

October 2021

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Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

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A Message from Pastor Laura



Anne Shirley once said, "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." I feel the same way. I love Halloween, pumpkins, sweaters, leaves crunching beneath my boots, and cinnamon tea. It is a time of joy, celebration, and deliciousness. It is also a time for us to gather together as a church family to....

Play at the Harvest Festival! On October 9 from 9 am - 2 pm we will sell mums and pumpkins, enjoy walking tacos, children's games, live music from GPM, and a little flea market with friends.

Grow through our annual Women's Retreat at Crestfield Camp and Conference Center! We'll spend the day together on October 16 growing in our understanding of the Lord's Suppper, and praying for, as well as with each other.

Serve at Garfield Community Farm on October 23 from 9 am - noon. We'll meet in the church parking lot at roughly 8:15 am to carpool over. Wear outdoor gear, bring your gardening gloves, and get ready to prepare the urban farm in Garfield for winter.

Trick of Treat with Trunk or Treat on October 26 at 6:30 p.m. Decorate your trunk in its spookiest, silliest decor to pass out candy to our Cub Scouts, preschoolers, and neighborhood kids. Come and catch up with friends over candy!

Install the pastor. This is a weird one: we are literally installing the pastor on October 24 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. I will be made undeniably and reliably, absolutely and positively, officially and unequivocally pastor of Sunset Hills U.P. Church.

Isn't October great? There is so many wonderful things to be a part of, and the very best people to be a part of it all with. I look forward to our being together!

In Christ's Love.

Laura

The Year of the Bible

Daily *Year of the Bible* Readings October 2021

Oct 1	Isaiah 61, 62/Hebrews 12	Oct 16	Jeremiah 25, 26/John 10
Oct 2	Isaiah 63, 64/Hebrews 13	Oct 17	Jeremiah 27, 28/John 11
	'	Oct 18	Jeremiah 29-31/Psalm 119:1-24
Oct 3	Isaiah 65, 66/John 1	Oct 19	Jeremiah 32, 33/John 12
Oct 4	Jeremiah 1, 2/Psalms 112, 113	Oct 20	Jeremiah 34, 35/John 13
Oct 5	Jeremiah 3, 4/John 2	Oct 21	Jeremiah 36, 37/Psalm 119:25-48
Oct 6	Jeremiah 5, 6/John 3	Oct 22	Jeremiah 38, 39/John 14
Oct 7	Jeremiah 7, 8/Psalms 114, 115	Oct 23	Jeremiah 40, 41/John 15
Oct 8	Jeremiah 9, 10/John 4	Oct 24	Jeremiah 42, 43/John 16
Oct 9	Jeremiah 11, 12/John 5	Oct 25	Jeremiah 44-46/Psalm 119:49-72
Oct 10	Jeremiah 13, 14/John 6	Oct 26	Jeremiah 47, 48/John 17
Oct 11	Jeremiah 15, 16/Psalm 116	Oct 20	
Oct 12	Jeremiah 17, 18/John 7		Jeremiah 49, 50/John 18
		Oct 28	Jeremiah 51, 52/Psalm 119:73-96
Oct 13	Jeremiah 19, 20/John 8	Oct 29	Lamentations 1, 2/John 19
Oct 14	Jeremiah 21, 22/Psalms 117, 118	Oct 30	Lamentations 3-5/John 20
Oct 15	Jeremiah 23, 24/John 9	Oct 31	Ezekiel 1/John 21

Deacon News

Transportation Needed

There are members who do not drive and would like to attend our church services on Sunday mornings. SHUP no longer has the church van.

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The Deacons are asking those who would be willing to pick-up and take home these members to please contact Harriet Rickard at (412)531-5164. Passengers will be placed with volunteers with regards to their locations.

Bakers Needed

Bakers needed to donate goods for the Harvest Festival Bake Sale.

Drop-off will be in Crystal Hall on Friday, October 8th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm or on Saturday morning. Please wrap cookies/brownies in individual bags and wrap each loaf of bread, pie, or cake individually. Also, please mark your contribution if there are nuts, peanut butter or an ingredient you feel may cause an allergic reaction.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Flaus at lflauss@yahoo.com.

