



Sewickley United Methodist Church

May 2024 Newsletter

The Pastor's Peace

The United Methodist General Conference that meets every four years is currently underway in Charlotte, North Carolina. The official conference began on April 23rd and will end on May 3rd. The passage from Psalm 46 which is always a good thing to remember will lead their spiritual mindset for the conference; "...and know that I am God." As the only entity that can speak on behalf of the denomination General Conference will make updates/ changes to the United Methodist Book of Discipline. 862 delegates which were elected from Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S. will make up the official body of people who have voting rights to set the policy and direction of the church. It is estimated that as many as 7,500 people will attend the General Conference.

For a clearer understanding of what types of things are voted on, this excerpt is taken from A Guide to General Conference: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020/resources>

During the 11-day session, delegates will revise the Book of Discipline, which regulates how local churches, annual conferences and general agencies are organized. The Discipline includes policies regarding church membership, ordination, administration, property and judicial procedures. The assembly may modify most paragraphs by a simple majority vote, but amending the Constitution of The United Methodist Church requires a two-thirds affirmative vote, followed by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members voting in annual conference sessions. Revoking or changing the Articles of Religion or Confession of Faith requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the delegates, and three-fourths of the annual conference members must concur. Delegates also revise the Book of Resolutions, a volume declaring the church's stance on social justice issues. The statements in the book are considered instructive and persuasive but are not binding on members. Because of the delay in scheduling this General Conference, every item in the entire Book of Resolutions will expire in 2024 unless renewed by action of this General Conference. In addition, the assembly approves plans and budgets for churchwide programs for the next four years and elects members of the Judicial Council and University Senate.

As The United Methodist Church has been going through a split regarding our understanding surrounding Same-Sex Marriage and the Ordination of those in the LGBTQ community it is no surprise this conversation will be front and center in much of the legislation. Though it would seem that many of our siblings who take a more conservative stance on these issues have left the church that is simply not true. Amongst the challenges that face the continued opposition of what we hope and pray to come to fruition we are a global denomination. This means people who live in countries where homosexual relationships are still criminalized even to the point of death are a part of the voting delegates. Please do not read this in any way to say, "THEY are the problem." This is simply to say where we in America do not face the same potential backlash on such a large scale, we are mindful of our siblings in other countries who are putting their families at risk surrounding these conversations. However, there has been some legislation set forth that could localize the decision regarding the performance of Same-Sex marriage and the ordination of those in the LGBTQ community. This gives us the opportunity to mitigate the risk of harm to all our siblings as much as possible while still fighting for what is right.

Will you join me in prayer? Pray that we finally do what is right and fully embrace in word and deed our siblings in the LGBTQ community. Will you join me in praying for our siblings who must weigh the risk to their own families surrounding these decisions? Pray for the delegates and the way they allow the Holy Spirit to move in their hearts and in their votes. Pray for the volunteers who are a part of the running of General Conference from the food to the cleaning of the space, to the music, to the translators, to the travel, to printing of programs and passing them out, to the things we don't even realize are being done behind the scenes. Pray, that no matter what comes out of General Conference we at Sewickley United Methodist Church continue to live into our convictions that the Holy Spirit has worked within the very fabric of who we are. Pray that we continue to fight for and fully embrace those in the LGBTQ community and the rights they have. "...AND know that I am God." Psalm 46:10b.

From one light to another,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah M. Loughman".

Pastor Hannah Loughman

Blessing - of the - ANIMALS



Our pets are a blessing to us, so let us gather together and bless them! Join us on **May 19**, at 9am or 11am. All pets are invited to come. Please keep them on a leash or in their crate or cage as necessary. During our Sunday worship services your pet will be welcomed to come forward, and bring you with them, in order to receive a special blessing.

Genesis 1:25 says "God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good." Bring your fur (or not so furry) babies to Sewickley United Methodist Church to celebrate that goodness!

RING THE BELLS FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND



The Clocktower Ringers will also be participating in the 131st Annual Sewickley Memorial Day Parade on **Monday, May 27th**. The parade begins at 10am. Be sure to come out and support our veterans!



