Golden Rule. Jesus taught that the two greatest things to do are to love God with all your heart, your mind and your soul and to love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37-39).

Fall registration is currently taking place for FriendShip. We offer classes for children 24 months - 5 years of age. For more information please contact Jenny Hay, FriendShip Director: [jhay@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:jhay@sewickleypresby.org). Word of mouth remains the most important way families find their way to the FriendShip Preschool. Please help to spread the word about our fun preschool. We welcome anyone who wants to learn more about FriendShip.





# CAMPBELL WEEKEND

March 7-8, 2020

3.7 | Church Officer Retreat  
3.8 | No 8 AM service, 9 & 11 AM Worship  
Adult Sunday School led by Anne

## ABOUT CAMPBELL WEEKEND

Each Spring we host a guest preacher for our Williams Oliver Campbell weekend. Rev. Campbell was a pastor of SPC from 1885-1909. In 1937, the Campbell family set-up a fund to be used by our church to host a speaker each year "that may inspire or instruct the congregation and the people of the community."

## ABOUT ANNE ZAKI

Anne Zaki comes to us from Cairo, Egypt where she is a professor of preaching at the Evangelical Theological Seminary. Anne has long been working to integrate her faith and her passion for social justice. She also has dedicated much of her time teaching seminary students about preaching, worship, spiritual formation, psychology, and communication.

Born in Cairo, Egypt, Anne was selected by the government at age 16 to attend an international school in Canada dedicated to peace and international understanding. Ever since, she has been cultivating a global perspective on life and faith, having served churches and church-related institutions in the U.S. and Canada for 13 years. In September 2011, nine months after the Arab Spring, Anne returned to

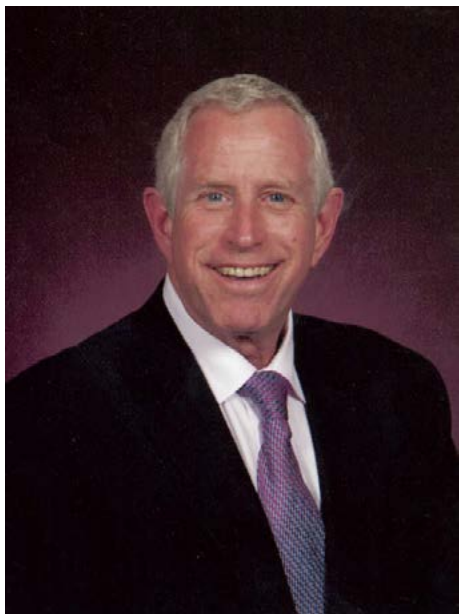


*Guest Speaker Anne Zaki*

Egypt with her family, where she has spent the last nine years teaching. She has also spoken at gatherings like Missio Nexus, the Global Consultation on Music and Missions (GCoMM), and the Lausanne Movement's Younger Leaders Gathering (YLG).

Anne has a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from Calvin College, a master's in social psychology from the American University in Cairo, and an MDiv from Calvin Theological Seminary. She is currently pursuing a PhD in preaching from Fuller Theological Seminary.

## WELCOMING REV. DR. THOMAS K. TEWELL



While our pastor Rev. Long is away during his Clergy Renewal time this spring and summer, we get the special treat of having Tom Tewell here to guide us! Rev. Tewell will be with us from mid-April through most of June.

Tom comes to us with a vast amount of experience not only as a pastor, but also with a passion for excellence in leadership and a love for those he serves. He will be leading our staff, church leaders, and you -- our church family.

During his stay, Tom will be living in Sewickley with his wife, Suzanne. They have been married for almost 50 years. They have two married sons and seven grandchildren. The Tewells currently reside in (warm) Claremont, CA, a suburb of Los Angeles. But they aren't foreign to the cold weather of the Northeast having lived in NYC while pastoring Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church for a number of years.

As we welcome the Tewells next month, please be praying for Kevin as he embarks on some much needed time to renew his spirit and take some extended time off to study and spend time with his family.

