

# INTERPRETATION

Sewickley Presbyterian Church Newsletter  
September 2021



Jumping for JOY  
this fall!





## OFFICE

### Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

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### Address

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

## NEWSLETTER

If you would like to make submissions to the newsletter, 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 or are in need of prayer, please call the church office to let us know.

## SOCIAL MEDIA



Find us on  
Facebook



Instagram

## SPC STAFF

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### JOEY TOMALES

Custodial Staff





# UNCHANGED LUNCH

By Rev. Derek Davenport



**“A man’s minor actions and arrangements ought to be free, flexible, creative; the things that should be unchangeable are his principles, his ideals. But with us, the reverse is true; our views change constantly, but our lunch does not change.”**

G.K. Chesterton wrote these words in 1920. If he had only known what would happen one century later, he might have found more joy in an unchanging lunch.

He might have thoroughly enjoyed the diner.

The diner was just a few blocks from the church I served in Florida. Like many restaurants, the diner walls were covered with pictures of people who had eaten there. Yet, contrary to the custom, they weren’t pictures of famous athletes, movie stars, or rockstars. Instead, the diner walls proudly displayed pictures of customers on ordinary days: the elderly couple who lived next door, the church secretary, the barber around the corner.

No one ever said “I’ll have the usual.” They didn’t have to. The staff greeted the regulars by name as they walked in the door, and took them to their favorite seats. If they had consistent orders, their food would appear as if by magic; there was no need to order out loud. One church member ate there so often, she stopped calling it a diner. “I just call it the grocery store.” She said. “It’s where I get all my food.”

So many of us feel that same sense of belonging when we come to church – but for so many months, we weren’t able to worship in the same room. Then we could be together, but we needed masks. Then we didn’t. Then we did. We have so many questions right now about what next week, next month, and next year will bring.

In the midst of this uncertainty, we desperately want Chesterton’s “unchanging lunch.” We want to know what to expect, what’s coming, what’s safe, and what’s next.

That’s why we will spend this next year focusing on the Bible together. The story of God’s love for us has always been a source of comfort in difficult times. We will follow

*“We want to know what’s next”*

the same schedule of passages in our worship, in our discipleship, and even in our business and fellowship. We will use a curriculum called “The Story” to help us dive into God’s word together. You’ll learn more about what that means in the weeks ahead, but for the moment, the important thing is that we will be studying the Bible together as a whole church.

As the world changes around us, we will remain “free, flexible, and creative.” Our schedules may change. Our expectations may shift. But we will spend this next year in the Bible together.



# DAY ON THE LAWN

SEPTEMBER 11  
9 AM - 3 PM



Have you heard? Day on the Lawn is quickly approaching and we need YOUR help! For those of you who haven't ever experienced DOL, you are in for a treat!

DOL is a massive rummage sale that brings people from Sewickley and the surrounding counties to shop for good deals! All of the donations that we've been collecting are put out for sale and the profits go to support missions.

The week leading up to the sale requires many people to price items, set up tables and chairs, and organize the sales spaces.

The day of the sale requires people to take payments, help with crowd control, and to be a presence in each department.

Our website lists all of the departments for the sale. Visit the site to the best areas for you. The department chair will connect with you about what to do.

This is an amazing way to serve. Please consider lending a helping hand!

*We  
need  
You!*







## DID YOU KNOW?

By Laura Mikush, Business Administrator

The church has a great group of people called Hammer & Nails. They help out by doing various property related jobs around the church buildings and grounds. H&N helps to offset costs we might have to incur by hiring contractors.

Their most recent projects have been helping with the manse. They removed and rebuilt the outside steps to the basement, installed a new handrail on the basement steps, and repaired the metal handrail on the back porch. They also installed new smoke/carbon monoxide detectors. Hammer & Nails is always looking for additional help with painting, building repairs, yard work, etc. All skill levels are welcome!

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact me at [lmikush@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:lmikush@sewickleypresby.org) or 412-741-4550.



## BELL RINGERS NEEDED

By Craig Dobbins, Director of Music Ministries

The Calvin Handbell Choir will resume rehearsals following the 11 AM worship service on Sunday, September 26, 2021. Rehearsals are held in the Handbell Room which is located on the main level of the church building. Positions for two ringers of the lower bass bells are available.

If you are interested and/or have questions or concerns, please contact Craig Dobbins at 412-741-4550, x205 or [cdobbins@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:cdobbins@sewickleypresby.org). While no previous experience ringing is required, the ability to read notes in the bass staff is very helpful.

