



Sunset Hills

M E S S E N G E R

July 2021

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A Message from Pastor Laura



We are having a youth mission trip this year! The Sunset Hills Youth Group is leaving on Sunday, July 4 for a week in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Benton Harbor is a predominately Black town located directly across an inlet from an affluent vacation town, highlighting the economic and racial disparities facing our nation. The work that our youth will be doing in Benton Harbor will be

challenging, and they will learn a lot about how to show love in a complicated world.

If you're anything like me, you probably wish you could join them. You probably wish you could be in Asheville this summer to do mission work with our adults, or Crestfield for Mission Possible with our younger teens. There remain mission opportunities that have been cancelled because of this pandemic, and we wish we could hop in that 12-passenger van with our teenagers!

The good news is this: we have the opportunity to LOVE in a complicated world right here in Sunset Hills. Our mission commission has been busy crafting opportunities for us to show love locally, across our nation, and around the world. They are busy putting together opportunities to collect supplies for our mission co-workers at the U.S./Mexico border, as well as opportunities to support their mission through the purchase of their coffee. Likewise, the commission and session are partnering with local Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) churches to provide for the safety of immigrants in our immediate area.

In the meantime, as these mission opportunities come together, there's multiple simple ways we can show love. The first and foremost way is to build relationships with our neighbors. Get to know the people in

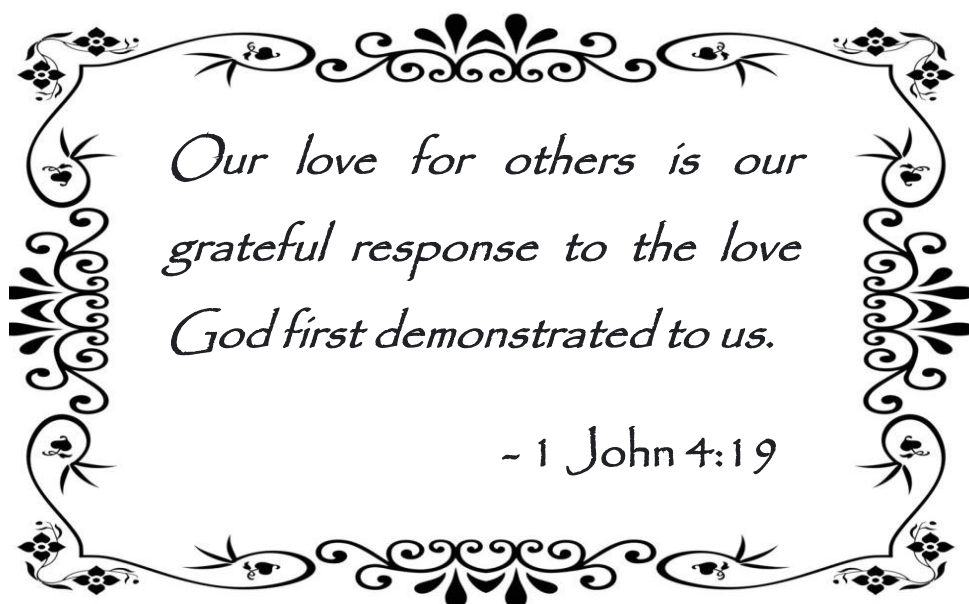
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Pastor Laura Message (Continued from page 1)

our church whose name you don't know, or whose background you're unfamiliar with. Chat with our neighbors when you see individuals walking their dog around the church property - get to know strangers who attend our Food Truck events and outdoor yoga nights. Relationships are complicated, but they are the gateway to showing Christ's love.

In Christ's Service,

Laura



The Year of the Bible

Daily Year of the Bible Readings July 2021

July 1	2 Chronicles 33, 34/Psalms 75, 76	July 16	Esther 4, 5/Luke 11
July 2	2 Chronicles 35, 36/Luke 1:39-80	July 17	Esther 6, 7/Luke 12
July 3	Ezra 1, 2/Luke 2	July 18	Esther 8-10/Luke 13
July 4	Ezra 3, 4/Luke 3	July 19	Job 1, 2/Psalm 80
July 5	Ezra 5, 6/Psalm 77	July 20	Job 3, 4/Luke 14
July 6	Ezra 7, 8/Luke 4	July 21	Job 5, 6/Luke 15
July 7	Ezra 9, 10/Luke 5	July 22	Job 7, 8/Psalms 81, 82
July 8	Nehemiah 1, 2/Psalm 78:1-37	July 23	Job 9, 10/Luke 16
July 9	Nehemiah 3, 4/Luke 6	July 24	Job 11, 12/Luke 17
July 10	Nehemiah 5, 6/Luke 7	July 25	Job 13, 14/Luke 18
July 11	Nehemiah 7, 8/Luke 8	July 26	Job 15-17/Psalms 83, 84
July 12	Nehemiah 9, 10/Psalm 78:38-72	July 27	Job 18, 19/Luke 19
July 13	Nehemiah 11, 12/Luke 9	July 28	Job 20, 21/Luke 20
July 14	Nehemiah 13/Luke 10	July 29	Job 22, 23/Psalm 85
July 15	Esther 1-3/Psalm 79	July 30	Job 24-26/Luke 21
		July 31	Job 27, 28/Luke 22

Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

- 2 Chronicles 7:14

"After what I owe to God, nothing should be more dear or more sacred to me than the love and respect I owe my country."

- Jacques Auguste de Thou

As we enter July when we celebrate our country's Independence Day, it seems appropriate to highlight what's known as our country's "National Hymn."

"We need to be reminded that a nation can receive God's blessing only when He is recognized as ruler and Lord. Christian people in every land have an awesome responsibility – to be models of God's righteousness – "salt" and "light" for a sinful and hurting society. The moral strength of a nation rests upon the knees of God's people.

"God of our Fathers" (or "God of the Ages" as it's become known in recent years) also reminds us that concerned citizens of the heavenly kingdom should also be involved citizens of their earthly kingdom. The hymn text was written in 1876, the year that America was preparing to celebrate its one-hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Daniel Crane Roberts,



a thirty-five-year-old rector of a small Episcopal church in Brandon, Vermont, felt that the country should have a new national hymn for the occasion. His new song was sung for the first time by the parishioners of the Brandon village church for their worship service on July 4, 1876.

"Later, at the time of the actual National Centennial Observance commemorating the adoption of the Constitution, Roberts' hymn text was chosen as the official hymn for that event. These words remind us well that the God who has so richly blessed our land in the past is the One still needed to be "our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay."

"God of our fathers, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band of shining worlds in splendor thru the skies, our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

They love divine hath led us in the past, in this free land by Thee our lot is cast; be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay. Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, by Thy strong arm our ever sure defense; Thy true religion in our hearts increase; Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way. Lead us from night to never ending day; fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine."

("Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions," Kenneth W. Osbeck, Kregel Publications, 2002, p. 306.)



do more good

CAMPAIGN FOR SHIM

SHIM has been working since October of 2018 to raise millions of dollars for their “Do More Good” campaign. They have raised \$5.4 million with a goal of reaching \$6 million.

The campaign was created so that they could make improvements to their infrastructure, staff, and the many programs that they offer.

Strengthening Infrastructure

From upgrading their vehicle fleet to paving the parking lots, strengthening SHIM’s infrastructure strengthens their programs.

Enhancing Capacity Building

SHIM understands the importance of investing in people – both neighbors in need and staff and volunteers who work diligently to provide top-notch programs and services. SHIM is committed to staff development and training, creating a culture of ongoing innovation.

Supporting and Strengthening Key Services

Through food pantries, community gardens, volunteer programs, early childhood learning, middle- and high-school mentoring, direct assistance, and service coordination, SHIM reduces the effects of suburban poverty and in turn strengthens the community.

Supporting Long-Term Sustainability and Developing a Comprehensive Service Delivery Model

By strengthening infrastructure, investing in key programs, and enhancing capacity, SHIM will ensure long-term fiscal soundness for the future of the South Hills.



If you would like to help SHIM reach their fundraising goal to help them improve their services to the community, please visit their website at: <https://shimcares.org/do-more-good/>.

To learn more about naming opportunities, making a multi-year commitment, or planned giving options, please contact Seth Dubin, Director of Development, at (412) 854-9120, ext 109 or sdubin@shimcares.org.

Mission Updates



SOCK IT TO ME WITH COFFEE

As you
probably

know, the situation at the Mexican/ American border has been nothing short of erratic and chaotic. During the pandemic, Frontera de Cristo, our Bi-national Border Ministry, mostly served families awaiting to petition for asylum for men and women being removed from the United States and sent to Agua Prieta, on the Arizona border, in the middle of the night; children suffering domestic violence or confronting the reality of the drug culture. Each of these becoming more complex as the year proceeded.

Now the Ministry's mission is changing. In December they started seeing large numbers being repatriated to Mexico and the Center once again became a place of welcome and refuge for thousands of people being returned.

The numbers continue to grow with thousands of individuals seeking asylum, but they are now

being allowed to stay in the United States while they wait.

Our ministry works on both sides of the border which is Agua Prieta, Mexico, and Dougla Prieta, USA.