Music Notes By Shelby Gracey

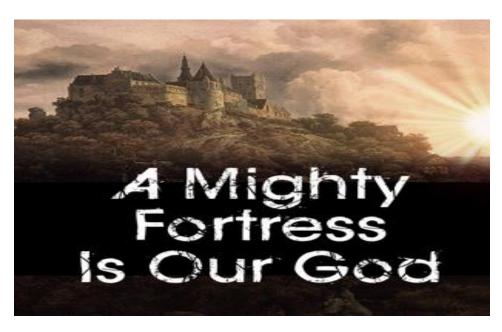
As I mentioned in last month's letter, we've still been unable to welcome back the Chancel Choir, but I was thrilled to hold our first rehearsal with the Campanile Bell Choir the day after Labor Day. We're working on lots of music and look forward to ringing in worship again soon! This year we give a big welcome to Debbie Edwards as a new ringer, and we also welcome Dave Petty back after a year's hiatus from the group.

Every October we celebrate Reformation Sunday. October 31, 1517 is perhaps the most important day in Protestant history. This was the day when Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk and a professor of theology, posted on the doors of the Cathedral of Wittenberg, Germany, his Ninety-five Theses (complaints) against the teachings and practices of the medieval Roman Church. With this event, the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation was formally born.

The Protestant Reformation movement was built on three main tenets:

- The reestablishment of the Scriptures
- The clarification of the means of salvation
- The restoration of congregational singing

"A Mighty Fortress" was written and composed by Martin Luther. The date of the hymn cannot be fixed with any exact certainty. It is generally believed, however, to have been written for the Diet of Spires in 1529 when the term "protestant" was first used. The hymn became the great rallying cry of the Reformation.



A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing:
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;

Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,

And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.

The Prince of Darkness grim,— We tremble not for him;

His rage we can endure, For lo! His doom is sure,—

One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers—No thanks to them—abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also:
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,

His kingdom is forever.

("Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions," Kenneth W. Osbeck, Kregel Publications, 2002, p. 114.)

Mission Updates

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance seeks to bring hope and healing after the recent natural disasters in Haiti and the Gulf Coast. Haiti was struck with a 7.2 magnitude earthquake on August 14th resulting in major damage and the loss of many lives. The Gulf coast was hit by Hurricane Ida in late August which caused massive flooding. In addition to the destruction and loss of their homes and possessions, some still do not have electricity and easy access to clean water.

If you would like to help donate to either of these PDA causes.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

please see the information on pages 5 & 6 of the Messenger.

Mission Day to Garfield Farm



The Mission Commission would like to invite everyone to join us on a day of mission to Garfield Farm on *Saturday*, *October* 23rd. We will be working at the farm from 9:00

am - noon. If you would like to caravan, please meet in the church parking lot so that we can leave by 8:15 am. Or you can meet us there. Please contact pastor Laura at revlaurastrauss@gmail.com with any questions.

Hello Neighbor Helping our Afghan neighbors

hn hello neighbor

Hello Neighbor, an organization that works with immigrant families in the U.S. is working closely with our Afghan neighbors to offer their support after the recent developments in Afghanistan. They are currently working with those families already living in the Pittsburgh area with any support they need as they wait for news from their family members still in Afghanistan. They are also preparing to welcome any new immigrants that had to flee their home country and may be settled in the Pittsburgh area. If you would like to donate to their mission, please visit their website at Donate - Hello Neighbor.

Frontera de Cristo "We Choose Welcome Campaign" Frontera

Since mid-December 2020, more than 16,000 men, women and children have found a welcoming place, a delicious cup of coffee, a filling meal, water, first aid, clean socks and underwear, and caring people at the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) at Frontera de Cristo. There has been a substantial increase recently in the number of persons being returned to Agua Prieta by the Border Patrol and the MRC is now providing hospitality to 100 people per day. Our Mexican Border Ministry continues to need our support. Please consider buying their coffee on Sunday mornings after the worship service or to give directly to their cause, please visit their website at Frontera de Cristo – Building Relationships and understanding across borders.

Driving PA Forward Letter Writing Campaign



On Sunday, September 12th, members of SHUP gathered in Findley Hall after worship to write letters to local and state officials urging them to vote "yes" to House Bill 279. This law, if passed, would permit individuals without social

security numbers to apply for a driver's license using other official documents.





OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has had longstanding partnerships in Haiti for decades. These meaningful relationships enable us to come alongside communities affected by disaster in the immediate aftermath, as well as support communities planning multi-year, long-term recovery projects.

Most recently, PDA is responding to the devastating 7.2 magnitude that struck Haiti the morning of August 14, 2021 that has resulted in the loss of more than 1,200 lives. Working closely with Presbyterian World Mission, our traditional partners on the ground and ACT Alliance, PDA is responding to emergency needs such as WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), emergency power generators, shelter, food, first aid and more. We remain committed to the long-term recovery.



The needs for the response will be great. God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.

GIVE: Gifts can be made online at https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/OG100000/, by phone at (800) 872-3283, by check, which can be mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700 or by making a donation directly to SHUP (be sure to write PDA on the memo line of your check).