## CHANCEL CHOIR RESUMES

By Craig Dobbins, Director of Music Ministries

The Chancel Choir resumes regular midweek rehearsals on the evening of Thursday, September 16 in the Choir Room, which is located on the mezzanine level of the church building. If you're interested in making music, assisting those who gather for worship, and meeting other church members, please contact Craig Dobbins at 412-741-4550, x205 or [cdobbins@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:cdobbins@sewickleypresby.org). All are welcome and we'd love to have you!

## SPREAD THE WORD!

1 - We are looking for an individual to lead our video streaming on Sunday mornings. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them contact Jennifer Johnson ([jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org)).

2 - We are also searching for a teacher for our FriendShip Preschool. Interested candidates should contact Erin Leghorn ([eleghorn@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:eleghorn@sewickleypresby.org)).

3 - And there's more! We need a part-time janitor Monday-Thursdays in the evening. Contact Laura Mikush if you are interested ([lmikush@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:lmikush@sewickleypresby.org)).

All job descriptions can be found on our website. Scroll to the bottom of any page and click on Employment Opportunities. Thank you for helping to spread the word!





# Women's Retreat

UNREVEALED UNTIL ITS SEASON • SOMETHING GOD ALONE CAN SEE

October 23 & 24

Antiochian Village

Double room \$109 | Single room \$146  
scholarships available

registration  
is open now!

\*COVID-19 precautions & guidelines  
will be followed.

## REST & TRANSFORMATION

By Rev. Rebecca Reeder, Associate Pastor

Let's be honest – not many of us know how to rest well. We jam-pack our days with activities, tasks, outings, events, clubs, hurried meals, church groups... and the list could go on. We might eventually find time in the calendar to get away for a short vacation, but then it takes 24-48 hours to really start to unwind just to then turn around and pack up to head back home. We get back and the emails and tasks have piled up again and we feel like we need a vacation from our vacation. Even after nearly 18 months of self-isolating with little to nothing to do besides working from home, I know I'm not the only one who can quickly fall back into the habit of over-scheduling my entire life.

That's why I know how important it is to retreat periodically – to be intentional about setting aside the day-to-day bustle and seek to spend time in the presence of our God and Savior. Even when the retreat is only one or two nights away, I find that retreats are more restful than many of my vacations! Retreats are restful because they intentionally plan time and space simply to be still and know God. True rest opens our eyes to the beauty of God's world all around us and God's presence with us, an awareness that we can bring back when we return to the roads of life.

This year our Women's Retreat is themed around the image of a butterfly. A butterfly, of course, starts as a caterpillar who busily eats and eats and eats until the point when it intentionally breaks from that work, forms a co-

coon, and rests until the time is right to hatch as a new butterfly. The time of rest is not a dormant time, but one of transformation. And if the caterpillar never stopped to form a cocoon, it would never become a beautiful butterfly. The same goes for us. When we intentionally break from our work and rest in God's loving embrace, we are transformed into new creations – unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

So, for any women out there reading this who feel tired, distracted, hopeless, or just in need of a change of pace, I invite you to hear these words from Jesus, and come join us this year for the Women's Retreat this coming October!

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

--Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message)

Go the Events & Sign-ups page of our website for more information on the Women's Retreat and to sign up. Scholarships are available – reach out to [rreeder@se-wickleypresby.org](mailto:rreeder@se-wickleypresby.org) for more information.





# OUR CHURCH & TECHNOLOGY

By Jennifer Johnson, Director of Communications

Most of us have grown accustomed to the niceties of life when it comes to technology. In fact, many technological advances are necessities to daily living now. We carry mini-computers with us almost all day, we pick up a small box to work our TVs and sound systems, and some of us even talk to a tiny speaker to enable music to instantly start playing, to turn lights on or to give us information. And we certainly do not appreciate it when we can't get a WiFi signal no matter where we are. There is often an assumption made that technology will just work automatically. So much so, that we don't think much about it until it doesn't work.

Our church property is no different than our homes or our places of work. It takes a lot of planning, preparation, and implementation of equipment to ensure we have a well-equipped campus. Our Technology Committee has had a busy year with doing just that!

It was exciting to be able to offer video with our live stream over a year ago. Even though we are able to meet in person, our online service is still a valuable source for those who aren't able to attend in person.

