

INTERPRETATION

Sewickley Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Summer 2023



Let your light shine!

Matthew 5:16

SPC STAFF

REV. DEREK DAVENPORT
Pastor/Head of Staff
ddavenport@sewickleypresby.org

REV. EMILY MILLER
Covenant Pastor
emiller@sewickleypresby.org

MIKE CREAMER
Temporary Associate Pastor
mcreamer@sewickleypresby.org

SHARON BARBER
Assistant to the Pastor
sbarber@sewickleypresby.org

DAVE BREIT
Media Engineer
dbreit@sewickleypresby.org

RICI BROCKINSON
Broadcast Engineer
rbrockinson@sewickleypresby.org

JEREMY FISHER
Praise Team Director
jfisher@sewickleypresby.org

MICHAEL HAMMER
Choir Director & Organist
mhammer@sewickleypresby.org

JENNIFER JOHNSON
Director of Communications
jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org

ERIN LEGHORN
Director of FriendShip Preschool
Director of Discipleship Ministries
eleghorn@sewickleypresby.org

NOAH MCADAMS
Interim Worship Tech Coordinator
nmcadams@sewickleypresby.org

HANNA MELLOR
Children's Ministries Coordinator
hmellor@sewickleypresby.org

LAURA MIKUSH, CCA
Business Administrator
lmikush@sewickleypresby.org

ELIZABETH SZUBA
Director of Congregational Care
eszuba@sewickleypresby.org

**TOM LOCKWOOD,
GRETAL & JOEY TOMALES**
Custodial Staff



SOCIAL MEDIA



OFFICE

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM
Phone 412.741.4550 **Fax** 412.741.1210

Address
414 Grant Street
Sewickley, PA 15143

Web Address
www.sewickleypresby.org

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SHARING JOY THIS SUMMER

By Rev. Derek Davenport, Pastor

In his short letter, the author of Second John explains that he has much more to say. We might find ourselves wondering what else he wanted to discuss - trying to guess the other topics he reserved for a face to face conversation. Maybe it was a controversial issue, or a delicate topic. Maybe he had to share something difficult or sensitive. It can be so fascinating to wonder about what John needed to say face to face.



Or maybe it was something quite different.

If we look closely at his words, our author tells us exactly why he keeps this letter brief. He isn't holding back because it's a difficult topic. He doesn't reserve his words because it's a sensitive issue. Instead, John holds back in writing his letter because spending time with the people he loves is so much more fun. He wants to talk face to face simply because he wants to be in the presence of his friends, family, neighbors, and church. His motivation is simply joy. That seems like a great way to think about the summer ahead.

**Although I have much to write to you,
I would rather not use paper and ink;
instead I hope to come to you
and talk with you face to face,
so that our joy may be complete.**

II John 1.12

Summer often brings travel, vacations, and weekend trips. But it also brings so many opportunities for us to spend time together. Our church picnic kicked off the season. We began with communion at our first combined service of the season. Then we had so much fun sharing a meal, enjoying the sunshine, celebrating our graduates, and congratulating Rev. Emily Miller on her year anniversary as well as her move to Covenant Pastor. Our church was bursting at the seams as we had to refill our communion trays and spilled out beyond the tables onto the grass for our picnic.

And that's just the beginning. As summer continues, we will have events like an outdoor community service, Vacation Bible School, and of course, plenty of opportunities to gather for Day on the Lawn. This is all in addition to regular Sunday morning worship. There's nothing quite like spending time in one another's presence.

This summer, enjoy everything God puts before you - travel, work, rest, and the many opportunities to share joy. Spend time face to face with the people you love - friends, family, neighbors, and church - that your joy may be complete.



GOODBYE & HELLO

After almost ten years as our Administrative Assistant, we said goodbye to Stephanie Smith this month. Stephanie worked closely with our music, youth, and adult ministries. More recently her duties shifted to supporting our communication processes, and also our worship services by preparing our worship bulletins and slideshow. Stephanie has moved to North Carolina to be closer to her family.

