



INTERPRETATION

Sewickley Presbyterian Church Newsletter | November 2025

You 
CROWN
THE YEAR WITH
Your Goodness
AND RICHNESS
OVERFLOWS
wherever You are!

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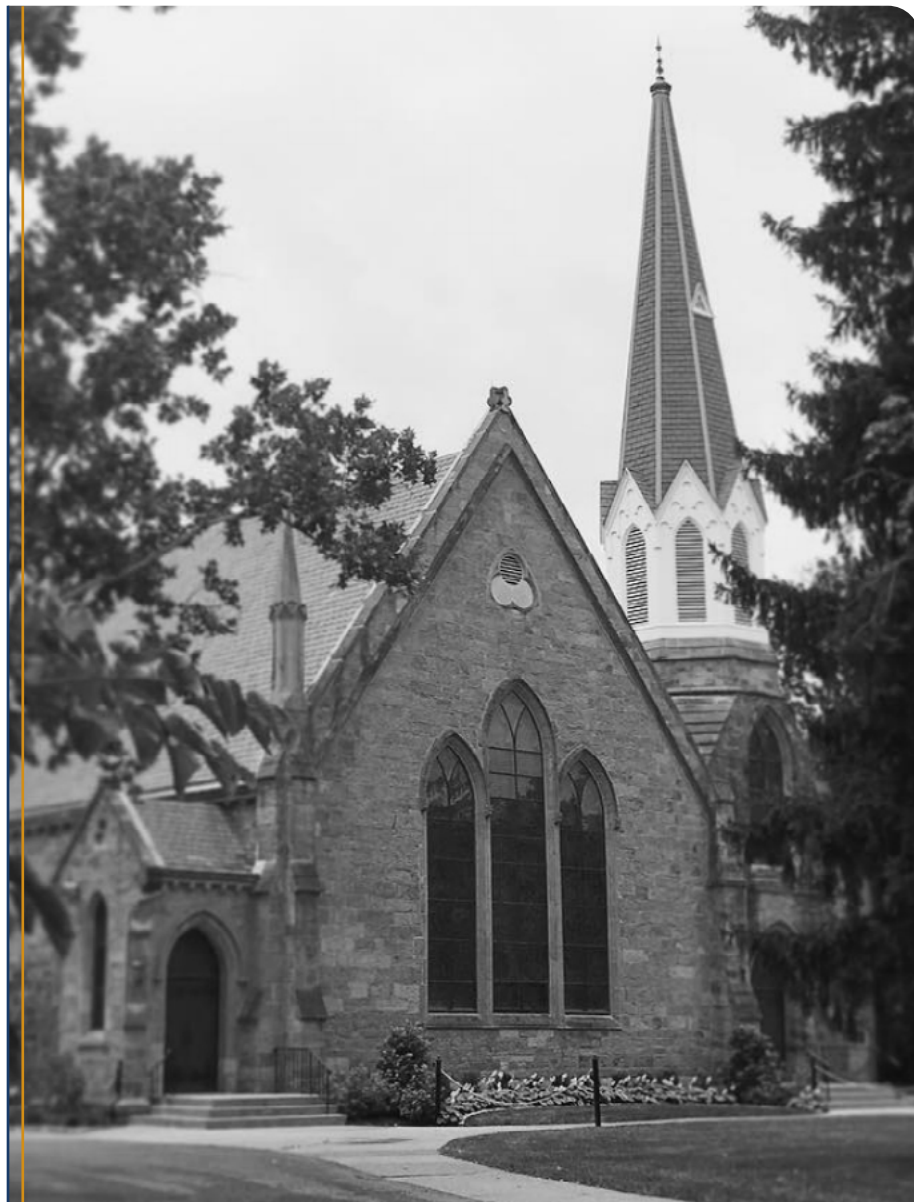
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SOCIAL MEDIA



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A YEAR OF BLESSINGS, A FUTURE OF PROMISE

By Rev. Dr. Derek Davenport, Pastor

We have grown in so many ways this year.

As you read this issue of Interpretation, look at the ways our church is growing. You'll see programs that are outgrowing their spaces. You'll see new opportunities to participate in worship. You'll notice new faces, both in membership and in our staff.

Of course, with the joy of growth, there is also sorrow. We have said goodbye to several long-time, beloved members of our church staff and community. As our buildings grow and improve, we say farewell to features or artwork that we have come to appreciate.

And yet, as you can see in the results of our sanctuary project, there is so much to celebrate. As we prepare for the year ahead, we can see the excitement that comes with following where God leads. We see the growing opportunities to gather in worship, mission, and fellowship.

One of our disciplines each fall is to look ahead to where God is taking us, the opportunities for growth before us, and to prepare. We do this through our annual stewardship campaign. Each year, you have an opportunity to be part of this growth and ministry through giving of your time, your resources, and your abilities.