In an email to Mark Adams on the border we asked, "How can we help?" "What do you need the most?" Mark's reply: ***Pray for us; buy our coffee, Café Justo; send us socks!***

So, we will! They are sending us bags of Café Justo, regular and caffeine free, and we will sell it to you for \$12. It is very good coffee. No profit for us. They have a consortium of independent farmers who send the beans to the border ministry who roast them to send out. Each bag has the grower's name on it.

Just as important is the "Sock Drive" we will have in July. With the thousands of migrants the ministry sees, their major goal is to treat them humanely. That includes their feet. We can't even imagine the condition of their

feet after they have walked hundreds of miles. They can't give them all shoes, but they can facilitate healthy feet with socks.

In July, please look for the donation "Box for Sox" in Findley Hall and be prepared to buy some excellent fresh coffee as your reward.

Connect with Frontera de Cristo

- ◆ Sign up for their monthly e-letters.
Go to:
<http://fronteradecristo.org/newletter/> and click "Sign Up Now"
- ◆ Follow them on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/fronteradecristo>
- ◆ Follow Café Justo on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Cafe-Justo-116646248346467>
- ◆ To order coffee online, go to:
<http://fronteradecristo.org/events/>



Sister Saints

Women Traveling with Women
Praying and Walking Together
In The Holy Sites of Sisters in the Faith



An Italian Pilgrimage

Monday, May 16 - Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Interact with the Great Cloud of Witnesses

Walk the pilgrim way while learning the history of our sisters in the faith. The sisters will include well known saints such as Saint Catherine of Siena, as well as lesser-known sisters such as St. Lucy Filippini. Their stories will illuminate the sisterhood in Christ

from which we come. We will also reflect on our own path with the Lord, deepening our connection with our faith.



Dwell in Spiritual Community

There are eight spots for this trip, enabling us to form an intentional community of prayer, support, and encouragement with one another.

Embrace a Simpler Life

We will be staying in monasteries and convents. We will enjoy delicious Italian food, but also live an intentionally simpler life in these residences.

Discover Sacred Spaces

The Duomo in Florence, St. Francis' Assisi, and the Vatican are included in our walking exploration of sacred sites. We will visit these sites from a protestant, spiritual perspective. These places will be entered into in a spirit of prayerful adventure, discovery, and reflection.

Itinerary, Deadlines, and Cost

Monday:	Depart from U.S. for Florence
Tuesday:	Morning Arrival in Florence The Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and St. John's Baptistery Welcome Dinner
Wednesday:	Santa Maria Novella and the Jewish Presence in Florence Free Afternoon in Florence
Thursday:	Day Trip by Train to St. Catherine's Sienna
Friday:	Depart by Train for Assisi Sites of St. Clare of Assisi
Saturday:	Sites of St. Francis of Assisi Free Afternoon in Assisi
Sunday:	Depart by Train for Rome Free Afternoon in Rome
Monday:	Day Trip by Train to St. Lucy Filippini's Montefiascone
Tuesday:	The Vatican and St. Paul Sites Farewell Dinner
Wednesday:	Depart for Home

Cost: **\$2400**

The above includes daily breakfast, accommodations, train tickets, public transportation/car transportation to local sites, and dinner on the first and last night of our time together. Cost **does not** include airfare, tax, gratuities, or meals not otherwise mentioned.

A deposit of \$350 is due by September 16, 2021 to reserve a spot for this trip. Spaces are first come, first served. Contact Rev. Laura Strauss at revlaurastrauss@gmail.com with any questions.

Doctor of Ministry



Pastor Laura's doctoral studies continued with two, week-long intensives this June. The first, June 7-11, was a course entitled "Pastor as Adaptive Change Leader" and was taught by Dr. L. Roger Owens. This course invited students to "re-imagine the practice of pastoral ministry from the perspective of adaptive leadership."

The second course, June 14-18, was entitled, "Public Theology and Prophetic Witness," and was taught by Dr. Juan Floyd-Thomas. This course focused on the history of public theology and prophetic witness in ways that bring together the social, political, economic, cultural, and religious dimensions of our contemporary era.

Both of these courses will now require Pastor Laura to write a term paper, which will be due later this summer. *As ever, prayers are coveted! Thank you!*

Graduation Recognition Sunday



Bailey Farabaugh with Pastor Laura on Graduation Sunday.



Our 2021 Graduates: Bailey Farabaugh, Julianna Ellis, Sean Matson & Ian Ney (not pictured).

On June 6th, SHUP honored our 2021 Graduates during the worship service. Our high school graduates, Julianna Ellis, Bailey Farabaugh and Sean Matson were also presented with the Mehaffey Scholarship. Our college graduate, Ian Ney was also celebrated.

