

SEWICKLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# 2023

*Annual Report*





## *Our Vision*

We aspire to be a church where the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
is faithfully proclaimed and faithfully lived  
in grateful response to God's love.



## *Our Mission*

To Live as a Church Family  
To Grow as Disciples of Christ  
To Serve in God's Mission



# LIVING FAITH

THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR  
THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN HEB 11:1

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF OUR FAITH?



Living Faith - that was our theme for 2023. It's also a great two-word summary for the year.

We welcomed our new organist and choir director, Dr. Michael Hammer. We've seen our children's ministry grow and expand under Hanna Mellor's leadership and with the addition of Nicole Quaka. We've welcomed new members, launched a confirmation class, and expanded our education programs. We had a banner year for Day on the Lawn, and continued our support of our community partners. Our call to Rev. Emily Miller grew into a covenant relationship, and we ordained Rev. Mike Creamer to ministry as a pastor of our church.

As we studied living faith, our faith grew and flourished.

There are also exciting things on the horizon for this coming year. For the past few months, we've been focused on what it means to follow Christ. As we've followed where Jesus leads, our ministries with children and youth has grown and we've seen more opportunities to support the youngest members of our community. This coming year will continue that trend, as we have some big things in the works for our children and teenagers.

God has blessed us as a congregation as we've explored living our faith. This coming year promises to be another joyful step in our ministry together.

I'm so excited to see where God takes us next!

In Christ,

Rev. Derek R. Davenport









# FAST FACTS

## *By the Numbers*

795

CHURCH MEMBERS

25

NEW MEMBERS

7

BAPTISMS

10

MEMBERS WHO ENTERED  
THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

LIST OF NAMES ON PAGE #18

68

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

134

WORSHIP SERVICES

## *Our Online Activity*

3,493

LIVE STREAMED  
SERVICES

27,942

VISITS TO OUR  
WEBSITE

1,070

SOCIAL MEDIA  
FOLLOWERS



# AS OF NOTE



## JANUARY TO DECEMBER: A QUICK GLANCE

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service  
Mardi Gras Pancake Supper  
Ash Wednesday Community Service  
Lenten Soup Suppers & Study (Mr. McFeely, special guest)  
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner small group gatherings  
*The Chosen* Women's Bible Study  
Evergreen Gatherings & Events  
Campbell Weekend with Dr. Asa Lee  
Easter Morning Brunch  
Coffee Care  
Blanket Sunday  
Word Sung  
Connect: Healing & Wholeness services  
All Church Summer Pool Party  
Rev. G. Michael Creamer Ordination  
Day on the Lawn Mission Project  
Blessing of the Animals  
Kids' Night Outs  
Women's Retreat  
Knitting for Mission  
Journeyman Group  
Koinoina Women's Study Group  
Bible Basics Study Group  
Center for Hope Auction  
Community Christmas Concert  
Christmas Food Baskets  
Christmas Pageant  
Tree of Memories

## ■ DINING ROOM & KITCHEN FLOORS

In December of 2022, a hose connected to the kitchen dishwasher broke and flooded most of the kitchen and part of the dining room. Because of the water damage, both rooms had to have the flooring replaced. Due to flooring and carpeting supply issues, it took until December of 2023 for both floors to be replaced.

## ■ ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE

The hydraulic cylinder in the main church building elevator had to be replaced this year. The parts that needed to be replaced took over four months to arrive and then it took two months to finish the repairs. After six months, the elevator was operational again on November 30.

## ■ TECHNOLOGY

The soundboard in the sanctuary was replaced with a digital version and also moved to a new location. The previous soundboard was over ten years old. In the month of August, we switched from a private live streaming platform to exclusively using the YouTube platform.

## ■ WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

After having just one Worship & Music Committee to represent all three worship services, we created three subcommittees to represent each service: 8 AM, 9 AM and 11 AM, with one main committee as the head. This decision was made to have a more individualized representation for the variety of services we offer.