# SEEING Sideways

## LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & STUDY Wednesdays Beginning March 4 to April 1 6 - 7:45 PM

As Christians it's important to view the world, circumstances and relationships in a way that might not always line up with those around us. How can we still find success by stepping outside of our comfort zones? Is it possible? ***The answer: It is!***

Join us for five Wednesdays in Lent, as we look at normal things in an abnormal way with the help of Rev. Derek Davenport and Protestant artist John Martin. Don't miss this great opportunity to grow in your faith! Kids are invited too (see additional info on the following SPC Kids page).

To supply soup or other provisions, or if you are able to help set-up and clean-up, please visit our website to sign-up.

## GRAHAM STANDISH LENT BOOK STUDY BEGINS THURSDAY MARCH 5 | Faith House Lounge | 6:30 - 8 PM

This Lent we welcome back Rev. Dr. Graham Standish for a small group study. Graham will lead us through a discussion of his book *Discovering the Narrow Path*. Explore Christian spirituality, healing, the Trinity, serving Christ and much more. Please register by March 2 if you'd like to be a part of this group. Space is limited. Books are available in the church office or on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER MARCH 6 | Triumph Baptist Church

The annual World Day of Prayer service will be held at Triumph Baptist Church, 1293 Mt. Nebo Rd., Pittsburgh, at 12 PM. For more information visit:

[www.worlddayofprayer.net](http://www.worlddayofprayer.net)

## AFRO BLUE RETURNS APRIL 19, Morning Worship & Concert

Afro Blue, Howard University's internationally known vocal jazz ensemble, is returning to our church! In addition to participating in all three morning worship services that day, they will also perform a concert in the Sanctuary at 2 PM that will include secular music and jazz standards, as well as some sacred music. We encourage you to plan to attend and invite others to join you.

## CALVIN HANDBELL CONCERT APRIL 26, 3 PM

The members of our church's Calvin Handbell Choir have been invited to perform a concert on Sunday, April 26 at 3 PM at Montours Presbyterian Church, 3151 Montour Church Road in Robinson Township.

Members of our congregation are invited to attend and bring their friends and neighbors with them. For further information contact Craig Dobbins at 412-741-4550, x205.

### Calvin Handbell Choir

Roscoe Carrier, Pam Charles, Debbie Day, Susan Dobbins, Ellen Hitchins, Becky Senior, Ann Strong, Barbara Swan, David, Swan, Tina Thomas, Don Zier, and Yvonne Zier.



By Sara Hoagland  
Interim Director of Children's Ministries

**"I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will never  
walk in darkness  
but will have the light of life."  
John 8:12**



## WHO IS JESUS?

Kids Lenten Study

## LENT & SPC KIDS

**Wednesdays: March 4 - April 1  
6 - 7:45 PM**

There is something for everyone! At 6 PM we gather as a church family for a warm soup supper. Following our meal, the children will join Sara Hoagland in Ansby Hall for their very own video series exploring the question "Who is Jesus?"

We will begin with the early years of Jesus, his baptism by John the Baptist, a walk through the wilderness, the last supper, and the miraculous resurrection. We will conclude with a fun Veggie Tales called "An Easter Carol."

Childcare is available. Middle and high school helpers welcomed!

## SHARING DURING LENT

**One Great Hour Of Sharing Collection**

During Lent our children participate in One Great Hour of Sharing by collecting change in cardboard fish banks. This is a special offering that supports ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community redevelopment that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen our communities. I encourage you to use this opportunity to share with your child how little things can add up to make a big difference!

## PALM SUNDAY

**Sunday, April 5**

On Palm Sunday, our children pass out palm fronds to the congregation at the end of the 8, 9, and 11 AM services. If your child would like to help, please email me at [shoagland@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:shoagland@sewickleypresby.org). We love having our children participate in worship!

Immediately following the 11 AM service there will be a family Easter Egg Hunt on the Faith House lawn. Egg Hunt! Prizes! Face Painting! A light brunch and refreshments will be served. Rain or shine, join us for the fun!

