



INTERPRETATION

Sewickley Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Nov/Dec 2022

I AM THE **light**
OF THE WORLD.
WHOEVER
FOLLOWS **me**
WILL NEVER
WALK IN DARKNESS,
BUT WILL HAVE THE
light of life.

ISAIAH 9:2



OFFICE

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 5 PM

Phone

412.741.4550

Fax

412.741.1210

Address

414 Grant Street
Sewickley, PA 15143

Web Address

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.

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



SPC STAFF

REV. DEREK DAVENPORT

Associate Pastor/Head of Staff
ddavenport@sewickleypresby.org

REV. EMILY MILLER

Associate Pastor
emiller@sewickleypresby.org

SHARON BARBER

Assistant to the Pastor
sbarber@sewickleypresby.org

RAY BLACKWELL

Choir Director
rayblackwell@comcast.net

DAVE BREIT

Media Engineer
dbreit@sewickleypresby.org

RICI BROCKINSON

Broadcast Engineer
rbrockinson@sewickleypresby.org

MIKE CREAMER

Ministry Associate for Youth & Young Adults
mcreamer@sewickleypresby.org

JEREMY FISHER

Associate Director of Music Ministries
jfisher@sewickleypresby.org

JENNIFER JOHNSON

Director of Communications
jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org

ERIN LEGHORN

Director of FriendShip Preschool
eleghorn@sewickleypresby.org

HANNA MELLOR

Children's Ministries Interim Coordinator
hmellor@sewickleypresby.org

LAURA MIKUSH, CCA

Business Administrator
lmikush@sewickleypresby.org

STEPHANIE SMITH

Administrative Assistant
ssmith@sewickleypresby.org

ELIZABETH SZUBA

Director of Congregational Care
eszuba@sewickleypresby.org

TOM LOCKWOOD

JOEY TOMALES
Custodial Staff



CELEBRATIONS

By Rev. Derek Davenport

Candy and costumes. Turkey and pie. Candy Canes and Christmas trees. Fireworks and countdowns.

We are entering that incredible time of year filled with so many celebrations. Of course, we know the upcoming celebrations are more than just the customs. We will remember the saints of the church. We will give thanks for our blessings. We will celebrate the birth of Christ. We will give thanks for a new year.

And through these celebrations, our church does so much to bless our community and to proclaim the love of Christ. With your help, our youth will collect stockings for the Center for Hope. We will have our Knitting for Mission sale, our Christmas food basket program, and college student care opportunities. Our Longest Night service will return this year at Christmas time, and all of this is in addition to our regular worship, discipleship, and mission opportunities. These kinds of opportunities have become defining traits of our congregation.

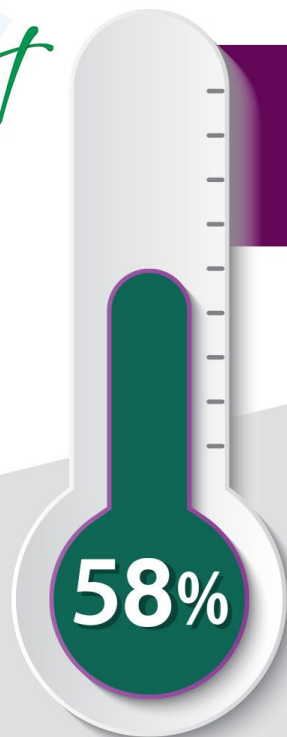
There are some other defining features of our church - several phrases that have come to be particularly important to us. For example, think about how often we hear the words "Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again." Another example might be "grateful response." Maybe you love the threefold grouping of "live, grow, serve" or the refrain that "God loves us no matter what."

Each of these phrases depends on two critical actions. The first is God's action. Whether it's the proclamation of Christ's death resurrection and return, the affirmation of God's love, or the implication that we have a cause to be grateful, these defining phrases rely on God's action. Of course, each of these phrases also spurs us to action, to gratitude, to proclamation.

As we jump into the wonderful things Christ is doing through our church this season, I encourage you to take a moment to step back and take it in. Consider the way these events together express our faith. So often our excitement for one opportunity or one service overwhelms our view of the whole picture. Consider the impact SPC has, through all our ministries, on our neighbors, our community, and our world. What a wonderful, grateful witness to the love of Christ as we head into the fall and winter! We will provide gifts, meals, finances, care packages, and so much more.