# FINANCIALS

**\$1,922,702\*** 2023 Total Income

\$1,815,692...2022  
\$1,810,752...2021

## INCOME DETAILS

Tithes & Offerings..... \$ 1,375,221  
Miscellaneous Income\*\* ..... \$ 547,481

## SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Total for Year\*\*\* ..... \$ 26,218

## MAJOR EMERGENCY REPAIR FUND (MERF)

2023..... \$ 268,597  
2022..... \$ 266,710

## UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT

2023 End of Year Balance..... \$ 5,899,395  
4.5% Draw..... \$ 238,281  
2022 End of Year Balance..... \$ 5,236,491  
4.5% Draw..... \$ 233,269  
2021 End of Year Balance..... \$ 6,060,028  
4.5% Draw..... \$ 215,091

## STEWARDSHIP

2023 Pledges 228..... \$ 1,179,635  
2022 Pledges 225..... \$ 1,181,213  
2021 Pledges 239..... \$ 1,188,889

\*\$77,000 was drawn from the MERF, & added to Total Income, to cover unexpected elevator & HVAC repairs

\*\*Unrestricted Endowment Draw, Samaritan Counseling Center rent, Investments & Ministry Programs

\*\*\*Hunger, Christmas Joy, Blanket Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace & Global Witness

**\$1,852,056** 2023 Total Expenses

\$1,758,729...2022  
\$1,817,141...2021

## EXPENSES DETAILS

Administrative..... \$ 150,080  
Facilities..... \$ 352,148  
Ministries..... \$ 38,663  
Mission..... \$ 220,900  
Personnel..... \$ 1,090,265  
Capital Expenses\*..... \$ 30,640

\*These expenses were paid via a 2022 surplus.

## WAYS TO GIVE

Via  
Text



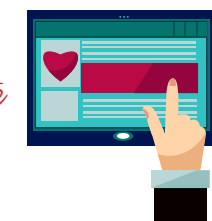
Offering  
Plate



Planned  
Giving



Our  
Website











# MISSION GIVING



\$271,267

GIVEN TO

51

ORGANIZATIONS  
& INDIVIDUALS

\*Scholarships given to recipients at the following colleges:  
A&M College, Eastern Mennonite University, Louisiana State University,  
Southern University, Oregon State University,  
University of North Dakota, and University of North Texas.

## RECIPIENTS

Animals Friends  
Beaver County Humane Society  
Bethlehem Haven  
Brother's Brother Foundation  
Camp Crestfield  
Campbell Scholarships\*  
Center for Hope  
Center for Justice & Peacebuilding  
Czech Republic: Diakonie  
Dar Al-Kalima School  
Deep Spring International  
Del Ray Ministries  
Disaster Relief  
Evangelical Church Czech Brethren  
Faith in Action  
Floyd Faulkner, YMCA/Quaker Valley  
Genesis House  
Global Links  
Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh  
Jewish Family & Children's Services  
Light of Life Mission  
Ligonier Camp/Conference Center  
Locking Arms Men  
Meals on Wheels  
Medical Benevolence Foundation  
Meeting God in Missions  
Northside Common Ministries  
Off the Floor  
Open Hands Ministries  
PGH Theological Seminary Student Aid  
Pittsburgh Food Bank  
Pittsburgh Presbytery Mission  
Pittsburgh Women's Shelter  
Samaritan Counseling Center  
Sewickley Community Center  
Sojourner House  
Tent of Nations  
The Blessing Board  
The Center, Midland  
The Ladle  
Union Aid Society  
Water Mission  
WORK

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# SPC KIDS

## BOLD IN FAITH

Children's Ministries experienced a beautiful year of engagement, growth, and exciting events in 2023. We held many events to bring our entire church closer together including an Easter egg hunt with 70 participants, 50 guests at the summer pool party, 90 participants for VBS (70% of them being from the community and 30% from our church), 80 participants for our gingerbread making party, and over 50 kids in the congregation wide Christmas Pageant held during the 11 AM service on December 17.

SPC Kids learned how to serve together with their church family through mission work like Day on the Lawn and they stuffed 48 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child while participating in over 15 mission projects through Club 345 including making soup for Lenten Soup Suppers and organizing food for the annual Christmas baskets. Most importantly though, we had kids inviting their friends and family members to worship with us. SPC's children proved 2023 was the year to be bold in their faith and unite EVERYONE to truly live, serve, and grow together in Christ.

