



# The Sunflower

New Sewickley Presbyterian Church  
101 Big Knob Road, Rochester, PA 15074  
724-846-5734      www.nspchurch.org

## Session Highlights

Meeting on January 28, 2019

The financial report as of December 31, 2018 was reviewed by the Financial Secretary Debbie Sheffield. General checking account balance as of December 31, 2018 was \$1,536.74. December receipts were \$14,846.41 (of that, \$13,172.09 was usable for general expenses.). Giving was **above** budget for December by \$877.09 and **below** year to date by \$4,788.33 (met new weekly giving need 3 Sundays in December). Benevolence contributions for December were \$684.00 (5%). Received a royalty payment of \$283.92 from Penn Energy on December 28, 2018. All bills were paid to date.

The installation of Trudi Miklos as an Elder (Class of 2021) was completed at the Session meeting.

If anyone would like to take part in the worship service as a Lay Worship Leader, please let Pastor Dennis know.

There was a really good response to the green “Sharing Our Passions and Gifts” sheets. If you did not get a chance to respond, it is not too late. Please let Pastor Dennis know.

A plan is being put in place to make a decision and spread the word in case a worship service has to be cancelled. We hope that we do not have to cancel, however we do not know what could happen with severe weather or any other issue that may arise.

Pastor Dennis is putting together a 6 month read-the-entire-Bible plan starting with the beginning of Lent in early March. He plans to preach on each week’s most difficult passages on most Sundays during these 6 months. Watch for more details.

*continued on page 2*

## Important Dates This Month

### Afternoon Movie

February 10th

### Pavilion Meeting Session

February 18th

### Visioning Committee

February 25th

.....

## Upcoming Event

Easter Egg Hunt  
Saturday, April 13th

.....

**Please notify  
Pastor Dennis or the  
church office of any  
hospitalizations, so  
that the pastor has an  
opportunity to visit  
& pray with you.**

**Pastor’s cell:  
724-561-3203**

**Office:  
724-846-5734**

Session Highlights continued from page 1

The Pavilion Committee announced that the Friday Fish Fry's will be held during Lent, with the first one planned for March 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Christian Education Committee will be reviewing all of the clearances to make sure they are up to date.

The Leadership training event is March 17<sup>th</sup> 2-5, to be held at the Cranberry U.P. Church. More information will be available soon.

There are a lot of things being planned this year, which will be in the bulletins, newsletter and on the NSPC website.

For information:

- ◆ Next Pavilion Committee meeting is Monday February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ Next Session meeting is Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Next Visioning meeting is Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Sherry Schibner, Clerk of Session

\*\*\*\*\*

### Big News About Our Presbytery

Something big may be in the future of Beaver-Butler Presbytery: a merger with Shenango Presbytery (which includes Ellwood City and New Castle).

The leadership councils of both presbyteries have appointed "Dream Teams" to work together to:

- Explore best practices and analyze each presbytery for its strengths, assets and unique mission features in order to ensure that the best of who we each are is retained into a new way of serving the churches.
- Design a new presbytery including its name, office location (s) and leadership structure.
- Develop a "road map" to a brand new presbytery responsive to the needs of our churches today.

So this is an opportunity to rethink what a presbytery can do for the churches, and create something better. Along the way, the process is being resourced by a consultant and by the leadership of the Synod of the Trinity.

*Continued on page 3*



**February 3**

Scouts

**February 10**

George & Diana Hartsell

**February 17**

Larry & Penny Giles

**February 24**

Virginia Fleming

\*\*\*\*\*



Judy Kuchninski  
NOTE!  
ADDRESS CHANGE  
3125 E Hardies Road  
Gibsonia, PA 15044

\*\*\*\*\*

Avis W  
birthday **Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!** er 90<sup>th</sup>  
th.

If you would like to send her a card her address is:

Avis Watt  
Franciscan Man  
71 Darlington Road  
Beaver Falls, PA 15010



This process is expected to take about six months. During this time there will be opportunities for congregational leaders and members to ask questions, express concerns and share creative ideas and hopes. The process will culminate in a proposal to both presbyteries' leadership councils. If both councils approve the proposal, a final decision on merging will be made by the votes of both presbyteries. These votes might happen around June or July.

Thirty years ago Beaver-Butler Presbytery had 87 churches. It now has 63. Many of the remaining churches are not as strong or healthy as they were a generation ago. The total membership of these churches is less than half of what it was then.

Combined with Shenango Presbytery, the new presbytery would have 108 churches. But bigger does not necessarily mean better! We want to end up with a "2 + 2 = 5" result! Merger only makes sense if it is better for the *congregations* in terms of shared resourcing, networking, and ministry and mission project opportunities. If combined, will the best strengths and traits of each presbytery result in a better presbytery? If so, this will be good for the churches.

There are providential circumstances that suggest to me that God is leading us into this opportunity. For instance, there is no installed Executive Presbyter in either presbytery right now (We have a temporary part-time executive; Shenango has a vacancy.). In addition, there are a number of pastors who have served churches in both presbyteries. We are not total strangers.

I have agreed to a volunteer role in this process called "Project Manager." I have a counterpart in Shenango Presbytery. Our job will be to ensure effective communication throughout the process, to see that deadlines are met to keep the process moving smoothly, and to make sure legal and policy decisions are being made in accordance with the requirements of the Synod, General Assembly, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I feel honored to be seen as "up to the task" by our Presbytery's leaders, and I feel humbled by the challenges it entails. I have agreed to this role because I believe merger is best for the Presbyterian churches of our area, including the New Sewickley Presbyterian Church.

Please pray for me as I strive to keep this role in balance with my pastoral work among you, that I may do a good job in both. And please pray for God's leading of this whole process.

Grace and peace to you, Pastor Dennis

# BIRTHDAYS!

February 4  
Thelma Delo

February 11  
Diana Hartsell

February 20  
Allen Kronk

February 23  
Sarina Vawn Beighey

\*\*\*\*\*



Sun 2:00 p.m. 10th

Showing: Dolphin Kick

Join us for Movie Day!

Dolphin Kick is a story about how the friendship between a boy and a friendly dolphin helps the boy after the sudden loss of his mother.

This should be a great movie for the whole family, so bring your friends, neighbors, grandkids and your grandkids' friends!

We'll provide snacks, drinks, and hot dogs. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you're planning to come so we know how much food to provide.

## Thank You to Church Officers for Terms of Service Completed

I want to recognize and express my gratitude – and, I believe, the gratitude of the whole congregation - for those who completed terms of service as church officers at the end of 2018.

These are:

As Elders on Session: Trudy Miklos and Jodi Miller

As Deacons: Cheryl Gaunt, Linda Goehring and  
Shirley Maddock

As Trustees: Bud Waxler, Jonathan Gaunt and Pam Dietrich

Cheryl and Bud completed a full six consecutive years of service, and under the rules of our denomination must take a “sabbatical” year before they may serve again. For an extended time they have done all they could, and we are grateful.

Trudy, Jodi and Jonathan were eligible to serve another term on their respective boards, and agreed to do so. Thank you! Continuity is so helpful, and we are grateful.

Cheryl led the Deacons for the past two years, and Linda has served several years as the Deacons’ treasurer. Your leadership and service was valuable, and will be missed.

Thank you all! Borrowing a few words from Jesus found in Matthew 25:21, “Well done, you good and faithful servant(s)!” Please look for an opportunity to express your personal gratitude to each of these people.

With appreciation,  
Pastor Dennis

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:13

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8



## An Opportunity to Double Your Gift’s Impact!

Camp Lambec is the camp owned and operated by Beaver-Butler Presbytery and three other presbyteries in northwestern Pennsylvania. It is on the shore of Lake Erie.

A “Lambec Challenge” has been presented by a long-time camper, who has made a very generous offer to **match** contributions to the Capital Campaign up to \$50,000. Contributions may come from individuals, campers, groups or churches, and will be used for repairs and upgrades needed to move the camp into the future.

Our Session has agreed that this opportunity may be publicized and that contributions may be received through our church. However, donations must be received by the camp March 1, 2019. So if you want your contribution to go through our church, it must be received by Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> so there is time for a church check to be mailed to the camp.

Or you may mail your contribution directly to:

CAPNWP “Lambec Challenge”  
P.O. Box 106  
West Sunbury, PA 16061

Either way, note “Lambec Challenge” on your check.

What a great way to support ministry to youth and double the impact of your gift at the same time!