

# INTERPRETATION

Sewickley Presbyterian Church Newsletter  
Spring 2022

IN HIM WAS  
*Life*  
AND THAT LIFE  
WAS THE  
*Light*  
OF ALL MANKIND  
John 1:4

## OFFICE

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## 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



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JOEY TOMALES  
Custodial Staff





# THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE SPRING!



By Rev. Derek Davenport

Officially, the new season began on Sunday, March 20, but we all know it doesn't work quite like that. It's not as if Saturday was cold and gray, and suddenly Sunday was warm and sunny. Instead, it's a slower process. Sometimes, in schools, children measure the coming of spring by marking the weather of each day. Then, as the month passes, they see the overall progress even if it's hard to see spring coming on any given day.

This strikes me as an excellent image for what we are doing right now in several ways. First, this is how we work our way through Lent. Each week we use the purple vestments, we read passages from the prophets or gospels, and we gradually make our way to Easter.

For our congregation this year, however, we are also working through several other processes. We've undergone several changes in our staff over this year, and we are working on the process of completing those transitions.

One change is in the area of children's ministry. Rev. Barb Kennedy has worked with us over the past several months to assist in our children's ministry and to help us think through the position. As she has wrapped up her time with our church, we have completed and posted the job description for a part-time director of children's ministry.

Another area is in our music ministry. As we begin to say goodbye to Craig Dobbins, members from our Worship and Music Committee and Personnel Committee have started gathering to search for an interim music director. This process will involve input from many people, including our music staff, our chancel choir, and our bell choir. Naturally, this process will also include insight from Craig Dobbins himself as we envision how to continue our outstanding music ministry.

The third staffing change to mention is our search for an additional pastor. Our personnel committee and session have worked with Pittsburgh Presbytery to create the position of Temporary Associate Pastor. The advantage of this position is that it has allowed us to move much more quickly than the traditional process. We have had conversations with several excellent candidates and will have some exciting news to share very soon!

Spring is here. As we know, though, the coming of spring takes time. As we find ourselves in that process, we are also journeying through Lent to Easter and in the midst of bringing on new staff members. From time to time, it's important to step back and measure the changes as we head to this new season in our life as a congregation.

## DOLLARS & SENSE

By Laura Mikush, Business Administrator

Did you know? The Chapel and Sanctuary organs are tuned four times a year by Allegheny Pipe Organ Company. The cost is \$2,800 per year.



## WORD SUNG THIS MAY 22

By Craig Dobbins, Director of Music Ministries

The Spring 2022 version of the Word Sung will feature the choral and orchestral works of the British composer Gustav Holst (1874 – 1934). With string players from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and organist Regina Kettering, the Chancel Choir will perform Mr. Holst's settings of Psalm 86 and 148 and his arrangement of the English folk hymn "Diverus and Lazarus." The instrumentalists will also perform selected movements of Holst's "St. Paul Suite." It promises to be an inspiring service. Invite your friends and neighbors to attend with you.

## MARIANNE CORNETTI RETURNS MAY 29

Marianne Cornetti, internationally-known opera star who is also currently the Artistic Director of Pittsburgh Festival Opera, served as our Mezzo-soprano Soloist/Alto Section Leader from 1990–1994. She will return to participate in the 10 AM worship service on Sunday, May 29. Despite falling on a holiday weekend, we know that you will not want to miss hearing her either in person or virtually. Reserve the date and time on your calendars NOW!



## FOUNDERS' DAY

On February 20, we celebrated our 184<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church. On this special day, we also recognized our 50+ year church members. In the picture above you will see Nancy Merrill and Suzie Wardrop who, along with their husbands, have been long-term members of SPC and who have been faithful and active in the ministry.

Below is the full list of 50-year members who we are so thankful have given their time, talents, and treasures to keeping our church going!