During the summer months, we welcome SPC member Noah McAdams who is taking care of our worship bulletins and slideshow. He also has other technical responsibilities such as editing the Sunday service video files and posting to our podcast site. Stop into the office on Tuesdays or Wednesdays to say hello to Noah -- or, stop and introduce yourself on Sunday mornings. He will be in the back of the sanctuary running the slideshow each week.



Women's Retreat

October 21 & 22

-- Registration begins July 20 --



LOOKING FOR AN ADVENTURE?

The Center for Hope is looking for a Food Locker Coordinator (volunteer position). The hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 AM to 1 PM. Duties include gathering food from food storage area(s), packing food into bags/boxes, placing food in locker units.

If you are interested, please contact Barb Whisnant at 724.251.4899. Thank you!



A FUTURE TOGETHER

By Michael Hammer, Choir Director

I've been at SPC for 16 weeks. Each week I've taken to writing a brief synopsis of the service because I might soon forget the dazzling variety of things we've done in worship in that time. We've used voices, bells, string and brass instruments, organs, pianos, woodwinds. People have been positioned all over the sanctuary and chapel. Some of us aren't even physically present. Paul wrote about being surrounded by "a great cloud of witnesses." I sometimes joke that we are now surrounded by a great group of witnesses in the cloud!

We've used hymnals, screens, word of mouth, lead sheets and we've worshipped without electricity. Sometimes meticulous planning results in something wonderful, or we have to make on-the-fly adjustments which are equally amazing. We've used the creativity of persons in our congregation and all around the world to make music from distant centuries and from just this moment. And we haven't scratched the surface of the vastness of our 2,000 year old, world-wide tradition.

With each passing year, more will be added to that great repertoire of worship aids. Much of it will soon be forgotten: like bell-bottom pants, it will have seemed like a good idea at the time, but once the initial enthusiasm ends, it will be repented of and never return. But some will travel across countries and denominations and across time to enliven the worship of untold millions. A style of worship that began in a

monastery in France, a hymn written and composed by an organist in upstate New York, a prayer by an anonymous person from the 11th century rediscovered in a book written by a person who went to your church as a child. From plainchant to polyphony to praise choruses. (On Pentecost alone at the 8 and 11 o'clock services we had sung a 9th century plainchant created by an unknown person which might predate written music followed by an organ postlude written ten years ago by a Lithuanian fellow I've spoken with who sent me the score by email—an 11 century jump in a second!) We not only have a variety of different approaches, we have a record of how Christians practiced their faith in worship in all of these different eras. Being aware of all of this is a special characteristic of our time, as resources from past epochs are ever more easily available. Being able to take from and worship through these various traditions is both a challenge and a delight. It is the gift of our rich Christian heritage. And it is a tradition that lives in us.

We have many groups you can be a part of if you'd like to take a greater role in worship at SPC. The adult choir, a possible children's choir, bell choir(s), praise band—but our options aren't even limited to these. If you play an instrument, from bassoon to bagpipes, and would like to participate in worship, let me know. We are just getting started!

Picture: June 2023, Montreat Worship & Music Conference





BEING CHRISTLIKE

By Elizabeth Szuba, Director of Congregational Care

Simple acts of care often make a huge difference. When I think back on difficult times, I usually remember the kind words someone shared with me, the flowers or meals delivered, the help offered or the listening ear provided without judgment. To my amazement, this support sometimes came from strangers or folks I didn't know too well.

Christ calls all of us to love one another and to bear each other's burdens. This is a command for all Christians, but there is a special group in our church working hard to intentionally provide that care to our church family. By now I hope you are familiar with the Congregational Care Ministry (CCM). Behind the scenes, CCMs are quietly caring for members of our church. What you may not know is that there are several teams within CCM praying, planning, and providing programs. These teams are the Bereavement Team, the Prayer Team, and the Evergreens Team.

The CCM Bereavement team is led by Jan Wendt and includes Beth Rom, Patricia Stover, Glenis Levine, Susie Wardrop, and Elizabeth Szuba. They work closely with the pastors to maintain connection with those who have lost loved ones. In April and June, the CCM Team hosted

"Coffee Care", a gathering for those who are grieving. This is a casual time after church to come together for fellowship and support. Loss, whether recent or in the past, changes our lives. It can be helpful to know you are not alone in your grief.

