



# INTERPRETATION

Sewickley Presbyterian Church Newsletter  
Fall 2022

**CELEBRATING  
GOD'S GREATNESS**  
at Vacation Bible School!





## OFFICE

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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



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### TOM LOCKWOOD

JOEY TOMALES  
Custodial Staff





# SOMETHING IN THE AIR?

By Rev. Derek Davenport

Something is in the air. Maybe you've noticed it.

On the one hand, it happens at the end of every summer. There's an energy in our church as we head to Day on the Lawn. The buildings slowly fill with items and donations. The storage trailers appear in the parking lot. The list of drop-off days grows shorter, and the list of volunteers grows longer. Maybe it's the spirit of cooperation and energy in the air.

On the other hand, this year feels different.

Maybe it's all the baptisms and new members. We've had baptisms scheduled every week for about a month now, and more are coming. Maybe it's a spirit of joy and new life in the air as we watch God at work in the waters of baptism and live our faith together.

Or maybe it has something to do with our children's ministry. As we look back over the summer, we had so many great events, culminating with an exciting Vacation Bible School program that welcomed so many children and families. As we look forward, we anticipate even more great ministry as Hanna Mellor has agreed to continue that work, staying on as our Children's Ministry Interim Coordinator through this next year. Maybe it's a spirit of enthusiasm and excitement in our church.



Then again, maybe it's anticipation as we move ahead to our full Sunday morning schedule this fall. It's been almost three years since we've had our full complement of services. In September, we will offer an 8 AM chapel service, a 9 AM praise service, a 10 AM education hour, and an 11 AM traditional service. Maybe, as we return to such an important part of living our faith as a congregation, it's a spirit of anticipation and praise in the air.

Or maybe it's the addition of Rev. Emily Miller. Or maybe it's the expectations as we search for a new choir director. Maybe it's our youth ministries, or congregational care, or the joy of living faith together, or mission projects, or adult education, or the outstanding work of our deacons, or...

Well, Jennifer Johnson has given me a space limit. So I better stop there, even though I've left out so many possibilities. Whatever it is that's in the air, you'll just have to join in and catch the spirit yourself. Whatever brings you joy as we live our faith, I hope you'll be a part of what the Spirit is doing in our church right now!





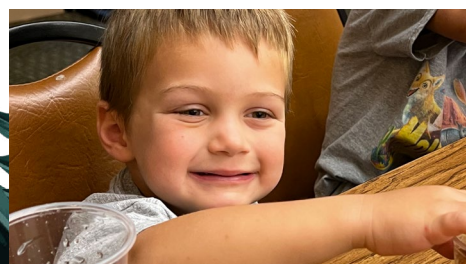
# FUN IN THE SUN

We just recently wrapped up a week of Vacation Bible School and what a blast everyone had! We hosted over 70 kids and had a TON of volunteers who gave their time each day to teach, lead, serve and just have a good time along with the kids.

Thank you so much to Hanna Mellor and Julia Weicht for their leadership throughout the process and for everyone who was involved this year.

We wished Julia a fond farewell after VBS as she has taken a full-time job as a teacher. Hanna will continue as our Children's Ministry Interim Coordinator while she finishes her degree at Penn State. She's done a great job with planning events for our kids this summer, and is looking forward to the fall months and getting to know our littlest church members better.

Check out our Facebook and Instagram for more pics!







It's Almost Here!

Sign-Up Today!

# DAY ON THE LAWN

SEPTEMBER 10 | 9 AM - 3 PM

If you've never experienced Day on the Lawn you've been missing out! We welcome countless numbers of people on the day of the sale who are looking for a good deal on all of the donated merchandise we've received over the summer months.

Day on the Lawn is essentially a fundraiser for mission. All proceeds, minus expenses, are distributed to various mission partners, individuals, and organizations via our Mission Committee. It's a great way to spread the good news of Christ to many people!

Your help is needed for Prep Week and the day of the sale. Please consider volunteering -- you won't be sorry! You can find additional details on our website.

Sign-ups are available on our website and also in the Robinson Room. We hope to see you in a week!

## Final Donation Drop-Off Day

**SEPTEMBER 3 | 9 AM - 12 PM**

Bring us your unwanted items! Jewelry, furniture, toys, books, home goods, electronics and more! A complete list of acceptable donations is on our website.

