

SEWICKLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 2018 Minutes

From The Pastor's Heart

My running route has turned into somewhat of an obstacle course with discarded Christmas trees strewn on the sidewalks. As I was running I thought, *only a month ago these trees held special meaning and had a prominent place in the warmth and love of homes.* I wondered how many family pictures were taken in front of these trees? How many children were in awe of the carefully decorated tree as presents were placed under them with love and care? I could picture the family loading up in the car for a very special outing as they drove to a tree farm or Christmas tree lot to pick out just the perfect tree! I could imagine the excitement in the air when the perfect tree was found and cut down and tied to the roof of the car! And only a few weeks later it is thrown to the curbside. The once beautiful green branches decorated with lights and ornaments are now a tarnished brown, waiting to be burned or shredded into mulch.

As I continued my run, I thought about another tree, a tree that was cut down for the purpose of making a cross. I couldn't help but wonder what kind of tree it was that God's Son hung upon?

The Bible does not tell us what type of wood the cross Jesus was crucified on was made of. Roman history does not go into specifics as to how the crosses were made or what type of wood was used.

There is a legend that the cross was made of dogwood. This is unlikely considering the typical size of a dogwood tree. The legend of the dogwood tree, author unknown, is as follows:

In Jesus' time, the dogwood grew
To a stately size and a lovely hue.
'Twas strong and firm, its branches interwoven.
For the cross of Christ its timbers were chosen.
Seeing the distress at this use of their wood
Christ made a promise which still holds good:
Never again shall the dogwood grow
Large enough to be used so.
Slender and twisted, it shall be
With blossoms like the cross for all to see.
As blood stains the petals marked in brown,
The blossom's center wears a thorny crown.
All who see it will remember Me,
Crucified on a cross from the dogwood tree.
Cherished and protected, this tree shall be
A reminder to all of My agony.

Again, this is just a legend. It is a nice poem, but there is no biblical basis to it.

Searching the internet I found, "According to the sacred tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Church the True Cross was made from three different types of wood: cedar, pine and cypress." Some sources suggest the cross came from an oak tree, but the truth of the matter, is it was probably whatever they could lay their hands on.

Wood was fairly scarce in the region at the time, and that used for crucifixions was often used repeatedly until it broke. Nailing people to a cross wasn't common, most were seemingly tied using rope. A few name plaques from Roman crucifixions, made of olive wood, have been found, but it's unlikely that this would have been used for the whole cross, since it was too valuable a crop tree to use.

I guess it really doesn't matter what kind of tree was used to make the cross; it served its purpose – an innocent man, a sinless man, died upon that cross for my sins and for your sins.

"On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain..."

It's difficult for us at a distance of 2,000 years to imagine the shame of death by crucifixion.

Has the cross lost its meaning? Has it lost its power? Has the cross become like those old discarded Christmas trees that once held significant meaning, but now are nothing more than trash to be picked up by the garbage man?

When Jesus died, there was only a handful who believed in his innocence, and few of them had any power or influence. So the cross was a huge obstacle to Christianity. Who was going to follow a religion where the leader was apparently a criminal, and who died in impotence and absurdity?

Yet, it's through the cross that we're saved. Our sins were nailed to the cross for all time, so that forgiveness became possible. Because of Jesus, we now receive forgiveness as a free gift.

From The Pastor's Heart, continued

Ash Wednesday is February 14th when we will begin the season of Lent. Lent is a six week journey we make every year to that old rugged cross. As we travel to the cross stained with blood, the blood of our Savior, may we reflect and meditate on that cross, that it may hold its true meaning and not be tossed out like an old Christmas tree.

In *The Hymns of the United Methodist Hymnal: Introduction to the Hymns Canticles and Acts of Worship* (Diana Sanchez, Volume Editor), we find this introduction to one of Fanny Crosby's infamous hymns:

"According to Fanny Crosby, her lack of sight seemed to help her more fully focus on the spiritual aspects of life. She never felt handicapped, feeling instead that spiritual blindness was more tragic than physical blindness. This meditation on the power of the cross contains an interesting prayer from one who was sightless: 'Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring it scenes before me.' The author pictures in her mind's eye the vision of Christ dying on the cross. The symbol of light is found in stanza 2: 'There the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me,' and concludes with the promise to watch and wait, hope and trust, forever."