The Clocktower Ringers will also be playing in our traditional service on **Sunday, May 26th** during our Memorial Day Service



On **Sunday, May 26**, we will observe Memorial Day, a time in which we remember fallen heroes who faithfully served our country in its 248 year history. We will also recognize our veterans and veterans of the Sewickley Valley. As we honor our veterans, everyone is invited to lunch provided by the Nurture Committee in the Simpson Room following the Traditional Service.

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES



Our records indicate the following church family members will graduate in May/June. Please forgive us for any errors in miscalculating a graduation date or if we missed your student - we want to celebrate all of our graduates. Reach out to Sandra Lane at slane819@yahoo.com or notify the church office (412)741-9430 with additions or corrections.

High School

- ◆ David McCombs
- ◆ Sebastian Cymbalak
- ◆ Patrick Gold

College

- ◆ Paige Lenhardt
- ◆ Hannah Gold
- ◆ Emily Erkert

PRIDE FEST 2024

We are participating in the Pittsburgh Pride Fest by hosting a table at the Festival in Point State Park on May 31 and June 1. We will also take part in the Pride Parade on June 1 starting in the Strip District with line up at 10am and step off at 12pm. We will be marching with other United Methodist churches. We would love for you to join us at the booth and/or in the parade. Look for more information in church bulletins and social media in May, or contact Susie Moffett or Bill Utterback.



(picture from 2023 Pittsburgh Pride parade)

Worship Opportunities - May 2024



Contemporary Worship Service: 9am
 Traditional Worship Service: 11am
 Our Worship Services are live streamed on
sewickleyumc.org and [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
 The recorded services are also available later on Sunday afternoon

May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Baptism of Calvin Kenn Cannister, 9 am
Liturgist: Lynn Colosi
Scripture Lesson: Psalm 98
Message: "You Are My Friend"

Bernard Meltzer, who was considered the "Father of expert talk radio," said, "a true friend is someone who thinks you are a good egg even though he knows you are slightly cracked." After sending this to a friend they responded, we are all slightly cracked. Isn't that the truth? Which is why when Jesus says he considers us his friend it just doesn't seem to hit home in my heart. He is not slightly cracked, so how can he be friends with those who are? It is easy to think about perfect, sacrificial Jesus as savior and king. What does it mean to think about him as our friend?

May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day
Liturgist: SUMC Children

Mother's Day! Kids have control! Yay!!



May 19, 2024

Blessing of the Animals
Liturgist: Kim Benjamin
Scripture Lesson: Psalm 145:8-14
Message: "The Creativity of God"

Did you know owls can twist their heads 270 degrees or that a 4,000lb Hippo can run up to 30 miles per hour? When you begin to do a deep dive into the wild and wonderful things animals can do you really get a glimpse into the creativity of God. Sometimes it is good, to look outside ourselves and realize God's earth isn't just for us, but God's earth is for many wonderful things that go beyond us. What greater way to become creatures of generosity than to realize we aren't all there is nor are we necessarily the coolest there is?

May 26, 2024

Memorial Day
 Clocktower Ringers, 11am service
Liturgist: Willie Nicholson
Scripture Lesson: Psalm 29:3-9
Message: "The Pause"

The prophet Elijah was listening for the voice of God. It is no great surprise that he found it in a whisper. A whisper is not something that you can run past and hear and get the full breadth of it. You must pause and stay a while. Memorial Day gives us a moment to pause. We reflect and remember those who gave their lives. We reflect and remember what they gave their lives for. In this reflection we see ourselves and pause and wonder what are we willing to give? What things do we believe so much in that we would sacrifice it all? The things we discover in the pause is the thing that will also have the strength to propel us through the hurry.



The Sewickley UMC will be collecting coloring books, crayons and flowers in May.