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

## DAY ON THE LAWN SCHEDULE

### September 4 | 12 PM

Meet in the Robinson Room as we move donated merchandise to designated areas of the building. This move doesn't take long if we have many hands, so please join us after church.

### September 5-9 | Various Times

Departments will be setting up all week. Visit our website for a list of departments and consider joining one. Whether you can help for just a few hours or a few days — it all helps a great deal!

### Sept. 7 | 5:30 PM | All Hands On Deck Work Party

Meet on the front lawn for pizza and then help to set-up the Home Goods department. To arrange for childcare & food, RSVP to Amy Szuba: 412.559.3613 or [amyszuba@yahoo.com](mailto:amyszuba@yahoo.com).

### September 8 | The Great Furniture Move | 5:30 PM

We have a TON of furniture donations this year so we need 30 or more people to move the furniture out of storage to the tents. Pizza will be served! We will work until the furni-

ture is all moved so please come when you are able. Let Art Bomberger know if you can help so he can make sure there is enough food: [arthur.k.bomberger@ms.com](mailto:arthur.k.bomberger@ms.com).

### September 9 | Baked Goods & Deli Items

Please drop-off homemade baked goods and deli items in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Hayden: [andrealhayden@comcast.net](mailto:andrealhayden@comcast.net).

### September 9 | 4 – 7 PM | DOL Presale

If you have helped in ANY way with Day on the Lawn, you are invited to our Presale. In order to shop, you will need to wear a Presale shopping bracelet. They will be available outside of the Ansby entrance beginning at 4 PM on Friday. Please plan on taking all purchases home with you on Friday. In order to keep with our focus on mission, please ask your family and friends to wait until Saturday to do their shopping. Thank you!

### September 10 | 9 AM – 3 PM

Day on the Lawn Rummage Sale



## THE A.P. CORNER

By Rev. Emily Miller, Associate Pastor

As I got dressed this morning, I chose some comfy pants, flat sandals, and a short-sleeved top to keep me cool in the heat and humidity. Why the comfy outfit? Because I have the opportunity to serve my neighbors at the Center for Hope, working alongside volunteers from SPC as we provide dinner outside under the tents. Getting involved with this small group of dedicated folks helps me to serve my neighbors as Jesus commands, but it also allows me to get to know church members in a deeper way than just chatting after worship. Small groups provide the perfect opportunity for service, prayer, reading, and even knitting! They allow us to dig deeper into our life as a church family. They allow us to feel like we belong.

In my last call, the churches were small, and so it was easy for everyone to know everyone else. But at larger churches like SPC, this may appear more difficult. Yet truly, the opportunities to get into a small group abound! Do you like prayer and study? Try Koinonia! Are you good with fixing and building things? Try Hammer and Nails! Are you a guy who likes to talk about life today and the scriptures? Try The Huddle! Are you a teen who is looking for some coffee and conversation? Meet Mike at Crazy Mocha! Are you quick with a knitting needle and eager to serve? Join the knitters in the Faith House! So many groups, so little time! And if, for some reason, we don't have a group you like, then we can help you get one started!

I am excitedly looking forward to the fall when all of our groups will begin again, and all of us can find a place where we belong in this big family we call SPC. Come and join your church brothers and sisters in worship, service and fun. There is room for everyone!

Serving with you,

Pastor Emily

## KOINONIA: GIVE IT A TRY

By Susie Wardrop, SPC member

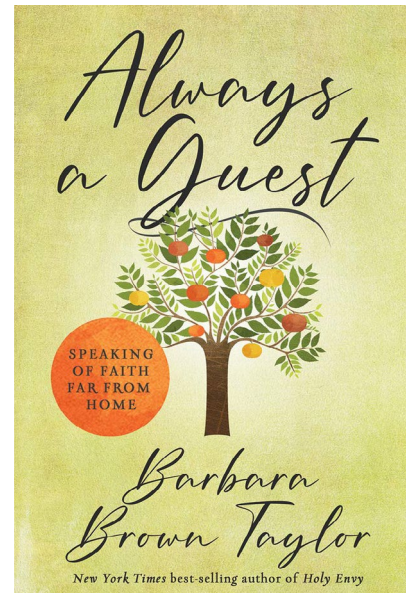
Our small group Koinonia starts up September 13 and will be led by our wonderful new pastor Emily Miller. This will be a great time to join us. If you've been curious about Koinonia over the years or if you're a brand new member, this is the perfect time to join us, as we explore our faith together. We'd love to have you!

