The Sycamore Church Newsletter November 2019

TRUNK or TREAT

Continued on next page...
Elder Law Workshop
November 23, 2019
9:00 - 11:00 AM

Did you know that a couple turning 65 today has about a 50% chance that at least one partner will live into their 90’s? Planning for financial and physical care as we age can help make those decades as enjoyable and stress-free as possible for the elderly and their caregivers.

The Legacy Gifts committee is pleased to host Dennison Keller, local elder law attorney, for an informative and entertaining overview of Essentials of Elder Law: What Everyone Needs to Know. The workshop will be held Saturday, November 23, from 9-11:00 AM in the SPC Chapel.

Topics will include:
- The elder care continuum
- Two kinds of guardianships
- Living wills and healthcare powers of attorney
- Wills and will alternatives
- When trusts make sense
- Special benefits for veterans
- Planning for the impact of long-term care expenses
- The life care plan model for care as we age

The workshop is free and open to everyone. To assist in event planning, please pre-register by signing up in the Café beginning November 3 or online at the church’s website.

Dennison Keller is the owner and managing member of The Law Practice of Dennison Keller, LLC with offices in Ohio and Kentucky. He is a frequent lecturer locally and nationally on the topics of Elder Law, Life Care Planning, Medicaid, and Estate Planning.

September 9 Meeting

Reverend Dr. Timothy McQuade opened the meeting with a devotion from Psalm 100. Session began by approving the August 12th meeting minutes, the July financial reports, and the minutes/notes from respective committees.

Reverend McQuade presented the results of the Membership Role Audit conducted while transferring the member database to Breeze, a new software system. Discrepancies were found including counting members that had not been active for several years and many of whom we did not have current contact information. Session approved removing 287 names from the membership to accurately account for the true membership of SPC. If anyone wishes to be reinstated, he/she will simply file an application for membership through reaffirmation of faith.

Elder, Brian Fisher, provided an update on the Mission Study Task Team. 17 focus group events, which included staff, committee members, and at large congregation members, were completed. External meetings are underway with churches, schools, and organizations in the community. The goal is to have the report completed by mid-October at which point Session will hold a special meeting to hear and approve the report.

Reverend McQuade praised the church-wide efforts that made Lawn Fete a success. He noted the outreach, positive morale, and the dollars raised.

Church records and Session minutes for 2018 were audited and approved by the Presbytery. Clerk of Session, Jay Beard, relayed some suggestions that were made. Session agreed to have a monthly reporting form the Deacons and a quarterly reporting from the Board of Finance and Trustees to satisfy the suggestion of holding joint meetings. Session felt the recommendation of creating a separate congregational handbook was satisfied by including mentioned operating policies in the Session handbook.

Elder, Don Stuart, presented the SPC Legacy Gift Committee Endowment grants awarded for 2020. Grants were approved as follows: Stone Mason’s Fall Men’s Retreat $3,000; Adult Ministries Series modules $1,000; Family Ministries Youth Mental Health $1,600; Replacement Folding Tables $2,800 = Total $8,400

Elder, Clark Oughterson, reported that Personnel conducted a 6-month contract review with Dr. McQuade. The committee agrees that he is doing a great job in his role. Clark presented a motion to extend his contract as Associate Pastor/Acting Head of Staff through 2019. All provisions of the original contract will remain in force. Session approved the motion. Three additional motions were approved including:
- Accepting the proposed exempt and non-exempt salary compensation rate ranges; and,
- Reclassifying the Accountant/Bookkeeper and custodian positions to remain competitive with the marketplace and comparable to other churches similarly sized as well as increasing Larry Stockdale’s rate by $0.25 per hour.

Approved utilizing the U.S. Cost of Living Index to annually adjust the compensation ranges.

November
Deacons of the Month
Lin Spaeth (604-0080) and Bill Barnhill (683-9133)
November 3

MEN’S
PRAYER
BREAKFAST

7:30 AM - SPC Chapel

The Dead Sea Scrolls have been called one of the most important archaeological discoveries of all time. But why in the world is that and how would that affect me here in 2019? At the November 3 Men’s Prayer Breakfast, you will not want to miss the opportunity to hear Bob Weston provide the answers to these and other questions. This is a fascinating subject. All men are invited to attend the breakfast on November 3 at 7:30 AM in the Chapel to hear Bob, and enjoy a hot beverage along with the world famous “manly breakfast”.

