



Sewickley Presbyterian Church
LIVE · GROW · SERVE



ANNUAL REPORT **2021**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From Our Pastor.....	3
Fast Facts.....	4
Technology.....	4
Worship Changes.....	5
The Story.....	6
Adult Classes/Groups...	6
SPC Kids.....	7
SPC Youth.....	8
FriendShip Preschool....	9
Financial.....	10
Mission.....	11
Staff.....	12
Leadership.....	13
In Memoriam.....	14

OUR VISION

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.

OUR MISSION

To live as a church family
To grow as disciples of Christ
To serve in God's mission



FROM OUR PASTOR

The most important door in my house doesn't lead anywhere special. It's not important because of where it goes, but because of what it is. More precisely, it's the frame that matters. For the past 10 years or so, we've measured the children's height on that door frame. You can look at the pencil markings and get an idea of who had growth spurts and when. Some of the markings come with particular memories, some are just routine. That discipline of taking snapshots at somewhat regular intervals is so helpful to mark transitions, growth, and change.

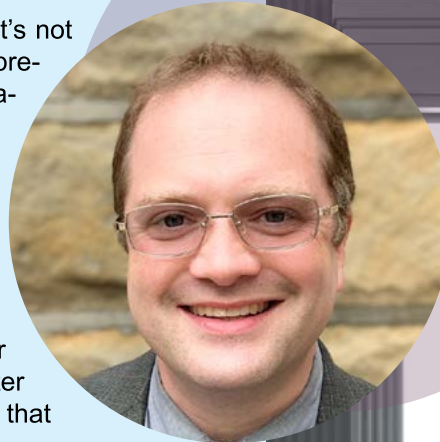
Every year, we do the same thing as a congregation. Our annual report provides a "snapshot" of who we are at a given moment. This year, our annual report is linked with particular memories. This report comes after a year that saw the wistful celebration of saying goodbye to two pastors that God has called into new phases of ministry.

Through it all, our church remains as strong as ever. In fact, these past years have created a pent up energy in our congregation. We were able to transition back to in-person worship with care and thoughtfulness. We added a second service back to our schedule. We welcomed new staff members. We rejoiced at FriendShip resuming regular, in person programs. We watched our education opportunities return to our church buildings, with new ways to participate online. We embarked on a program to study the Bible together as a whole congregation. Our church is overflowing with excitement to resume our ministries in new and innovative ways.

While we know that this coming year will bring more transitions, we are excited to greet whatever comes next with the same gifts God has given our church, and to face this new year as a new opportunity to live and proclaim the Gospel faithfully in grateful response to God's love.

Last year's annual report chronicled the challenges of moving to virtual worship and holding just one service a week. This year's report will detail what happened amidst the transition to multiple services and departures of two pastors. It's hard to imagine what next year's report will detail. Our imaginations are the only limitation. For the moment, though, we take this opportunity to put a mark on the door frame – to record who we are right now and to trust God to lead us into whatever comes next.