Margaret Adams	Rob Leighton
Shirley Barker	Nancy & Tim Merrill
Judy Beswick	Evelyn Mulkerin
Susie Cockrell	Karen Muse
Britt Colbert	David Nimick
Liz Devens	Pat Rose
Peggy Dury	Sally Ruffin
Carol Furness	Dolly Simons
Anne & David Genter	Betsy & Don Spalding
Helen Horne	Peggy Standish
Peggy Joyner	Pat Stuart
Bob Kopf	Bill & Susie Wardrop

*Thank you!*





Robinson Room ,1986

# ROBINSON ROOM HISTORY

As many of you know, we have been holding our contemporary worship services in the Robinson Room this year. The space allows for an intimate experience for worship and it provides a different atmosphere than in our Sanctuary.

Over the years, the Robinson Room has been added to, remodeled and used for a variety of different things. In our *1838-1988 Remember, Rejoice, Renew* history book, you will find how the room used to have separate class rooms on both sides of it. It was also called the Main Room.

In 1986, the class rooms were removed and the area was modified to allow for additional space for larger gatherings. The photo above shows what the room looked like at that time. The glass doors that we are now used to seeing were not yet installed, but instead was an open space to allow for a larger space. You will also notice the two doors in the middle of the picture. This used to be a storage closet. These doors have since been removed and the space where the doors were is used for storage.

This was not the only 'big' change to the Robinson Room. In the alcove space, before the large wall mural was installed, there was a stage! The picture with the stage (small pic above) can be found in our Annual Report from 1916. This part of the building was called the "Church House."



RR, 1916

This space was planned around the various needs of the church at that time. Here is an excerpt from the Annual Report detailing the importance of the space.

*"We have just completed our first year in the new Church House and it has been common to hear "I like it better and better every time I enter the building." It has been not only a great enjoyment but wonderfully helpful in our ever growing and varied activities. The building is so splendidly adaptable to all kinds of gatherings, we may express the hope it will be utilized the more this coming year for the encouragement of every good work."* -- Hugh Lenox Hodge

We are blessed with a building that is rich in history and one that we can look back on to see what those before us have done to use the church building and property most effectively.

As we move forward to the future and needs that we have as a church, may we remember the excitement from those who have used our building and may we retain and share that same excitement!



# FRIENDSHIP NEWS

By Erin Leghorn, Preschool Director

It's so hard to believe that we are just a few short months away from the end of this school year! It seems like just yesterday that we were making plans to reopen the school after being closed during COVID. Now Spring Break is right around the corner and our little ones are busier than ever!

Our Pre-K class just marked their 100<sup>th</sup> day of school this year! To celebrate, students and their families brought in snack donations to give to Center for Hope. They put their counting skills to the test and kept a daily tally of the number of snacks that had been donated. The final count was 528 snacks!! We are so grateful to our generous families and to Gretchen and Bob Burnham for delivering the snacks to Center for Hope.

Our FriendShip II and Pre-K classes have also begun their VIP (Very Important Parent/Person) program. Parents (or other family members in some cases) have the opportunity to sign up for a time to visit the classroom and lead an activity for the children. It's been a long time since we've been able to welcome families up to the classrooms, so it's been wonderful to be able to bring back this program!

While our FriendShip I and Children's Corner classes may not be ready to count snack donations or bring their parents in for a VIP visit just yet, they are certainly growing and developing new skills each day! Being our littlest students, they are doing the important work of playing. All of our classes are play-based, but the youngest ones are learning and growing so much during the times of play. They learn to interact with other children and adults, solve problems, care for others, and begin to develop a sense of self. They are practicing their communication skills, learning to use good manners, and are using their imagination. They are working on both fine and gross motor skills which help them play confidently on the playground, climb up and down the stairs without assistance, put on their own coats, express themselves creatively, etc. On top of all that important learning, during more structured parts of the day, they are also learning how to follow the routine of a school day, participate in circle time, practice self-control, and listen to and follow directions.

So quickly our students go from being in school for the very first time as a Children's Corner student to being a confident, independent Pre-K student just a few years later! It's truly a magical transition and one of God's greatest gifts!

Our fall registration for next year is still open. We are currently full in many of our classes, but there are still spots open for our Children's Corner classes! We also maintain a wait-list for full classes in the event that spots open before the school year starts. If you are interested in learning more about our school or registering your child, please email: [eleghorn@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:eleghorn@sewickleypresby.org)







# HAVE YOU HEARD?

The Faith House has been chosen as the FIRST house on the Sewickley House Tour this spring! Preparations are going on to provide historical photos of the inside of the house and we are excited to be able to welcome people to our campus who might not have ever been here.