Bring your appetite! Any questions, contact Randy Gross (randy1849@fuse.net).

Dinners for 6, 7, or 8

January - April 2020

Sign up to participate in Dinners for 6, 7, or 8 on November 3, 10, or 17 in the Café area or online at www.sycamorechurch.org by clicking on Event Signups.

These small group gatherings provide the perfect opportunity to enjoy a meal with friends old and new.

The make-up of the groups changes monthly, January through April, with each pair hosting a meal once and bringing a dish to share to three other dinners.

Gatherings may be formal or casual, an evening meal, lunch, brunch, or even a picnic as the weather warms.

For more information, visit the Café area, or contact Barb Gausmann at 683-8614.

Visit the SPC Library

The Media Center has a large selection of books on a variety of topics...check some out!

Next Door Savior  Lucado, Max 248 Luc
Max Lucado skillfully paints a picture with words and this book will help you see Jesus in your everyday life.

Turning Needs to Deeds  Guideposts 248 Gui
Inspirational stories about real people who found practical ways to bring happiness into the lives of others. These people noticed a need, and when they put their ordinary skills, hobbies, or interests to work, they discovered that they could make an extraordinary difference in their world.

Pretense  Wick, Lori F Wic
The story is about two sisters, close in age. It begins when the girls are children; it proceeds through the years as they grow and find love, happiness, and finally Christ.

Eunice Circle

November 14

12:00 noon

All ladies are invited to join Eunice Circle on November 14 at noon in the SPC Chapel for a light lunch and a presentation by Dr. Tim McQuade - A snapshot of the SPC 2018 Israel Trip.

For more information, please contact Diana Combs at 683-6615.
As we head into the month of November, we look forward to celebrating the special season of giving thanks and giving to others. Mark your calendar for **Sycamore’s Christmas Giving Tree Program** sponsored by the Mission Committee. The program will run from November 10 through December 1, 2019. Our partners, St. George Interfaith Pantry, The Loveland Initiative, Operation Give Back, and Interfaith Hospitality Network will help us deliver holiday gifts to special neighbors in our community.

Beginning November 10, please visit the Café area to select a tag from one of the trees. Return the tag with the item (unwrapped) to the church no later than December 1 after the second service.

Thank you for considering how you might be a part of Christmas for our neighbors in need.

*In His Service, The Mission Committee*

**The Family Christmas Eve Service**

If your family or child/student is interested in being part of the 4:00 PM **Family Christmas Eve service**, we have several ways you may help lead worship. We need readers, children for our moving manger scenes (in costumes), and kids/students to sing solos or with small groups.

There are many parts that make this service a worshipful experience for all ages, and we need people that can help fill roles. If you are interested, please contact Rebecca Behbehani, or sign up on the church website at [https://sycamorechurch.breezechms.com/form/445e12](https://sycamorechurch.breezechms.com/form/445e12).

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**A Note from Rebecca**

Do you ever find it hard to start faith conversations with your children or students? Do you ever get nervous that you will mess up a Bible story or you just won’t know anything about it? It happens to everyone. I’ll let you in on a secret, it even happens to me. While day to day conversations with my oldest are easy because they generally revolve around God’s creation and us loving everyone because they are a beloved child of God, sometimes I get tripped up on how to go beyond that. Like what stories should I be emphasizing with him?

What I have found to make things a lot easier is to take the lead from my oldest and learn from him. He attends both Connect and Inspire on Sunday mornings pretty regularly. Each week, he is exploring a new story or concept from the Bible. Our curriculum is set up to cover the entire Bible over the course of three years. How amazing is that! I know this sounds like an ad, but it isn’t. It is the truth and super helpful. Every week, I get to ask him what he talked about. I get to hear from him what he learned and how it is shaping his faith. It then opens me up to ask him more questions and for us to dive deeper into a story. It provides the entry point for me to share stories about my own faith, my own struggles, my own questions, and how I continue to grow spiritually.