As you see how much God is doing in, with, and through Sewickley Presbyterian Church, I invite you to spend a few minutes simply enjoying the journey. Look at what the Spirit is doing. Notice how Christ is blessing this village, this community, this region, and this world through the ministries of SPC. Find the opportunity or growth that excites you in this issue of Interpretation, and join in the excitement. Try out a new program, grow your giving, participate in one of the many opportunities to bless our community, or give of your time to make our programs possible.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas coming quickly, this is a wonderful time to immerse yourself in God's work right here. The work on phase two of our capital campaign will begin in the next few weeks, and we will see even more areas of growth, improvement, and excitement. As we have grown in so many ways this past year, this coming year has even more in store. I look forward to continuing this journey together!

-- Derek



Faith Moves Us Change Builds Us





CAMPAIGN UPDATE

MOVING FORWARD WITH PHASE 2

As most of you know, we are back in the Sanctuary and Phase 1 of our Pointing to the Cross Capital Campaign is *almost* completed! It's exciting to see the changes that have taken place in the sanctuary. As we anticipate the final lighting components to arrive and to be set-up, we are also looking forward to continuing the project with Phase 2.

Phase 2 includes a series of much-needed updates, repairs, and enhancements to our gathering spaces, security features, as well as important behind-the-scenes necessities we often take for granted—like the elevator panel, stairs, and walkways.

As we begin Phase 2, we are sharing the projected project list and corresponding costs to give a clear understanding of the financial scope of this phase.

We are still shy of our \$3,000,000 goal but have made GREAT progress, which we thank you all for. If you haven't made a pledge to the campaign yet, please consider helping us reach our goal! It's never too late to join in and make a meaningful impact.

Visit sewickleypresby.org/give to make a pledge or gift.

PHASE 2

PHASE 2 PROJECT LIST	ESTIMATED COST
Air Conditioning Addition Robinson/Cambell Rooms Childcare Room Dining Room	\$415,000
Sanctuary Air Conditioning Upgrade	\$200,000
A/C Electrical Updates	\$175,000
Flooring Replacement Robinson Room Campbell Room	\$110,720
Grant St/Ansby Entrances Flooring Replacement Stair Repair	\$23,500

PHASE 2 PROJECT LIST	ESTIMATED COST
Robinson Room Painting Ceiling Fan Replacement Furnishings Lighting	\$5,000 \$7,600 To Be Determined \$13,000
Security System Addition	\$157,500
Manse Miscellaneous Repairs	\$10,000
Elevator Control Panel Upgrade	\$120,000

Please contact one of the individuals below with any questions:

- ▶ Mark Gensheimer: mgensheimer@csmckee.com
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Thank
you!

SPREADING GOD'S LOVE AROUND!



CCM & CLUB 345

By Elizabeth Szuba, Director of Congregational Care

The Congregational Care Ministry (CCM) teamed up this fall with Club 345 to make special prayer rocks. The Club 345 children painted symbols of hope and glued the following Bible verse on the rocks, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" from Psalm 46.

These special prayer rocks will be used by SPC Congregational Care Ministers when they make hospital and home visits to members of our church family.



COLLEGE CARE

By Jennifer Johnson, Director of Communications

Love in a box! Each fall we send care packages to our college students—a simple way to remind them their church family is cheering them on. In a season filled with exams, new routines, and homesickness, there's nothing quite like opening real mail from home. Notes, prayers, and small treats become big encouragements, sharing Christ's love in a tangible way and keeping our younger members connected to the body of Christ. Thank you for helping us bless them—one package, one smile, one reminder of God's faithfulness at a time.



MASONIC TEA



Deacons & church staff visited Masonic Village residents for an afternoon tea in October.

SHERWOOD OAKS



Members of our Congregational Care Ministry visited church members, who live at Sherwood Oaks in Cranberry, in August for lunch and a time to catch up.



Continued from page 6: Elizabeth Szuba & Club 345 - sharing the importance of caring for others.



TIME WELL SPENT

By Elizabeth Szuba, Director of Congregational Care

The Evergreens event to Rodef Shalom Biblical Garden got rained out this September, but the weather didn't dampen our spirits. The group enjoyed fellowship and breakfast at Eat-n-Park instead. We'll reschedule the garden event for next Spring!

In October, the Evergreen outing to Old Economy Village was blessed with cool but great weather for a walk outside!

Old Economy Village is home to 17 historic buildings set amidst beautiful gardens, located 18 miles northwest of Pittsburgh along the Ohio River in Ambridge. This National Historic Landmark preserves the legacy of the Harmony Society, one of the most successful religious communal groups of the 19th century.