The tour will take place on April 29 & 30. We are looking for church members to help with the tour by stationing themselves around the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors to answer any questions and to provide a smiling face to the visitors. What a great way to share your love for our church! Call the church office for additional details. (412.741.4550)



## WE ARE HIRING

We are still looking for a part-time Director of Children's Ministries to join our church staff. This position plays an integral role in developing, leading and implementing a program where our younger kids can grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

If you are interested, or know anyone that is, please visit our website for a complete job description. A link can be found on the bottom of any web page. Please share the news!

## TRY SOMETHING NEW!

Our Children's Ministry sub-committee needs some new members! There are two qualifications: loving kids and loving Jesus!

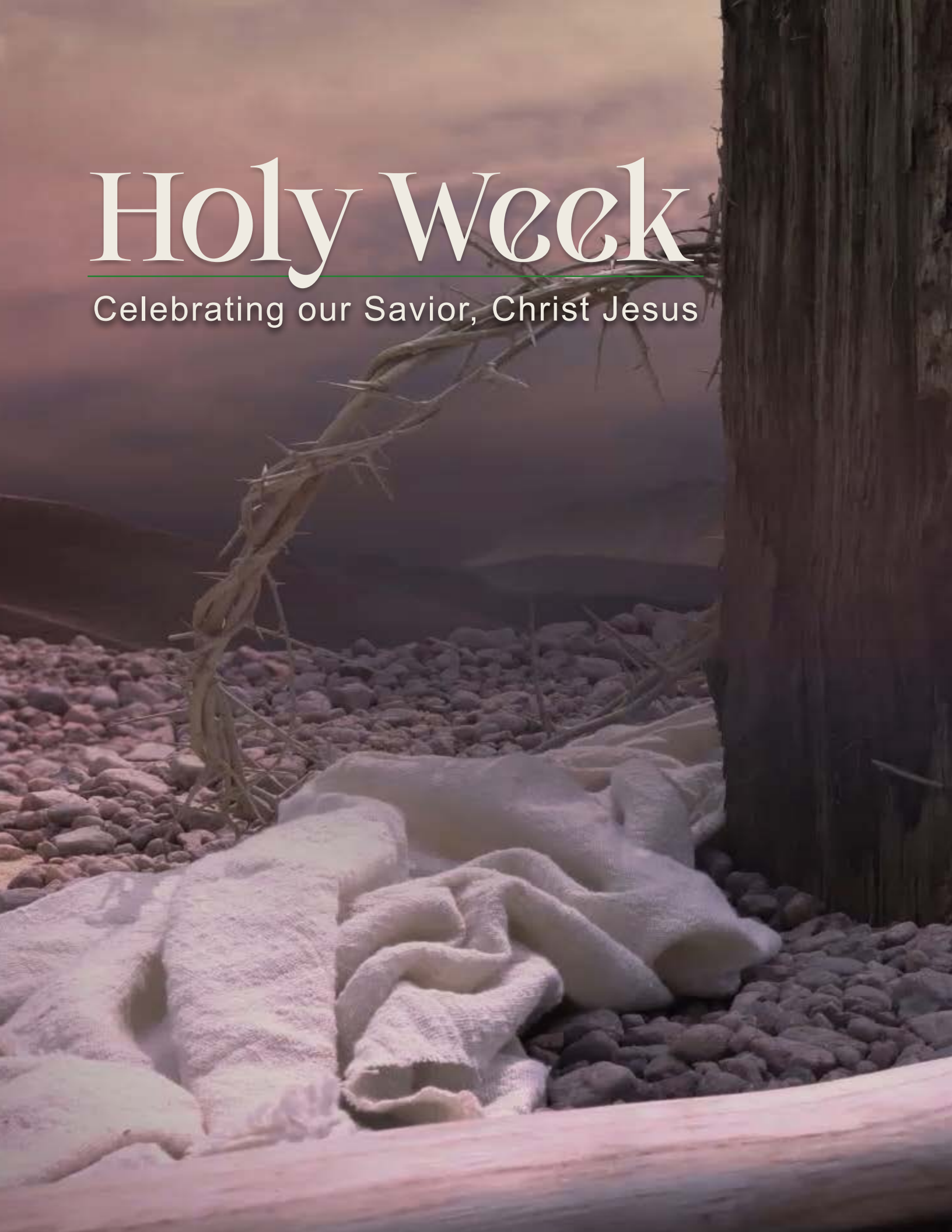
The sub-committee helps the Children's Ministry Director with planning events for kids and families, choosing curriculum and helping with the overall goals of our church where our younger members are concerned.