We have 2 hours of education and worship every Sunday for children and students. In those times, we are exploring how the Bible gives us the tools to be Disciples of Christ, to share our faith, and to continue to grow. And just a gentle reminder, here Christian education isn’t just for the young, it is for everyone from cradle to grave. Until God calls you home, you need to keep growing and strengthening your faith—you (and I include myself here too) haven’t learned all there is to learn about God’s unfailing love for his people.

As a called community of faith in Jesus Christ, we owe it to God and ourselves to keep growing and sharing our faith. The more we do it, the easier it gets. If you haven’t found a Bible study group or class in which to be involved, I invite you to find one. If there isn’t one that meets your stage in life right now, create one. We have resources to help you do that. My passion is to make sure everyone feels like they have the right tools to explore God’s word.

Whether you are meeting on Sunday morning during Connect or Saturday morning for study, I pray your study opens your heart to share your faith and engage in conversation about God’s word.

Grace and Peace -

Rebecca Behbehani, Exec. Dir. of Family Ministries
Prime Timers “Out ‘N About” - Maine and New Hampshire - Fall 2019

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS

CHANGE SOME LIVES

IHNWC - TIME FOR CHANGE:
The SPC IHN Core Team will be collecting change on November 3 (daylight savings ends). We ask that you save your pocket change to support change in the community. This year funds will go to supplying EVERY current or prior shelter child with things they need to start school successfully. Children who start school with the appropriate supplies, clothing, shoes, and haircuts, not only feel good about themselves but avoid the harshness of possibly being bullied. This program has been a success for IHNWC, so let your change help provide the educational necessities for children who find themselves homeless and living in a shelter with their families at Interfaith Hospitality Network of Warren County.

Know that YOUR CHANGE CAN CHANGE LIVES!

THE MANGER BUILD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8,
FOLLOWING THE SECOND SERVICE
FELLOWSHIP HALL
$10.00 per family
Lunch is provided

Referencing Deuteronomy 6: 4-9; God’s Word offers encouragement to you, Sycamore men, to teach your children to follow God. It is important to make God a part of your everyday experiences if you want your children to see God in all aspects of life.

The StoneMasons Ministry for Men Leadership Team invites all men (fathers, grandfathers, uncles) and their children to participate. Men will also receive a daily devotional guide to help them celebrate Jesus Christ with their families during Christmas week.

Mark your calendars and plan on bringing your kids and your hammer to church on December 8 to fulfill your opportunity to lead your family spiritually during the Christmas season. If you have any questions, contact Rick Rogers (513-713-7140 or Richard_L_Rogers@yahoo.com).
Family Ministries - NOVEMBER

**CONNECT**

We connect generations together through study, worship, serving and fellowship.

- **Quest - 6-7:30PM - Middle School** - students 6-8 grades: 11/10 — We will be serving the IHN meal then have regular Quest.
- **High School Wednesday Night Bible Study 7-8:30PM** - For all High School students 9th-12th grades; Food, hangout and small group Bible study; Meets 11/6, 11/13, 11/20
- **November 3 & 10 - Christ Centered Identity - 9:45AM - Media Center** - Every child will ask, Who am I? As parents we have the opportunity to shape the way our kids see themselves and the world around them. Video and discussion will focus on giving parents the tools to help their children understand Whose they are. Led by Rebecca Bebbehani.
- **November 10 - 9:45AM - “Take Faith Home” Workshop** - 1st graders and their parents need to wear their sneakers as they participate in “Our Church”. This is the “Take Faith Home” workshop that introduces the kids and parents to the hands of feet of Jesus... our committees. Prepare to enjoy a scavenger hunt. RSVP required.
- **November 13 - MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers 9:30-11:00AM** - Moms from all walks of life meet to encourage, support, and walk alongside each other through the incredible life of motherhood. Childcare available. Contact Katie Gates katiengates@gmail.com
- **November 15-17 - High School Fall Retreat** - Pray for our High School Students as they participate in the Fall retreat.
- **November 17 - Growing Young: Helping Young People Discover the Love of the Church - 9:45 - Chapel** - Deacon led session important for ALL church members! In the midst of the discouraging reports about the aging and decline of churches today, what steps do savvy churches take that help them best love and serve teenagers and young adults? This video and discussion based session will address this question and many like it.
- **November 24 - Liturgy of the Ordinary - 9:45AM - Media Center** - Learn how to create sacred practices out of everyday life activities. How can we live out Sunday morning worship throughout the week? Led by Rebecca Bebbehani
- **November 24 - Middle School Junk Food Feast - 6-7:30PM** — Bring friends and a big appetite!