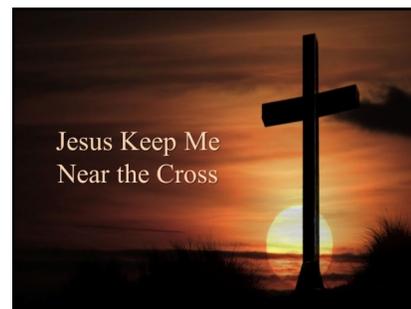
As we step into the Season of Lent may this hymn be our guiding prayer....

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain—
Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calv'ry's mountain.
Refrain: In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever; Till my raptured soul shall find Rest beyond the river.
2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
There the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.
3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day, with its shadows o'er me.
4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait hoping, trusting ever, till I reach the golden strand, just beyond the river.

Blessings,



Pastor Russel



DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 18TH

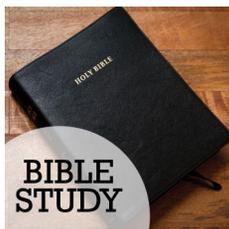
This special offering helps promote awareness issues and supports Western PA Conference ministries that provide opportunities for fuller inclusion of people with disabilities.

What Would It Look Like If...

- our churches had doors that were really open to receive everyone?
- our people really loved everyone?
- we really stopped judging everyone?
- we really respected everyone?
- we really valued everyone the way God does?
- our churches were really a place where everyone could truly belong?
- we really had eyes to see everyone around us who is hurting?
- we really did everything we could to alleviate that hurt?

Maybe it would look more like the Kingdom of God... maybe... maybe...

Please use the "Special Sundays" blue envelope located at the information table or mark your check "Disability Awareness." You may also donate through easyTithe, our electronic giving application or through our website.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study meets in the church library and is led by Pastor Russel. For the convenience of those participating, there are two meeting times: **9:30 am and 7 pm.** We meet September through May. (If

Quaker Valley schools have a snow delay or cancellation, Bible Study will be cancelled that day.) Join us anytime!

Pastor Russel has an open door policy. Anyone wishing to speak to the pastor, is welcomed and encouraged to call. You can reach him at these numbers. If there is an emergency, please call the parsonage regardless of the time.

Church Office: (412)741-9430

Cell Phone: (412)735-5072

Pastor's Office: (412)741-9433

Email: pastor@sewickleyumc.org

Parsonage: (412)741-9679

Worship Opportunities - February 2018



Contemporary Worship Service: 9 am
 Sunday School for all ages: 10 am (September—May)
 Traditional Worship Service: 11 am

February 4, 2018
Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Liturgist: Donna Sawhill

A/V: Sandra Lane (9 am) / Pam Honeychurch (11 am)

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (UMH 859)
 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

February 11, 2018
Transfiguration of the Lord
Sheltered with Love

Liturgist: Mike Pedee

A/V: Lou Ann Scott (9 am) / **Volunteer Needed** (11 am)

Lectionary Readings

2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 (UMH 783)
 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

February 14, 2018
Ash Wednesday

Lectionary Readings

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH 785)
 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 18, 2018
First Sunday in Lent

Liturgist: Willie Nicholson

A/V: Sandra Lane (9 am) / Kim Benjamin (11 am)

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 (UMH 756)
 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

February 25, 2018
Second Sunday in Lent

Liturgist: Barry Lewis

A/V: **Volunteer Needed** (9 am) / **Volunteer Needed** (11 am)

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 (UMH 752)
 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38



**JOIN TOGETHER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY
 DINNER AND WORSHIP**

Ash Wednesday will be observed on **Wednesday, February 14**, at St. Matthew's AME Zion Church (345 Thorn St, Sewickley). It has been our annual tradition to join our sister church, as we begin our holy journey of Lent.

The evening will begin with our traditional meatless meal at 6 pm. Our brothers and sisters at St. Matthew's will provide the fish. We are invited to bring a meatless side dish or salad to share.

The service will begin at 7 pm, in St. Matthew's sanctuary, with the imposition of ashes. The use of ashes is a sign of mortality and repentance, and has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. The imposition of ashes is a powerful, nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday.

Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word lencten, which means spring. The season is a solemn time in which we prepare for Easter. Ash Wednesday presents a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God, embraced by the community of faith.

**FAITH, FOOD & FUN
 FOR EVERYBODY**



Our Lenten fellowship will continue with Sunday night dinners at 5 pm and family programs at 6 pm.

The programs are:

- ⇒ **February 25 — Leap of Faith**
- ⇒ **March 4 — Red Bird Special**
- ⇒ **March 11 — Children's Pageant**
- ⇒ **March 18 — 5th Annual Family Feud**
- ⇒ **March 25 — Seder Dinner to celebrate Passover**

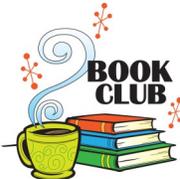
NURTURE, OUTREACH & WITNESS ACTIVITIES AND NEWS



MONTHLY SALAD LUNCHEON — Our community Salad Luncheon is **Thursday, February 1, from 11 am to 1 pm**. Proceeds from our community luncheons support the General Fund. Please consider donating your homemade salads for the luncheons.

Salads should be brought to the Simpson Room by 10 am on the day of the luncheon. Want to volunteer to help? Volunteers are always welcome! We'd love to see some new faces. If you haven't donated a salad in the past and need some guidance, or would like to volunteer, please contact Belinda Resler.

BOOK CLUB — After a winter hiatus we will resume on **March 13, at 7 pm** in the library. We will discuss *Two by Two* by Nicholas Sparks and any favorites read on cold and cozy winter days.



Fences is a 2016 American period drama film starring, produced and directed by Denzel Washington and written by Pittsburgh native August Wilson. The film also stars Viola Davis, Stephen Henderson, Jovan

Adepo, Russell Hornsby, Mykelti Williamson, and Saniyya Sidney. Filming for the movie took place in Pittsburgh, specifically the Hill District. *Fences* was considered to be one of the best movies of 2016 and was nominated for many awards. Please join us on Saturday, **February 10 at 6 pm**. We meet in the parlor, and enjoy fellowship and discussion. Everyone is welcome!

FOURTH SUNDAY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

It's cold out there! Please consider donating soups, stews, and other cold weather food to the Sewickley Community Food Bank. Pick up an item or two while you shop and help replenish the local food pantry. The cart will be out on **February 25th**, but your donations are welcome anytime.

DONATE FOOD HERE



UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

Christian Love in Action.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER IN MISSION (VIM) OPPORTUNITIES?

In addition to the opportunities provided through our local church, there are a number of national and international mission trips organized through our Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. The current planned trips

can be found at wpaumc.org/Opportunities. The list gets updated as new opportunities are added, so be sure to check back often. VIM-ships may be available to assist with the cost – details on VIM-ships can be found via the link above.

Currently, Puerto Rico is being considered for a hurricane recovery trip Summer 2018.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING -- The Outreach Committee and other interested persons are invited to attend this **February 4** meeting following the 11 am service. We will discuss ministry completed in 2017 and plan for outreach ministries for 2018. If you have questions about the committee or suggestions for outreach ministries, please contact Martha Boward, chair. Light lunch will be provided.



Bethany House Academy
"BUILDING TOWARDS EXCELLENCE"

THANK YOU FROM BETHANY HOUSE! – Thanks to all of you who responded to the year-end campaign, Bethany House Academy reached its goal of \$10,000, which allowed it to claim another \$10,000 in matching funds. All these funds will be used to support BHA's Preschool and After-School programs for the children and youth of Northview Heights. BHA also thanks everyone who provided gifts, hats and mittens to make the children's Christmas brighter. If you would like more information about BHA and its programs, contact Barbara Bower or visit the BHA website: bhaweb.org.

SEWICKLEY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY ADDS EVENING HOURS

— In addition to distributing food to those in need from 11:30 am to 1 pm each Wednesday, the food pantry is now open on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30pm. Located at the Sewickley Community Center (15 Chadwick St.), the food pantry serves those with Sewickley, Leetsdale, Coraopolis, and Ambridge zip codes.