Thanks to the committee, we continue to make improvements to our meeting spaces with updated and new equipment. Tech recently set-up two rolling carts that allow for easy use of online Zoom meetings. There is one in the main church building and there is a second cart in the Faith House. Both carts are movable and have enabled meetings to have both in-person and online options. If you ever need to use a cart for a meeting, please let Laura Mikush ([lmikush@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:lmikush@sewickleypresby.org)) know so that she can schedule it for you.

With Ansby Hall being our main meeting space, Tech has just equipped the room with two permanently-mounted cameras. One will allow for the recording of Christian Education classes or any special events being held in that

room. The other camera will allow for a bigger view of the room for Zoom meetings. Since Ansby is a large space, the Zoom carts make it difficult to see everyone who is in attendance. This new camera will certainly help!

In late 2011- early 2012, our Dining Room was gutted and redesigned. Along with that work, we installed the large screen, sound system, and necessary equipment to play videos and presentations. Due to the age of the equipment, and thus the need to update it, the Tech Committee has been working on a plan to replace the technological equipment in the room.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we are now in the process of updating the room! A new projector was just installed this week which will allow for a much better, more clear picture on the screen. A new sound system will also be installed, along with the necessary wiring. This work will be completed this fall.

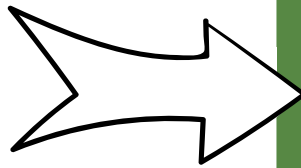
The Tech Committee is a small group of people with a large amount of responsibility to make sure our property is equipped to handle the necessities of modern day technology. They are always looking for new members to join the committee. Having some knowledge of technology helps and most of us have that knowledge from our day-to-day interactions with cell phones, computers, and home equipment such as TVs, and digital devices. If you would like to join in, please contact Jennifer Johnson ([jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org)).

The Tech Committee meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 8:30 AM.

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*Committee members:* Annie Gensheimer (chair), Dwight Dietrich, Jana Joseph, Sally Shipley, Don Zier and Dave Breit (staff) & Jennifer Johnson (staff).





## A NEW YEAR

By Erin Leghorn, Director of FriendShip Preschool

FriendShip Preschool will re-open its doors on Wednesday, September 8! We will be welcoming a wonderful group of students from both new and returning families. The FriendShip staff has been hard at work setting up our classrooms to prepare for our first day!

The start of this year is bittersweet. While we, as staff members, are eager to be back in school, we can't help but think about all that we've missed over the past year and a half. We've missed out on time with our FriendShip families, many of whom have children who are now moving on to kindergarten. We've missed watching our little ones grow and we've missed out on time with each other.

FriendShip has been blessed with an incredible staff. This group of women genuinely cares about our students and their families, but also about each other. The time apart has been difficult, especially because several of our longtime staff members will not be returning to FriendShip this year. I would like to take the opportunity to recognize the following people for their hard work and dedication to our school:

Jenny Hay  
Morna Murray  
Gail Hiney  
Marsha Licht  
Natasha Schuyler

Each of these women has given so much to FriendShip over the years! We are so sad to say goodbye but so grateful for their service to our school and our church!

Though it is hard to say farewell, we are also grateful for all that we have to look forward to - making new memories, welcoming new families, seeing how much our returning students have changed, and working with our new staff members! In the coming months, I look forward to sharing all of the excitement that the new year brings!

## HELP US TO LEAD WORSHIP

You might have noticed our Elders and Deacons have been taking part in our worship services this summer. It's been a welcomed addition to have members of our congregation helping to lead the liturgical elements.

We originally asked for help due to the staff transitions this summer, but would like to continue having you all be a part of the service. We would like to invite any church member who desires to lead worship to do so by visiting our website and signing up for an upcoming Sunday.

Rev. Reeder provides the liturgy to those who volunteer before Sunday so there is plenty of time to review and practice. The only other requirement is that you arrive 15 minutes before the service so we can review the process with you.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Reeder. Sign-ups are available on our Events page. Thank you!



Another summer has come and gone, and we were happy to spend it together again. From movie nights and coffee outings to pool parties and service days we made sure to have some fun. It's crazy that the school year is back already!

As we prepare for Kickoff Sunday on September 19, we're excited to get back into our weekly rhythms. Keep an eye out for updates on the fall calendar, new events, and what's going to look different this year. A truth we hold to in our faith is that God makes all things new. Sometimes that's by renewing something we once knew, and other times it's by bringing something entirely new into the picture. We hope you'll join us this fall to see what new things God is doing here at SPC.