**INSPIRE**

We are inspired to live as disciples of Christ through worship and prayer.

- **Our theme this month:** This month the children will learn that God had a plan to fix what sin broke. That answer? JESUS! Scripture says, “If my people...turn from their evil ways, then I will...forgive their sin and heal their land.” ~ 2 Chronicles 7:14
  God called Jeremiah to tell the people about a new covenant in which sin can be forgiven once and for all. Judah continued in sin and was removed from the land. God was right to punish His people for their sin, but He kept His promise to provide a king through David’s family. Ultimately, God punished our sin through His Son, Jesus, and made Him our King forever.
- **Inspire Student Worship - 10:45AM** - Underground - Student Led Worship - Come see our updated Worship Space!
- **Sunday, November 24 - Family Worship - 10:45AM** - Worshipping together as a family is how our children and students understand what it means to be worshipful adult. We would love for children and students to be part of the service through reading, leading prayers, singing and ushering/greeting. If your family would like to participate, please contact Rebecca Bebbehani.
- **Tuesday, November 26 - Thanksgiving Service - 7:00PM** - Drew Hood will be preaching. There will be a pie fellowship after
- **4PM Christmas Eve Worship** - It is time to start planning for our Family Christmas Eve service. If your family or child/student is interested in being part of the service, we have several ways to help lead worship. We need readers, children to be part of our moving manger scenes (in costumes), kids/students to sing solos or with small groups, even ushers and greeters. If you are interested, please contact Rebecca Bebbehani or sign up on the church website.

**SERVE**

We are called to serve others in Christ’s name.

- **Service & Outreach** - We encourage families to check the SERVE counter for ways to serve with their children. IHN is Nov. 10-16; helping with set up is a great activity to do with your child!
- **Sunday, November 24 - Hanging of The Greens** - Stay after the Second Service to help decorate the church for the Advent Season.

- **9:45 AM EVERY SUNDAY**
  - **Nursery/Toddler Care - 8:45, 9:45 or 10:45am**
  - **Connect Kids - Preschool-5th grades - Upstairs in the DOT**
  - **Connect Students - 6th-12th Grades - Downstairs in the Underground**
  - **Connect Adults - Various Sessions - Media Center, 113, 120, 224, Chapel**

- **10:45 AM EVERY SUNDAY**
  - **Worship - Sanctuary - for all ages!**
  - **Inspire Kids - Room 223 - PS thru 5th**
  - **Inspire Students Worship - Underground - 6th-12th grades**

- **EVERY SUNDAY There are Opportunities to serve**
  - **Nursery Toddler Care - 8:45, 9:45 or 10:45am - It's not just babysitting it's a foundation!**
  - **Parents: Find a way to serve in the church with your child - Usher, Serve Coffee, or be Greeter with your child.**
Monday Morning Women’s Bible Study
10:30 a.m. in Room 120
Finishing: The Promised One: Seeing Jesus in Genesis by Nancy Guthrie; Will be starting: Christmas Gifts That Won’t Break by James W. Moore

Some gifts are forgotten as soon as the crumpled wrappings are tossed in the fireplace. Others - like hope, love, joy, and peace - last year-round! In this expanded 5-session study structured around the four candles of the Advent wreath and Christmas Day, storyteller James W. Moore ushers in the season by focusing on what endures. Includes weekly devotions and daily applications. Contact Marilyn Poe: 513-204-3443

Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study
1st and 3rd Tuesdays
9:30 a.m. in Room 120
Growing Older & Wiser by Dale & Sandy Larsen

Life expectancies have stretched, but the Bible reveals that human nature has not changed. Wisdom does not automatically come with age. However, we can get wiser as we get older, if we tap into the eternal wisdom of God. Get biblical perspective on aging and how powerfully God can use those who have grown wiser with the years. Throughout these Bible stories you will find the constancy of God. Contact Claudia Gross: 683-6709