Naturally, we will see candy and costumes. We will taste turkey and pie. We will smell pine and peppermint. We will hear fireworks and countdowns. And through it all, Sewickley Presbyterian Church will proclaim the good news of the Gospel as we bless our neighbors.





Stewardship Goal
\$1,311,000

As of November 3:
\$ 757,870
130 pledges



DOLLAR & SENSE

By Laura Mikush, Business Administrator

Did you know on September 30, all of the asphalt on the church grounds was resealed and new line striping was done? How fresh and new the parking lots look!

Also, the lights that illuminate the large stained glass window at the back of the Sanctuary (the window you see when you drive down Beaver Street) had the old lights fixtures retrofitted and new bulbs were installed. Take a drive by at night time to see how beautiful the windows now look.



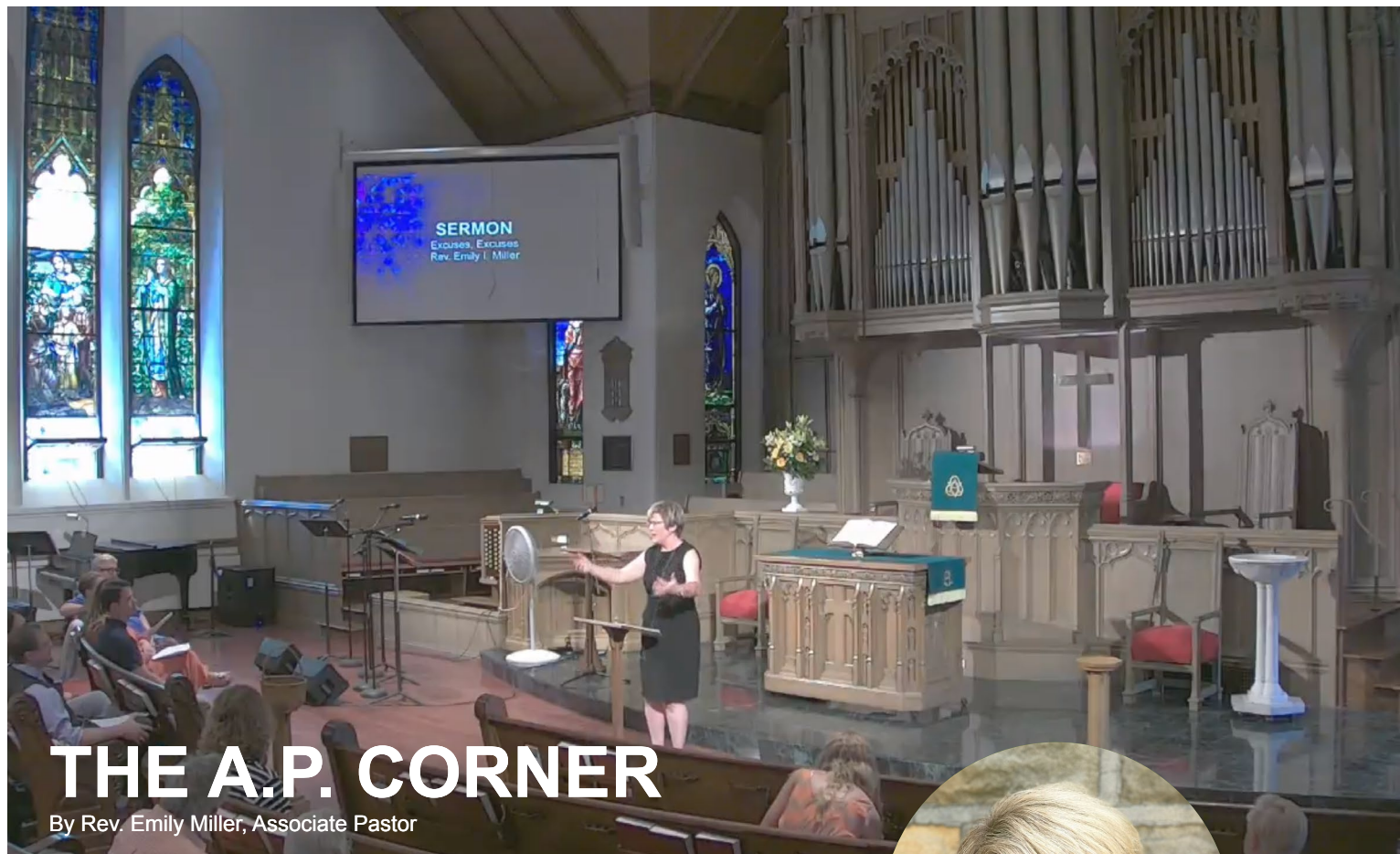
DAY ON THE LAWN

\$62K!