Our Prayer Team meets regularly to pray for church members, the church staff, activities and events of the church and our mission partners. The team is led by Pam Charles and Patricia Stover and includes Ron Charles and Elizabeth Szuba. Recently, the Prayer Team organized a "prayer walk" on church grounds to pray intentionally for the ministries and programs at our church. We found that gratitude filled our prayers as we prayed in various locations throughout our beautiful church campus.

Lastly, there is a group of CCMs who are organizing and leading Evergreens, our ministry for seniors 55 and older. Beth Rom chairs the group consisting of Matt Braksick, Gretchen Burnham, Annie Gensheimer, Judee Rooney, Ann Shelton, and Elizabeth Szuba. Evergreens hosted several events this Spring, including a wonderful hike and picnic lunch at the Pittsburgh Botanic gardens in May. Stay tuned for more programs coming this Fall.



Prayer Walk



CCM Planning Meeting





FRIENDSHIP NEWS

By Erin Leghorn, Director of FriendShip Preschool

Summer has arrived and we've wrapped up another successful school year. How do we wrap up a school year at FriendShip? With field trips, special events, and lots of fun!

Children's Corner

- Our littlest ones enjoyed a special field day with lots of games and laughter run by Coach Dave from CDG Sports. He was joined by two of our SPC youth (and children of FriendShip Staff) – one of Coach Dave's regular assistants 'Coach Peyton' (aka Peyton Wood) and guest assistant for the day 'Cate the Great' (aka Cate Leghorn). Fun was had by all!
- On the last day of school, parents were invited to join the class on the playground at the end of the day for a special end-of-the-year celebration and farewell.

FriendShip I and FriendShip II

- Both classes took a walking field trip to the Sewickley Public Library for a library tour and story time with Ms. Bridget. During the year, Ms. Bridget comes to school once a month for a library outreach program so it was fun to visit her for a change!
- These classes also visited Fern Hollow Nature Center for a program entitled 'All About Bugs' and were able to spend a little time afterwards having a snack and exploring the grounds a bit.
- During the last week of school, both classes enjoyed Beach Day on the Faith House lawn. Students wore their beach clothes, brought towels, and played with water!
- Each class closed out the year with a celebration that included their families – Brunch on the Playground for FriendShip I and an Ice Cream Social for FriendShip II.

Pre-K

- Pre-K also visited the library and Fern Hollow, but the end of the year is a bit different for this group of students. As our oldest students, we've watched them grow over the years and have worked hard to prepare them for kindergarten. We love watching this process, but it's admittedly bittersweet.
- In a symbolic celebration of the transition from Pre-K to Kindergarten, the teachers and students studied the process of caterpillars growing, creating a chrysalis, and emerging as a butterfly in their classroom. At the same time, they prepared a show for the parents that included a retelling of Eric Carle's 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.'
- Finally, on the last day of school, the class released their butterflies on the front lawn of the church and experienced a glimpse of what it means to love someone, watch them grow, and when they're ready (even if we're not), let them go onto their next adventure!

We wish all the best to the students in the FriendShip Pre-K - Class of 2023 as we let them go from our care and onto their Kindergarten adventure!

For more information about FriendShip Preschool, contact Erin Leghorn at eleghorn@sewickleypresby.org.



Sewickley Presbyterian Church



SUMMER POOL PARTY

TUES. JULY 25, 7:30 PM

ALL ARE INVITED!
WE'VE RENTED THE ENTIRE POOL!

AVONWORTH POOL: 498 CAMP HORNE RD, PITTSBURGH, PA 15237

RSVP: SEWICKLEYPRESBY.ORG

BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY | \$10 DONATION REQUESTED PER GROUP
DRINKS & SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED BUT FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN TOO!



SPC KIDS NEWS

By Hanna Mellor, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Hello and happy summer!

