



April 13 through April 19, 2025

Beloved,

Poor Nancy has asked me for a newsletter multiple times now, and I'm going to be honest, I am tired. Between immunotherapy treatments, pastoring the congregation, being a wife, being a mother, and all the other elements that come in between, I am tired.

I want to write a newsletter article full of hope and joy and love because I am your pastor and I'm supposed to guide you in your spiritual growth. But I'm tired, because I've been told that I have to avoid things that are controversial - and the things that I've been told to avoid are the very things that help us to better understand when and how and where our scriptures were written. The things that I've been told to avoid are the very things that help us apply what we learn to today.

I will say things that you do not agree with. I have a bachelors degree in Christian education, and I have a masters in divinity, and while I might not have the age experience that many of you all do, I am a child of God, capable of interpreting the things that God has called me to interpret. I am capable of interpreting and studying and choosing the things because God has called me to be a pastor.

If you disagree with something that I say, know this: I am not saying things for my own agenda. When I sit down to prepare my sermons, I sit down to listen to what God has to say this day to the congregation of Ohio United Presbyterian Church. Not what Kalyn wants to say, but God.

Now, I am human, and therefore the things that I say can be influenced by what I have in mind. Just like each of our gospel writers had a different agenda in mind when they wrote their stories of Jesus Christ. Matthew talks about how Jesus fulfills Jewish scripture. Mark is in a hurry to get everything written down. Luke focuses on social justice. Luke talks about the poor more than any of them. And John, written way after those three, is focused on the divinity of Jesus. Knowing that Matthew and Luke were able to look at Mark's gospel and chose to take pieces and change them around, so that we don't have the same timeline, tells me that there's a possibility that those who preach and share the good news of Jesus Christ will intentionally craft their messages.

If you find yourself shut off by the things that I say from the pulpit, pause, and recognize that you don't have to agree in order to hear something about who God is. John mentions the poor one time, and that's when Judas is trying to condemn Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus, for wasting money. Luke mentions the poor over and over and over again because Jesus calls us to care for the poor. If we only follow John's gospel, then it might mean that we don't have to worry about the poor, that the main thing that we should focus on is the divinity of Jesus. Or, if we just follow Mark, and don't take the added on ending, we wouldn't know what happens beyond the women being afraid.

In reality things are a "both and" situation. You can disagree with me, and also learn something about Jesus even if I don't use the exact wording you think I should use. I invite you rather than shutting off entirely to be open, to sift through what is said, to look up the things that you don't agree with, to wonder.

I don't have it all figured out. And neither do you. The good news is, that's the work of Jesus
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
- 87 in church on April 6
- Children's Sunday School meets during worship following Children's Chat
- Communion this Sunday

Congregational Care

- Story Time is on Wednesday, April 16 @9:30 or 10:30 am
- Deborah Circle is on Monday, April 21 at 6:30pm
- **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 \$57,823
Year to date collections \$48,495

Thank you for your generous donations to Adoption Connection. If you did not have a chance to donate, they are still in need of newborn to 12 month clothes. There is also an Amazon wishlist under the Missions tab on their website <https://adoptionconnectionpa.org/>



- Kenny Jones–CV has Club Hope for kids going thorough cancer. They support one another. They made cards for Pastor Kalyn.
- Pastor Kalyn–Prayers for Michael Lawson, who had emergency surgery this past week. He has a long recovery period ahead. He has been released from the hospital
- Megan Hunsberger–Simon’s uncle is on hospice. Not sure he knows Jesus. Prayers that he and his family come to know Jesus and find peace.
- Ivonne Holsinger–Works at Heritage Valley Kennedy for over 20 years. The hospital is closing in June. Prayers for peace as she goes into the unknown
- JoAnne Polizotto–Prayers for Jeanie and her family. Jeanie passed away.
- Bev Abate–Prayers for relief from foot problems
- Dan Fox–Prayers for marsha Douglass who is battling shingles for the fourth time



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

Lenten Mission Project



“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” – John 7:37-38

Estimates range from between 2 and 4 BILLION people around the world that lack basic access to clean drinking water. That is roughly a quarter of the people on Earth! Unsafe water is responsible for more than a million deaths per year, and children are particularly vulnerable to the dangers and diseases that come with unclean water.

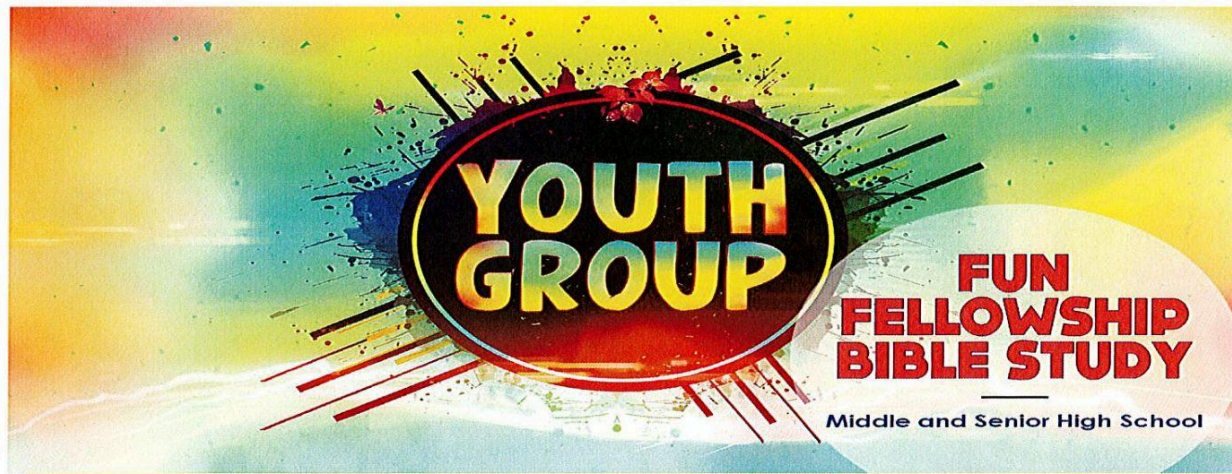
Through Presbyterian Giving, we can provide the resources necessary for a community to receive a well for just \$1,500. It will provide a reliable source of clean water for drinking, bathing, washing, and irrigation. This access to clean water, close to home, can transform lives – improving health, hygiene, and economic prospects.

Our goal is to be able to raise \$3000 to purchase one well and to also provide a donation to a water bank run by a Presbyterian church in Butler, called Water for Woodlands. It provides water to more than 30 families who experienced deteriorating water quality, and can no longer drink, nor safely cook or bathe in their water.

Join us in giving –during Children’s Collections (April 13), by dropping money in the well or by designating the Lenten Mission Project in your giving



NEW



Please Note – We are going back to **SUNDAY** for Youth Group starting March 30 (outings may be a different day)

March 30 – Youth Group 7:00-8:30

April 6 – Youth Group 7:00-8:30

SAT April 12 – Bowling at Sheffield Lanes (please RSVP to me). See attachment for details

April 17 – 21 Spring Break – no school

Elevate Trampoline Park – We are going to move this during Spring Break. If kids can't come we'll move it to Summer!