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Club 345  
Kids' Night Outs  
Children's Church  
Mardi Gras  
Lenten Soup Making  
Egg Hunt  
Good Friday Service  
Egg Decorating Party  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Handout  
Pool Party  
Vacation Bible School  
Nature Hike  
Operation Christmas Child  
Christmas Food Counting  
Gingerbread Party  
Christmas Pageant

# 97

KIDS REGISTERED  
TO PARTICIPATE  
IN 2023

# 27

AVERAGE SUNDAY  
ATTENDANCE  
PREK-GRADE 5



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**58**  
PARTICIPANTS

## A YEAR OF BEGINNING AGAIN

Plenty of exciting things happened in 2023 for the youth, but there were three things that really stood out. First, middle schoolers made their return to Surf City during the summer for the first time since Covid hit in 2020. Second, we reformatting and relaunched our Confirmation program with 12 students! And third, our high school breakfast program was bursting at the seams on Thursdays before school. Check out the thoughts from a few of our seniors:

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Bowling	Youth Hike
Youth Sunday	Mini Golf
QV Food Relief	Middle School Surf City
PKF Spring Session	Fall Kick-off
High School Breakfasts	Bonfire
Confirmation	High School Laurelville
Paintball	Center for Hope Stockings
Middle School Game Day	Christmas Party

"I like high school breakfast because I get to participate in conversations about God with like-minded friends. It makes me think more deeply about my faith and it has become something I look forward to every week."

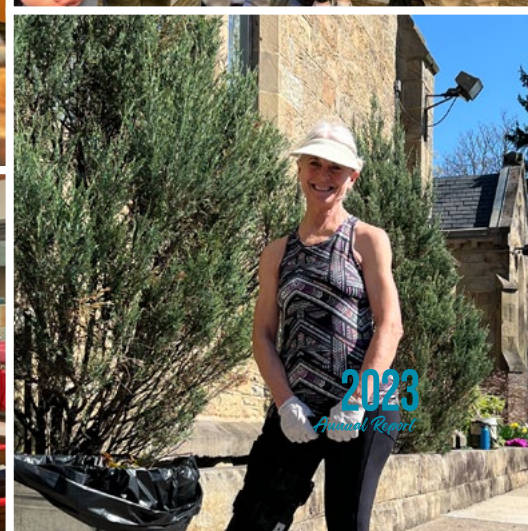
"I love having time to talk about my faith with my peers!"

"High school breakfast is great because it is a safe time for us to bring up & discuss questions about life, God, school. Whatever is on our mind."

"I love morning coffee because high school is such a crazy time & sometimes it is easy to let our faith slip between our fingertips, so this is an amazing way to meet up with friends & continue our journeys in faith!"











# ADULTS

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SPEAKERS, TOPICS & GATHERINGS

**Rev. Derek Davenport:** "Kings & Epiphanies," "Flight to Egypt," "Light in the Darkness"

**Joan Murdoch:** Introduction to Paul the Apostle and the book of Galatians

**Rev. Dr. Leanna Fuller,** PTS: "One Body, Many Parts: Encountering Difference in Congregations,"

**Rev. Dr. Graham Standish,** Samaritan Counseling Center: "Spirit, Faith, and Everyday Life"

**Rev. Joshua Sumpter,** Waynesburg University: "Living Faith: More than Routine - The Gospel of John"

**Rev. Dr. Asa Lee,** PTS: Campbell Preacher

**Rev. Ralph Lowe,** Pittsburgh Presbytery: "Courageous Discipleship"

**Dr. Tucker Ferda,** PTS: "Discipleship in the New Testament"

**Adult Education Members:** modules from the Follow Me curriculum by PC(USA): 'Follow Jesus' and 'Hope'

**Rici Brockinson:** Sierra Leone Documentary about Leyinde Rosa Baana Hannah Susan Pabs-Garnon (nee Thomas) and her school Baana Nursery and Preparatory School

**Breakfast Club:** casual conversation about faith and life

**Follow Me Through the Scriptures:** Bible Study

**Rev. Emily Miller:** "The Chosen," four-week women's study

## CARING FOR OUR CONGREGATION: Congregational Care Ministry

Over the last several years we have endeavored to create a ministry to work alongside the pastors, Deacons, Koinonia, and other ministries/groups in our church to provide support and care to our church family. In 2023, the Congregational Care Ministry (CCM) was fully established. Highlights from the first year of ministry include:

- Fifteen trained and commissioned CCMs in 2023 (Matt Braksick, Leslie Braksick, Gretchen Burnham, Pam Charles, Ron Charles, Annie Gensheimer, Suzie Gilliland, Glenis Levine, Beth Rom, Judee Rooney, Ann Shelton, Patricia Stover, Elizabeth Szuba, Susie Wardrop, and Jan Wendt).
- Over 175 care "visits" in the form of cards, phone calls, texts, home visits, and hospital visits to members of our church family.
- Six learning and fellowship events for seniors 55+ hosted by the CCM Evergreens Team. Some programs were held at the church and featured the interests and expertise of church members and staff, while others were field trips to various sites in Pittsburgh (PGH Botanical Gardens, Phipps Conservatory Flower Show).
- A new CCM Prayer Team that meets weekly to pray for church members, the staff, ministries, and weekly programs. In May, the team organized a Prayer Walk in Sewickley to pray for our community partners.
- A new CCM Bereavement Team that sent cards to church members who lost loved ones in 2023. The team also hosted four Coffee Care gatherings to support those who were grieving.



"During this past year, Bill and I have been feeling the love and support of the Lord through CCM, after the sudden passing of our son last January. Through notes, hugs and Coffee Care conversations, this comfort and recognition of our loss has helped us work through our grief. Thank you CCM team!"

- Susie Wardrop, Church Member -



Pictured above: CCM Members





# DEACON MINISTRY



## SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH EACH OTHER

Our Deacons lead many ministry projects throughout the year. These projects span from direct contact with our church members to mission projects outside of our church family. Sometimes these projects are accomplished 'behind the scenes,' but they add to our ability to share the love and care of Christ with our congregation and beyond. The highlights show a sampling of how the Deacon's ministry helps to lead and carry out our church mission.

6

### FAMILY MEALS

Did you know the Deacons coordinate & schedule meal provisions to help support members of our church family who are in need or may benefit from a helping hand during challenging times such as illness recovery, birth of a child, death of a loved one, etc.? The Deacons helped to provide meals to six church families in 2023.



On most Sundays the families donating the Sanctuary flower arrangements request the Deacons deliver the flowers to members of the congregation who are mourning the loss of a loved one, celebrating the birth of a child, or dealing with or recovering from health issues, etc.



The Deacons plan our church picnic every year. Church members work together to prep food, cook burgers & hot dogs, set up canopies, tables & chairs, set out the food, & clean up.

114

### BACKPACKS

Our Backpacks in July mission project is lead by our Deacons. In July, 114 Backpacks were collected. Extra money was also collected and a check was given to Center for Hope.

95

### FOOD BASKETS

Each year, the Deacons lead our Christmas Food Basket project which helps to feed those in our communities during the holiday season. We provided 95 food baskets this year and also raised \$6021 to purchase fresh food to add to the baskets. Twenty-six congregants helped with delivering the baskets on December 16.

30

### ORNAMENTS

The Tree of Memories provides a way to remember those we've lost throughout the years. This year, 30 new ornaments were commissioned in memory of loved ones and were part of the Longest Night service & then displayed, along with ornaments from past years, in the Sanctuary in month of December.

62

### CARDS

A total of 62 care cards were sent to SPC members from the Deacons.

\$1920

### DONATED

Blanket Sunday is a nationwide mission project sponsored by Church World Service. A donation of \$10 will provide a blanket and supplies for homeless individuals and victims of natural disasters. In May, \$1920 was raised for the project, approximately \$500 more than in 2022.

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# LEADERSHIP



## OFFICERS

**Ann Strong**  
*President*  
**Hayes Stover**  
*Co-Vice President*  
**Mary Weber**  
*Co-Vice President*

**Keith Boyer**  
*Treasurer*  
**Becky Senior**  
*Clerk of Session*

## RULING ELDERS

Deborah Ash  
Tim Bingman  
Don Birnie  
Keith Boyer  
Bob Burnham  
Annie Gensheimer

Dorothy Getty  
Linda Getty  
RC Hayden  
Nancy House  
Caroline Johns

Jana Joseph  
Janet Lee  
Glenis Levine  
Beth Rom  
Jane Shadle

Jenna Stevenson  
Hayes Stover  
Ann Strong  
Mary Weber  
Don Zier

## BOARD OF DEACONS

Gretchen Burnham  
Joanne Canan  
Sandy Cooper  
Sylvia Dallas  
Debbie Day  
Kim Roberts Ference

Eric Fulmer  
Suzanna Getty  
Tom Getty  
Rita Hoepf  
Kaitlyn Hayden  
Courtney Jones

Erik Lindamood  
Jim MacDougall  
Gretchen McAdams  
Suzanne Morrison  
Ollie Rea  
Judee Rooney

Kelly Stover  
Jenny Valente  
Jane Van Kirk





# CHURCH STAFF

## OVERVIEW

In January and February, Jonathan Wooding was our organist and soloist Ray Blackwell led the Chancel Choir. We welcomed Michael Hammer as our new Choir Director and Organist in March.

