



Sunset Hills

M E S S E N G E R

OCTOBER 2020

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The church building will remain closed through the month of October.

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A Message from Pastor Laura

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a new way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me.

– Romans 16:1-2



I am celebrating the Feast Day of St. Phoebe today. This is strange because, as a Presbyterian, I don’t typically observe feast days and I don’t typically revere the Saints. But I am celebrating because it is a beautiful thing to remember those who have gone on in the faith before us. These individuals include our parents, grandparents, childhood Sunday School teachers, and people whose names are briefly mentioned in the letters of the Apostle Paul.

Thus, let’s talk a little bit about Saint Phoebe today. Who was she? First, she was a deacon. The literal translation of the Greek word *diakonos* is actually minister. Phoebe is a leader in the early church. Second, Phoebe is a woman of independent means. She may be a widow who’s inherited funds, or she may be a business owner not unlike Lydia, the purveyor of purple cloth. Phoebe has enough money to be able to finance Paul and the early church’s various ministries. Third, Phoebe is traveler. She is probably the person who carried Paul’s letter to the church in Rome. Paul directs the church to show her hospitality, and to welcome her.

We remember today that alongside Phoebe, there are countless other women and men who have walked with the church in times of struggle. There are women who took leadership roles, even when formalized leadership ceased to be permitted and before the doors to such roles were opened again. There are men who acted in compassion and bravery. There are thousands upon thousands, if not millions, who have done the arduous work of serving Christ’s church through serving God’s children.

Whatever it is that you do in God’s name, beloved, you are supported by a foundation of saints who have come before. You are not alone. Phoebe, alongside the great cloud of witnesses, by the power of the Holy Spirit are with you and cheering you on every step of your Christian way!

In Christ’s Service,
Pastor Laura

October Worship



We will continue to meet for worship during the month of October in the parking lot. **When the weather cooperates, we will exit our cars and do a “lawn chair” service. The greeters will direct you on where to park your car. Remember to bring a chair!**

There will be communion during worship on October 4th, *World Communion Sunday*. There will be individual wafer and juice sets available for your convenience (there will be a gluten free option available).

If you are not able to join us for our drive-in worship, a video of the service will continue to be posted to our YouTube channel every Monday.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeEpiQYSD_9My9tb5GEhVRA

Welcome

It is with joy that we let you know that Jasmine Pirl has accepted the position of Finance Secretary. Jasmine comes to us with a bachelor's degree in accounting. In her free time, she is a cheerleading coach and a little league coach.

We are excited to have her join the SHUP staff. When our doors are open again, please stop by to welcome Jasmine to SHUP!

Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

Every year at this time I'm always so happy to welcome the Chancel Choir back after their summer hiatus. Sadly, we still have no choir back since the “pandemic hiatus” started in March. But I was thrilled to welcome the Campanile Bell Choir back for our first rehearsal on Sept. 15th! We're working on lots of music and hope to be able to play for everyone soon – whether it be in person or by video. We'll keep you posted!

Since there's no other news to report this month, I wanted to share another hymn story – something to reflect on as we continue this crazy way of life right now.

“As J.S. Bach stated, *“The aim and final reason for all music should be nothing else but the glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit.”* To give glory to God should be the greatest desire of every Christian. Not only should this be the supreme goal for our individual lives, but it should also be true for a congregation as a whole. We must always be alert in recognizing God's leading in our midst and in acknowledging His hand of blessing upon our church's endeavors – the ‘great things He hath taught us and the great things He hath done.’ Without this sensitive awareness and gratitude, churches–like individuals–can easily lose focus of their mission and develop a false sense of self-worth and sufficiency.

“This fine gospel hymn, written by Fanny J. Crosby, first appeared in a Sunday school collection in 1875. In 1952 the Billy Graham Crusade Team went to England, where they first made extensive use of “To God Be the Glory” in their meetings. It was an immediate success. Upon their return to the United States, they found the same enthusiastic response by



American audiences. It has been a favorite hymn ever since.