Founded by German Lutheran separatists under the leadership of George Rapp (1757–1847), the Society aimed to create a Utopian community while awaiting the Messiah's second coming.

Afterwards, the group warmed up and enjoyed a delicious lunch at Bridgetown Taphouse in Ambridge.

The Evergreens, a fellowship group for those 55 years and older, will hold new gatherings in the spring of 2026. Stay tuned to see where you can get involved!





DOLLARS & SENSE

By Laura Mikush, Business Administrator

In April of this year, the Property Committee authorized the stabilization of the Faith House garage 2nd floor. The floor was unusable and was causing the walls to begin to bulge. Three steel posts and a new steel beam were installed in the center for stabilization. The project cost was \$7,843.00.

NEW MEMBERS AT SPC!



Chris & Hannah DiMascio
Lily, Sophie, Georgia



Todd Johnson



Ellen & Mark Hitchins

MONTREAT TRIP

By Jennifer Johnson, Director of Communications

Members of our church family, made their way to the annual Music & Worship Conference in Montreat, NC this summer. The conference is designed to nurture, educate, and inspire those involved in worship and music. The theme for this year was "Clothed in Love."

The conference preacher was Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, Dean at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Rev. Aymer shared Bible stories that encouraged us to try on Christian virtues together in worship — through song, prayer, and proclamation.





YOUTH THREADS

By Rev. Mike Creamer
Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adults

We've had an exciting few months together with our youth ministry. This summer we were fortunate to bring on former youth elder and college student, Lizzie Szuba, as our Youth Ministry intern. Her energy and passion for our teens was felt all summer long as she helped plan and run events like kayaking, the middle school movie, high school breakfast, and being one of our Surf City counselors. We are missing her this fall, but are grateful to her for the hard work she put in this summer!

Speaking of youth elders, we are over the moon that we just had two youth elders and two youth deacons nominated and installed to serve for another year starting this February. It is such a gift to worship in a church that sees the leadership skills and spiritual maturity of our teens and empowers them to serve in varying capacities!

We wrapped up the summer with our annual trip to Surf City and our Family Tailgate Kickoff! Surf City was packed with plenty of fun at the beach, tubing, deep dives into Scripture, and late-night campfires. The tailgate was a great way to get ready for the new school year together—seeing new and old faces alike, sharing a potluck together, playing some pickle ball and 9-square, and getting back to our weekly schedule together.

As the fall weather has officially arrived, there's been a lot to celebrate. We are officially back in the sanctuary after a summer of construction. To commemorate that first Sunday together, we welcomed and celebrated eight new confirmands joining the church! We are excited to see how God works in and through them on their faith journeys.

We're happy to have all our weekly programming back! Sundays are packed with Sunday School at 10 AM and Youth group at 4 PM for all youth, and our high school breakfast group on Thursday mornings at 6:45 AM. There are plenty of ways to get involved, so we hope to see you soon!





HIGH SCHOOL LAURELVILLE

Our high schoolers spent a long weekend away at Laurelville Retreat Center, where they explored the story of Jesus, Lazarus, and the invitation to Resurrection. Alongside meaningful conversations and worship, they enjoyed plenty of classic retreat fun—mud football, obstacle courses, dance parties, and more. It was a weekend filled with laughter, learning, and time to grow deeper in faith and friendship.





HYMN FESTIVAL

By Michael Hammer, Choir Director & Organist

Join us for a special worship experience this fall as we celebrate our Hymn Festival, a service where the message is delivered not through a traditional homily, but through beautiful, powerful music.

Come and be inspired by timeless hymns such as “The Church’s One Foundation” and “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah,” brought to life by choir, congregation, organ, and brass. This unique service weaves Scripture, song, and reflection together—inviting us to be encouraged, uplifted, and united in praise.

HYMN FESTIVAL SERVICE
Sunday, November 23 at 11:00 AM

Bring your joy, and your love of music as we worship through the great hymns of our faith. Be blessed and encouraged with song!

A NORD STAGE?

By Michael Hammer, Choir Director & Organist

We’re excited to share that we recently welcomed a Nord Stage 4 keyboard into our worship life. If you know keyboards, you know this one is the top of the line, often called the “*Steinway of praise music*.”

Thank to a generous gift from the Murdock Endowment, we were able to invest in this \$6,000 instrument, which will support a wide range of worship settings; from outdoor services to Praise Band to our new dining room worship experience.

The Nord replaces our beloved but aging 20 year old keyboard, as well as several upright pianos throughout the building. No tuning, no maintenance - just beautiful, reliable sound. We’ve already heard how much people love the rich piano tone!

We’re grateful for the ways this gift will enhance our worship and make music ministry more portable and practical for years to come.





ALL THINGS NEW!