## GOOD FRIDAY

**Friday, April 10**

Our Family Good Friday service will be held in the Chapel. This is a special service for families to help children better understand the death and resurrection of Jesus and what it means for us today. All ages are welcome.

Following the Family Good Friday service, we will head to the Dining Room for our annual Egg Dyeing party! Bring your creativity, and we supply the rest!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**SPRINGTIME FOR SPC KIDS**

March 18	No Club 345
April 8	No Club 345
April 12	No Sunday School
May 10	Third Grade Bible Presentations
	Teacher Appreciation Sunday
May 15	Spring Celebration Dinner
June 7	VBS Kick-Off Meeting
June 8-12	Vacation Bible School



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN

March 6 - 7 | 5:30 PM - 8 AM  
Grades 6 - 9

### CONFIRMATION RETREAT

March 8 | 4 - 8 PM  
Grade 9 | FH

### PKF SPRING SESSION

March 21 | 12:30 - 6 PM  
Grades 8 - 12

### DR MISSION TRIP

July 11-18  
Current 9 - 12 grade  
College students



## YOUTH SUNDAY

One of our favorite moments of the year for our youth is when they take over Sunday mornings and lead every part of worship. Year after year I am blown away by the way they lean into leadership, from music and liturgy to preaching and ushering.

I think there is a reason why Jesus talked about the value of young people in the gospels, and why we must come like children before Him. What I see in our teenagers is an eagerness and desire to serve and to lead. I talk to friends in ministry all the time about this kind of stuff, and they remind me that having kids that want to take part in worship is not the norm in churches today. It is such a blessing to have a church family like ours that values relationship so much. Seeing our adults encouraging our teens, our teens leading our children, and a few seniors preach sermons was truly an amazing thing to be a part of. Thank you to everyone. If you didn't get the chance to attend a service on Youth Sunday, I encourage you to listen online because it was awesome!



## THE EVENT IN REVIEW

For the last three years, we have had the privilege of joining in a Presbytery-wide youth gathering called "The EVENT." This year we all met together at Fox Chapel Presbyterian and were excited to worship, laugh, and grow together as we had various youth leaders from around our Presbytery helping to lead us.

One of the funniest moments was watching our kids play musical chairs, except instead of chairs there were workout balls, and everyone was also blindfolded. There's nothing quite like watching a bunch of kids run around blindfolded frantically. We also learned about the story of Gideon, and had a special time of prayer together.

We look forward to more fun, fellowship and learning this Spring!

By Mike Creamer, Director of Youth Ministries





## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: GOD IS AT WORK

By Barb Swan, SPC member

The 2020 trip to Meeting God in Missions (MGM) in Dominican Republic was the fifth for David and me. And for the fourth year we led the medical ministry. Each day a group of us went out to a different village in the sugar cane fields and run a “pop-up” clinic for the people who live there. We provided basic medical care and medication to people who have limited access to health care. We should have this down by now – no worries, right? Let me tell you how it really works.

This was the first time MGM had a 5<sup>th</sup> week, so we had a smaller number of people than previous years (about 60). This made for a lot less crowding in the dorms, bathrooms, and dining room, but also fewer people and skills for the various ministries. As we met on Sunday with people interested in medical, we had no one with any medical training except for a dentist (Yvonne Zier) and another (retired) doctor. I started to worry. How were we going to successfully run medical clinics without the nurses or EMTs we had in prior years? The clinic on Monday is always a bit hectic as we work out the kinks. But this clinic was our smoothest Monday yet, and we provided care to 106 people!

On Wednesday, we went to a village much further out than usual. The trip took 1 ½ hours, on muddy and slippery roads as we approached the village. We needed to be back at MGM by 3:30 PM to see a presentation by the students from

the deaf school. The longer it took to get there, the more I worried. How were we going to see everyone who needed to be seen and get back to MGM on time? We always work with a Dominican doctor, Dr. Yasquina Benjamin, in the clinics. When we arrived, we discovered she had brought another Dominican doctor with her – Dr Luz Tavarez. With four doctors, we easily saw the 75 people who were waiting, and were back at MGM by 3 PM. God was at work!