Tuesday Night Women - Harmony Circle
1st & 3rd Tuesday
6:30 p.m. in Room 120
Galatians

Paul’s letter to the Galatians defines Christian liberty. Many early Christians were Jewish Christians accustomed to following the Law and had started substituting human effort for God’s gift of grace. Key Themes: Salvation comes by grace, not works.; We should bear fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives; We will reap in life what we have sown in life.
Contact Mitzi Green: eggleg4@gmail.com

Lamplighters Adult Small Group
Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center
Genesis

The book of Genesis brings us back to the beginning of the Bible, where the foundation of life itself is explained. We learn how we were created, about the origins of sin and its fallout, and how to best relate to God - through obedience and trust. Weaving throughout these stories are the threads of God’s promises - promises we can trace from their origins, through the course of history, up through our lives today, and beyond us to the end of time when his final promises will at last be fulfilled. Contact Don Dunham: 513-398-6893

Wednesday Morning Men’s Study
7:00 a.m. in Room 120; meets all year
Kingdom Disciples: Heaven’s Representatives On Earth by Tony Evans

Where have all the disciples gone? There is a missing force in Christianity today. Its absence has led to weak believers, disintegrating families, ineffective churches, and a decaying culture. That missing force is discipleship. The result is powerless Christians attending powerless churches, having a powerless presence in the world. The power, authority, abundance, victory, and impact God has promised will come about only when we understand and align ourselves with His definition of discipleship. Contact John Strong: 677-1712

Wednesday Morning Women’s Study
9:30 a.m. in Room 120
The Faithful: Heroes of the Old Testament

This study explores crucial moments in the lives of five Old Testament figures—Esther, Gideon, Malachi, Nehemiah, and Hosea. Through their stories, discover how God uses the lives of ordinary people for His glory and the good of His people. Strengthen your faith as you walk alongside these larger-than-life figures who all chose to obey God no matter the circumstances. Contact Jenny Ellsworth: jenny@ellsworthaccounting.com

GriefShare
Wednesday 10:00 AM
in the Media Center

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. Meets weekly for 13 weeks.
Contact Susie Shaw: 513-520-7429 or jsa_shaw@yahoo.com

Saturday Men’s Morning Bible Study
8:30 a.m. in Room 120 (no meeting 11/2 or 11/16)
The Discipleship Playbook

Professional football players enjoy fame, money, and a lifestyle that most men only dream about. But some live with a radically different purpose - to become mature disciples of Jesus Christ. In this nine-session video Bible study, you will learn what it means to live as a true disciple. Carson Wentz, Zach Ertz, Nick Foles and their teammates share their testimonies with pastor and best-selling author Dr. Paul David Tripp providing biblical teaching. Contact: Alan Greggo alangreggo@live.com
Sunday 9:45 AM Connect Hour Sessions for Adults
A chance to learn something new and Connect with others

**Now - November 24: Daniel: Faithfulness in a Post Christian Culture - Room 113**
Christians are no longer in the majority in America. Christian values are no longer the norm. The experiences of Daniel and his three friends (Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego) being taken captive to Babylon provide essential principles on how to live faithfully and hopefully as a minority within a non-Christian culture. This class is led by Dr. James Fischer and will meet in Room 113.

**Now - February 2: The Book of Romans - Room 120**
Sometimes our worship loses its passion. Our prayer life becomes stagnant. We forget why we are serving God. And slowly, subtly, the world's ways become our ways. The New Testament book of Romans addresses these problems, showing us how we can break out of old patterns and become new in Christ. This class uses the LifeGuide Bible Study Series and is led by Randy Gross. They meet in room 120.

**Now - November 10: Taste and See by Margaret Feinberg**
God is a foodie who wants to transform your supper into sacrament. *Taste and See* is a delicious read that includes dozens of recipes for those who, like Margaret, believe some of life's richest moments are spent savoring a meal with those you love. Perhaps God’s foodie focus is meant to do more than satisfy our bellies. It's meant to heal our souls, as we learn to taste and see the goodness of God together. After all, food is God's love made edible. See you around the table! This is a Women's Group led by Julie Hinson in Room 224. You are welcome to join whenever you can!