By Erin Leghorn, Director of FriendShip Preschool

Another new school year has begun and we have new people to celebrate and new equipment to enjoy! There is such a wonderful sense of energy and anticipation in the building as our classrooms fill with curious minds, joyful laughter, and all the promise that a fresh year brings.

New Staff

We welcomed two new teachers – Mrs. Emily Stunda as FriendShip II Lead Teacher and Mrs. Lindsey Holland as Pre-K Lead Teacher. Both Emily and Lindsey have several years of teaching experience. Their own children attended FriendShip when they were little so they know and love our program!

Returning Staff

We welcomed back Danielle Nadalin as FriendShip II Classroom Assistant. Danielle worked in FriendShip II a few years ago but stepped out of the classroom to focus on her children. Since then she has continued working at FriendShip as a substitute teacher. We are thrilled to have her back with us as a Classroom Assistant this year! Her familiar

presence and genuine love for our students make her return especially meaningful.

New Position

Gretchen McAdams has stepped into a new position. She has served for several years as the Lead Teacher in Pre-K, but this year, she is working alongside me as Co-Director of the preschool! Gretchen has been such an asset to this school over the years. I am so excited to see what she brings to FriendShip in this new role!

New Playground Equipment

Our playground is even more fun these days! Thanks to a generous donation given to us by church members Bob and Michele DeWitt, whose grandson Bryson attended FriendShip from 2022–2025, we were able to purchase a new playhouse, flower-shaped chalkboards, and a tic-tac-toe game for our playground. We are so grateful to the DeWitts for their generosity! The children wasted no time exploring these new additions, and their smiles remind us how meaningful these gifts truly are.

NEW STUDENTS, NEW JOYS, NEW ADVENTURES!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SHARING GOD'S LOVE



By Nicole Quaka, Children's Ministry Coordinator

The church school year has gotten off to a running start for our children at SPC. We kicked off the year with a Back to School Tailgate Party/Potluck on August 26, filling the Faith House parking lot with families from our Youth and Children's programs.

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

This year we are traveling through each book of the Bible in Children's Church and Sunday School learning how we weave into God's story individually and as a church family. Children in preschool to 3rd grade are invited to attend Children's Church during either the 9 or 11 AM services. Children in preschool to Grade 5 are invited to attend Sunday School at 10 AM.

CHILDCARE UPDATES

After transitioning out of the Dining Room and into the Sanctuary, our staffed and supervised childcare space for children birth to three years old will remain on the Mezzanine level in Studio A to keep all children and staff/volunteers together on one floor. Don't worry -- the childcare space off of the Robinson Room is still open to use before, during, and/or after each service for kids who would like a play break with their parents. We have recently purchased a new monitor for the playroom, and it will soon be installed so that the worship service can be streamed live each Sunday. If you have a nursing child or any children that just need a quick reset during church, please feel free to use as needed!

CLUB 345

Our weekly, missions-based, after-school program, Club 345, started Wednesday, September 17 with over twenty 3rd-5th graders coming to play games, eat a snack, and learn more about Jesus by spreading His love with our community through various mission projects. Club 345 has been growing by leaps and bounds! We now have over 30 kids attending each week!

Continued from previous page:

So far, they've made prayer rocks with Elizabeth Szuba to support our Congregational Care Ministry, cat and bunny toys to donate to shelter pets at Animal Friends, and participated in multiple projects supporting the Center for Hope including stuffing 24 Christmas Stockings for our Project Christmas Stocking.

Club 345 is always such a fun way to engage kids to fall in love with Jesus. If you are an adult with clearances on file at our church, please consider helping out on Wednesdays at Club 345 throughout the school year. We can always use an extra pair of hands to help with our projects.

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

Our Annual Family Fall Festival was back for another year of family fun and fellowship at the Faith House. Everyone enjoyed conversation with other adults from our church as children played games, won prizes, enjoyed good food, and carved pumpkins together.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Christmas Pageant practice for children in preschool through 5th grade started on Oct. 1 during the 10 AM Sunday School hour. Kids meet to practice in Studio B at 10 AM, then head up to the Chapel with Miss Nicole to sing through our pageant songs with Dane and Jane Schlenke. Kids are done and back down to Studio B for pick up at 10:45.

We will not be practicing Nov. 23 and Nov. 30, but rehearsals will return weekly on Sundays in December leading up to Pageant Day-Sunday, December 21 during the 11 AM service.

It is not too late to sign up! Our Christmas Pageant invites all children and youth from preschool to 12th grade to participate. If you know anyone in elementary, middle, or high school who would be interested in being in the Christmas Pageant, please register online under SPC Kids Events. More details will be provided upon registration.

Please be sure to thank Dane and Jane Schlenke for volunteering to lead our young singers as they prepare for the Christmas Pageant. They have been a consistent blessing to Children's Ministries for many years and we are so thankful for their willingness to share their incredible musical and teaching gifts with our children in this way.