-- Rev. Derek R. Davenport



FAST FACTS

798

CHURCH MEMBERS

13

NEW MEMBERS

798

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

70

OF WORSHIP SERVICES

1,745

CENTER FOR HOPE MEALS SERVED

30,452

VISITS TO OUR WEBSITE

14,497

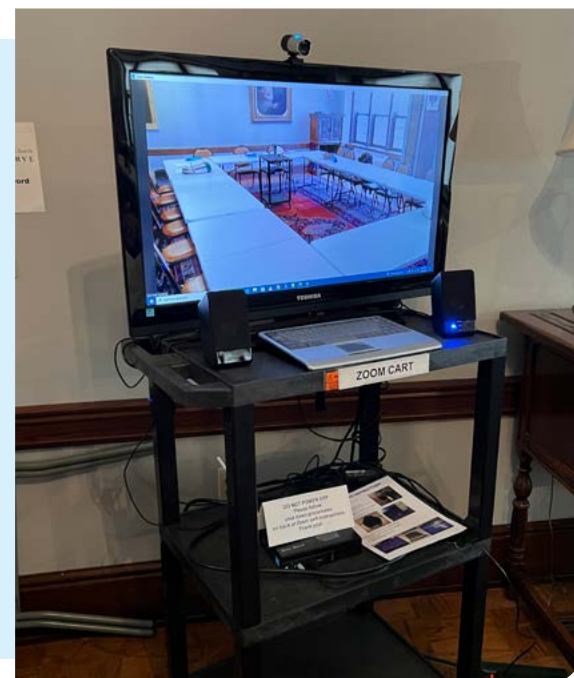
NUMBER OF LIVE STREAM VIEWERS

TECHNOLOGY

As the COVID pandemic remained a part of our community, we continued to rely heavily on technology to connect our church family through worship services, groups, classes and meetings. Using the Zoom platform, we were able to share our faith, plan for the future, and grow in Christ. Most of our meetings and services were offered both in-person and via Zoom (aka 'hybrid') and one Sunday worship service was live-streamed each week.

We updated Ansby Hall to accommodate Zoom for larger meetings. A laptop, two PTZ video cameras, and microphones were added. This allowed for hybrid Adult Education and committee meetings to be held more easily.

To ensure that any room on our campus could use Zoom, we also equipped two rolling carts with the necessary equipment for hybrid meetings (picture to the right). These carts contain a monitor, computer, keyboard and speakers. One cart is housed in the main church building and the other is in the Faith House.



WORSHIP SERVICE CHANGES

SUNDAY MORNINGS

January 1 - September 19

10 AM Service | Sanctuary

September 26 - December 31

8:30 AM Service | Chapel

11 AM Service | Sanctuary

From January to the beginning of September, we held just one worship service on Sunday mornings due to the pandemic. We began a new schedule in the fall.

Our 11 AM live-stream option continued to be a valuable alternative to worship for those who weren't able to attend in-person.

With the installation of screens in the sanctuary in 2020, we continued to rely on order of worship details to be displayed on the screens for our congregation to use opposed to paper bulletins being handed out. Paper bulletins were available for those who preferred them, but were not the main tool to share the details of the service. Our 8:30 AM chapel service continued to use paper bulletins.

With the change of using screens instead of paper at the 11 AM service, we made an adjustment to our church staff scheduling to ensure we had the appropriate personnel on Sunday mornings who could operate the additional digital aspects of the service.

EVENING SERVICES

With the ever changing needs of our congregation and due to the changes brought on by the pandemic, the decision to create a contemporary service was made. We held three services to evaluate the congregation's level of interest in attending evening services.

Sunday, October 17 | 5:45 PM

This service was held around the fire pit at the Faith House. It included music led by Jeremy Fisher, our Associate Director of Music Ministries, and testimonies from two of our church members about struggles with faith.

Wednesday, November 17 | 7 PM

Held in our sanctuary, the Praise Team led the music and it also included testimonies from



two church members about the impact of music on our faith.

Sunday, December 5 | 4 PM

This service was combined with a Children's Ministries family event. Families attended the service first, with music led by Jeremy Fisher, and then broke off into activities.

CHRISTMAS EVE

For many years, our Christmas Eve services have concluded with the singing of *Silent Night*. Wax candles were handed out as people arrived and were lit at the beginning of the song. As the lighting of everyone's candles traveled throughout the congregation, the overhead lights were lowered. The issue of minimizing the spreading of germs dictated that we find an alternative approach to the wax candles. The decision was made to purchase glow stick candles to use instead of wax candles.

The change was a fun and welcoming alternative and the importance of remembering the birth of our Savior was still expressed beautifully as the congregation sang along while holding the new "candlelight."



THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

In September we were introduced to *The Story*, by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee. This was our weekly guide for sermons, weekly groups, and our Sunday Discipleship Hour. Individuals and families were able to purchase books to follow along with and to prepare for upcoming studies.