ACT: Learn how you and your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. To learn more about what Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is doing to help the people of Haiti, please visit their website at https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/haiti/ or their facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/PDACARES.

PRAY: As this earthquake continues to cause destruction and loss of life, please pray with us that the communities affected by this event and those offering assistance will be strengthened, have their needs met and be reminded of the hope found in God.

And after the earthquake ... a sound of sheer silence.

Then there came a voice ... that said, "What are you doing here?"

(1 Kings 19:12-13)

God is our refuge and strength



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is delivering immediate aid to those impacted by Hurricane Ida. Initial assessment suggests catastrophic destruction from the storm and widespread power outages that are expected to take weeks to fully restore.

PDA will continue to work with Presbyterian leadership as they respond to Hurricane Ida and remain engaged in the recovery from the hurricane season of 2020, during which seven named storms impacted the region. After initial needs are addressed, PDA will remain — providing emotional and spiritual care and Long-Term Recovery to address unmet needs.

The needs for the response will be great. God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.

GIVE: Gifts can be made online at **bit.ly/PDAIda**, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check using the below reply device.

ACT: • Share our Mobile Cause campaign link (bit.ly/PDAIda).

 Learn how you and your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. Stay informed and like us on Facebook (facebook.com/PDAcares), download resources at pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources and share updates with your congregation.



PRAY: Pray for those who suffered loss of family or home and for those who are working tirelessly to provide rescue, humanitarian aid, and spiritual and psychological support.

O \$500	O \$125	O \$50	O \$25	O Other \$_		
Name	Address					
City			State	Zip	Congregation/PIN	

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.





OGDR HI21-BI



Riley Farabaugh

Mission Sunday

Sunday, September 12th was Mission Sunday at SHUP. The Youth and Young Adults led our worship service and gave presentations about the mission trips they took over the summer. We also watched a video with updates from the border mission, Dougla-Prieta. After the service, members gathered in Findley Hall to work on the *Driving PA Forward* letter writing campaign.

We would like to thank our youth and young adults for their hard work as well as everyone who helped with the letter campaign. And a special thank you to Jenn Kennedy, Drew Kennedy and Jo Kazmierczak for chaperoning the youth mission trip this past summer.



Christopher Tang



Robert Tang



Ryan Gracey



Ben Kennedy



Lynne Blanning & Harriet Ross

From the Stewardship Commission

Co-Workers in God's Service

Congregational appeal letter – Stewardship campaign fall 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Sunset Hills Presbyterian Church,

The past 18 months have been full of challenges. We continue to struggle with the restrictions of Covid-19, concerns about whether or not to be vaccinated, and celebrations as more and more families and friends begin coming together in person and without masks. During this time SHUP continued to be a loving and supportive community dedicated to serving each other and our community both locally and abroad.

Once again it is time for SHUP to plan for the coming year and asks for your financial support so that we may continue to serve our church and continue to support our mission work. To that end we are relying on 1 Corinthians 3:9 as our inspiration.

"For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."

Our stewardship campaign this year is "Co-workers in God's Service." Your gifts of time, talent and treasure is what allows SHUP to continue serving our own congregation but to also reach beyond our borders in communion with other ministries.

As in prior years, we are asking that you make a pledge which will allow us to plan for the coming year. Your pledges are the foundation upon which we consider how we may best be co-workers in God's service.

Yours in Christ,

The Stewardship Commission

Congregational Care Updates

Supporting SHUP Family Members

When church members and friends experience a serious illness, death or birth, it is important that our Church family know about it so we can provide support through prayers, phone calls, cards, etc. When a member or friend calls the church office about an important event, they will be asked whether the information is only for Pastor Laura or whether it can be shared with the congregation.

If the information is to be shared, the message will be referred to the leaders of the prayer chain. It will also be included in the weekly worship folder and the monthly Messenger. When the individual experiencing the event is a relative or friend of a SHUP family member, that relationship will be included so the support provided can be more personal.

When a death occurs, email will be used to inform members and friends and to give information about visitation and the funeral or memorial service. Those without email may elect to be notified by telephone. Please let the church office know if you would like to be notified by telephone.

SHUP Prayer Chain

For many years, SHUP members have participated in a Prayer Chain. It's purpose is to pray for members as well as family and friends of our church who are in need of prayer.

We are asking those of you who would like to join our list to please contact Evelyn Lape at (412)531-9856 or Harriet Rickard at (412)531-5164.

A new contact list will be made and sent to all participants. Those of you who are already a part of this list will be included, you do not have to call us unless you are no longer able to be a part of the chain. There is power in prayer!

