



Sewickley Presbyterian Church

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

Job Title: Choir Director/Organist

Reports to: Senior Pastor

Hours: Full-time, Exempt

Our Mission

We aspire to be a church that faithfully proclaims and faithfully lives the Gospel of Jesus Christ in grateful response to God's love by living together as a church family, growing as disciples of Jesus and serving in God's mission in the world.

Whom We Seek

We seek one who will build on our long history of musical excellence, who views music as an offering to God, who brings joy and enthusiasm to leadership in music for worship, and who will embrace and promote a wide range of musical styles in worship.

Principal Functions

The Choir Director/Organist at Sewickley Presbyterian Church serves our Lord by overseeing all aspects of the church's traditional music programs. This includes providing organ/piano music and the direction of choir(s) and soloists at regularly scheduled worship services and directing the bell choir. This position will also be responsible for planning and implementing special music programs, including administering a portion of the music endowments.

The Choir Director/Organist collaborates with the Senior Pastor, the Praise Team Director/Guitarist and the Worship and Music Committee in worship service planning, selecting appropriate instrumental and choral music for each service, and supervising the work of professionals and volunteers who work in the church's Music Ministry. The Choir Director/Organist will coordinate with the Praise Team Director/Guitarist to help further the expansion of our music programs, including development of children and youth music programs within the life of the church.

Position Requirements

- Holds a bachelor's degree in music, organ and/or sacred music, with a master's preferred
- Has a minimum five years' experience in leading music in worship
- Demonstrates excellence in choral directing, organ/piano performance, sight reading, open-score playing, and improvisation
- Maintains membership in the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, American Guild of Organists, and/or Handbell Musicians of America, preferred
- Is willing to work within the framework of a Presbyterian order of worship

Job Responsibilities

- Collaborates with the Senior Pastor to oversee organ, choral and instrumental music for traditional worship, (currently two traditional services each Sunday), as well as for special services during the year, and for weddings and funerals
- Leads weekly rehearsals of vocal and bell choirs
- Supervises the Chancel Choir's paid section leaders and arranges for substitute musicians when needed
- Secures guest instrumentalists and vocalists, as needed
- Oversees maintenance of the church's two pipe organs, several pianos, and five octaves of handbells
- Orders music materials necessary for the traditional music program and manages the care of the music library
- Attends weekly staff meetings
- Attends meetings of the Worship and Music Committee as a staff resource person
- Works collaboratively with other SPC musical leaders and resources to ensure that music, regardless of form or style, seamlessly underpins worship at SPC

Our Church

Sewickley Presbyterian Church (SPC)ⁱ is a vibrant community of over 800 members located in the scenic village of Sewickley, PA, approximately 14 miles from downtown Pittsburgh. Founded in 1838, our campus includes a historic sanctuary, the Faith House (which houses the Samaritan Counseling Center and multiple meeting rooms for church activities), and a manse.

The church staff is led by our Senior Pastor along with a full-time Associate Pastor, and a Director of Youth and Young Adults' Ministries. We have a part-time Praise Team Director/Guitarist whose primary responsibilities are to provide music and lead worship for our contemporary worship service, and to lead the children's music program.

Our Music Program

Worship is central to our community, and music is a foundation of our worship. While we value high-caliber sacred music and strong congregational singing, we also promote a wide range of styles across the musical spectrum, from traditional to spirituals, gospel, jazz, and contemporary Christian.

SPC has a long history of excellent music. We currently have a 20-member Chancel Choir led by a quartet of paid professional soloists/section leaders. Our Praise Team provides musical leadership during our contemporary services. SPC also has a bell choir of roughly 12 members. In addition to regular Sunday worship, the choirs support special programming during the Advent and Lenten seasons.

Our Music Program Resources

Our historic sanctuary is home to a 63-rank Holtkamp Organ with a six-rank antiphonal division at the rear of

the sanctuary. In 2017 a nine-rank tracker-style mechanical-action pipe organ was installed in the balcony of our chapel by the Bedient Pipe Organ Company. To support our bell choir, we have a well-maintained five-octave set of Schulmerich handbells plus C-2 and G-2, and a five-octave set of chimes.

SPC is blessed to have multiple music endowments totaling over \$1,000,000. These endowments enable us to host guest musicians to help lead worship, and for special concerts, events and recitals.

¹Sewickley Presbyterian Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church USA.

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