The Story presents the Bible in a new way and allowed us to encompass growing together in Christ as a whole unit. We plan on using *The Story* through May of 2022.



ADULT STUDIES & GROUPS

Sunday Discipleship Topics

- **The Book of Romans**
led by SPC member Joan Murdoch
- **Hope: A Toolbox for Self-Care**
led by Lance Hershberger, MSW
- **Awareness & Transformation: Conversations about Life, Race, & Faith**
with Ralph Lowe & Brian Wallace of the Pittsburgh Presbytery
- **Modern Interpretation of Parables**
led by Rev. Derek Davenport
- **White Awake Book Study**
led by members of Justice Ministries
- ***The Story: the Bible as one continuing story of God and His people***
led by Rev. Davenport and Adult Ed committee members
- **The Redemption of Scrooge**
led by Adult Ed committee members

Family Connections Class

The Story

Sundays at 9:45 AM

A parent and child combination class, was offered from September-December. Taught by Erin Leghorn (SPC member) & Rev. Barb Kennedy (Director of Discipleship Ministries).

Weekly Groups

- **Women's Book Study**
Sundays, met by-monthly via Zoom
- **Koinonia**
Tuesdays, hybrid meeting/ Zoom & In-Person
- **Bible Basics**
Wednesdays, hybrid meeting/Zoom & In-Person
- **Journeymen**
1st & 3rd Fridays, hybrid meeting/Zoom & In-Person

SPC KIDS

53

kids participated this year



ACTIVITIES

DIY Mardi Gras masks
40-Day Lent for families
VBS: Rocky Railway
Children's Worship
Sunday School
Club 345
Outdoor games
Project for Heroes
Community leaf raking
Operation Christmas Child

FAMILY CONNECTIONS & ADVENT

Beginning in September, the Family Connections class studied lessons from *The Story*. While the class started in the dining room, it moved into the Children's Studios for a more kid-friendly space.

In December, a family Advent event took place starting with worship in the dining room, and then moving into Ansby Hall to make a live Advent wreath with a devotional book to count down the weeks until Christmas.

THE MAILBOX

Traditionally during the 11 AM worship service, a Children's Message is given to the younger members of our congregation. This fall, a mailbox was introduced as a way to share stories and lessons from the Bible.

Each week an item was removed from the mailbox and the kids discovered how ordinary, everyday objects can be related to what God has to share with us.



SPC YOUTH

75

youth participated this year

EVENTS

High School Hike at North Park
Middle School Hike at Fern Hollow
Middle School Geocaching
Archery with L.L.Bean
High School Senior Recognition Service
Senior Bonfire
Middle School Pool Party
Fall Kick-Off
Paddle boarding/kayaking at North Park
Youth Christmas Party
High School Breakfasts

SERVICE PROJECTS

Little Pantry Project
Center for Hope Christmas Stocking Project
Children's Books donation drive

CONFIRMATION

Eleven 9th graders were confirmed in June.

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

Twelve high school students attended a fall retreat at Laurelville in November with Mike Creamer and Rebecca Reeder.



FRIENDSHIP PRESCHOOL

65
STUDENTS

JANUARY – AUGUST 2021

In January 2021, Jenny Hay retired from her position as Director of FriendShip Preschool. Erin Leghorn stepped into the role at that time. FriendShip had been closed due to COVID since March 2020, but registration for the 2021-2022 school year began in January and continued through the summer.

During the summer of 2021, several areas in FriendShip, including two entire classrooms, received a fresh coat of paint. The painting was completed through the volunteer efforts of SPC group Hammer and Nails, and staff. We also had new floors installed throughout our hallways and classrooms.

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2021

In September, FriendShip opened for the new school year and welcomed 65 students to our classrooms. Adjustments had to be made to keep our students and staff safe and healthy in the midst of COVID-19, but everyone was happy to be back and adjusted well to our new normal.

In October, FriendShip I, FriendShip II, and Pre-K classes had the opportunity to Trick-or-Treat with the office staff at Halloween.

