



OHIO UNITED

Presbyterian Church

March 30 through April 5, 2025



Beloveds,

The crocus have begun popping up all around the manse, and the daffodils and tulips have started to show their leaves as well. Some have migrated slightly to no longer be in the flower beds, which is a bit funny, as the ones in the front yard are still in the same circular shape as the bed, just slightly off center - which leaves us with two overlapping circles. As I see these plants growing, I cannot help but think about the peony that I left behind in Illinois. It was my grandma's favorite flower. She died in 2003, and my grandfather sold their home in 2012. The owner sadly abandoned the house six months later, and it sat, house empty and yard untended until it was torn down in 2024.

In 2017, before the house was torn down, my mom and I went back to the property along with a few other plants that my grandma had loved to care for over the years. My peony had a smaller chance of thriving, as it had a smaller root system, where my mom's section was much larger. But, I managed to keep it alive anyway. That peony stayed in a planter until 2020. It didn't flower, but each year I noticed the leaves and stems would get just a little bit bigger. When Felix, Miguel, and I moved into an apartment with a yard that would be hospitable to plant it in, we planted it. It still didn't give off any flowers, but I felt happy knowing that despite all its time in a planter, it was alive. A little piece of my grandma, a little piece of home (my grandparents lived in Lower Burrell, PA), a little bit of joy in the height of the unknown chaos of COVID lockdown.

Just a year later, we bought our own house. One of the last things I did at our apartment was dig up that peony. It was May 2021, and it still hadn't flowered, but it had pushed out three stems instead of just the two from the previous year. I planted it next to the peonies that had been left for us to enjoy at our new home, and hoped for the best. In 2022, I found several buds on the peony! I was elated. In short, only two of the buds bloomed, and I was thrilled! The following two years, the peony shared even more beautiful flowers with us. Each one felt like a hug, a little hello in the midst of feeling lonely, way outside of our support circle, 10 hours from home.

We didn't plan to leave the peony in Illinois. When he went back about a month ago, Felix did dig in the area it was planted to bring it home but mistook a different plant for the dormant peony. I texted a couple who live down the street from our old home, a couple who happen to be members at my church. They went and retrieved the peony so that they could plant it and care for it in their own garden, placing lily bulbs in the hole left by the peony. That peony has outlived all the other plants we collected that day at my grandparent's old house. But I think that is a testament to the piece of my heart that will always remain there, just as much as a piece of my heart has remained in West Deer/Tarentum where I grew up.

But, thinking about the flowers in the yard that have migrated slightly - my home of origin (my round little garden bed) overlaps with my home here in Hopewell. Friends, family, and other support live within that overlapping area for the most part, even though we're just slightly outside of the "garden." I'm certain my mom would love for us to be even closer, perhaps within a 30 minute drive instead of 50 - but that slightly overlapping circle, not quite exact, has already proven to be quite a blessing to our family. I get to hear my children say "WE NEED GRAMMY!" and "WHERE'S NAAA?" (Na is my sister Regina). Family has been able to come over, to visit, to support us as we walk through my cancer diagnosis and treatment - it's a blessing.

You all have been a blessing to my family as well. I am glad that our circles overlap. Thank you to all who have helped us so far as we settle in, and thank you to those who have contributed via the meal train to help us the next few weeks. It is a strange time for me, as I know I had a tumor, know they think they removed it, but need to have this treatment that won't leave me with systemic effects like nausea or hair loss. It feels uneventful. In truth, it has been an opportunity though to be reminded of all the support we have, and how loved my family is by those around us. Thank you for the little buds that are beginning to blossom into bigger flowers, and for helping me to remember that even plants that have been moved around have the opportunity to grow given the right circumstances. (wait, did I just echo that parable about the fig tree in Luke?! - yes, yes I did. ;))

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Kalyn



Join us!

Concord, Ohio and New Sewickley
Presbyterian Churches have joined up
For Lent and Holy week Services!
Maundy Thursday: April 17, 2025 at 6:30 pm
at New Sewickley Presbyterian Church
Good Friday: April 18, 2025 at 7pm
at Ohio United Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday April 20, 2025
Concord: 9 am
NSPC 10 am
OUPC 10 am

New Sewickley
101 Big Knob Road
Rochester, PA 15074

Concord
2832 Conway wallrose Rd.
Baden, PA 15005



Worship

- We gather for worship Sundays at 10am
- 79 were in church on March 23
- No Children's Sunday School on March 30
- Worship Committee meets on March 30 following worship

Congregational Care

- Women's Association is meeting on Tuesday, April 1 @6:30pm
- Story Time is on Wednesday, April 2 at 9:30 or 10:30 am
and on Wednesday, April 9 @9:30 or 10:30 am
- Ruth Circle is meeting on Wednesday, April 9 @1pm
- **SAVE THE DATE: VBS IS GOING TO BE JUNE 9 - JUNE 13!!**
- **Mark your calendars for the church picnic on August 17**

Missions

Lenten Mission Project – Join us in reaching our goal of \$3000 to provide a well and access to clean water for a community abroad, as well as to donate to a water bank in Butler County, providing clean water for more than 40 families without access. You can give during the children's collections (March 9 and April 13), by dropping money in the well or by designating the Lenten Mission Project in your giving. (see last page of newsletter for more information)