I am so glad to see the sunshine and be out enjoying the days like I did all spring here at SPC! Many lively events happened in Children's Ministries and I am happy to report on them.

We started off our spring season with a lovely Family Good Friday service in the Chapel where we learned the true meaning of Easter through Easter eggs (keep your eyes open - I've been told you can still find some colored eggs left around our church campus!) We followed up our service with an egg dying party in the Dining room; the creations the kids came up with were uber-adorable!

In May, we had Kids Night Out and our Move Up Sunday ceremony. Our Move Up Sunday ceremony was very special this year as we recognized 5th graders, 4th graders, and 3rd graders. They all received Bibles this year. We also said "see you around" to our 5th grade class this year as they are off to Youth Ministries with Mr. Mike. Although I am going to miss our 5th graders in Children's Church and the Sunday School hour, I know they will do great things and will visit Children's Ministries often to volunteer!

Speaking of volunteering, Children's Ministries has multiple opportunities for all to become a part of! Please feel free to reach out to me to get involved.

In June, the kids had fun in a bouncy house during the church picnic and our first ever SPC Kiddos event - a Bluey® watch party! Although numbers were small, they were mighty as we had a great time connecting with the little ones. Parents of our littlest also met that morning to help guide Mrs. Erin Leghorn and me in how to best meet the needs of our families. Our kids also had the opportunity to join in with the Chancel Choir during worship.



LOOKING AHEAD

July 25, 7:30-9:30 PM: we will be having a pool party at Avonworth Pool for SPC Kids & Youth and all friends and family! Please sign up online and bring your trusted grown up and bathing suit! It's gonna be a splash!

August 7-11: Vacation Bible School is almost here! It is astronomically cool this August and we would love to see you there as a camper or volunteer!



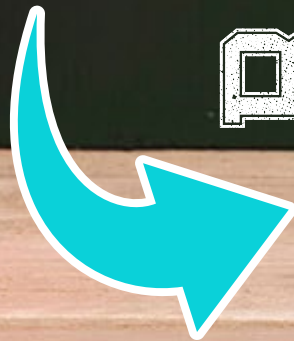
Egg Hunt



Church Picnic



BACKPACKS IN JULY



BACK TO SCHOOL!

Summer is here and along with it our Backpacks in July mission project begins. Every July we gather school supplies and backpacks to be given to kids at the Center for Hope in Ambridge. The kids are always excited and thankful when picking out a backpack for the new school year. We have multiple options this year. Check them out:

60

We need 60 filled backpacks for elementary students. It's super easy to donate -- just register for a backpack, use the shopping list provided, fill it, and return it to the church by July 30! All of the details can be found on our website.

40

We also need 40 filled backpacks for middle school and high school students, but we are doing things a little differently this year. Due to the increased cost of supplies and backpacks, we have two options available if you would like to donate to the middle and high school age groups.

OPTION 1

We've created an Amazon shopping list for supplies that are needed. These will come directly to the church when you purchase them online. The link below can also be found on our website. Once you click the link, a list will appear and you can purchase school supplies that are needed.

Link: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/SH1PRTA2SQCF?type=wishlist>

OPTION 2

Donate just a backpack (unfilled). Our Deacons will fill donated backpacks with the purchased school supplies. If you would like to take part in this option, please register on our website.

\$

Monetary donations are always needed to supplement any backpacks and school supplies that aren't donated. Any amount is appreciated. Please use the Give page on our website to give electronically, or you can submit a check/cash directly to the church. Make sure to notate "Backpacks" on your check/envelope.

Thank you!

VISIT SEWICKLEYPRESBY.ORG FOR LINKS & DETAILS



PKF Youth Conference



YOUTH ADVENTURES

By Mike Creamer, Ministry Associate for Youth & Young Adults

The end of the program year was another reminder that so much of how we walk the journey of faith together is communal. The end of the spring revolved around finishing our Lenten Soup Suppers where we dove into what it means to be neighbors as well as our community Lent services where we worshiped alongside other local churches. We also got to experience the one-day PKF Spring Session in Pittsburgh where we thought about how doubt and struggle are a part of our pursuit of God. There has been a lot happening this entire year that reinforces the important idea that we are not meant to live out our faith alone. We are called to be a community that extends beyond the walls of our church. Our hope in youth ministry is to make that a value we always live out.