New Address Information

Below are updated addresses for some of our members who have recently moved:

Don & Meg MacDougall

5851 Keystone Drive Apt. #430 Bethel Park, PA 15102

Kay Walker

5196 Priscilla Drive Bethel Park, PA 15102

David Arnold

The Residence at Whitehall 4750 Clairton Boulevard Pittsburgh, PA 15236

If you have recently moved, please be sure to contact the church office at (412)561-6261 so we can update your information in our directory.



Dear SHUP-

Thank you so much for your thoughts of love with your gift of the red and white carnations from the church sanctuary. They blessed my eyes with their beauty and my heart with the strength of God's joy.

With much appreciation,

Amy Francine Brown

Thank you to Frank & Lee Cepits for their donation of two large canopies to use for our outdoor worship and other events at SHUP!

Also, thank you to Mary Abbott for the long-term loan of the large canopy that we've used the last two summers for our outdoor services.

Your generosity is appreciated!

Welcoming Rev. Chuck Monts

On Wednesday, July 21st, Rev. Chuck Monts and his wife visited Sunset Hills Church to meet with members and talk about his journey across the United States. Monts was biking 3,000 miles from the Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles, CA to the Bowery Mission in Manhattan, NY to raise money for the Bowery Mission. The Bowery Mission provides critical care and life-transforming services to people experiencing homelessness in the New York City area. Chuck had just recently retired from the Bowery Mission staff where he would show up every day during the height of the pandemic to ensure that New Yorkers without homes still had a place of hope.

He travelled about 80 miles a day. His wife was with him, following in a car and taking pictures along the way. They were hosted by churches and well-wishers, who provided meals warm welcomes, and accommodations during Pastor Laura invited journey. Chuck and his wife to stay in her home during their night in Pittsburgh.

While riding across the country, he was joined by friends and fellow riders for parts of his route. The mission has raised \$37,000 to date.

When Chuck and his wife arrived at Sunset Hills Church on the evening of July 21st, they were greeted by members who remember him from his time spent as a CE Interim in 1981.



Reaching the halfway point



Rev. Monts and his wife near Bryce Utah



Arriving at the Bowery Mission



Bowery Mission Welcome

We enjoyed a picnic dinner and got to hear of his adventures.

During his time at SHUP, Rev. Monts lead the Sunday School and gave the Children's Church message. In the evening, he would participate in the Troops and Builder's programs. From what Betsy Newman and Rev. Monts told us, there were some very interesting happenings at some of the retreats. Jody Colby shared that she enjoyed her time working with Rev. Monts and the youth group. "He was always positive, energetic and caring with everyone. Our retreats were especially thoughtful and fun. His example on ministry was incentive for me in the years that followed."

Another fun memory that was shared was the time Rev. Monts was telling the children's message from the chancel when all of a sudden, he jumped over the children's heads to the sanctuary floor. Then, he continued on with his message as if nothing had happened. This kind of fun energy is what kept the youth wanting to hear more.

It was a pleasure to host Rev. Monts and his wife and relive these memories.

Rev. Monts is currently the Pastor of Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church in Broadheadsville, PA. If you would like to learn more about his summer mission, please visit the Bowery Mission website at Bike for the Mission - The Bowery Mission: Updates.



WESTMINSTER COLLEGE (PA)

YOUNG PRESBYTERIAN SCHOLARSHIP

A Westminster College (PA) Tradition

The Young Presbyterian Scholarship was established to provide an opportunity for outstanding Presbyterian students to apply to Westminster College, one of the nation's best liberal arts colleges. The scholarship of \$84,000 for four years (\$21,000 per year min.) is for qualified high school seniors entering college in the Fall of 2022.

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS
3.5 High School cumulative GPA
Membership at a Presbyterian Church
Nomination by Pastor/Congregation

PROGRAM DEADLINES

Nominations: December 1, 2021 Student Application: December 15, 2021

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Jim Mohr, College Chaplain mohrjr@westminster.edu 724.946.7116

Kathryn Lombardo, Campus Ministry Fellow lombarkr@westminster.edu 724.946.7405

319 W. Market Street, New Wilmington, PA 16172 www.westminster.edu

October Information

Adult Sunday School 8:30 am

Adult Sunday School will continue their discussions on the daily The Year of the Bible readings.

This class will continue using Zoom.

Sunday Worship 10:15 am

If you are not able to join us in person, a video of the service will be posted to our YouTube channel on the Monday after the service:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeEpiQYSD_9My9 tb5GEhVRA

You can get a copy of the bulletin by clicking on the link on the homepage of our website www.shupchurch.org.