The children will be leading our worship services on Mother's Day (May 12), and will be collecting coloring books, activity books, puzzle books and crayons for hospitalized children at Heritage Valley Sewickley. And depending on how many contributions we gather, other area hospitals as well. Anyone wishing to contribute can leave their donations in the Fellowship of the Cross collection boxes in the narthex and outside the church office throughout the month.

On May 19, the children will be planting flowers around the SUMC campus during the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services. Anyone wishing to contribute annuals can leave the flowers outside the church office beginning May 11. The SUMC children's church school year will end on May 19 and resume again in the fall.



The **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)** will host a Rummage Sale for Missions on Friday, May 10 from 3pm to 7pm and on Saturday, May 11 from 9am to 1pm. Previously owned treasures, including household items, seasonal clothing, shoes, books, puzzles, and much more will be available. All proceeds from the

Sale are used to fund local, national and international UWF mission projects. We appreciate your donations to our Sale, but we are not able to accept electronics and exercise equipment of any kind as well as large pieces of furniture or rugs. Small tables, chairs, nightstands, plant stands and area rugs are acceptable. If you would like to help us with this sale, please contact Pat Grossarth at 412-741-6208 or Kristine Swaney at 412-741-2092.

WALKING TACOS — It's Walking Taco Time at the Sewickley May Mart on Saturday, May, 11th. Come enjoy our traditional treats with all the tasty toppings! Our booth is on the corner just across from the church. Free lemonade with taco purchase.



FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION—The Sewickley Community Food Pantry has special need for pasta sauce, spaghetti, noodles, peanut butter, jelly, and apple sauce. Contributions of other non-perishable food items and paper products are always welcome. Donations may be placed in the grocery carts in the hallway by the library and by the sanctuary entrance in the Narthex. The Pantry (15 Chadwick St.) is open to all in the 15143, 15056 and 15108 zip codes every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 11:30am-1pm.



SUMC PRIDE SERVICE—During both worship services on June 2nd we will give glory to God for the beautiful diverse ways in which God has created us. Join us as we affirm the members of the LGBTQ+ community, celebrate the energy that has been put toward the fight for equality and recognize the work that still needs to be done.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH—on May 19, the children will be planting flowers around the SUMC campus during the 9 and 11am worship services. Anyone wishing to contribute annuals can leave the flowers outside the church office beginning May 11. The SUMC Children's Church school year will end on May 19 and resume again in the fall.

VBS—Look for Vacation Bible School registration info in early May. Online registration will be available on the SUMC website. Our "Seekers in Sneakers" VBS will take place evenings (6-8pm) August 5th-8th on the SUMC campus. This is a collaborative effort with St. Matthews AME Zion and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches, and is free and open to children from Pre-School through Middle School. We are also seeking additional volunteers to help decorate or help in class. For more info see Grace Rogansky, Felicity Moffett, Pam Mayo or Bill Utterback. [The link to volunteer is here.](#)

LEADERSHIP BOARD Town Hall Meeting.—Come join us on Sunday, May 5th at 2pm as we gather in the sanctuary. We will give you updates on what has been going on at our meetings and answer any questions you may have.



PORCH PARTIES ARE BACK! - Todd, the family and I will begin our 5th year of ministry here in Sewickley on July 1. When we began life with you it was smack dab in the middle of Covid. As a way of

getting to know you, while keeping things safe we hosted Friday night Porch Parties. We had so much fun we would like to do it again! Get together with a family or two and sign up to spend a Friday night with us on our front porch. I mean, what cooler way to spend a Friday night than with the Pastor and her family! Plus it gives us a great opportunity to hear from you, get a sense of how you are feeling about the direction of our church and just get to know each other better. The party will begin at 7 and end when you just can't take the fun anymore. Please let us know if you have any allergies when you sign up. There will be a signup link in upcoming announcements.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS—We're looking for a few volunteers (and their pets) to participate in a future social post! If you're a pet owner, we'd love to feature you in an upcoming Blessing of the Animals event push. If you can, please submit a picture of you with your pet to Krista at krista@kristaream.com. Kindly also include your preferred name and the name of your pet/s. Please submit your email no later than May 12th.