TRUE NORTH: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

For one week in August, our Dining Room and Studios became an Alaskan wilderness as nearly 90 children learned what it means to trust Jesus in a wild world. Parents shared throughout the week how their kids were already using those lessons—turning to Jesus when they needed hope, felt alone, or had big questions.

More than sixty youth and adults volunteered their time to decorate, prepare food, teach, and guide children through each day's activities, creating a fun and faith-filled environment. Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible.



LET'S CELEBRATE!

CHURCH STAFF ANNIVERSARIES



Elizabeth Szuba celebrated her 10-year anniversary on staff at SPC on September 8! A member of our church for 16 years, Elizabeth first joined the staff as our Youth Program Coordinator, working closely with Rev. Mike Creamer to strengthen and grow our youth ministry. In 2022, she transitioned into her current role as Director of Congregational Care, where she continues to bless our congregation with her compassionate leadership.



Rosie MacKenzie celebrated her five year anniversary in April. As stated on page 17, Rosie just stepped into a new role, but she has been singing with our Praise Team since 2020.

These anniversaries reflect more than years of service—they represent the steady commitment and heartfelt ministry our staff offer every day. We give thanks for each member of our team and for the countless ways they support, guide, and nurture our congregation.



SPC RECEPTIONISTS: UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know we have volunteer receptionists who serve in our office Monday through Friday? They faithfully answer calls, welcome visitors, and support our staff with administrative tasks—sometimes even posing for social media photos! We are so thankful for their time, dedication, and cheerful service to our church.



RIGHTEOUS SONG REQUESTS

We're excited to introduce something new to our worship life—Righteous Song Requests! If there's a hymn or praise song that has been meaningful to you, or one you'd love to hear our congregation sing together, now you can let us know. A small request box, along with note cards, is located on the coffee bar in the Robinson Room. Simply jot down the title of the song (and the reason it's special to you, if you'd like) and drop it in the box. Our worship and music staff will review the requests regularly and incorporate them into upcoming services when possible.

This is a wonderful way to share your favorite music with the church family and to help shape our worship in a meaningful, Spirit-led way. We hope you'll take advantage of this new opportunity and join us in lifting up songs that inspire, comfort, and encourage our community.

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

Psalm 98:1



NEW FACES IN THE CHOIR LOFT

By Michael Hammer, Choir Director & Organist

There are new opportunities to sing in our music program this year, and several church members are taking advantage of them! In addition, we have hired four new singers to share their gifts with us.

- Lucy Natale is a freshman at CMU. A native of Wisconsin, she has sung in church choirs and also has a background in musical theater.
- Meghan Thomson is a first-year graduate student. A New-Englander, she studied in New York and London before coming to CMU. She started Valkyrie Productions, a company that produces and brings operas to non-traditional venues.

- Conor Warshawsky is from California and received his BA from UC Santa Cruz. Last summer he studied in Salzburg. He also has interests in Musical Theater and 20th century classical music.
- Jett Downey has sung in several of our Word Sung services. She founded East End Song Studios and sang at ShadySide Presbyterian Church. Her musical interests are as diverse as her musical talents.

From time to time, they will also participate at the 9AM service. I hope you'll take time to get to know our new singers. Behind these thumbnail sketches are some very interesting people!



Rosie

CHANGING ROLES

By Jennifer Johnson, Director of Communications



Paul

Our current musicians have changed roles to meet our needs. Rosie, a faithful member of our Praise Team, has stepped up into the role of Assistant Music Director of Praise Team. Paul Yeater, our Tenor soloist for many years, has transitioned into the Assistant Music Director of Choirs. Here's a little more about them -- in case you didn't know!

Rosanna "Rosie" Sharp MacKenzie was born and raised in Sewickley and comes from generations rooted in this community. Rosie holds a BA in Musical Theater with a minor in vocal performance from Campbell University and has been singing since childhood.

She and her brother perform locally as an acoustic duo, and she's a proud mom to four children: Joe, Jack, Bennett, and MacKenzie. Rosie is grateful for the chance to use her gifts to lead a Christ-centered, welcoming Praise Team.

Paul Yeater joined SPC's music family in September 2021, bringing a lifelong love of church music that began in childhood as he watched his mother, a longtime organist, from the organ loft. His first "professional" moment came at age four when he stepped in as a missing cantor—and he's been singing ever since.

He has served in various church and school music roles, including Director of the Chancel and Handbell Choirs at New Brighton UMC and Music Director for Chartiers Valley High School's spring musicals. Paul is currently pursuing his Master's in Vocal Performance at Carnegie Mellon University and performs with the Pittsburgh Opera Chorus, Mendelssohn Choir, and Pittsburgh Camerata. Outside of music, he enjoys reading, journaling, baking (especially olive oil cake), and quick trips to New York for Broadway and the Met. He's grateful to continue growing in ministry with the SPC family.