Being a part of this committee isn't a big time commitment, but the rewards are great! The committee meets just one time a month. If you are interested, please contact Erin Leghorn: [eleghorn@sewickleypresby.org](mailto:eleghorn@sewickleypresby.org). We need you!



# Holy Week

Celebrating our Savior, Christ Jesus







## Palm Sunday, April 10

**8:30 AM** Worship Service

**9:45 AM** Discipleship Hour

**11 AM** Worship Service

**3 PM** Faith House Egg Hunt Event

*Kids are invited to gather on the Faith House lawn to hunt for eggs, dye eggs, and make holiday crafts!*

**4 PM** Evening Worship

## Maundy Thursday, April 14

**7:30 PM** Communion Service

## Good Friday, April 15

**7:30 PM** Worship Service

## Easter Sunday, April 17

**8:30 AM** Worship Service

**9:30 AM** Easter Brunch

*This Easter join us in the Robinson Room for brunch. Brunch will be served from 9:30 - 10:45 AM.*

**11 AM** Worship Service

# Club 345 *is back!*

Our AMAZING after-school program is making a comeback this spring! If you have kids who are in grades 3, 4 & 5, let them know that our very own Sara Hoagland will be leading Club 345 for six weeks at the Faith House.

Kids will play games, eat snacks, work on a service project and have fun together -- all centered around sharing the love of Jesus with each other. The dates are below. Mark your calendars! Please visit our website to register.

**April 20 & 27**  
**May 4, 11, 18, 25**  
**3:45 - 5:15 PM**

2020/21 Club 345 memories:







## GIVING DURING LENT & EASTER

Have you noticed the fish banks that are available near the coffee maker in the Robinson Room? We partner with One Great Hour of Sharing (via PC(USA)) every Lenten season to collect loose change in the banks. This is a fun way for children, families and individuals to live out their faith during Lent as they participate in this offering.

Stop by and grab a fish bank to take home. Fill it as much as you can and then bring it back to church on Easter Sunday, April 17, when we collect the One Great Hour of Sharing

offering in-person. It's wonderful to know that our coins and dollars will bring relief to people when they are experiencing a crisis!

To learn more about where the OGHS offering goes, please visit the PC(USA) website: [specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs](https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs).

As always, thank you for your generosity!



## SPRING CLEAN-UP

On Saturday, April 23 at 9 AM join us as we clean up our church campus. We will be working inside and outside. Inside tasks will involve dusting, cleaning windows, and freshening up the buildings from the winter time.

Outside work will be cleaning up the yards, trimming, raking, edging and pruning. All are welcome and encouraged to help! There is something for everyone to do. Questions? Contact the church office.



## EASTER FLOWERS

Each Easter Sunday our sanctuary is decorated with beautiful flowers in celebration of the Resurrection and in memory of our loved ones. We welcome you to memorialize a special family member or friend by filling out a flower form.

Memorial forms are available in the church pews, in the Robinson Room and on our website under Events. The deadline for submissions is April 10. Monetary donations are accepted (cash/check/credit) but not necessary. Thank you!



# BEING INVOLVED

by Mike Creamer, Ministry Associate for Youth & Young Adults

The new year has brought some exciting opportunities with it, from seeing the Evening Worship service become more regular to doing more together outside with the recent spurts of spring weather.