In December, FriendShip I and Pre-K put on their annual Christmas shows.



FINANCES



MAJOR EMERGENCY REPAIR FUND (MERF)

2021 \$ 330,215
2020 \$ 257,361

UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT

2021 End of Year Balance \$ 6,060,028
4.5% Draw \$ 215,091
2020 End of Year Balance \$ 5,450,488
4.5% Draw \$ 212,029
2019 End of Year Balance \$ 4,480,904
4.5% Draw \$ 204,667

STEWARDSHIP

2021 pledges 239 = \$ 1,188,889
2020 pledges 212 = \$ 1,155,473
2019 pledges 226 = \$ 1,085,529

*Unrestricted Endowment draw, Samaritan Counseling rent sharing, Investments & Ministry Program
**Hunger, Christmas Joy, Blanket Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace & Global Witness Offerings

\$1,810,752

2021 TOTAL INCOME

2020 \$ 2,132,724
2019 \$ 1,854,265

INCOME DETAILS

Titles & Offerings \$ 1,328,649
Miscellaneous* \$ 482,103

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS**

Total for Year \$ 23,980

\$1,817,141

2021 TOTAL EXPENSES

2020 \$ 1,806,042
2019 \$ 1,842,664

EXPENSE DETAILS

Administrative \$ 132,918
Facilities \$ 235,810
Ministries \$ 40,180
Mission \$ 316,634
Personnel \$ 1,029,264
Capital Expenses \$ 57,158

MISSIONS

\$229,979 given to **47** organizations & individuals

Floyd Faulkner, YMCA/QV
Burkhard Paetzold, Missionary
Victor Makari, Missionary
Disaster Relief
Pittsburgh Presbytery Mission
PTS Student Aid
WORK
Center for Hope
Czech Republic
Del Ray Ministries
Malawi Mission Partner
Off the Floor

Urban Impact
PGH Women's Shelter
Southwestern Baptist Scholarships
Eastern Mennonite University
Bethlehem Haven
Brother's Brother Foundation
Camp Crestfield
Center for Justice & Peacebuilding
Citikidz
Crossroads Men's Shelter
Dar Al-Kalima School
Deep Spring International

Faith in Action
Genesis House
Holocaust Center of PGH
Jewish Family & Children's Services
Ligonier Camp/Conference Center
Locking Arms Men
Medical Benevolence Foundation
Meals on Wheels
Meeting God in Missions
Northside Common Ministries
PGH Food Bank
Samaritan Counseling Center

Sojourner House
Tent of Nations
The Blessing Board
Open Hands Ministries
The Ladle
Union Aid Society
Schenley Heights for Youth
Global Links
Lancaster Bible College
Ultimate Health School
Water Mission



LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

Ann Strong, President
Dwight Howes, Vice-President

Keith Boyer, Treasurer
Becky Senior, Clerk of Session

RULING ELDERS

Elizabeth Andrews
Timothy Bingman
Donald Birnie
Keith Boyer
Anne Gensheimer
Robert Hayden, Jr.
Nancy House
Dwight Howes
Jana Joseph
Glenis Levine
Deborah Murdoch

Beth Rom
Kimberly Safran
Daniel Schlenke
Jane Shadle
Jenna Stevenson
Hayes Stover
Ann Strong
Mary Weber
Raymond White
Donald Zier, Jr.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Gary Becker
Gretchen Burnham
Ronald Charles
Sylvia Dallas
Debra Day
Kimberly Roberts Ference
Eric Fulmer
Andrew Glas
Sophia Gledhill
Rita Hoepp
Courtney Jones

George Leeper
James MacDougall
Gretchen McAdams
Paula Motzel
Devon Murdoch
Natasha Schuyler
Tina Thomas
Liza Thornton
Jane Van Kirk
Yvonne Zier

SPC STAFF

THIS YEAR OFFERED UP MANY STAFF CHANGES:

Rev. Kevin Long concluded 10 years of ministry as our head pastor, when he received a call to serve as head pastor of a congregation in Birmingham, Alabama.