Thursday was our last day to go out to the villages. We usually had close to 20 people helping with medical. But Wednesday evening only 10 people (including the Drs Swan!) had signed up. So, I started to worry again. How were we going to run the clinic with so few people? When we set up, there was a person for every job, and we were able to see over 100 people. God was at work – again!

When we go to the DR for these mission trips, we see so many examples of God at work. But what about here at home? I don't seem to see God at work nearly as often in my normal life. Or is it because I am not looking? My goal as a result of this trip is to worry less and pay more attention to God at work around me.

*And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Luke 12:25-26*







## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: GOD IS AT WORK







## NEIGHBORS IN NEED

By Carol Weir, SPC member

Serving Christ together as we serve others is one of the cornerstones of our common life here at Sewickley Presbyterian Church.

For the last ten years, Neighbors in Need has been collecting and distributing full size personal care products to individuals and families served by the Center for Hope, Sewickley Community Center and The Ladle. We are fortunate to have longstanding relationships with these agencies, all of which provide services to people in need and have first-hand knowledge of the people they serve. Products such as shampoo, bath soap, deodorant and laundry detergent, just to name a few, are expensive and often not eligible for purchase with food stamps. In many cases, low income families need to use all of their funds to buy food and cannot afford personal care items. And yet, how important these are to one's well-being!

Neighbors in Need has helped many people over the years and we now have a need for the program other than tangible items. The current leadership team is stepping down and we need a few individuals to step-up and help to keep the program going. The time commitment per year is low. We generally have one or two collection months per year. Baskets are put out around the church building to collect items and our office staff alerts the congregation of the collection. When the collection period is over, the leadership team delivers the items to the appropriate places (listed in the above paragraph).

If you are able and willing to help or if you have any questions, please contact SPC member Deborah Murdoch at [damurdoch@gmail.com](mailto:damurdoch@gmail.com).

Many thanks to Marne Busatto, Celine O'Neill, and Neill Simakas for their leadership over the past three years.

## CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

From Viola Wilson & Family, Food Basket recipients

Greetings!

Dear friends in Christ from Sewickley Presbyterian. I want to take a moment and thank you for the beautiful Christmas food basket. It was a wonderful and mighty blessing to my family. God is good!

My husband and I raise our seven year old granddaughter, and we are retired and on a fixed income. My husband doesn't get much work in the winter -- he works in lawn care and with snow removal and we haven't had much of that -- but God provides!

I just love you all and have the greatest respect for the ways you show your love for Christ in our community.

I pray God blesses you in all things and with great peace and job always. May the Lord keep you in his love and care always.

-- Viola Wilson and family



## KIDS IN THE KITCHEN & YOU

A Center for Hope Program

How many of you are aware of the Kids in the Kitchen program at the Center for Hope? SPC has been volunteering with this great program for many years.

We have a handful of church members who twice a month spend a couple of hours with kids at the Center. They teach the kids how to prepare a meal and then they all sit together and eat what they've prepared. This is a wonderful way to spread the love of Christ to those in need! Many children do not have the benefit of being able to have family meals or positive role models in their lives. Kids in the Kitchen supplements both of those things.

Kids in the Kitchen is in need of a few additional people who would like to play a positive part in a child's life. The saying "many hands makes light work" is so true in this case. If we have enough volunteers, then the scheduling can be shared amongst many.

Please take some time to consider if this is something you would like to be a part of. If so, please contact Annie Genheimer at [anniegensh@comcast.net](mailto:anniegensh@comcast.net)



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

**Marianne Cornetti**

Mezzo Soprano

**Brian Sable**

Piano

*With Special Guest*

Danielle Pastin

*Then Sings  
My Soul!*

**Celebrating 30 Years of  
an Operatic Career  
and a Lifetime of Music**

**March 22, 2020  
4 PM**

Proceeds benefit  
Sewickley Community Center

Sewickley Presbyterian Church  
414 Grant Street  
Sewickley, PA 15143