**November 3 and 10: Christ Centered Identity - Media Center**
Sooner or later every child will ask, Who Am I? Parenting is an incredible stewardship from the Lord and one of its greatest privileges is having the opportunity to shape the way our kids see themselves and the world around them. These video and discussion sessions will focus on giving parents the tools to help their children understand Whose they are. Session is led by Rebecca Behbehani and will meet in the Media Center.

**November 17: Growing Young: Helping young people discover the love of the church - Deacon Series - Important for ALL church members! - Chapel**
In the midst of the discouraging reports about the aging and decline of churches today, what steps do savvy churches take that help them best love and serve teenagers and young adults? Kara Powell is the executive director of the Fuller Youth Institute and associate professor of youth and family ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary who will be addressing this question and many like it in her talk. This is a video and discussion based session. Session will be led by the Deacons and meet in the Chapel.

**November 24: Liturgy of the Ordinary - Media Center**
We go through the motions each day like clockwork but do we ever stop to think about how that could be a moment for praise and worship? How do we teach our children and students to create sacred practices out of everyday life activities? How do we live out Sunday morning worship throughout the week? Session will be led by Rebecca Behbehani and will meet in the Media Center.

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**Join us for our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Tuesday, November 26, at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary with Drew Hood.**

**Pumpkin Pie Fellowship will follow the service. 🥧**
What a Wonderful Weekend!

On Friday evening, October 11, and Saturday, October 12, men from Sycamore Presbyterian and men who worship with other church families joined together at a Men’s Retreat entitled “From Success to Significance - Pursuing God’s Call for Your Life”. The men gathered together to glorify God and learn about how to meaningfully strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ. We were inspired by a gifted Musical Worship Leader, Chris Taylor, who led us in musical worship of God throughout the event. We also received enthusiastic insight from our Keynote Speaker Steve Newman, who passionately introduced us to eight tools contained within the “Discipleship Tool Box”. Each of the Tool Box components offer support to its user to progressively lead all life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

A small group format was utilized throughout the event to strengthen relationships with one another and discuss how to apply three tools from the Tool Box to our daily life. It is planned that men who have interest will continue to meet in small groups to explore the value of the remaining five tools. What is most important is that the implementation of these tools, used within the framework of Intentional Spiritual Friendship, prepares each man with the confidence to entertain meaningful spiritual conversations and follow Jesus’ command to “go and make disciples”. Praise God for setting the stage for Sycamore men to be obedient to our Lord and Savior!

For any Sycamore member who would like to learn about the Discipleship Tool Box, please contact Rick Rogers (Richard_L_Rogers@yahoo.com or 513-713-7140). He will be happy to discuss utilizing the available recordings from the Retreat to learn what was discussed. For any interested man who would like to join one of the small groups, please contact Rick.
SPC PRIME TIMERS
Christmas Catered Lunch and Program

Thursday, December 5, 12:00 noon

Friends of the Groom Theater Company presents:
“Christmas Presence”

Friends of the Groom is a theater company committed to revealing the Christian message with a unique blend of humor, story, and challenging content and scenes that are hard to forget. It is our pleasure and joy to have them return to SPC for another fabulous Sycamore Prime Timers Luncheon and Program!

Friends of the Groom is based in Terrace Park, and they have traveled the world presenting THE MESSAGE in their creative productions as well as leading VBS and Worship Services. We are excited and looking forward to the privilege of their return!

Reservations Begin November 17 in the Cafe

$10.00 per person due at registration
(*You will select your entrée when you register: Roast Beef or Roast Pork Loin)

PRIME TIMERS “OUT ‘N ABOUT”
TRIP, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP 2020...

CHATTANOOGA, TN
March 31 - April 3, 2020 (4 days/3 nights)

This is the perfect time of year to “kick the winter blues” and get on the bus with us! Come and enjoy beautiful spring scenery in Tennessee and Northern Georgia...three different train rides, plus a dinner cruise on the Southern Belle Riverboat:

Reservations begin Nov. 17 at the Travel Kiosk
($50.00 deposit per person required)
$612.00 per person - double occupancy
$822.00 - single occupancy

*Flyers and registration forms available November 3 at the Travel Kiosk. Trip limited to 48 members and attendees.
SPC Singles - Cincinnati Skywheel Trip!!!