Rev. Derek Davenport became our permanent Senior Pastor & Head of Staff in May after serving as our Designated Associate Pastor Acting Head of Staff since the summer of 2021. Also in May, Rev. Emily Miller's status was changed from Temporary Associate Pastor to Covenant Associate Pastor.

Stephanie Smith moved away from the Sewickley area in June. Church member Noah McAdams worked as our Worship Tech Coordinator from July to December. Noah worked remotely amidst his college studies. Church member Jennifer Berg helped in the office as our Communications Assistant.

In August we ordained Rev. Mike Creamer, formerly our Ministry Associate for Youth & Young Adults. He is now serving as our Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adults.

Church member Nicole Quaka joined the staff in September as Children's Ministry Event Coordinator. Her role is a shared role with Hanna Mellor -- both managing our Children's Ministries.

We hired our Broadcaster Producer, Rici Brockinson, in an additional role of Worship Media Coordinator which she started in December. She manages both the live streaming of our services and the preparations for worship.

(P) Part time

## PASTORS

Rev. Derek R. Davenport, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Emily I. Miller, Associate Pastor  
Rev. G. Michael Creamer, Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adults

## ADMINISTRATION

Sharon Barber, Assistant to the Pastor  
Laura Mikush, Business Administrator  
Thom Lockward, Custodian (P)  
Gretal Tomales, Housekeeper (P)  
Joey Tomales, Custodian

## FRIENDSHIP PRESCHOOL

Bethany Barber, Classroom Assistant (P)  
Dawn Borres, Classroom Assistant (P)  
Jessica Carlson, Assistant Teacher (P)  
Susan Fox, Teacher (P)  
Nancy Friskhorn, Teacher (P)  
Erin Leghorn, Director of FriendShip Preschool  
Erica Lyons, Classroom Assistant (P)  
Gretchen McAdams, Teacher (P)  
Sherry Romano, Classroom Assistant (P)  
Ashley Raymond, Assistant Teacher (P)  
Ann Wood, Teacher (P)

## COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY

Jennifer Berg, Communications Assistant (P) (8.2023-12.2023)  
Dave Breit, Media Engineer (P)  
Rici Brockinson, Broadcast Producer (P) & Worship Media Coordinator (P)  
Jennifer Johnson, Director of Communications  
Noah McAdams, Worship Tech Coordinator (P) (7.2023-12.2023)  
Alexis Merritt, Tech Intern (P)  
Stephanie Smith, Administrative Assistant (F) (through 6.2023)

## CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES

Mike Creamer, Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adults  
Erin Leghorn, Director of Discipleship  
Hanna Mellor, Children's Ministry Coordinator (P)  
Nicole Quaka, Children's Ministry Event Coordinator (P) (started 9.2023)  
Elizabeth Szuba, Director of Congregational Care (P)

## MUSIC MINISTRIES

Ray Blackwell, Bass Soloist (P)  
Jeremy Fisher, Praise Team Director (P)  
Michael Hammer, Choir Director & Organist (F) (started 3.2023)  
Xui-Ru Liu, Alto Soloist (P)  
Rosie MacKenzie Wyche, Praise Team Vocalist (P)  
Anna Singer, Soprano Soloist (P)  
Paul Yeater, Tenor Soloist (P)





# IN MEMORIAM

CHURCH MEMBERS WHO ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT IN 2023



Susan Elste	Linda Schober
Mary Gassman	Gail Stoner
Dorothy Gillott	Patricia Stuart
Nancy Hansen	Joyce Walkingshaw
Helen Horne	Patricia Whalen

**God is the strength of my heart,  
and my portion forever.**

Psalms 73:26b









Sewickley Presbyterian Church

**LIVE · GROW · SERVE**

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414 Grant Street | Sewickley, PA | 15143  
[www.sewickleypresby.org](http://www.sewickleypresby.org)