Secret Pals

Secret Pals...shhhh

Thank you to all who are participating in this wonderful ministry.

We have 37 participants this year, (2017 had 38) and we especially welcome those who are doing this for the first time.

There are 18 women, 13 men and 6 children.

Remember to bring a token of friendship on each of the 4 Sundays in February, with a larger one on February 25th, which is when your Secret Pal will be revealed.

There will also be some cake and punch!!

Bola and Dorothy J.





Dear Rev. Shuluga and Church,

As soon as Joyce left us, our church family began to reach out, plan, call, pray, and shed a tear. We felt the warmth and love spread around us.

It is difficult to find the right words to say to you, but you couldn't have done any more than what you did. We can't love or thank you enough.

Murch, Grace and Family

Dear Church Family,

Thanks so much for the care packages! They made our finals a lot more bearable 😊 We love you all!

Ciara and Savannah

Dear Pastor Russel,

This note is to thank you and members of your church for your concern and prayers. I can only say that your cards, prayers and thoughtfulness were such an emotional lift.

Mike has found a wonderful church that reflects Jesus!

Margaret Pedee

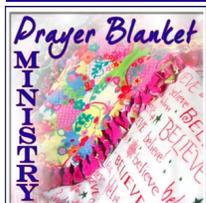
To the Member of SUMC,

I want to thank you all for the cards you have sent me. I enjoyed them very much and I miss you all. You all are in my prayers.

I enjoyed the Christmas choir; it was beautiful. Thank you all for the cookies and gift bag.

Love,

Mirian Lippert



It is our intention to bring comfort and offer the church's graces through the symbol of prayer blankets and pillows and know that the Lord's spirit of love and hope will embrace all who receive them. If you want to give a prayer blanket or pillow to someone, please help

yourself from the baskets in the back of the sanctuary. When you take one of these items, please date and sign the Prayer Journal located in the basket with the name or initials of the recipient (and its mission) along with a prayer, if you wish.

Dear Sewickley United Methodist,

Thank you for all your encouragement and get well cards.

Paul Collier

Dear Sewickley United Methodist Church,

Thank you for supporting the critical work of the Bethany House Academy in Northview Heights. We provide a range of services for the children and youth in a distressed neighborhood that struggles with high levels of poverty, crime and unemployment. It's hard to raise a child when the village itself isn't healthy, but Bethany House has been in the community since 1962 and we do our best to provide a positive, nurturing environment for these children.

Our work would not be possible without your generous support. Please accept our deepest gratitude for your generous contribution.

Harry Manley, Board Chair

Dear Friends:

We have received your donation to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sager Brown. Thank your for your loving support. Gifts such as this help up perform the mission that we have been called to fulfill.

Amy Fuselier,
Director of Relief Supplies

Dear Folks,

The Nyadire Connection thanks you for supporting its Hearing Impaired Program for students at the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe. Your contributions are providing significant support for these students, particularly for their schooling.

Thank you as well to the Fellowship of the Cross for sponsoring an orphan at the Home of Hope in Nyadire, Zimbabwe.

Richard Dickey
TNC Administrator at Christ United Methodist Church

If you would like to give a monetary donation to this ministry, please use the box next to the basket or mark your donations "Prayer Blanket Ministry" and place it in the offering. THANK YOU to all for your giving spirit and continued support this past year and for your donations of cash, checks, and fabric.

Blessings,
Dorothy Jadlowiec (412-741-3118)
Prayer Blanket Ministry

70TH ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8



This is a beloved tradition for our church and the community, and we hope you will be a part of it. We gather as a church family to prepare and serve a delicious, homemade turkey dinner with all the fixings for 400 guests. We appreciate any help you can provide. If you aren't able to volunteer, perhaps you would like to make a donation to help underwrite our pies, which are the featured dessert for the dinner (\$5/1 pie or \$10/2 pies). Please give your donation to Donna Sawhill. Lastly, you can support the event with your attendance.

TICKETS FOR THE DINNER ARE ON SALE NOW for 5, 6 & 6:30 pm seatings and for takeout meals, which will be available from 3:30—6:30 pm. In celebration of 70 years, we've rolled back the cost to \$5 for children ages 4-10, and \$12 for adults and takeouts. You can't beat the price of this wonderful, homemade dinner, which includes turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, coleslaw, rolls, cranberry sauce and pie. If you want tickets, please contact the Sandra Lane, Pam Honeychurch or the office.