**When:** Tuesdays, 9:15 - 11 AM

**Where:** Chapel for gathering prayers and for communion, followed by study in the Campbell Room

**Fall Study:** "Always a Guest", a collection of sermons by Barbara Brown Taylor, one of the most well known preachers of our time. Books are available for \$20 in church office or you can order them from Amazon.com.

**Questions:** contact Susie Wardrop @ 412-216-4776.



## DOLLAR & SENSE

By Laura Mikush, Business Administrator

**Did You Know:** AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Sewickley Presbyterian Church is an eligible Smile charitable organization. To date we have received \$40.09 from Amazon Smile. Log into your Amazon account and then in the address bar type Smile.Amazon.com and you can pick SPC as your charitable organization and we will get 0.5% on your purchases. Thank you.

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER  
AUGUST 29**



## SACRED SPACES

OCTOBER 22 & 23

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE



RETREAT  
SPEAKER & LEADER

Rev. Jean Henderson

Register today for a weekend designed to create a sacred space for women to connect with God and make a few new friends. A spiritual retreat of any kind provides the space to free ourselves from the distractions of daily life and turn our attention more closely to God.

Nestled amongst the Laurel Mountains, just 90 minutes east of Sewickley, the Antiochian Village provides a restorative setting for us to come away together. We hope you will be a part of this overnight trip!

## WOMEN'S RETREAT AT ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE

**Registration deadline is August 29:  
[sewickleypresby.org](http://sewickleypresby.org)**



## THE LADLE

On August 8, a groups of church members volunteered at The Ladle -- an ecumenical soup kitchen and food pantry housed at St. John's Lutheran Church in Old Economy.

Did you know we serve dinner at the Ladle on four Monday evenings each year? SPC has been a supporter of this important local ministry since its inception in 2008. Details about how to get involved are on our website.





By Erin Leghorn, Preschool Director

Summer is flying by and FriendShip Preschool will start another new school year in just a few weeks!

In case you are unfamiliar with FriendShip Preschool, our mission is to provide our community with a high-quality, Christian, early childhood program that promotes social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development in young children. FriendShip uses play as the primary means to develop skills and growth while fostering discovery, friendships, and enjoyment in the preschool experience.

FriendShip offers classes for 4 age groups:

- **Children's Corner (2 years – 3 years old)**
- **FriendShip I (young 3-year-olds)**
- **FriendShip II (older 3-year-olds and young 4-year-olds)**
- **Pre-K (older 4-year-olds and 5-year-olds)**

Each class has its own focus for the year, but the goal for all of us is to provide children with a positive, nurturing school environment and instill each child with a love of learning that will carry into their elementary school years.

FriendShip Preschool is not just housed in the SPC building; it is also a part of the church's ministry. One of my goals as director has been to make connections between our school and our congregation. A few of the ways we have made those connections are:

- Chapel Time a few times a year with members of our Clergy and Music Ministry team for our FriendShip II and Pre-K classes.
- One Great Hour of Sharing – Last year our FriendShip students filled fish banks and donated several hundred dollars to OGHS!
- In October, the office staff provides a trick-or-treating experience for our little ones.
- FriendShip families have been invited and have attended several church events, such as the family Advent service last December, the Egg Hunt in April, and VBS this summer.
- For the 100th Day of School, our Pre-K class helped serve one of church's missions by bringing in snack items to donate to Center for Hope. They set a goal of 100 snack items, but surpassed their goal and donated 528 individual snacks!

We continue to look for new ways to serve our community and create new opportunities to bring church and school together! Have an idea for us? We'd love to hear it!

As we enjoy the last bits of summer, we're also preparing and praying for an exciting year at school. We can't wait to welcome our students and see all their smiling, little faces!





# A SUMMER VISIT

By Mike Creamer, Ministry Associate for Youth & Young Adults

Summer months mean nicer weather, which is especially welcome here in Pittsburgh. But more than that, the summer is a nice time to reset and recalibrate with the teens.