Operations

Year to date expenses \$38,572
Year to date collections \$29,875

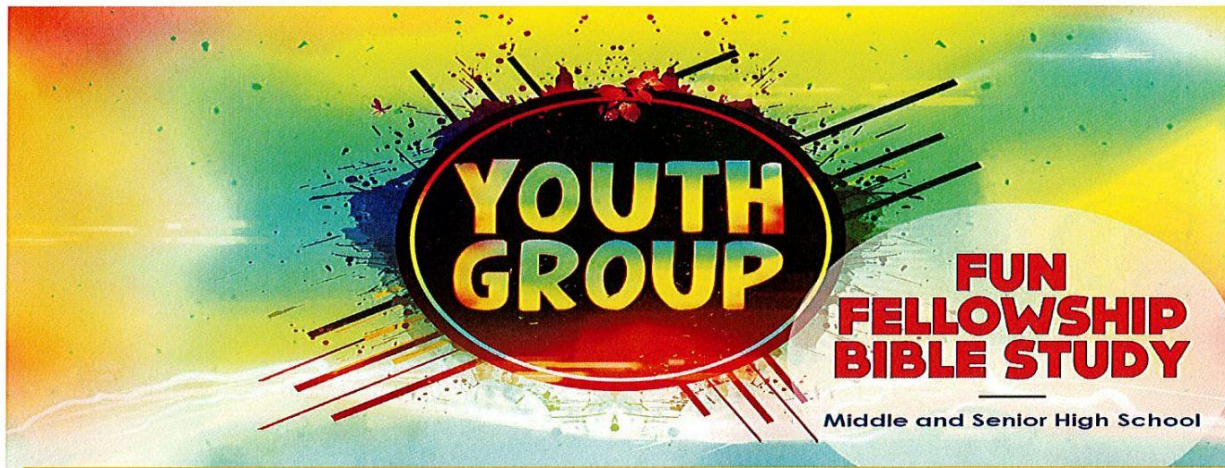
Property Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 7 at 6:30pm



- Diane Gennaro–Prayers for Ron and Shelley Wrotney; Ron started radiation treatments for prostate cancer on Monday
- JoAnne Polizotto–Continued prayers for Kristen, daughter of Jeanie, who is in a comma. She has grade school children
- Pastor Kalyn–Prayers of Joy; Thanks for Felix starting a new job last week
- Christina Palmer–Prayers for Pastor Kalyn as she begins cancer treatment this week
- Ken Jones–Prayers of joy; he got a new job!!
- Marsha Douglass–More joy; DJ Fox got his new job!
- Tom Owczarzak is in the hospital with pneumonia. He has been there for a week.
- Greg Durkos, a Hopewell Policeman, is in the hospital with cancer. He is scheduled to be discharged soon.



<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Michael & Crystal Saxon 4/13	Holly Diccico 4/1	Doug Murdoch 4/11	Jason Arzberger 4/21
John & Bonnie Martin 4/14	Ivonne Holsinger 4/1	Denise Mathias 4/16	Nathan Burak 4/24
Denise & Chris Mathias 4/25	Jeff Davis 4/2	Donna Olexick 4/18	Paul Magee 4/27
Kenneth & Patti Strominger 4/30	Jason Cagnon 4/9	Hannah Lanctot 4/20	
	Logan Palochak 4/9	James Williams 4/20	



March 22 (Sat) – Youth Group 7:00-8:30

March 30 – SUNDAY Time 4-6 \$20.00
Elevate Trampoline Park (if no interest
we will move this to summer)

Please Note – We are going back to
SUNDAY for Youth Group starting
April (outings may be a different day)

April 6 – (Sun) - Youth Group 7:00-8:30

April 12 – (Sat) – Bowling at
Sheffield Lanes (please RSVP to me)

April 17 – 21 Spring Break – no school



Highlights from the March 11th Session Meeting

- Approval was granted to the Girl Scouts to hold a craft fair at the church. A date has not been determined but will probably be a Saturday.
- Also, the Girl Scouts have offered to do a service project for the church as a thankyou for letting them meet at the church.
- The resignation letters from Allison Feszko (Pianist/Worship Leader) and Amanda Collins (Choir Director) were discussed.
- Approved the revised communion schedule for the remainder of the year. The dates are as follows:

April 13th.	May 11th.	June 8th.
July 13th.	August 10th.	September 14th.
October 5th.	November 2nd.	November 30th.
December 24th (by intinction)		

- After the March 9th kickoff date the Lenten Well Project has raised \$500 so far.
- The Vacation Bible School dates are June 9-13. Most leader positions are filled.
- A new refrigerator, which was purchased for the Manse by a member, has been delivered. The old refrigerator has been moved to the garage to be used for special events such as Vacation Bible School.
- May 3rd is scheduled to be a church work day.
- On Saturday, March 1st, 2025, a small group of hand-picked congregation members/elders met with the pastor to address discontentment issues from texts, emails, phone calls, and conversation received from members largely concerning sermons since the November election.

This meeting was reviewed and discussed at the March Session meeting. The hope is that caution is used in the pulpit or risk losing membership.

Also, if any congregation member has a concern, Pastor Kalyn is willing to talk about it.

Joe Glatz, Clerk of Session