Below is a list of jobs you can help with. All tasks come with other folks who have done the job before, so there will be others to work with you and show you the ropes. To volunteer, please reach out to the team leader or sign up on the poster in the back of the sanctuary.

TASK	WHEN	TEAM LEADER	DESCRIPTION
Facility Preparation	Friday, February 2 beginning at 5 pm	Greg Lane	Cleaning and getting things organized
Breaking Bread / Stuffing Prep	Wednesday, February 7 beginning at 8:30 am	Sandy Kuriger	Time to break the bread and make the stuffing
Turkey Roasting	Wednesday, February 7	Donna Sawhill	Roasting of turkeys
Potato Prep	Wednesday, February 7 beginning at 5 pm	Mike Swaney	Potatoes are chopped in preparation of making the mashed potatoes
Turkey Slicing / Weighing	Thursday, February 8 slicing at 8:30 / weighing at 9 am	Jenine Furry	Turkey is readied for individual meals
Takeouts	Thursday, February 8 3:30—6:30 pm	Belinda Resler & Pam Mayo	Prepare takeout meals and serve takeout customers
Table Waiting	Thursday, February 8 5 pm, 6 pm or both	Sandy Kuriger	Time to serve our guests our wonderful homemade dinner
Clean Up	Thursday, February 8 beginning around 7:15 pm	Greg Lane	Facility and leftover cleanup
Day After Loose Ends	February 9 beginning at 9 am	Sandy Kuriger & Belinda Resler	Finish up any loose ends and store away supplies

Please write to our Shut-Ins and keep them in your prayers.

Marge Anderson Paul Collier Mignon Emmert	Renee Gittins Joe & B.J. Manzinger Pat Rudy	Rachel Shuluga Helen Smouse Shirley Sye
---	---	---



The church office can provide you with contact information.

Remember Our Shut-ins



1) At its January 20, luncheon meeting, members of the United Methodist Women adopted a budget for 2018. Members added a new budget item and hope to fund a gift in 2018 to the Legacy Fund 150 Anniversary Endowment Fund in memory of Pat Leiphart in the amount of \$186.96. As part of its preparation to celebrate UMW's 150th anniversary, UMW is raising money for an endowment fund to assist future UMW support of mission projects. Any amount may be donated, but the \$186.96 figure is a reminder of the founding year of 1869. On March 23, 1869, eight women gathered at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, and organized the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, what would become United Methodist Women. Those women raised money to send a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries to serve the women of that nation. Pat was a staunch and long-time supporter of UMW. She served not only our Local Unit here in the Sewickley Church, but also on the District and Conference levels. Pat's dedication to our group's efforts to fund mission projects for women and children in our country and around the world was deep. She is greatly missed.

2) The next UMW luncheon meeting will be held after the traditional service on **Sunday, February 18**, in the Simpson Room. All women are invited to attend and to bring a small salad or vegetable dish to share, if convenient. We will hold our annual Pledge Service at the meeting. Women who wish to pledge financial gifts to our unit but cannot attend the meeting should contact Treasurer Pat Grossarth at 412-741-6208.

Our church is supporting a number of charitable organizations. By donating these things, you are able to help a worthwhile cause by collecting and donating things you might already have around your home. **Collection containers for each of these items are in the Simpson Room.**

- **Box Tops for Education**, from General Mills products and their affiliated brands, help the Red Bird Mission School earn free educational resources.

Since 2008, the Box Tops SUMC has sent to the Red Bird Mission have added \$991.80 to their educational programs. Thanks for clipping, collecting and making a difference!

- **Tyson Project A+**, labels from specially marked Tyson products help the Red Bird Mission School earn free educational resources. Each label earns the school 24¢.
- **Pop tops** from drink cans go to the local Order of the Eastern Star to aid their Scholarship Fund.



SOUP & HUMMUS SALE FOR THE BUILDING OF FAITH

All proceeds from this sale go toward the principal on the sanctuary renovation loan.