Summer has started well, giving us opportunities to enjoy the change in pace while still continuing to spend time together. We've enjoyed our hangouts, High School breakfasts, hikes, and are looking forward to more summer gatherings. We hope to see you getting involved on Sunday mornings at 10 AM. And remember, I'm still holding my coffee hours at Crazy Mocha on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2-4 PM for anyone that wants to pop in and catch up. I'd love to see you!

Here's to a great summer together!



Youth Hike

JULY

8
14

All-Youth Paintball | \$35 (Sign-up online)
All-Youth Mini Golf @ Scallys

AUG

6-11
7-11
20

Middle School Surf City
Vacation Bible School
End of Summer Pool Party

SEPT

9
17

Day on the Lawn Rummage Sale
Fall Kick-off



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

I will be glad and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High."

Psalm 9:1-2



Marlene Kirsch (Michael)



Victoria Opaleye



Evan, Katherine & Andrew Hall



Rebecca Smith



Ben, Molly, Benjy, Teddy Howard



Teri & Dennis Dunn



Jay & Ann West


INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR CHURCH?

We are holding a New Member Orientation in July. Contact Sharon Barber if you'd like to attend: 412.741.4550/sbarber@sewickleypresby.org

Orientation: Saturday, July 29

Join: Sunday, July 30

NOT PICTURED: Diane Oberleitner, Erik & Whitney Wright



**HAPPY ARE
THE PEOPLE
WHOSE GOD
IS THE LORD.**

Psalm 144:15



GUESS WHO?

In May, we held our second Guess Who's Coming to Dinner event. Over 60 people gathered in various homes to enjoy dinner and fellowship with each other.

Thank you to our Fellowship & Hospitality Committee for organizing this fun event!



CONGRATULATIONS!

In case you missed it, Gretel Tamales is a brand new United States citizen! Gretel is married to Joey, our full-time custodian. She moved to the U.S. in 2017 and has been going through the citizenship process for the past couple of years. Gretel works behind-the-scenes for SPC on a part-time basis, helping with cleaning the church and assisting Joey when needed.



MEETING JESUS

By Rev. Emily Miller, Associate Pastor

As people who want to love and serve God, one of the main things we do is gather together for worship. The Directory for Worship in our Book of Order puts it this way: "[W]orship of the triune God is the center of our common life and our primary way of witness to the faith, hope and love we have in Jesus Christ." (W-1.0107). Indeed, worship is part of who we are as Christians.

At SPC, we put a lot of time, effort and resources into our Sunday morning worship services, and it shows! Our Sunday worship is really something special. But, as God's people, we can also worship at other times and on different days. The Directory for Worship gives us clear permission for this:

*Because God is the author of history,
we may worship at any time. (W-1.0202)*

*Because heaven and earth belong to God,
we may worship in any place. (W-1.0203)*

And, as long as we remember to put God at the center of all of our services, "We [may] mark other occasions in worship, reflecting the cycles of civic and agricultural life, cultural and family celebrations, the commemoration of significant persons and events, and the programs and activities of the church." (W-1.0202). In other words, as long as we remember that God is the center of all worship, we can worship at any time, in any place and for just about any reason.

Seeing all of this, I am always working to add special services of worship into our yearly calendar at the church. We began the year with a community Martin Luther King, Jr. service at the Sewickley United Methodist Church. Then we had a very well-attended community Ash Wednesday service at SPC. During Lent, we joined together at several local churches at various times, including on Good Friday when we gathered at St. Matthews AME Zion Church for worship.

Looking forward to the rest of the year, we will have another joint worship service at our Summer Community Worship Service on August 13 at 4 PM. This joint service

will be outside on the Faith House lawn, will include other neighborhood churches, and will be followed by a fun picnic together! Add it to your calendar now!