July 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

Worship in the Sanctuary! 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_9My9tb5GEhVRA

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

Outdoor worship will be held on July 25th in the parking lot. Remember to bring a chair and a bagged lunch/picnic to enjoy fellowship after the service. (If it rains, worship will be moved into the sanctuary).

Kid's Club

Wednesday's - 4:30 pm - Findley 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.

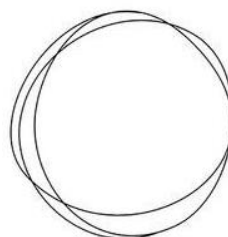
Pastor Laura Away

July 19th - July 26th

Pastor Laura will be away for vacation from 7/19-7/26. If you have a pastoral emergency, you can call the church office at (412)561-6261 during office hours (M-F/8:30 am - 2:20 pm). After office hours, please call Bev Knasko at (412)563-7154.

Guest Speaker

While Pastor Laura is away, Luke Obarsky will lead us in worship on July 25th.



Prayer Circle

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

Week of:

July 4 th	Praying for: The Strauss family, Ethan, Pastor Laura & Fritz The Stuart family, Eric, Kim, Ryan & Kara
July 11 th	The Tang family; Don, Christa, Christopher, Robert & Lucy Robert Taylor
July 18 th	Diane Van Houtte Tori Vernacchio
July 25 th	Vince & Debbie Vernacchio Kay Walker

Free Adult Yoga Class

Wednesday, July 28th @ 7:00 pm

Please join us for a yoga class sponsored by SHUP. We will be joined in the Memorial Garden by teachers from breatheIN2IT. (www.breathein2it.com)

Be sure to bring a yoga mat.

Youth Mission Trip

July 4th - July 9th

The youth leave for their mission trip to Benton Harbor, MI on July 4th. Please remember to keep them in your prayers.

Chancel Flowers

We have dates open to sponsor the chancel flowers. There are 2 bouquets every Sunday at a cost of \$25 each. Currently dates, *August 1st, 8th & 15th* are available.

Please contact the church office at (412)561-6261 or at sunsethillschurch@gmail.com if you would like to sponsor the flowers for an upcoming service.

July Birthdays

1 Angela Ellis	18 Lynne Blanning
Dave Petty	20 Becky Rickard
7 Carole McCullough	23 Lucy Tang
8 Tristan Zeglin	24 Lorryn Ernst
9 Eliza Duffner	Sara Ernst
10 Sallie Beaumariage	29 Ben Kennedy
Harriet Rickard	30 Lynda Hoffman
13 Tom Duffner	31 Lyssa Allison
14 Carol Noonan	Dee Borman
	Pamela Enterline



Prayer List

JoAnne Enterline



**The Church office will be closed on
Monday, July 5th.**



Save the Date

August 26th

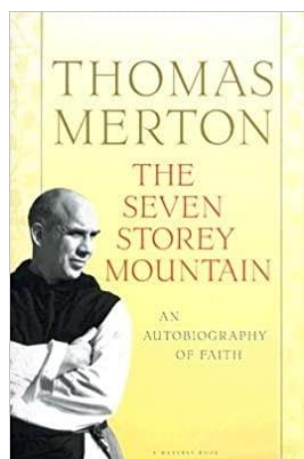
7:00 pm - via Zoom

August 2021 Book:

*The Seven Storey
Mountain* (Parts 1 & 2)

By

Thomas Merton



Sunset Hills Book Club

July Book of the Month

July 29th - 7:00 pm

The Book of Joy

By His Holiness the

Dalai Lama and

Archbishop Desmond

Tutu

Nobel Peace Prize Laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have survived more than fifty years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression.

Despite their hardships—or, as they would say, because of them—they are two of the most joyful people on the planet. In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness's eightieth birthday and to create what they hoped would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering? They traded intimate stories, teased each other continually, and shared their spiritual practices. By the end of a week filled with laughter and punctuated with tears, these two global heroes had stared into the abyss and despair of our time and revealed how to live a life brimming with joy.

This book offers us a rare opportunity to experience their astonishing and unprecedented week together, from the first embrace to the final good-bye.

We get to listen as they explore the Nature of True Joy and confront each of the Obstacles of Joy—from fear, stress, and anger to grief, illness, and death. They then offer us the Eight Pillars of Joy, which provide the foundation for lasting happiness. Throughout, they include stories, wisdom, and science. Finally, they share their daily Joy Practices that anchor their own emotional and spiritual lives.

The Archbishop has never claimed sainthood, and the Dalai Lama considers himself a simple monk. In this unique collaboration, they offer us the reflection of real lives filled with pain and turmoil in the midst of which they have been able to discover a level of peace, of courage, and of joy to which we can all aspire in our own lives. (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