NEVER

By Gretchen McAdams, SPC Member

The SPC fall Women's Retreat, thoughtfully led by Pastor Barb Kennedy, brought together 65 women for a beautiful day of connection, reflection, and renewal. Centered on the message NEVER and the song by Tasha Layton, we explored God's Word through three Bible studies with the themes of Never Forgotten (2 Samuel 9), Never Forsaken (Matthew 27:45–54), and Never Abandoned (Exodus 2:1–10).

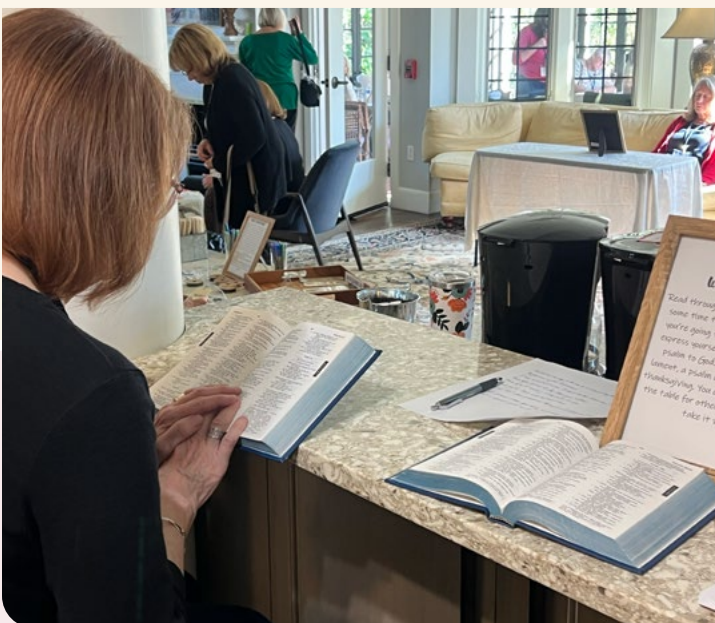
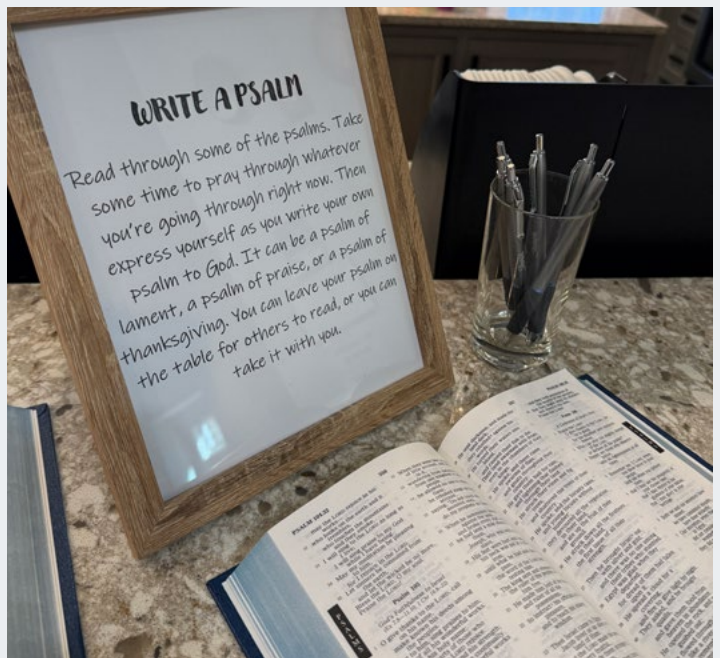
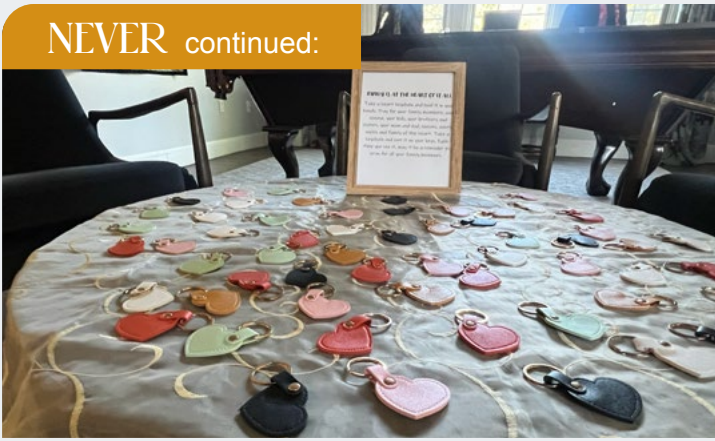
Through heartfelt conversations around our tables, we shared stories of times we had felt overlooked, forgotten, or alone, and were reminded that no matter what we are going through, God is always with us. His presence, provision, peace, and promises are constant, assuring us that we are never out of His care or beyond His love.