In the fall, we will continue with the Connect Service of Healing and Wholeness in August, October and December. This is a small, quiet service filled with prayers for ourselves, and those we love. And I'll let you in on a secret - I am also working on a Blessing of the Pets service where we will glorify God and thank God for our creation and the animals God created and loves! This and so much more is in the works for worship!

As we go about our daily lives, let us remember to worship God not just on Sundays in our beautiful sanctuary, but on all days, in all times and for many reasons as we gather together as His people.

Worshiping with you,

Pastor Emily



DOLLARS & SENSE

By Laura Mikush, Business Administrator

Did you know two of the three chimneys at the Senior Manse were refurbished in May? The center chimney was torn down and rebuilt and the chimney on the Grant Street side had all mortar joints re-pointed. Both chimneys had new chimney caps installed and were repainted. The work was done by Escajeda Masonry & Chimney at a cost of \$13,050.



Church Picnic





CAMPBELL WEEKEND

By Jane Shadle, SPC Member

Dr. Asa Lee, president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, was the 2023 William Oliver Campbell preacher this year. Rev. Campbell was a pastor at our church from 1885-1909. In 1937, the Campbell family established a fund to be used to host a speaker each year “that may inspire or instruct the congregation and the people of the community.”

Inspired and instructed, indeed, were those who heard Dr. Asa Lee teach or preach on April 29 – 30, whether at the Officers’ Retreat on Saturday morning; meeting with him in Justice Ministries; listening to his thoughts during the adult education hour; or hearing him preach.

Asa Lee, a music education major who first heard a call to ministry at age 13, is an ordained Baptist minister who is innovative in his view of theological education. He has brought to Pittsburgh Seminary an outreach with the community in which it is located, with a focus on being a neighbor.

In fact, “Embodying a Theology of Neighbor” was the topic of the Officers’ Retreat on Saturday. Dr. Lee said that ultimately, neighbor is a term of relationship and responsibility, not just proximity. Christians, Jews, and Muslims all focus on the concept, which is found in both the Old and New Testaments. “The call to be a neighbor requires a lifetime of action and reflection,” said Dr. Lee. It requires us to be honest in our definition of ourselves, asking, “What can our neighbors teach us?” Dr. Lee stressed that the future of every church in America is dependent on those outside the church, not inside - in other words, on our neighbors.

Dr. Lee continued this line of discussion with members of

SPC Justice Ministries, encouraging the group to continue the community outreach work begun, especially over this past year. Justice, Dr. Lee emphasized, is a Biblical mandate, laid out in Micah 6:8, which says, “What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.”

In his Sunday morning interview in Ansby Hall, Dr. Lee discussed the 40-year decline in membership of the mainline church, emphasizing that we have confused traditions-always doing a certain thing in the same way - with the value of that tradition. This has kept mainline churches from adapting to new times, he feels. In speaking about changes at the seminary, Dr. Lee is particularly excited about a new partnership between the seminary and the Fred Rogers Center at St. Vincent College. “Fred Rogers,” said Dr. Lee, “was an innovative minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ – and is the most well-known graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Why would we not elevate that fact?”

Dr. Lee’s sermon in the worship service was entitled, “The Gatekeeper’s Lesson,” based on John 10: 1-10. He said that Jesus, as the gatekeeper and shepherd, knows and calls all of us (the sheep) out into the world. And when we follow the shepherd’s voice, we bring Jesus’s kingdom “just a little bit closer.”

Those who heard Dr. Asa Lee for our Campbell weekend left with much food for reflection, hopefully leading to action. Thank you to Justice Ministries for inviting this thoughtful Christian pastor and leader to Sewickley Presbyterian Church!



MALAWI & SOUTH SUDAN UPDATE

By Glenis Levine, SPC Member

Many Presbyterian churches in our area have partnerships with churches in Malawi and South Sudan. SPC's partnership with Chonde CCCP in Malawi began May 3rd of 1992. Over the years, we've sent pilgrims to Malawi to learn from their joyous celebration and daily expression of faith. And we have fortunately received pilgrims from Malawi to join in our precious traditions, fellowship, and prayer.