In September we wrapped up our biggest mission project! The BEST news is that we netted just over \$62,000 in sales! Thank you to everyone who played a part in the sale. Every volunteer matters and the help is appreciated more than we are able to express. The impact of \$62,000 for mission is incredible and reaches far beyond our Sewickley borders. So, again, thank you for your generosity and time.

As most of you know, our Book department sale location takes place inside the church building in the Robinson Room. Years ago it was decided to use fruit boxes to organize the books. They are easy to stack books in and easy to move around. Instead of collecting new boxes each year and then throwing them away, we keep the boxes to be used the next year. They are stored in church member John Orndorff's barn. Thank you John!





THE A.P. CORNER

By Rev. Emily Miller, Associate Pastor

Dear friends:

As we approach the middle of October, I am approaching my 5-month anniversary at Sewickley Presbyterian Church! Still seen as a “newbie,” the most common question that I get from church members is: “How do you like our church?” By way of an answer, I’d like to provide a bird’s eye view of what I’ve seen so far. Wow! You are an impressive bunch!

- SPC is a welcoming church – My husband and I have been welcomed over and over again by the members of this church in a way that truly feels authentic and kind. You have greeted me, have made me feel at home, and have welcomed my skills as a pastor without hesitation. Soon after I arrived, Pastor Derek had to be away for quite a few weeks of the summer. As a church, we didn’t miss a beat because you graciously accepted my worship leadership and kept up worship attendance and giving. Thank you! One Sunday, a member of my former church came to see me lead worship; at the close of the hour, I witnessed a group of friendly folks gather around him and welcome him also. This welcoming atmosphere comes naturally at SPC. Awesome!

- SPC is a generous church – In a few short months, I have witnessed a spirit of generosity from and among our church members. Speaking with Sue Otto, the Director of the Center for Hope, she recognizes SPC for its incredible generosity toward our neighbors in need and attributes much of the success of that non-profit to this church. From



the backpack collection in July to the dinners we personally serve to the partnerships we have developed with many non-profits around Pittsburgh, this church operates with a spirit of generosity. Terrific!

- SPC is a church that strives for excellence – The staff at SPC are all highly skilled people who take pride in doing their best for the church. In addition, the members are used to having excellent worship and programming and are willing to roll up their sleeves to help achieve lofty goals. Things that would have passed at other churches as “good enough” are regarded here as not enough for the Lord. We work together until we get it right. Super!

I cannot fully express how blessed I feel to be at SPC and how humbled I am to serve with all of you. Folks are happy to be here, and it shows. I look forward to a beautiful holiday season and to continuing to worship and serve alongside my new friends at SPC.

Blessings to you,

Pastor Emily



AN AMAZING START

By Hanna Mellor, Children's Ministry Coordinator



Thank you all for welcoming me so kindly this past summer and for the next year! I am so excited for what is to come after the exciting and crazy start to the fall and holiday season it has been in Children's Ministries!

Children's Church & Sunday School

We have started a new curriculum in our 9 and 11 AM Children's Worship time where we scavenge and hunt for key truths in living faithfully -- I love Sunday mornings!

In our education hour, our two Sunday school rooms, Kindergarten through 2nd grade and grades 3-5 kids, have been adventuring through each book of the Bible individually to hone their skills in the highly requested Bible game each week! Mrs. Nicole Quaka and I would love to see more eager faces to learn about the Bible! If you have or know any kid ages 4 or 5 years old to 5th grade that would like to join, please come to the Studios on the mezzanine level each Sunday at 10 AM. It's a wonderful and energetic environment to be apart of!

All children, ages infant up to 5 years old, are welcome to come to our wonderful Childcare room located right outside the Sanctuary to play, sing, dance, color, and much more in an age appropriate environment! The hours of our Childcare room are 8 AM to 12:15 PM every Sunday.

Club 345

Besides regular worship schedules, Club 345 has been revived for the fall and winter on Wednesdays from 3:45-5:15 PM for all of our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to chill, collaborate, and have a good time fellowshiping together through various activities including baking, pumpkin painting, service projects and much more! Friends are always welcome! Sign up online at sewickleypresby.org!

Eventful Events!