After enjoying a delicious lunch and time for fellowship, we gathered in the Faith House for an afternoon of quiet reflection, moving through various stations that offered very personal and creative ways to connect with God in prayer. Women prayed for their families and each other, created beautiful art out of difficult memories, planted seeds of forgiveness, laid down burdens, wrote psalms, and composed prayerful word poetry. Each station was a meaningful exploration of who we are as women of faith, and the deep, abiding love God has for each of us.

From the beautifully decorated dining room, delicious lunch, thoughtful scriptures and stations, and times for prayer the day renewed our spirits and brought us closer to God and each other. We left reminded that no matter where we find ourselves, we are never forgotten, never forsaken, and never abandoned for our loving God is always with us.



NEVER continued:





“If a brother or sister is poorly clothed
or lacking in daily food,
and one of you says to them,
‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled’,
without giving them the things needed
for the body, what good is that?”

James 2:15-16



A CALL TO ACTION

By Rich Garbee, Mission Committee Chair

Mission work falls under so many different areas in our church. In gratitude to all, we look at the November and December calendar and see Knitting for Mission, Christmas basket preparation and delivery, tree of memory ornaments, project Christmas stocking, and volunteers serving at the Ladle and Center for Hope dinners where they face an increasing challenge of food insecurity due to governmental policies, food inflation and a growing concern over job opportunities in their communities. For more information, please see the links (on the right) to articles on the ongoing work being done to serve our neighbors.

Additionally, we serve and provide funding to over 35 mission partners that are local, national and global in nature. They span areas of need in food insecurities, shelter, health and mental illness services, family services, Christian education and disaster relief of which many cross over into multiple areas.

We will continue to provide our congregation with a broad array of opportunities to volunteer that best suit your time in life. As an example, there are sign up sheets to help service monthly dinners at The Ladle and Center for Hope on our website ([click here](#)) as well as the ability to be a driver

for the YMCA's Faith in Action program on a schedule that best suits you but still provides the services needed. Keep an eye out for more information and ways in which you can engage with our partners.

Below are links to two articles that have been published recently around the challenges our local community faces relative to food insecurities related to the governmental shutdown (national/state) as well as funding reductions:

“As need rises, food pantries learn to cope”

<https://pge.post-gazette.com/.pf/showstory/202510170062/3?fields=SubTitle>

“Ambridge — like much of America — prepares to feed hungry if SNAP goes dark”

<https://www.publicsource.org/snap-food-aid-stop-ambridge-pennsylvania/>



A GIFT FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Earlier this year, our partner church, the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, graciously gifted us a beautiful painting of St. George's Chapel in Přerov, CZ. The artwork was created by Ukrainian painter Ivan Kovalenko, whose talent brings the historic chapel to life in vibrant detail.

Along with the painting, Eva Jehlářová, Clerk of Ruling Elders at ECCB, sent a heartfelt letter expressing gratitude for the support our congregation provided in 2024. Thanks to these funds, their church was able to renovate the roof over their congregational building complex—an improvement that will serve their ministry for decades to come.

This special painting now hangs in the hallway on the second floor of the Faith House, directly across from Room 2A. We invite you to stop by and enjoy this wonderful expression of friendship and partnership in Christ.



AMIGOS LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

The Amigos Fellowship, an interdenominational program for teenagers and adults with developmental challenges, gathered at the church to make their way to Camp Crestfield for its 41st annual retreat.

The group meets year-round—typically twice a month—for activities ranging from holiday parties, bingo nights, crafts, and games at the church to off-campus events such as progressive dinners, basketball games, and service projects at World Vision.

The fall retreat is a beloved tradition, and this year's gathering began with a lively flyswatter-and-balloon game that set an energetic tone. A peaceful hayride through the woods followed, sparking excitement for future adventures. A delicious lunch provided a welcome break before the group moved on to painting tiles, canoeing, and relaxing in the camp's new rocking chairs while singing familiar camp songs. Parachute games and an afternoon walk added to the joy of the day. After a hearty dinner, everyone packed up and returned to the church tired but happy, grateful for another meaningful retreat together and already looking forward to next year's activities.

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers whose time, energy, and compassion make these gatherings possible—they are truly the heartbeat of the ministry. Interested in helping? Contact Ann Strong at astrong409@verizon.net.