Recently, there was a local meeting of thirteen representatives of Presbyterian churches from the Pittsburgh region. Following is an update from that meeting:

1. A group of Presbyterians from our area were able to return to Malawi and South Sudan in March for the first time since the Covid pandemic. It was an opportunity to reconnect the lines of communication and to join together in worship and mission. It was also an untimely opportunity to witness firsthand Cyclone Freddy and its aftermath. While they were there, the cyclone hit: homes and livestock were washed away, at least 650 people were killed. CBS News reported: "Freddy recorded more energy over its lifetime (one week) than an entire typical U.S. hurricane season."

Our Chonde CCCP partners reported no deaths thankfully, but did lose infrastructure, homes and livestock. The next wave of hardship will be: a) the rise of Malaria and Cholera due to the flooding and destruction of infrastructure and b) food scarcity. Please keep these partners in your prayers.

2. Please also keep in prayer our partners in South Sudan, a country impacted by the conflict in Sudan. South Sudan is now receiving tens of thousands of Sudanese refugees fleeing the northern conflict. These refugees will face incredible challenges as South Sudan does not have the

resources, connectivity, and infrastructure to handle this easily (approximately 76% of South Sudan's population is already dependent on humanitarian aid). There are also concerns of a spread of violence into South Sudan.

3. Rev. Peter Yien of the Nile Theological College and the South Sudan Evangelical Presbyterian Church will be coming to Pittsburgh in early October with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program to share his insights: "I am coming to let the international community know about South Sudan, ... I also want to communicate with the churches in the United States that the church in South Sudan, as followers of Jesus Christ, that despite all the many challenges we face, we still have hope for a better tomorrow, for a better future. We also carry within us resurrection hope, hope beyond the sufferings and tragedies of this world." It would be wonderful for a group from our church to attend his lecture. Dates and times will be announced later in the year.

4. In May of 2024, a group of partnership members from Malawi and South Sudan will arrive in Pittsburgh. Conferences on the subject of non-violence and reconciliation will be arranged. These topics were selected due to the situation in Sudan, the history of South Sudan, the poverty which triggers crime in Malawi, and the degree of violence in the United States. We are hoping one of the visitors will be from Chonde CCCP. More details to come!

In closing, please pray for our partners for peace, for strength, for medical teams, and for good weather.

In Peace -- Glenis Levine
Malawi/South Sudan Partnership Committee



Rev. Peter Yien (photo courtesy of Bob/Kristi Rice)



Rev. Jarvis Piringu praying for newly born babies at the Chonde Health Center



P men's group Health Center clean up

BLANKET SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who supported Church World Service in May.
We raised \$1920!



THE LADLE

The Ladle is an ecumenical soup kitchen and food pantry housed at St. John's Lutheran Church in Old Economy, serving dinner every Monday evening. SPC has been a supporter of this important local ministry since its inception in 2008, providing financial resources and recruiting church members to prepare and serve dinner on four to five Mondays each year.

Recently, longtime member Carol Weir (along with her husband Kevin) moved to South Carolina after having lived in Sewickley for many years. Carol organized the Ladle dinners and she was part of the Day on the Lawn leadership team (Carol is pictured above in the light blue top, on the far right).

Hayes and Patricia Stover have taken over the organizational aspects of The Ladle. There are three dates remaining to serve dinner this year: August 7, October 2, and November 6. Stay tuned for additional details!



WATER MISSION

By Jan Smith, Water Mission Representative & Volunteer

First, I would like to thank Sewickley Presbyterian Church for your generous support in bringing safe water to those in need around the world. Roughly 1.8 billion people in our world do not have safe water to drink. The global water crisis steals approximately 2,300 lives daily. It is today's silent killer.

Water Mission (www.watermission.org) is a Christian engineering nonprofit that builds safe water and sanitation solutions in developing countries and disaster areas.