We have had a groovy season so far! Parents/Kids Night Outs have been very popular and fun for both parents and kids -- our most recent PNO/KNO (our cool acronym for the event type) in October included 36 young faces - both familiar and newer - all coming together to worship God in a fun and easily understood way for all kids 4 years old to 5th grade! Friends are always welcome! Other fun events, like the Family Fall Festival, also come up periodically, so check out sewickleypresby.org regularly to see the fun unfold.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2022

We are going to be putting on a Christmas pageant on December 18, 2022 at 10 AM! Keep an eye out for updates as the event draws closer!

Children's Ministries is also hoping to throw an Advent event after each 11 AM service leading up to Christmas! A craft connecting the reason of the season is anticipated to be a ball! Hope to see you and your little ones there! Check the church website regularly please for any new and exciting events through the rest of the year!

Help to Make it Happen!

If you are willing to help in Children's Worship, we are in need of one extra volunteer each week to participate. Please feel free to stop by to chat after church or reach out to my email at hmellor@sewickleypresby.org if you can or are willing help once a month or even every other month so that we can have two adults in Children's Worship every week. Thank you!



Reformation Sunday Bagpiper during Sunday School



BACK IN THE GROOVE

By Mike Creamer, Ministry Associate for Youth & Young Adults

It's been a fun couple of months returning to our normal routines after a great summer.

Having three worship services back has been a great addition to our weekly rhythms. Our kickoff pool party was a fun way to get things started for the fall, and it's been

great getting back to our weekly programs like High School Breakfast, Sunday School, and Youth Group.

This fall we're excited for all kinds of things coming up. Below are a couple of events to make sure you have on your calendars! I hope to see everyone.



Middle School Discipleship Hour



High School Discipleship Hour

HIGH SCHOOL LAURELVILLE

November 18-20

One of the staples of our program has been our fall retreat to Laurelville and we're stoked to be taking another group away for the high school weekend. As per usual, get ready for some great games, worship, awesome music, and Bible study. Sign-ups are online!



ALL-YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 18

Mark your calendars now and plan to finish off our fall semester with our annual Christmas party. Cookies, games, White Elephant gifts—what more could you hope for? As we get closer to the date, we'll give everyone additional details on how to become involved in the fun!





FOR THE SON OF MAN
CAME NOT TO BE SERVED
BUT TO SERVE,
AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE
A RANSOM FOR MANY.
MARK 10:45



AMIGOS RETREAT

By Ann Strong, SPC church member

The Amigos is a social group of adults with intellectual challenges who have been part of our church for over 40 years.

Twelve Amigos and leaders gathered at the Sewickley Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 24, 2022. The weather was cool, but not raining, as we headed north for our 38th annual retreat at Camp Crestfield.

The camp's tractor has been broken, so no hayride, but we think we will have one next year. Also, the creek was too cold for canoeing. However, we got started with a rousing game of flyswatters and balloons. We learned a new balloon/flyswatter game that was challenging, but fun!

Next, we did a craft. We were so ready for lunch! After lunch we got out our gigantic parachute. We had fun keeping the balls in the air and then spilling them out. Then we did some rock painting and some of us decorated picture frames.

After crafts, some of us went for a walk along the road and up to the Camp Crestfield cabins. We also played the Honeybee game and Hiss. After dinner we packed the cars and headed home, with a quick stop to throw stones in the creek, happy for a fun day at camp. Everyone said they want to come back next year.

If you would like additional information about the Amigos, please contact Ann Strong or Becky Senior: 412.741.7274.

MONTHLY DINNERS



Our monthly dinners are "back to normal" at the Center for Hope. During the pandemic months, we were collecting monetary donations to provide meals prepared by a local catering company and the meals were served outdoors. We are now preparing home cooked meals and are able to serve the clients in the Center for Hope dining room.

If you would like to take part in this great mission, please visit our website, under the Events page, to commit to either providing a food item or volunteering to be on-hand to serve and clean-up. You'll also find additional details on the site.

Thank you!



A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!

By Nancy Bunce, SPC Member

This year 55 women registered to attend the Women's Retreat in the scenic Laurel Highlands. We stayed at Antiochian Village, a retreat center with comfortable accommodations and delicious food. The Women's Retreat Committee, ably led by Jenny Valente, did an outstanding job of planning every detail of our time together. When we arrived, a warm personal note of welcome, written by a member of the committee, greeted each one of us.

God blessed us with a beautiful, warm sunny weekend at the end of October when the colorful foliage reminded us of the beauty of God's creation. The Rev. Dr. Jean Henderson, our beloved former Associate Pastor, led us in a study of Sacred Celtic Spaces, a fascinating topic which was new to most of us. Celtic spirituality interweaves darkness and light, humanity and God, and life and death always seeking balanced living. The Celtic cross is a knot that represents the strands of life woven together in balance.