CHURCH PICNIC

SAVE THE DATE
CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC
SUNDAY, JUNE 23

BINGO				
15	28	37	51	73
6	17	32	45	61
9	15	★	60	70
12	26	44	52	66
7	22	34	48	72

Please come to our annual church picnic where we break bread with our family at St. Matthews AME Zion Church. We will provide the beef and veggie burgers and hotdogs.

Time: Setup at noon; break bread at 12:30

Where: War Memorial Park, Shelter #1 (Blackburn Road, pass YMCA, make left into lot after paddle courts)

Bring: Lawn chairs (available seating is limited) and a side dish or dessert to share. If you have kids, there is playground & creek access so you may want to bring water shoes, sunscreen and towels as well

Expect: FUN!!! FOOD!!! and Bingo, of course

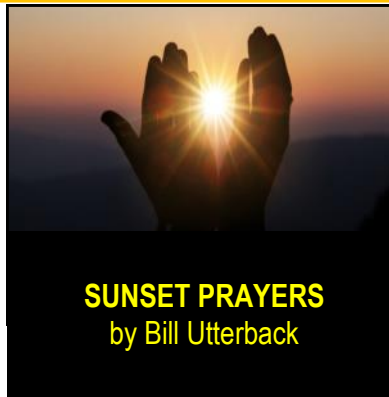
Scripture doesn't give us many details about David's mother, but a single sentence in Psalm 86 reveals so much about her. The passage is titled "A Prayer of David," and the poet king is again in a desperate place. "Arrogant foes are attacking me," he writes. "Ruthless people are trying to kill me."

And in his desperation, David calls out to God. "Turn to me and have mercy on me; Show your strength in behalf of your servant; Save me, because I serve you, just as my mother did."

In a most challenging moment, David remembers his mother. He remembers her faith. He remembers her strength. He remembers her example, and it points him to God.

We remember our mothers and the women who mother us, the women who help us see and feel and know God's presence. As we approach Mother's Day, let's pray for all women who care and share, who provide and protect, who listen and encourage.

I searched for a definition of "mother" as a verb and found this: "to treat a person with great kindness and love and to try to protect them from anything dangerous or difficult." Let's pray for the women who mother us with kindness and love, and keep us from all things dangerous and difficult.



On May 5, as the sunsets around 8:21 p.m., from wherever you are, with whoever wants to join you, let's pray together for mothers and grandmothers, for aunts and sisters, for step-mothers and adoptive mothers, for pastor and teachers, for wives and partners, for neighbors and for the women in church families.

Lord, we begin with a prayer of thanksgiving for the women who share your Love and Light. And we remember those who are grieving or distanced or aching as Mother's Day nears.

Comfort them.

Lord, we lift the mothers of infants, children, youth and adults. Lord, we lift all the women who treat us with kindness and love. Bless them with peace and patience, strength and courage, insight and imagination, rest and renewal. Help them persist through the challenges and revel in the joy. Nourish them. Lord, show us how we can assist and encourage them. And, Lord, let them feel your presence. Let them know that, like David, we will remember their love and labor in the most challenging moments.

Amen.

Peace in the Holy Land
 Brenda Avery
 Hurst Bartley
 Betty Burrows (Wilma Hamilton's sister-in-law)
 Sydni Canney
 Anne Clifford (Jenine Furry's sister-in-law)
 Bruno Crapis
 Mollie Devine (Renee Gittins' sister)
 Nick Devine (Renee Gittins' great nephew)
 Clyde Grossarth (Steve's brother)



Steve Grossarth
 Candy Grudovich (Joe Boward's sister)
 Rev. Jim Hamilton
 Beate Henkel
 Rosemary Herring
 Lucas James (Sel Dean's brother)
 Matthew Kania
 Grace & Murch King

Margaret Mayo
 Marley McAliley
 Nikki and John
 Sandra Obeng
 Lorraine Offner
 Keith Pelphrey
 Jean Reed
 Jim Rogansky
 Jasmine Ross
 Megan Shong (Renee Gittins')

great-niece)
 Family of Nancy Shuluga
 C.R. & Lorraine Simpson (Edie Erkert's parents)
 Jacqueline Stancil
 Bill T
 Lauren Tillman
 Morgan W. and Family
 Jack Wilfong
 Family of Winnie Wright
 Karen Yant
 Rich Zahrobsky
 Dennis Zeveny

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION IN NORTHVIEW HEIGHTS.

On Saturday, June 15 from 9-10:30am, SUMC's Outreach Committee will provide volunteers for the weekly produce distribution in Northview Heights. The distribution is sponsored by the Northside Food Pantry Advisors. A wide variety of fruits and vegetables are provided to approximately 40-50 families. Come and help provide nutritional security to a community in need. Transportation is available. We need approximately 6 volunteers. If you are interested, contact Sharon Cowden 412-292-5637.



NORTHSIDE
**FOOD
 PANTRY**
 ADVISORS

Thank you

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD—April brought a shower of dolls and scissors to our 2024 Operation Christmas Child campaign.

The Fellowship of the Cross youth are grateful to all of the anonymous donors who dropped by our contributions box in the past month.

The box of youth scissors puts us over our goal of 100, so every box we pack in the fall will include scissors and sunglasses (donated by a generous soul in March).

The dolls, representing various races and cultures, will provide a “wow” gift for around 20 boxes.

As always, we accept contributions – new and gently used - year-round. We’re gathering toys, stuffed animals, school supplies,

jewelry, combs and brushes, toothbrushes, ball caps, socks, T-shirts, puzzles and books. Our collection bins are located outside the church office and in the narthex.

In 13 years, we have put more than 1,400 shoe boxes into the hands of children on four continents.

Dear Christian, Amelie, Jordyn, Emma, Addie, Elle, Jade, Bella, Katrina, Ava, Gideon, and Sophia,

Thank you for the amazing sign you made for my birthday! You made me feel special.

Love, Jack Moffett



Remember our Shut-ins

Please write to our shut-ins and keep them in your prayers. The church office can provide you with contact information.

Sylvia Bajsec	Shirley Graham
Jim and Olive Chewning	Pat Rudy
Renee Gittins	Lura Zaremba

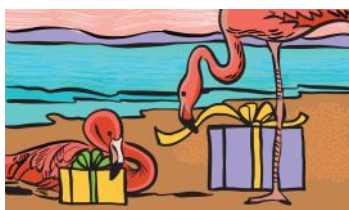
Pete & Gail Hiles	5/4
Greg & Sandra Lane	5/15
Tony & Krista Ream	5/16
Nancy & Mark Wiggins	5/17
Lou Ann & Shawn Scott	5/18



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Eric & Felicity Johnston	5/21
Kim & Mark Benjamin	5/23
Lisa & Ron Jankowski	5/25
David & Rebecca Malarik	5/27
Lauren & Geoff Roebuck	5/28

Hadley Boyle	5/2
Joe Consoli	5/3
Paige Lenhardt	5/3
Emilia Martinez	5/6
Charles Thornton	5/6
Nancy Plum	5/8
Pam Wright	5/11



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Lucille Brown	5/14
Nina Wiggins	5/14
Noah Wiggins	5/14
Halsey Baran	5/15
Debbie Consoli	5/17
Wilma Hamilton	5/24
Susie Moffett	5/28

If you or a family member is missing from our birthday or anniversary list, please let the office know

UPDATES FROM THE LEADERSHIP BOARD



A physicist, a lobbyist, a financial services chairman, a construction contractor, an associate director, a church administrator, a pastor, an insurance claims professional, and a federal civil servant walk into a library.

The physicist is brilliant, contemplative, and calm. The lobbyist is persistent, liberal, and passionate. The financial chairman is delightful, enthusiastic, and conversational. The construction contractor is genuine, talented, and thoughtful. The associate director is strategic, practical, and responsible. The church administrator is serious, knowledgeable, and accountable. The pastor is authentic, wise, and determined. The insurance professional is quiet, contemplative, and insightful. The civil servant is reliable, righteous, and unwavering. (The technology consultant, who was absent that evening, is smart, vulnerable, and resilient.)

These deeply different individuals with radically diverse skills and experiences have two things in common. They comprise Sewickley United Methodist Church's (SUMC) Leadership Board and they lead with love.

Meeting in the Church library the evening of April 17th during a rainstorm and fretting way too much about tornado warnings, the Leadership Board analyzed performance metrics, discussed progress of SUMC's God-sized goals, examined revenues and expenses, and noted the Church's achievements.

Our congregation is growing, slowly but steadily.

We're connecting with other cultures and marginalized groups by meeting with the Hispanic community and LGBTQ kids from the local school district.

The Music Ministry is expanding substantially, reaching out to local musicians, increasing space for the choir, recording an album and performing a concert (way to go Leap of Faith!!!), and conducting a community recital.

Money is tight but funding is being stretched strategically and prudently.

As always, God is multiplying our efforts and influence.

Throughout the Board meeting, the Leaders laughed heartily, playfully, and affectionately. How unusual and special it was during the serious proceedings of Board work to witness members demonstrating love, joy, and respect for each other. Be assured, SUMC's Board is setting the tone for living out the radical love of Jesus in vital ways.

If you want to know more about the Leadership Board and the transformative work of SUMC, come and see us on Sunday, May 5th at 2 p.m. in the Church sanctuary or reach out to one of us at Church. We'd love to talk with you.

Sincerely,

SUMC's Leadership Board,
aka, the Motley Crew

MAY 2024

*Children’s Church & Nursery offered during Sunday morning services

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	29 7pm AA 7pm Marketing Committee	30 10am Women's Growth Group 6pm Growth Group Study 7pm AA 7pm Library Committee	1 6:30pm Leap of Faith	2 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm SUMC Singers	3 6:30pm AA	4
5 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service 1pm Sundaes on Sunday 2pm Town Hall Meeting	6 7pm AA	←Rummage Sale for Missions Setup→			10 12pm Learning Tree: Mother's Day 3pm –7pm Rummage Sale for Missions 6:30pm AA	11 9am –1pm Rummage Sale for Missions
12 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	13 7pm AA	14 10am Women's Growth Group 6pm Growth Group Study 7pm AA	15 6:30pm –7:30pm Leader Board Meeting 6:30pm Leap of Faith	16 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm SUMC Singers	17 6:30pm AA	18
19 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service 12pm UTH 4 Missions Meeting 6pm QV Marching Band Banquet	20 7pm AA	21 10am Women's Growth Group 6pm Growth Group Study 7pm AA	22 6:30pm Leap of Faith	23 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm SUMC Singers	24 12:30pm Learning Tree: Preschool Graduation 6:30pm AA	25
26 9am Contemporary Service 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Fellowship of the Cross 11am Traditional Service	27 7pm AA	28 10am Women's Growth Group 6pm Growth Group Study 7pm AA	29 6:30pm Leap of Faith	30 6:15pm Bell Choir	31 6:30pm AA	1

BI-ANNUAL SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING—will be held on June 22nd and/or July 20th. Both days will be from 10am until noon. You are only required to come to ONE of those days. If you are not able to attend, please let me know so we can make other arrangements for you. All volunteers and staff are required to complete this training every two years. The training will be held in the Simpson Room with light breakfast items and refreshments provided. Please talk to Pastor Hannah if you have any questions.

ANNUAL SHOE DRIVE—EUMA and All God’s Children Ministries/ Ramps of Hope are holding their Annual Shoe Drive to raise funds for their missions. SUMC will collect new and gently used, CLEAN shoes (pairs only) from now until June 2nd. Ask your friends, family, and neighbors to help collect shoes. Simply make sure each pair is connected, whether by the shoelaces or with rubber bands. A collection box will be in the narthex and in the hall by the restrooms. The more unwanted shoes cleared from closets, the more mission support is generated.