While we have had some fun events together like pizza parties and bowling, there have also been great opportunities to see our teens grow. We've been immensely blessed by the leadership we have seen from our teenagers over the last few months.

On Youth Sunday, we had teens leading in every area of worship for our morning services. For each Evening Worship service we've had a teenager sharing about their faith journey. And in the last month we've had teens help lead two service projects--working with Open Hands Ministry and the Little Pantry Project here in Sewickley.

It is abundantly clear that the Spirit is working in the hearts of our teens and we are seeing the impact of that all around us. We're looking forward to a number of things coming this spring, but most of all is how God is leading us into this new season for the student ministry.



## UPCOMING DATES

### APRIL 10

4 PM Evening Worship  
5 PM Youth Fellowship at Eat-N-Park

### APRIL 24

12 - 3 PM Confirmation Retreat  
4 PM Evening Worship

### MAY 14

8:30 AM Service Day for QV Food Relief Leetsdale VFW

### MAY 22

4 PM End of Year Youth Group Party

### JUNE 5

Confirmation Sunday & High School Senior Recognition

**FUN FACT:** Our two youth preachers on Youth Sunday were Will Campbell and Sophie Gledhill. They are both pictured, from when they were much younger, on our Live, Grow, Serve banners as you enter the church buildings.



# MAY 1 & 8



## Blanket the world with love



### CWS Blanket Sunday

*"They are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity." - 2 Corinthians 8:2*

Hundreds of congregations and groups across the United States hold Church World Service Blanket events. These provide funds to help people in need here in the U.S. and elsewhere around the world.

Once again SPC will be among those groups taking on the challenge of making a difference in someone's life. Offi-

cially we celebrate Blanket Sunday each year on Mother's Day, and this year we will also be holding it on May Day! Deacons will be available in the Robinson Room on the mornings of **Sundays May 1 and May 8** to assist you with your donations. The cost per blanket is \$10.

To learn more: <https://cwsblankets.org/>



We as a church want to make tangible differences for those in need. It's hard to know what impact you can make around the world so through this, we know we are helping those who have been displaced, are refugees, or disaster victims and when you have that helpless feeling during these times, I can look at what CWS is doing and can say, 'hey, I can support that!'

— REVEREND LUKE HYDER  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EVERETT, WA



**4,642**  
emergency  
cleanup  
buckets



**68,760**  
blankets

### CWS KITS AND BLANKETS IMPACT REPORT —2021—

**780**  
welcome  
backpacks



**33,240**  
school kits



"Volunteering for Church World Service as a Kit Depot Coordinator brings me joy! I enjoy meeting and talking with the other kit donors who are involved with CWS. I am always impressed seeing all of the faithful donors and many kits they assemble each year. It really is amazing and astonishing—so thank you!"

— PHYLLIS METZ, CWS KIT DEPOT COORDINATOR  
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ZELIENOPLE, PA

**83,760**  
hygiene kits





## NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Glenis Levine, SPC Member

Like many of you, I assume, my mind and heart these days are with the people in Ukraine. The images we see are tragic. As I watch, among many concerns, I wonder how will they continue to have the basic elements of survival as this continues? Then I wonder if there is any way I can help. This is the mindset of our church and our group Neighbors in Need: "How can we help?" Though we surely want to help Ukraine and keep them in our prayers, we currently are assisting food insecure families closer to home.

Food insecurity is very real in our local communities, and our church and other local organizations are working very hard to help alleviate hunger in our own backyard. Our Neighbors in Need program augments those efforts in that it focuses on personal care items which food stamps often do not cover, but are critically needed. Our shopping list is made up of items specifically requested by our mission partners: Sewickley Community Center, The Center for Hope, The Ladle, and the YMCA's Free Little Pantries. And they are so grateful to receive what we are able to provide.

Amy Richardson, our YMCA coordinator, said recently: "All of the pantries seem very busy this month. I believe the monthly child tax credit has something to do with this. Families received \$250 per child per month for the last seven or eight months, and January is the first month without it. Our Y stepping up to help fight local food insecurity is so impressive. Between the pantries and the monthly food delivery, we are helping to feed so many families. And most importantly, it wouldn't be possible without volunteers and grant support!"