Give your order to the office or put it in the offering plate.



Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Payment: Cash Amount: _____ or Check (made to SUMC) # _____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Choices (Pickup at church March 1 -4)	Indicate quantity below	
	\$9 Quart	\$6 Pint
New England Clam Chowder		
Corned Beef and Cabbage Soup		
Vegetable Soup (vegetarian/vegan)		
Sandra's Hummus (vegetarian/vegan)	\$5 for ½ pint	

Orders are due by Sunday, February 18 and will be ready for pickup March 1 -4. Include payment with your order or pay when you pickup your soup or hummus.

SUNDAY SCHOOL — CLASSES FOR EVERYONE!

Sunday School, under the direction of Christian Education Directors Rev. Jim and Wilma Hamilton, is held each Sunday at 10 am. Everyone, preschool through adult, is encouraged to join in study, discussion and fellowship. Below is a list of the classes, along with locations and leaders. All of the children and youth classes meet in the Sunday School rooms in the basement, with the preschool meeting in the nursery.



Preschool Susie Moffett	Kindergarten & 1st and 2nd Grades Bill Utterback & Rev. Jim Hamilton	3rd, 4th and 5th Grades Roberta Davis & Wilma Hamilton	Middle School Rev. Barry Lewis & Johnathan Burnett
High School Jack Moffett & Mitch Hortert	“Explorers” (in the Library) Roger Thomas and Mark Benjamin Focuses on Biblical study	“Searching for Jesus” (in the Parlor) Bola & Willie Nicholson Focuses on contemporary Christian issues	

A WAY FORWARD:

SCRIPTURE, JUSTICE, AND WESLEY

Presented by Western Pennsylvania Reconciling Ministries

March 17, 2018, 8:30 am–3:30 pm

St. Paul’s United Methodist Church

1965 Ferguson Road Allison Park, PA 15101



struggling with their conscience regarding the acceptance of all God’s people.

God has been active in all of our lives and is still speaking to all of us. Our challenge is to find the path to living together as a diverse people who love The United Methodist Church.

The keynote speaker is Bishop Charlene Kammerer. She was the first woman elected to the episcopacy at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in July 1996. She served in the Charlotte Area and Virginia Conference; retiring in September 2012.

This seminar is open to all persons who want to learn how the issues related to human sexuality are affecting the future of our church. Although this event will be an opportunity to openly learn and hear different perspectives, it may also offer affirmations of long-held, heartfelt beliefs.

The day will be challenging! We encourage lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ (LGBTQ+) persons to attend. We hope LGBTQ+ family members, spouses, friends, and allies will participate. We welcome people who are wrestling with inclusion and exclusion issues. We invite those who are

Accept the challenge and come with an open heart and an open mind. Come not to argue or to convince others; come and be open to the Spirit’s movement. We in Western PA have a great deal to share with our church. Let’s find that common thread we can all hold onto as we walk together into the future.

As we struggle with the future of The United Methodist Church, WPA Reconciling Ministries is striving to provide information about the various issues we are facing as a denomination. We want to boldly address the theological and biblical perspectives surrounding A Way Forward for our church. It is time to openly discuss our questions.

The cost is \$25 until March 1 and \$30 after March 2. Includes salad smorgasbord lunch. For more information or to register, click [here](#) or check with Pastor Russel or the office.

- Anissa Erkert 2/2
- Tony Ream 2/2
- Aaron Parrish 2/3
- Louise Swope 2/3
- Emily Resler 2/5
- Myles Kennedy 2/6
- Lorelai Cymbalak 2/8
- Penelope Moore 2/10
- Joe Boward, Jr. 2/15



- John Emmert 2/15
- Owen McCombs 2/15
- Jim Hamilton 2/17
- Austin Hiles 2/18

- Matthew Hurst, Jr. 2/18
- Mark Benjamin 2/20
- Doug Rummens 2/23
- Russel Shuluga 2/23
- Jim Brisbin 2/25
- Nicholas Garafalo 2/26
- Rebecca Malarik 2/26
- Emily Erkert 2/27
- Kristine Swaney 2/28

If you or a family member is missing from our birthday or anniversary list, please let the office know. We don’t want to leave anyone out of special wishes.