-- Mike Creamer, Director of Youth Ministries







## VBS: A BLAST!

By Sara Hoagland, Director of Children's Ministries

Children's Ministry was thrilled to have Vacation Bible School again this summer. God most certainly blessed us with a week of perfect weather, allowing for ample outdoor fun! The kids enjoyed learning about the power of Jesus through daily games, crafts, videos, activities, and Bible stories. Some of the highlights of the week were our awesome counselors, amazing volunteers, Sewickley Confectionery and the epic water balloon battle. Most importantly, there were a lot of new friendships, words of hope and encouragement, smiles and laughter.



*Thank you to everyone  
who contributed to this  
fantastic week!*





# THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

This year we will immerse ourselves in experiencing the Bible in a new way. We'll do this together as a whole church family. Mark your calendars for our Fall Kick-Off Celebration, where you'll learn what is in store for everyone! We hope you'll join our kick-off where we will worship together at 10 AM and then gather together for a light lunch afterwards. See you then!

*Save  
the  
Date*

**September 19**

Fall Kick-Off | 10 AM

Lunch | 11 AM

**September 26**

8:30 AM Chapel Service

9:45 AM Christian Education

11 AM Sanctuary Service







# BACKPACKS in JULY

By Gretchen McAdams, Deacon

Backpacks in July was once again a huge success thanks to our very generous congregation! Sign-ups this year were once again online, and all backpacks were delivered to Gretchen McAdams' house. We collected 85 filled backpacks and because of some very generous financial contributions, we were able to purchase 15 more to reach our goal of 100. The remaining donated funds and extra supplies were given to Center for Hope.

On Wednesday, August 18, deacons loaded the backpacks into their cars and delivered and distributed them to the children and teens in Ambridge. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful church mission!

*"Thank you so much. God bless you all."*  
The McCracken Family

*"Thank you all for your donations of book bags  
and school supplies for my children."*  
The McKinney Family

*"Thank you for the book bags."*  
Caleb & Kayla

*"Thank you for my back pack.  
I'm going to have fun using the supplies."*  
Tin and Silas

*"Thank you for the backpack -- it helps a lot."*  
Love, Sue and Katie

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



### MONTHLY DINNERS

On the fourth Thursday of each month, volunteers provide and serve dinner at the CFH in Ambridge. This is a great way to meet other church members and to serve in one of our local communities.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we are still providing meals. You can help supplement the meals with a monetary donation. Please use our online giving options if you'd like to help: [Give - Give Online](#).

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Gretchen Burnham at 412.741.2314 or [rgburnham@comcast.net](mailto:rgburnham@comcast.net).

### DONATIONS HELP

Every week, Tuesday – Thursday, the Center receives donations that need to be separated into single bags/boxes to be given to their clients. The donations range from produce and canned goods to toilet paper and paper towels.

The window to help is 11:30 AM – 3 PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. We ask that you commit to a minimum of two hours.

If you are interested, visit our website to sign-up: [Get Connected - Volunteer & Serve -- Center for Hope](#).



Urban Impact is always looking for volunteers. If you'd like to learn more, consider joining this training session:

**Tuesday, September 7 | 5:30 - 9 PM**  
**Christ Church at Grove Farm**  
**249 Duff Road, Sewickley**

**RSVP: [info@uifpgh.org](mailto:info@uifpgh.org)**





Sewickley Presbyterian Church

**LIVE · GROW · SERVE**

414 Grant Street

Sewickley, PA 15143

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

**Dated Material**

PLEASE EXPEDITE

# SAYING GOODBYE AND HELLO!

Sunday, August 29 will be our Tenor Soloist/Section Leader, Colin Farley's, last Sunday with us. Colin has been singing with our Chancel Choir and our Praise Band since August 1, 2016. We will miss him, his voice, and his leadership!

The good news is that we are welcoming a new tenor to our church. Paul Yeater will begin with us on Sunday, September 5.

Paul is a native of Beaver County. A graduate of Duquesne University, he also studied at Ohio State University. He is a member of the Professional Core of the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, Director of the annual musical at Chartiers Valley High School, and is leaving a position as a Choral Scholar at St. Paul of the Cross Parish in Castle Shannon to come to SPC.

If you see Paul, please give him a warm welcome!



Paul Yeater