The Y has seven pantries: Laughlin Library in Ambridge, Fair Oaks Fire Department, Henle Park/Leetsdale VFW, Sewickley Community Center, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sewickley, Pathway Church in Crescent Township, and a private home in Coraopolis run by the homeowners.

Miriam Rader, a volunteer at the Sewickley Community Center, shared: "So many who have visited the SCC since

Neighbors in Need's last donations, have expressed delight when we bundled your gifts. Something so simple made a big impact on so many. We're so grateful for your generosity through the NIN program! Many thanks from the SCC!"

Last year, we as a church donated approximately 1500 items to distribute. Part of these were purchased with your financial donations to Neighbor's in Need which totaled \$4,535! When we run our collection months and you put items in our boxes, purchase items from our Amazon wish list, or make a financial contribution, your help is directly impacting local families and is greatly appreciated. We can't thank you enough for your individual and continued support for our neighbors in need.





# THE LADLE

by Carol Weir, SPC Member

Founded in 2005 as an ecumenical soup kitchen, The Ladle makes its home in the Fellowship Hall of St. John's Lutheran Church in Old Economy, and has been serving needy residents in Ambridge for 18 years. SPC and its members have partnered with The Ladle from the very beginning, providing financial support, preparing and serving meals and collecting nonperishable goods and personal care products for the organization's Food Pantry. Today, The Ladle has a total of 24 partner organizations that offer this critical support.

While facing numerous challenges due to the covid-19 pandemic, The Ladle has remained open and devoted to its mission. Beginning in March 2020, the Monday night sit-down dinners that offered neighborhood residents a hot meal, friendly companionship and a safe place to gather were no longer viable. At the same time, as the pandemic continued, food insecurity in Ambridge grew to an all time high and The Ladle's Monday dinners and Food Pantry offerings were in even greater demand than before.

The Ladle began serving take-out meals in March 2020 and has continued to do so out of concern for the health of its patrons. Instead of serving 80-100 sit-down meals each Monday, it was being asked to provide upwards of 150 meals to residents in need. In 2019, the Ladle served approximately 3500 meals, while in 2020, the count was 6565 and in 2021 it was 6142.

Food Pantry usage over the last two years has increased as well, and fortunately, The Ladle has been the recipient of increased donations. As an example, SPC's Neighbors in Need has conducted three drives each year to collect per-



sonal care products, including body wash, shaving cream, toothpaste, laundry detergent and more. Having these items, nonperishable food products and paper goods available to them at no cost through The Ladle's Food Pantry is a great comfort.

As of Monday, April 4, The Ladle will resume serving its Monday night sit-down dinners in the Fellowship Hall at St. John's Lutheran Church in Old Economy! Hallelujah!

## MINISTERIO DEL REY

Our past mission trips to the Dominican Republic, through Meeting God in Missions (MGM), have always included our mission recipient Del Rey Ministries. We also have church members, both present and past, who actively support Del Rey throughout the year.

For the first time since COVID hit, MGM has been able to host mission teams at their facility. Recently, MGM hosted teams of 60 men and women who worked with distributing clothes and medicines, provided help with construction projects and who shared the word of God with the Dominican residents.

As you pray for those in need, please remember to keep Del Rey in your prayers. Pray for those who are able to minister and to the residents of the DR that they receive the message of Christ.

Please contact the church office to learn more.





Sewickley Presbyterian Church

**LIVE · GROW · SERVE**

414 Grant Street

Sewickley, PA 15143

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

**Dated Material**

PLEASE EXPEDITE

# Mark your Calendars!

**Palm Sunday/ Easter Egg Hunt Event** April 10

**Maundy Thursday Service** April 14

**Good Friday Service** April 15

**Easter Sunday/Brunch** April 17

**Club 345 begins** April 20

**Spring Clean-Up** April 23

**Sewickley House Tour** April 29/30

**Word Sung** May 22

**Summer Worship begins** May 29

**Confirmation Sunday &**

**Senior Recognition** June 5

**Church Picnic** June 12

**Vacation Bible School** August 8-12