We were excited to have had the opportunity to host our new friend, Hana Slamova, as a teen representative of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren. We were ecstatic to be able to spend time with her and have her join our teens for various activities this summer. Hana brought great perspective to our church and our teens especially, blessing us with her voice during worship and helping to lead children's church this summer. She also gave presentations to our staff and a group of us who traveled to the Czech Republic a few summers back, teaching us about both church life in the Czech Republic and how the Czech Church is responding to the Ukrainian refugee crisis. While we were just one of many churches she visited this summer, we are grateful for the time we had to share our faith and lives together.

Whether there were movie nights or breakfast Bible studies, it was nice to regroup with our teens this summer and have some time to catch up. We've also been excited to see so many teenagers helping with Day on the Lawn Drop-off days. DOL is quickly approaching and we still need help!

As we look ahead towards our fall kickoff and weekly programming starting back up, we are excited to see everyone getting back in the swing of things. You can look forward to our fall kickoff brochure coming out soon, but until then, you can save the date: September 18 at 10 AM!







Thank you to everyone who took part in our Backpacks in July mission project. Thanks to you, we reached our goal of 100 backpacks for the Center for Hope. A handful of our Deacons, along with Pastor Emily, loaded the backpacks into their cars, delivered, and passed them out on August 10. There were plenty of smiling faces from the kids and excitement as they chose their favorite backpack to take home.

"Special thanks to your loving church for the amazing backpack donations! It was a wonderful day at the Center as we watched the excitement on kids' faces when they got their backpacks. So many parents expressed relief knowing their children will have the supplies they need for school this Fall." -- Sue Otto, Center for Hope Director



## BHUTANESE REFUGEES

By Sarah Heres, SPC Member

On Sunday July 10, a number of the Bhutanese/Nepalese families gathered at the church playground to thank Sara White before she moves away from the area. Sara has been a leader in the church's refugee resettlement program that started in 2009. During the past 13 years, Sara has assist-

ed these families with obtaining housing, employment, green cards, drivers licenses, citizenship, passports and the list goes on. The Subba and Guragai families surrounded her with gifts of appreciation, many pictures were taken to send her off to Georgia!





# CATCH THE Spirit!



## STEWARDSHIP 101

By Shelley Newlin, Stewardship Committee Member

What do you think of when you hear the word “stewardship”? Do you wonder what being a good steward entails? Have you prayerfully considered the best way to manage your gifts? Do you get excited to serve the Lord by thoughtfully using your gifts? God takes delight in the person who gives to Him cheerfully out of a loving heart.

The Stewardship campaign will officially begin on October 2, 2022. To facilitate an overall better understanding of being a good steward, the stewardship committee will share a series of short emails over the fall entitled “Stewardship 101.” It is our intention that by starting the conversation about stewardship and by providing the facts about the church’s finances, we will begin to purposefully think about the way we can better utilize our gifts.

It is our hope that these emails will provide you with facts and information that will create a better understanding of how you would like to use your gifts for the good of God’s kingdom.

Please feel free, to reach out to any committee member to continue this dialogue.

**The Stewardship Committee:** Don Birnie, Matt Braksick, Ron Frank, Pat Fulmer, Dave Mitchell, Shelley Newlin, Beth Rom, Tom Szuba

**Stewardship 101**  
will attempt to bring clarity to  
the following topics:

*Why is it important to pledge?*

*How does being a contributing member of the  
church family impact my faith?*

*What happens when we don’t  
reach our pledge goals?  
If we pledge more, what opportunities will  
be available to our church?*

*Are we missing opportunities to attract  
the top professionals to our staff  
when we fail to reach our pledge goals?*

*How does my financial commitment through  
pledging impact the growth of my faith  
and my understanding of scripture?*





Sewickley Presbyterian Church

**LIVE · GROW · SERVE**

414 Grant Street

Sewickley, PA 15143

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

**Dated Material**

PLEASE EXPEDITE

*New Fall Schedule!*



**September 11**

One Service Only at 10 AM

**September 18**

Fall Kick-Off Sunday

One Service Only at 10 AM

Refreshments & Fellowship to Follow at 11 AM

**September 25**

8 AM Service in the Chapel with Communion

9 AM Service in the Sanctuary (Praise Band)

10 AM Education Hour

11 AM Service in the Sanctuary (Chancel Choir)