- Lee Ann & Leo Reardon** **2/14**
- Jim & Tracey Canfield** **2/16**
- Mike & Kristine Swaney** **2/17**
- James & Jessica Leety** **2/26**

Congratulations to Michael and Brooke Guzma on the arrival of their daughter. Megan Elizabeth Guzma was born on December 15, 2017 at 8:21 pm, weighing 6lb 7oz, 21" long



RED BIRD MISSION TRIP ~~ SERVING IN APPALACHIA

The Red Bird Mission, a United Methodist agency located in Kentucky in the heart of Appalachia, provides many opportunities for outreach and service to the surrounding economically challenged community. The Mission hosts work groups from all over who come to spend a week helping those in need by tackling home improvement projects. **No special knowledge or skills are required, just the desire to be in service.** There are also on-campus, light-duty tasks available for those who would like to help in ways that don't include tools and manual labor. If you've been looking for a different kind of opportunity to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus, this might

be your answer.

SUMC will send a work team for the 12th consecutive year during the **week of June 17—23**. The program is designed for adults and older teens, and the cost per person is expected to be \$375—\$425, plus travel expenses. If you would like to be part of the 2018 Red Bird Mission Team, we will need your commitment by the end of February. A 50% deposit is due in early March. For more information, please contact Pam Honeychurch.



“May I light six candles?” We were preparing for Kid’s Night Out one January afternoon when a local woman entered the church office and made the request. She knew the request was unusual, but it originated in India and was launched with genuine gratitude. The candles were meant to praise and honor God for His response to prayer.



A grandmother from India - described as a Hindu woman, a spiritual woman, a woman who kept a daily prayer journal - was visiting family in Sewickley when she saw our church, felt the presence of God and intended to visit. She fell and broke her hip before she could return to the church. Throughout her surgery, recovery and return to India, she prayed to the God who graces our church.

In good health again, she felt moved to honor God with six candles lit in His honor. Pastor Russel lit the candles in the sanctuary.

The nanny for the woman's grandchildren in Sewickley delivered the request, but couldn't answer all of our questions. Why six candles? How did God speak to the grandmother? How did she know that He responded? Does she still pray with Him?

The story was shared with the Kid’s Night Out children and our Sunday school kids. And we are all reminded that He moves in ways we cannot imagine. We are reminded that He is moving here in ways that resonate beyond our little village. We are reminded that the gratitude of one creates a light that draws us all closer to Him. While we have questions without answers, we know that prayers always earn answers.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH!!!



Are you looking to be a better servant to God through your church and beyond?

Lay Servant Ministries courses are designed to help people develop their skills and confidence

in three areas of service: leading, caring, and communicating. Lay Servant Ministries strives to help disciples become aware of their particular gifts, enhance and develop their talents, and find opportunities to serve.

Anyone may take a class for interest and personal growth. If you want to be officially certified as a Lay Servant, please talk to Pastor Russel or Kim Benjamin about the steps to take.

Lay Servant courses are available at Harmony-Zelienople UMC and First UMC of Washington on Sundays from Feb. 18th to March 18th. Some of the class titles are: Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts, Lay Pastoral Care Giving, Evangelism, The Spirit and Art of Conflict, Social Justice, and Youth Focus (for ages 14-18). Please ask Kim Benjamin or Pastor Russel for registration materials.

KID'S NIGHT OUT is held on Tuesdays with dinner at 5:30 pm and activities starting at 6 pm. All children and youth, kindergarten through high school are welcome. Bill Utterback and Susie Moffett lead the children, and Aimee Scott and Johnathan Burnett lead the youth. Wilma and Rev. Jim Hamilton also help lead the programming and Donna Sawhill leads the dinner crew. **(If Quaker Valley schools have a snow cancellation, KNO will be cancelled that evening.)** Invite a friend and come and be prepared for an evening of . . .