Celtic sacred spaces include the High Cross and Wells. The High Cross represents the connection between Earth and Heaven and our Reality and our Dreams. Wells were sacred spaces where offerings were made. Celts believed that they could obtain wisdom there and communicate with those in heaven.

After each topic was raised, we broke into small groups for discussion. The members of each group varied so that we

made new friends and deepened current relationships. In each session we shared openly about how each of these sacred spaces related to our lives. We even shared the shipwrecks we have experienced and the anchors who gave us strength to endure. Each group then reflected on the treasures or blessings that may have emerged from the shipwrecks as we looked at our lives in retrospect. Lastly, Jean helped us to see how the holy, sacred spaces in our lives give meaning to everyday spaces. We were encouraged to think of ways that we could discipline ourselves to regularly visit the sacred spaces that give meaning to our lives. Our study of each topic and worship were greatly enhanced by music that Jean carefully selected. Many hymns we sang. Some were sung as beautiful solos by Julie Throckmorton; and all the music was accompanied by Jane Shadle on the piano.

Our time together ended with worship in the beautiful Chapel. It is adorned with icons on every wall. This sacred art depicting scenes of angels, saints, Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary creates a very holy environment where a palpable presence of the Holy Spirit resides. Pastor Emily Miller energetically led us in worship focusing on Our Sacred Space in Christ. The scripture she read, the sermon she delivered and the sacrament of Holy Communion concluded a magical weekend of deepening faith and loving, enriching fellowship. We were truly blessed!

Season of GIVING



CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Collection: November 1 - November 30

Delivery: December 17

Make someone's Christmas brighter by donating non-perishable food items, such as tea, coffee, cereal, pasta, etc., during the month of November. In December, the Deacons will gather all of the items and split them into baskets, along with fresh groceries, and they will then be hand delivered to families and individuals in need in time for Christmas.

Complete details can be found on our website, along with a link to sign-up to deliver a basket and/or to give a monetary gift to help with purchasing additional groceries.

Shopping List

boxed cereals such as corn flakes & Cheerios
(no high sugar cereals, please)

oatmeal

canned/prepackaged tuna or chicken in water

canned kidney or black beans, chickpeas
16 oz. each

low sodium canned soup - 14 oz.

peanut butter - max. 28 oz.

jam/jelly - max. 18 oz.

mustard, mayo, ketchup - max. 14 oz.

tea bags

coffee

cocoa

spaghetti sauce - max. 28.oz.

dried fruit, nuts, raisins



CARING FOR COLLEGE KIDS

Collection: November 1 - November 22

We are collecting \$10 Starbucks gift cards to send to SPC college students during their final exams. Gift cards can be purchased at most stores that carry gift cards or on Amazon.com. If you'd rather donate a monetary gift towards the purchase of gift cards, we'd appreciate that as well!

Please place cards in Mike Creamer's mailbox in the church office no later than November 22. We will be mailing the cards out immediately following the Thanksgiving holiday. There are 48 SPC students in college.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Collection: November 20 - December 4



Christmas is the perfect time of year to spread holiday cheer! One way our church family does this is to gift filled Christmas stockings to the Center for Hope. Please consider helping our SPC Youth with this amazing project! Visit our website for complete details.

KNITTING FOR MISSION SALE

Sale Dates: November 13 & 20 | 9 AM - 12 PM

Location: Robinson Room

You are invited to support missions and go Christmas shopping at the same time! This year is bittersweet since one of the founding members of Knitting for Mission, Velma Saire, passed away recently. In her honor, all proceeds for our annual sale will go to the Velma Saire Youth Scholarship at the Sewickley YMCA.



Sewickley Presbyterian Church

LIVE · GROW · SERVE

414 Grant Street

Sewickley, PA 15143

www.sewickleypresby.org

Dated Material

PLEASE EXPEDITE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| Word Sung | November 20 | 11 AM |
| Advent Lessons & Carols..... | December 11 | 11 AM |
| Christmas Pageant | December 18 | 10 AM |
| Longest Night Service..... | December 21 | 7 PM |
| Christmas Eve Worship..... | December 24 | 5 & 8 PM |
| Christmas Day Worship..... | December 25 | 11 AM |
| New Years Day Worship..... | January 1 | 11 AM |