Youth Group 6:30 pm - Findley Hall

The youth group will meet in Findley Hall. For more information, please contact Pastor Laura at revlaurastrauss@gmail.com.

<u>Meeting Dates</u> October 3rd & October 17th

Lock-In Friday, October 22nd

The youth group will have a lock on Friday, Oct. 22nd. The following morning, they will head out for a day at Garfield Farm.

Hatha 1 Yoga Monday's - 9:15 am - Crystal Hall

Instructors from breatheIN2IT Yoga studio will hold class in Crystal Hall. Please visit https://www.breathin2it.com/yoga/yoga for more information.

No Class on October 11th.

Findley Hall Bible Study Monday's - 1:00 pm

This group will continue the study of Sacred Pathways with Gary Thomas. On October 25th, they will begin their study of 30 Days to Understanding the Bible with Max Anders.

If you are interested in learning more about this class, please contact Evelyn Lape at heyeve7@verizon.net.

Wilson Hall Bible Study **Tuesday's - 1:00 pm**

This class will continue their study of the Book of Psalms.

If you would like more information about this study, please contact Carole McCullough at seamus1219@hotmail.com.

Kid's Club

Wednesday's - 4:30 pm - Crystal Hall

All kids in K-5th are invited to join Pastor Laura for fun in learning about Jesus. To learn more about Kid's Club, please contact Pastor Laura at revlaurastrauss@gmail.com.

Installation Service Sunday, October 24th - 3:00 pm - Sanctuary

There will be an installation service for Pastor Laura on October 24th at 3:00 pm in the sanctuary.



Trunk-or-Treat Tuesday, October 26th - 6:30 pm

We have been asked to join the Scouts for Trunk-or-Treat to be held in the *church parking lot* on Tuesday, October 26th from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Just decorate your car, find a parking spot and bring some treats to share with the children of Sunset Hills.

October Birthdays

2	Jonathon Fako	26	Mary Abbott
11	Susan Pochek	28	Randy Farabaugh
13	Christopher Duffner		Ali Vernacchio
14	Tori Vernacchio	29	Julianna Ellis
21	Pat Patterson		Bill Weidensall
23	Alecia Ney	31	Beverly Knasko
			Ryan Pochek



Prayer List

JoAnne Enterline

SHIM Food Donations October 2021

For the month of October, we will be collecting **Boxed Dinners.**

We appreciate your continued support for this ministry.



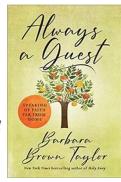
Prayer Circle

We ask that every week you take a moment and add these people to your daily prayers.

XX7 1 0	D
Week of:	Praying for:
Oct. 3 rd	. Frank & Lee Cepits
	Betty Coffey
Oct. 10 th	. Jody Colby
	Michael & Karen Comstock
Oct. 17 th	. The D'Amico family; Jason,
	Heather, Emily & Jacob
	The Daniels family; Sean,
	Karin, Anna & Alison
Oct. 24 th	. The Dawson family; Terry,
	Lisa, Ryan & Kelly
	The Duffner family; Chris,
	Carrie, Elizabeth, Michael &
	Catherine
Oct. 31st	. Tom & Dian Duffner
	Debbie Edwards

Sunset Hills Book Club Oct. Book of the Month October 28th - 7:30 pm Always a Guest By Barbara Brown Taylor

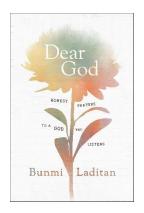
From beloved writer and renowned preacher Barbara Brown Taylor comes a new collection of stories and sermons of faith, grace, and



hope. Taylor, author of the best-selling books "Holy Envy" and "An Altar in the World", among others, finds that when you are the invited guest speaking of faith to people you don't know, one must seek common ground: exploring the central human experience. Full of Taylor's astute observations on the Spirit and the state of the world along with her gentle wit, this collection will inspire Taylor's fans and preachers alike as she explores faith in all its beauty and complexity. (Amazon Book Description)

The Book Club will meet using Zoom. If you would like to join the discussion, please contact Pastor Laura to have the Zoom link sent to you:

revlaurastrauss@gmail.com



November 2021 Book of the Month

Dear God

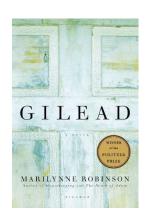
By

Bunmi Laditan
Meeting on November 18th

December 2021 Book of the MonthGilead

By

Marilynne Robinson Meeting on December 30th



Scouts Pancake Breakfast & SHUP Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 9th

Scouts Pancake Breakfast

8:00 am - 11:00 am - Drive Thru