“The hymn differs from most of the hymns written by Fanny Crosby in that it is a more objective praise of God rather than the typical subjective testimony or Christian experience type of song. It's a fine blend of the characteristics of both the hymn and the gospel song.”

To God be the glory – great things He hath done! So loved He the world that He gave us His son, who yielded His life an atonement for sin and opened the Lifegate that all may go in.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son; but purer and higher and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Chorus: *Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory – great things He hath done.*

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

Mission News

Give8/28

ON AUGUST 28, 2020 the Presbyterian Church USA joined the national effort **GIVE828** which focuses on supporting Black benefitting organizations. This is not like other fundraising campaigns. It commemorates notable important historical landmarks in Black America's march toward freedom.

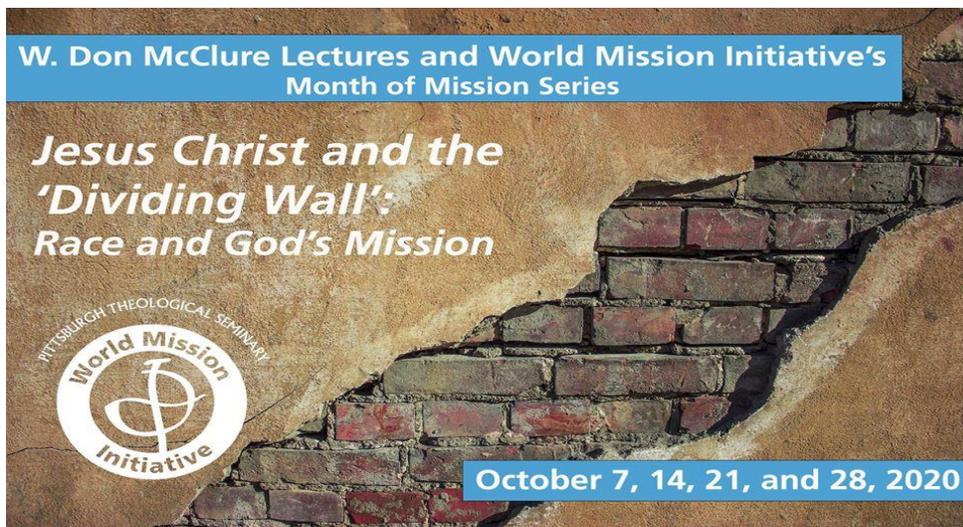
Gifts support leadership development by funding the Katie Geneva Cannon Scholarship and Conference for Seminarians of color.

The campaign recognizes the importance of the following dates:

- August 28, 1955, 14 year-old Emmett Till was brutally murdered and that became a flashpoint in the Civil Rights movement.
- August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his iconic speech "I Have a Dream" in Washington D.C.
- August 28, 2005 Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and inordinately impacted the city's black residents.
- August 28, 2008, Sen. Barack Obama accepted the nomination for President of the United States.

There is critical need for resources in Black communities during the Covid-19 and recent killings of unarmed Black people. The Presbyterian Church USA and our SHUP missions have chosen to support that need.

IN OCTOBER the Don McClure Lecture and World Mission Initiative's is sponsoring Month of Mission Series online: *Jesus Christ and the Dividing Wall: Race and God's Mission*. These lectures and conversations will be presented online every Wednesday, Oct 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 7:30.



Schedule of Speakers



- Oct. 7 "Unlearning the Habits of Slaveholder Religion" with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

- Oct. 14 "Crossing Cultures, Building Bridges" with Brenda Salter McNeil
- Oct. 21 "Where Do We Go from Here?" A conversation with Brenda Salter McNeil and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove



- Oct. 28 "Keys for Allies to Use Their The Role of Vulnerability and Compassion in Racism Effectiveness" with David Campt



- To register please go to <https://www.pts.edu/wmi-conference>.
 - Register as an individual (do not "sponsor").
- You will be sent a link closer to the event to watch the lectures.

Children's Footprints...