- F**un, food and fellowship
- A**ctivities and recreation
- I**nspiring dialogue
- T**eaching God's Word
- H**oly experiences



Here's the schedule:

Elementary aged kids	Middle School Youth	High School Youth
5:30—6:00 Dinner	5:30—6:00 Dinner	5:30—6:00 Dinner
6:00—6:45 Bible Study	6:00—7:15 Youth Group/ Bible Study	6:00—7:15 Youth Group/ Bible Study
6:45—7:30 Crafts and games	7:15—8:00 Wesley Chorale	7:15—8:00 Wesley Chorale



Prayer Requests

TJ Anderson
Hurst Bartley
Jack Certain
Rhonda Coles
Dee Connelly
Donna Cymbalak

Susan Dobbins
Jack Dolin
Jodi Dolin
Steven Dolin
Lou Egenlauf
Dan Gittens
Josie Greco
Family of Jean Grigsby
Atleah Grubb
Family of Andreya Grzegorzewski
Cathy Herron
Laura Hertrick
Jeff and Jodi
Family of Joyce Jones
Michael Labasik

Lemasters Family (Debbie Chesney)
Marian Lippert
Jim Liska
Joe Lombardo
Donna Macaul
Mary
Sara McCullough
Brian McKay
Rev. Bruce Merritt
John and Sandy Nelson
Family of Ruth Painter
Margaret Pedee
Jim Rogansky
Doug Rummens
Nick S.

Mary Sardello
Ed Sawhill
Renee Shutak
C.R. "Bob" Simpson
Linda Sollinger
John Sotirakis
Bonnie Stoicovy
Don Thomas
Renee Tobias
Don Walker
Michael Woods
Barry Yant
Bob Yant
Dana Yant
Dennis Zeveny

Here's a summary of the December Treasurer's Report, showing how the year ended Pam Honeychurch, Treasurer



	2017 Budget	Budgeted to Date	December	Year-to-date
Expenses	262,074.27	262,074.27	22,444.48	258,512.36
Receipts	261,574.27	261,574.27	33,718.74	268,492.89
Overage (Deficit)	(500.00)	(500.00)	11,274.26	9,980.53

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 11 AM - 1 PM Salad Luncheon 6:15 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	2 5 PM Turkey Dinner Prep 7 PM AA	3
4 9 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Youth Choir 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Fellowship of the Cross 11 AM Traditional Worship 12 PM Outreach Committee Meeting	5	6 5:30 PM KNO Dinner 6 PM Kid's Night Out 7:15 PM Wesley Chorale 8 PM AA	7 8:30 AM Turkey Dinner Prep 6:30 PM Leap of Faith	8 8:30 AM Turkey Dinner Prep 5 PM Turkey Dinner	9 7 PM AA	10 6 PM Film Club
11 9 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Youth Choir 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Fellowship of the Cross 11 AM Traditional Worship	12 6:30 PM Finance Committee 6:30 PM Trustees 8 PM Council Meeting	13 5:30 PM KNO Dinner 6 PM Kid's Night Out 7:15 PM Wesley Chorale 8 PM AA	14 6 PM Ash Wednesday Dinner 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service @ St. Matthew's AME Zion	15 6:15 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	16 7 PM AA	17
18 9 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Youth Choir 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Fellowship of the Cross 11 AM Traditional Worship 12 PM UMW Luncheon Meeting	19	20 5:30 PM KNO Dinner 6 PM Kid's Night Out 7:15 PM Wesley Chorale 8 PM AA	21 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Leap of Faith 7 PM Bible Study	22 6:15 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	23 7 PM AA	24
25 9 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Youth Choir 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Fellowship of the Cross 11 AM Traditional Worship 5 PM Lenten Dinner & Program	26	27 5:30 PM KNO Dinner 6 PM Kid's Night Out 7:15 PM Wesley Chorale 8 PM AA	28 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Leap of Faith 7 PM Bible Study			



easyTithe

Find Your Organization to Get Started

Name

and/or Zip Code

Search

Find organizations near me

We have partnered with “easyTithe” to offer online giving to our church family. Those who choose to give in this way can create a secure account from via easyTithe and set up recurring giving with selected funds, frequency, and amount. easyTithe allows you to securely give via your bank account or credit/debit card. You can give online by visiting the giving page on our [website](#).



You can also give via the easyTithe Mobile App. It is a simple as downloading the app to your smartphone and setting up your profile information in just a couple of steps. Once setup, you can choose to make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving.