

The Sunflower



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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting on August 15, 2023

The financial report as of July 31, 2023, was presented by Jodi Miller, Treasurer. July receipts were \$9,655.98 (of that \$8,851.09 was usable for general expenses). Benevolence contributions for July were \$209.89. No payment was received from Penn Energy. Transferred \$27,000.00 from Major Maintenance for a down payment on the roof replacement. All bills including July payroll taxes have been paid.

Average Sunday Worship attendance in June was 35 with only 3 of the 4 Sundays being recorded.

Average Sunday Worship attendance in July was 44 with only 3 of the 5 Sundays being recorded.

Communion was served to 41 people on Sunday, July 2nd.

We will be welcoming two new members as well as baptizing two infants on Sunday, September 10th – reception to follow in Fellowship Hall.

The first Confirmation class is on Sunday, September 17th at the Vanport Presbyterian Church from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Church Treasurer & Financial Secretary Position Openings

The Church Treasurer, Jodi Miller and the Financial Secretary, Betsy Gray are resigning their positions at the end of this year. We need to find their replacements so there is adequate time to train the new people.

If you are interested in either position, or would like more information about the job descriptions, please contact Barb Rombold or Cathy Waxler.

Important Dates This Month

Worship & Fellowship
 Tuesday, September 5th
 5:30 p.m.

Christian Ed.
 Tuesday, September 5th
 6:30 p.m.

Trustee Meeting
 Sunday, September 10th
 Following worship.

Sunday, September 10th
 New Members Received
 Baptism
 Communion

Deacons' Meeting
 Tuesday, September 12th
 1:00 p.m.

**Presbyterian Women's
 Yard Sale**
 September 15th & 16th
 9:00 - 1:00

Community Yard Sale
 Saturday, September 16th
 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Session
 Tuesday, September 19th
 6:00 p.m.

Presbytery Meeting
 Tuesday, September 26th
 4:00 p.m.

FROM THE PASTOR

As you drive through the countryside, it is easy to identify the season of the year. Farmers are harvesting crops, making the last cuttings of hay, and taking in the corn. Some of it be stored away in order to feed animals through the winter.

Scripture invites us to considered the concept of harvesting. Harvest is an important part of life in a region where there are big changes in the weather of each season. In some most parts of the world, if you live close to the equator, the growing season is almost year-round; if there is water in the form of rain or irrigation.

Harvest was an important part of the rural life in previous generations. It was a time of preparation, a time of gratitude when families shared in the tasks of preparing for the winter ahead. Even though the most of us do not need to physically engage in harvesting, we should still be concerned about our harvest. When times get tough and resources dwindle, will you have sufficient nourishment to see you through these rough times? This a question pertaining to food but also the resources for our full needs – body, spirit, mind. There will be times in all our lives when we will have to call upon the stores we have put by for times of diminished resources. We should create deep wells of faith practice in order to endure the winters that life will bring. In order to thrive, we all need to store up enough "spiritual food" to see us through.

As we prepare for fall, we should wonder about why we do what we do? Gathering at church provides opportunities to come and be fed by God's Word and community. Jesus frequently used the imagery of gathering at a table to illustrate the importance of spiritual growth. At the table, over a meal - teaching was offered, relationships developed, inclusion and love were experienced. When we receive communion, we are reminded that the meal is not only a sign of the sacrificial nature of God's love through Jesus but of our need as brothers and sisters in the faith to stay in constant fellowship with one another.

If you are fed spiritually at New Sewickley, and I hope you are, let's talk about why and how. If we share what works along with what is challenging, we are better able to identify areas for growth and it can assist us in benefitting from our strengths. If our common goal is to spread a wider table and welcome more people, then we have to share our hopes and concerns with each other. I hope and pray you receive the nourishment that you are seeking. At the same time, autumn is a good time to take stock of the resources we hold and ones that are missing. We can only do this together.

During this fall season, let us all be aware of our need for spiritual nourishment. As we face the winter that will eventually unfold before us, let us rest assured that we will have the resources to endure.

In peace, Beth

Use of Facilities

Scouts

Wednesday, September 27th
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



September 3

Debbie Sheffield

September 10

Pat Stretch

September 17

Jonathan & Cheryl Gaunt

September 24

Mike & Betsy Gray

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September 3

Pat Stretch

September 10

Kelly Beegle

September 17

Jodi Miller

September 24

Cathy Waxler

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Monday, September 4th

Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet

September 13th, 20th, & 27th
October 12th, 19th, & 26th
10:30 a.m.

Join this 6 week study as we read with author, Adam Hamilton, as he travels from Egypt to Mt. Sinai, the Nile, the Red Sea and the wilderness exploring the sites of Moses' life. Using historical information, archaeological data, and biblical text, Hamilton guides us in the footsteps of this reluctant prophet who grew in his relationship with God and by the end of life had fulfilled the role he was given. We will examine the significant challenges facing Moses and how God shaped his character and life in powerful ways.

Books will be available in the narthex after September 7th.

NSPC in the Community Event

Saturday, September 30th
11:00 a.m.

New Brighton Historical Society
Underground Railroad Walking Tour

This is a 2.5 mile walking tour where participants will see eight buildings/homes that were either part of New Brighton's Underground Railroad or linked to famous abolitionists.

A sign-up sheet will be in the arthex for anyone interested in attending this event – watch for more details in your bulletin later this month.

**VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL**

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported Vacation Bible School. It was a wonderful time of sharing God's love for His children. Our building was alive with the sounds of children and our hearts were alive with the joy of this community of faith. Thank you again.

We will be sharing what we were able to purchase with the Bee Mission offering as soon as it is completed.



Grace Brehm, Joseph, Sharlene Mikula,
Michael Phillips, Quinn Michael Phillips.



September 1

Andy Brown
Kelly Beegle
Larry Giles

September 8

Betsy Gray

September 27

Diane Guraly

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September 9

Mike & Kelly Beegle

September 10

Chris & Diane Hasenflu

September 16

Mike & Diane Guraly

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***Adult*
Sunday School**

The Adult Sunday School Class did not meet in July and August. It will resume in September.

We are in need of a teacher for the class. If you feel called to teach, please contact Cheryl Gaunt, Barb Rombold or Pat Stretch.





We will be participating in the Trunk or Treat at Green Valley Park in October.

For our September Mission Project we will be asking for your monetary donations to purchase bags of snacks for our church to hand out to the kids. Information about our church programs will be on each snack bag. **We need at least 1,000 bags or more!**

This is a great outreach opportunity. See Cheryl Gaunt for more information or to volunteer to help.



Mike and Betsy Gray have recently increased their family by two! Both daughters have had their babies three weeks early.

Barrett Michael Fluharty
Saturday 8/12/23 2:21 pm
7 lbs. 9 oz. 19" long

Born to daughter Erin and husband Chris in Portland, OR.

Gabriella Noelle Hernandez
Thursday 8/17/23 5:30 pm
8 lbs. 2 oz. 19.5 " long

Born to daughter Sawyer, husband Moises and big brother Grayson in Coraopolis, PA.

Thank you for praying everyone through this blessed eventful month!

Betsy Gray

THERE IS POWER IN
persistent prayer



MICAH 7:7

Presbyterian Women's Yard Sale



**Friday
September 15th
&
Saturday
September 16th**

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Beginning August 27th, donations of gently used clean items can be brought in and placed in the back portion of the social hall.
(We cannot accept furniture or electronics.)

Help will be needed to set out the items for the sale.

Sale items will not be priced, buyers will be asked to make a donation on the items that they choose.

We will begin setting up on Monday, September 11th.



The church has a shiny new roof installed by Artie Evans Roofing.

Next month the Trustees and Treasurer will share all the details regarding the cost and installation. It was a significant investment of the church's finances but it is also an investment in the future of the life of the church.