AN ACT OF LOVE



Though our Day on the Lawn rummage sale—our largest mission project of the year—has passed, its impact continues long after the tents come down. Thanks to the combined efforts of our church family and community, this year's sale, along with the Steelers Raffle, raised over \$84,000. That incredible total speaks directly to the generosity, heart, and faith-filled spirit of SPC.

Anyone who has ever been involved knows that Day on the Lawn is a massive undertaking. There's the steady work of preparing all summer long, the heavy lifting of organizing and pricing, and then the whirlwind of the sale itself. And yes—at times you may grow weary of the weekly reminders asking for help, but each announcement, each volunteer shift, each bag sorted or table set up, is truly a witness to how we live out Christ's call.

Jesus commands us to "love our neighbors as ourselves," and Day on the Lawn is a beautiful, tangible expression of that command. Every role, whether big or small, becomes an act of love.

So whether you served on the Leadership Team, donated belongings, made a monetary gift, sorted items, carried furniture, picked up donations, organized departments, priced treasures, took payments, flipped burgers, baked cookies, cleaned up, or completed one of the many tasks that make this enormous project possible—please know how deeply appreciated you are.

The impact of your work extends far beyond that single Saturday. The blessing of this sale stretches throughout the entire year, reaching individuals and families we may never meet. Yet they feel the love, dignity, and hope made possible through your dedication. They know the good work SPC is doing in the world.

God is good, and His goodness is reflected so clearly through this congregation. Thank you for giving of your time, talent, and treasure to serve others in Christ's name.



EACH THREAD UNIQUE,
YET ONE FABRIC IN CHRIST.

COLOSSIANS 2:2

WHY TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE MATTER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

In every season of the Christian life, we are invited to consider the gifts God has placed in our hands. Some of these gifts are tangible, like financial resources; others are woven into who we are—our skills, passions, and personalities. And some of the most precious gifts we hold are the hours and days that God entrusts to us. The church has long used the language of time, talent, and treasure to help us think about how we offer these gifts back to God. Each one matters, and each one plays a vital part in shaping not only the life of the church, but also our own spiritual growth.

Time: The Gift We Cannot Replace

Time is the one resource we all receive in equal measure, yet it is often the hardest to give. When we offer our time—showing up for worship, volunteering in ministry, sitting with someone who is grieving, teaching children, preparing meals, or praying for others—we participate in the sacred work of building God's kingdom. The hours we devote to God's purposes shape us into more patient, compassionate, and attentive people. Jesus often modeled this, taking time to be present with those around Him, even when He was tired or interrupted. Giving our time is a way of saying, "Lord, You are worthy of my attention, my presence, and my energy."

Talent: The Gifts God Placed Within Us

Paul reminds the church in 1 Corinthians that the Spirit gives each believer unique gifts "for the common good." Our talents—musical ability, leadership, hospitality, organization, creativity, teaching, craftsmanship, compassion—are not accidental. They are intentional gifts meant to be used in service to God and others. When we share our talents, we help the church become the vibrant, living body of Christ. The choir needs voices; the nursery needs

joyful caregivers; committees need wise thinkers; mission teams need willing hands. No talent is too small or insignificant. In fact, many unseen gifts—quiet encouragement, behind-the-scenes service, steadfast prayer—often have the greatest impact. Offering our talent is an act of gratitude: "God, You made me uniquely—may my gifts bring Him glory."

Treasure: Generosity as a Spiritual Practice

Scripture consistently teaches that generosity is not about the size of the gift but the posture of the heart. When we give financially, we participate in God's abundant work in

"God, You made me uniquely—
may my gifts bring Him glory."

the world—feeding the hungry, supporting mission partners, caring for the vulnerable, maintaining the ministry of the church, and strengthening the programs that help faith grow. Giving our treasure reminds us that everything we have comes from God and ultimately belongs to God. It loosens our grip on material things and deepens our trust in God's provision. Generosity becomes not a duty, but a joyful response to God's extravagant love.

A Life of Wholeness and Gratitude

Time, talent, and treasure matter because together they form a complete offering. We grow in gratitude, deepen our connection to our church family, and participate in God's transforming work in the world. In giving generously, we discover that God has already given generously to us—abundantly, faithfully, and without end.



Sewickley Presbyterian Church

LIVE · GROW · SERVE

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Dated Material
PLEASE EXPEDITE

This newsletter is published by
Sewickley Presbyterian Church



A QUICK PEEK INTO ADVENT

Davenport Family Open House at the Manse
Tuesday, December 2, 5-8 PM

Cocoa, Crafts & Cookies
Saturday, December 13, 1-3 PM

Light in the Darkness Service
Wednesday, December 17, 7 PM

Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 21, 11 AM

Youth Christmas Party
Sunday, December 21, 4 PM

Christmas Eve Services
4 PM, 6:30 PM, 9 PM

Final Worship Service of 2025
Sunday, December 28, 10 AM