By Barb Clark



Confusion 2020, is the name of the game this year. I do not remember when I was more confused. Do you feel the same? Since March of this year, I feel like I have not received a straight answer for anything. From my personal life to the medical field, and finally to the political arena. It is like being on a merry-go-round. Contradictions are coming at me at a rate of speed that does not give me enough time to peel them apart and try to make sense out of them.

My thoughts turn to scripture, and I wonder where this much confusion was in the Bible. I am led once again to the wilderness walking in Exodus. Why did we leave they ask, we should have stayed, oh look at the shiny golden calf, we are tired of manna, oh wait here comes Moses..... As their heads were spinning with confusion, I believe there is a lesson in here for me and you!

Just imagine for a moment how close they must have been so many times to the promise land and did not even know it. They probably looked out in front of them, or behind them maybe to the east and west and it was there in plain view with not an inkling of what lay ahead. I feel like that is us. Just spinning in circles listening to this person or that person. Then they change their minds and rebuke what was said. I guess in a nutshell I would really like some clarity on something, anything..... I feel like people are in a state of confusion, like they think they know, they want to know,

and just about the time they have the answer – BAM they do not. And no one person, can answer the questions about, well frankly, anything on topic in 2020.

It truly baffles me, so I continually turn to God, to the Trinity - the *connectiveness* of our Faith - for answers and comfort.

Read John 16:5-16. Who is in control in our lives? The Holy Spirit should be. In the study book called When God's Spirit Moves, you realize again who the Holy Spirit is, almost for the first time. Why in the world, do the people of God (us), not rely enough on this crucial part of the Trinity anymore? The book also describes the various symbols of the of the Holy Spirit in tangible ways. I would ask you to take a moment to sit and visualize and drink in and feel these descriptions found below:

Breathe – The wind in your hair, drive with the window open and *feel the breath of God* on you. Stand outside in the wind and let the Holy Spirit flow over you and ask the Spirit to fill you, breathe deep and realize that is the breath of God, allow this practice to flood you with his presence!

Water- Baptism, *without water there is no life*. Think now about dew, and how it covers the earth with a blanket, now sit in his presence and let the dew settle on you, filling you and renewing you.

Fire- Is contagious, it is consuming, it consumes everything in its path. God sent fire to the disciples in the

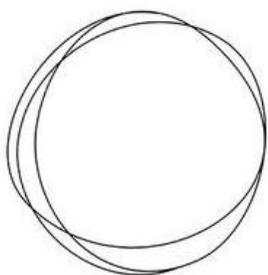
in the Upper Room, *He FILLED them with the Holy Spirit* and from there, look what they accomplished and what is still being accomplished today.

We do not have the answers for any of *Confusion 2020*, but we serve a God who does. We do not need answers we need comfort, the comfort to know we are not in charge. The Trinity has this..... The Holy Spirit is here alive and well for each of us, all you need to do is go boldly to the throne of grace and ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

My prayer for you: May the fire of the Holy Spirit consume you, may the morning dew settle on you as the breath of God swirls around filling and renewing you. We need not the answers, we just need to be present in His Presence.

Peace, Barb





Prayer Circle

We will be continuing our prayer circle in October. Every week we will pray for 2 members (be it family or individuals). We started at the

beginning of the directory in September and will continue until we reach the end and then repeat. Someone from the church will call you and see if you have any specific prayer requests. This is a time of prayer for our friends and families. We ask that every week you take a moment and add these people to your daily prayers.

Week of:	Praying for:
Oct. 4 th	The Brumfield Family; David, Michelle, Connor & Jessica The Bryer Family; Jeff, Jennifer, Kylie & Aiden
Oct. 11 th	Kara Burian & Daniel Yates Carolyn Caldwell
Oct. 18 th	Frank & Lee Cepits The Clark Family; Ken, Barb & Cory
Oct. 25 th	Betty Coffey Jody Colby

Directory Updates

Harriet Rickard has been passing out the newest directory from SHUP. If you have not received a copy and would like one, please contact the church office.