On the morning of August 14, 2021, a fleet of Chinook helicopters swept into southern Haiti, bearing enough water treatment equipment to supply 35,000 distraught residents. Hours earlier a 7.2 magnitude had shaken the fragile nation. Already weakened by political turmoil, poverty, and the COVID-19 pandemic, towns lay in shambles, entire buildings reduced to concrete heaps. Amid the dust, however Water Mission poured out a clear promise of care, in the form of clean water. During a 6-month stretch, Water Mission responded to a half-dozen international crises, including earthquakes in Haiti and Indonesia, a winter storm in Texas and back-to-back hurricanes in Honduras. Water Mission is working in both Ukraine and Turkey.

Motivated by faith in Jesus Christ, the Living Water, we serve all people regardless of age, gender, race or faith. Our belief in the sanctity of life compels us to implement best-in-class solutions so that God will be glorified and lives will be transformed for an eternity. Water Mission has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for the past 15 years. This is accomplished by less than 1% of the charities rated by Charity Navigator.

Water Mission works wherever people lack safe water. They develop water systems in small villages and large refugee camps. None of this would be possible without supporters like you. If you would like to know the next step in how to help, go to www.watermission.org/nextsteps. In addition, there will be an October 7 walk (2.5 miles) for water in Millvale. The link to sign up to walk, or contribute dollars to the walk is www.walkforwater.com/Pittsburgh.

The authors of this article are Greg and Jan Smith, your Sewickley neighbors and vetted advocates for Water Mission. We are totally happy to answer any questions and can be reached at janet_m_smith@msn.com. We can speak in person or lead a refugee empathy exercise to increase awareness of the refugee experience. We would especially like to get your youth involved in this cause. Youth make great walkers and learners!



DAY ON THE LAWN

September 9, 2023



Most of us know that Day on the Lawn is coming up soon! If you are new to SPC, here's what you need to know: Day on the Lawn is the biggest and best rummage sale you could ever dream of being a part of.

Every September, for one day only, our church campus is taken over by merchandise of all shapes and sizes AND by countless people who come to shop for the best deals around! Last year, DOL raised over \$70,000 for mission! It's an incredible day and one that most of our church family takes part in one way or another. It's also a great way to get to know others in our church.

We started holding donation drop-off days this month and we still have quite a few left. Please consider volunteering to work one of the days. You can find additional details on our website.

We also need your stuff! Please visit our website to see our Donation Guidelines. If you would like to donate furniture and need some help with getting it to the church, please contact Ann Strong: 412.741.7274.

DONATION DROP-OFF DAYS

9 AM – Noon

Saturday, July 8

Saturday, July 22

Saturday, August 5

Friday, August 19

Saturday, September 2

PREPARATION WEEK & SALE DAY

September 3-8 & September 9, 10 AM - 3 PM

HELPING WITH THE SALE

Each department is responsible for setting their own set-up schedule. Sign-up for a department and you'll be contacted about the schedule.

Join us for this great day! Volunteers begin the day with last minute preparations. Right before the sale starts, we all meet at the front of the church and pray for the day. Then the sale begins! We need cashiers, those to help customers, with security, and clean-up. Get to know others in the church by taking part in this mission project. You won't be sorry!

Sign-ups will be available on our website in July -- so be on the look out! If you have any questions, please contact Becky Senior at 412.741.7274 or the church office at 412.741.4550.

DAY ON THE LAWN DEPARTMENTS

Antiques
Bakery/Deli
Books
Cafe
Cashiers
Clean-Up Crew
Electronics
First Aid
Furniture
Home Goods
Jewelry

Seasonal
Security
Set-Up Crew
Sporting Goods
Toys
Transporter Crew





Sewickley Presbyterian Church

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414 Grant Street | Sewickley, PA | 15143

www.sewickleypresby.org

Dated Material
PLEASE EXPEDITE

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Sewickley Presbyterian Church



COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE & PICNIC

Sunday, August 13

4 PM

Faith House Lawn

Mark your calendars for this summer service and picnic!
We'll be joined by other churches in the Sewickley area who will take part in the service.
Plan to stop by for worship and to enjoy a wonderful Sunday evening
with our family, friends, and neighbors.