Rev. Derek Davenport, who had been in a part-time position as Parish Associate of Discipleship, took on the position of Designated Associate Pastor-Acting Head of Staff to bridge the period between Rev. Long and our next Pastor.

Rev. Rebecca Reeder, after serving two years as our associate pastor, was called to serve as the solo pastor of a congregation in Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

After 27 years, Jenny Hay, retired as our FriendShip Preschool Director. SPC member Erin Leghorn was hired as our new director.

Rev. Barb Kennedy stepped in as our Interim Director of Discipleship Ministries as Sara Hoagland, our Children's Ministry Director, left for a new job opportunity.

Richena Brockinson was hired as Broadcast Producer to assist with the technical/digital needs on Sunday mornings.

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Derek R. Davenport	Parish Associate of Discipleship (switched role 8.2021) Designated Associate Pastor - Acting Head of Staff
Rev. Kevin J. Long	Pastor (through 7.2021)
Rev. Rebecca Reeder	Associate Pastor (through 12.2021)

FULL-TIME STAFF

Sharon Barber	Assistant to the Pastor
Mike Creamer	Director of Youth Ministries
Craig Dobbins	Director of Music Ministries
Jenny Hay	Director of FriendShip Preschool (retired 1.2021)
Jennifer Johnson	Director of Communications
Erin Leghorn	Director of FriendShip Preschool
Laura Mikush	Business Administrator
Stephanie Smith	Administrative Assistant
Joey Tomales	Custodian

PART-TIME STAFF

Bethany Barber	Preschool Assistant Teacher
Raymond Blackwell	Bass Soloist
Dawn Borres	Preschool Assistant Teacher
Dave Breit	Media Engineer

PART-TIME STAFF CONTINUED

Richena Brockinson	Broadcast Producer
Stacey Engel	Preschool Co-Teacher
Colin Farley	Tenor Soloist (through 8.2021)
Jeremy Fisher	Associate Director of Music Ministries
Susan Fox	Preschool Teacher
Nancy Friskhorn	Preschool Teacher
Sara Hoagland	Director of Children's Ministries (through 7.2021)
Rev. Barb Kennedy	Director of Discipleship Ministries
Sharon Liberty	Preschool Assistant Teacher
Xiu-Ru Liu	Alto Soloist
Tom Lockward	Custodian
Gretchen McAdams	Preschool Teacher
Hanna Mellor	Childcare
Katie Messner	Childcare
Danielle Nadalin	Preschool Assistant Teacher
Jamie Petro	Childcare
Ashley Raymond	Preschool Assistant Teacher
Anna Singer	Soprano Soloist
Colleen Sipes	Childcare
Elizabeth Szuba	Youth Program Coordinator
Nick Thompson	Custodian
Ann Wood	Preschool Teacher
Rosie Wyche	Praise Team Vocalist
Paul Yeater	Tenor Soloist

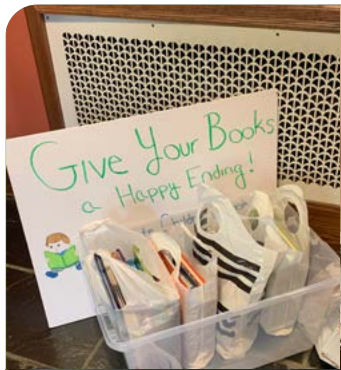
IN MEMORIAM

CHURCH MEMBERS WHO ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT IN 2021

Jeannine Abel
Robert (Bob) Bagans
Suzanne (Suzy) Dugan
Robert (Bob) Gordon, Jr.
Elizabeth (Betty) Gundelfinger
Mary (M.D.) Hoehl
William (Bill) Jack
Charles (Charlie) Jacobs
Anne Kelley
Diane Snow
Barbara Wright

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him
should not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16







Sewickley Presbyterian Church

LIVE • GROW • SERVE

414 Grant Street | Sewickley, PA | 15143
www.sewickleypresby.org