There are a few corrections that need to be made:

- Alice Bonim’s home number is (412) 857-5989.
- Ginny Bowman’s cell number is (412) 654-1105
- Pamela Enterline has moved, her new address is 1035 Rt. 5 Derby, VT 05829
- Betty Lane’s home number is (412) 257-2988
- Carl Moeller’s address and phone number are 493 Castle Shannon Blvd., Apt. 420 Pittsburgh, PA 15234 (412) 819-4151
- Ian Ney’s new address is 3040 Ruthwood Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15227
- Robert Shetler does not have a land-line, his cell number is (412) 290-5632

Youth Group Fundraiser



The Sherwood Forest Holiday Evergreen Sale is here!!!

To order your evergreens, just go to www.shupchurch.org and click on the link on the home page. You can choose to have your items sent to the church, or directly shipped to you (there is an extra fee for direct shipping). Once you place your order, just send a check to the church or use the tithe.ly.com app to pay.

- Remember to reference “youth” on the memo line.
- All orders are due by Nov.1.
- Delivery will be sometime between Nov. 18th - 25th.



SHUP Baked Goods Exchange Saturday, October 17th

SHUP is planning a baked goods exchange! Just follow these instructions to join in:

Click on this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040845ABAB28A0F58-baking>. You will be asked to enter your name and phone number. *Be sure to write any allergy or other information we need to know in the comment section.* You can also call the office at (412) 561-6261 if you prefer to sign-up that way.

The deadline to sign-up is October 11th. After that day, you will be contacted via the email address you used when you signed up to participate. The email will include the name, address and any special instructions from your baking partner.

Then on October 17th, you just deliver your freshly baked item to their home and leave it on their doorstep.



Rejoice,
Pray,
and
Give
Thanks!

From Stewardship

During this strange, difficult time of pandemic, we are all experiencing bewildering circumstances that demand much of us. And Sunset Hills UP Church is no exception.

With your help, though, SHUP has remained faithful to its mission. As we have adapted to new restrictions, we have looked for new ways to affirm our spiritual community and to serve others. We've learned when to beep our horns during services and when to wear our masks. We've created a new neighborhood food pantry. And though we haven't yet figured out snacks for fellowship hour, we have learned how to meet for Bible study and Sunday School and

youth club on Zoom video calls.

Some things haven't changed, though. It's Fall, the time when SHUP makes its financial plans for the coming year and asks for your support. During this difficult year, we are finding guidance in these verses from 1 Thessalonians 5, verses 16-18:

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Our stewardship campaign this year is **“Rejoice, Pray, and Give Thanks.”** It is through your gifts of your time, talent and treasure that SHUP is able to carry out its

mission. They are the resources that fuel our work.

As we have in the past, we are asking for pledges. Pledges allow us to put great thought into the year ahead, planning for His work to be accomplished. They are the keystone of our financial foundation. As we rise to meet the challenges of the pandemic, they are more important than ever.

A pledge to SHUP is one way you can rejoice, pray, and give thanks with us.

Yours in Christ,

The Stewardship Commission

October Activities

Adult Sunday School

8:15 am

This class will continue via Zoom. Pastor Laura will continue the study of *You Will Get Through This: Hope and Help for Turbulent Times* by Max Lucado through October 18th. On October 25th, Pastor Laura will begin the study of *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp.

Children's Church

Sunday's - 9:00 am

All children PreK-5th grade are invited to join Barb Clark for this Zoom class.

Sunday Worship Service

10:15 am

Pastor Laura will continue to post a video of the service to our YouTube channel the Monday after the service. *Remember to bring a chair when the weather is nice!*

Youth Group

The Youth Group begin meeting in the church building on the following days this month immediately after worship:

- Sunday, October 11th
- Sunday, October 25th

Wilson Hall Bible Study

Tuesday's - 1:00 pm

If you are interested in joining this study, please contact Carole McCullough at seamus1219@hotmail.com.

Findley Hall Bible Study

Monday's - 1:00 pm

This class will continue meeting using Zoom. They will begin the study of *Holy Roar* with Chris Tomlin and Pastor Darren Whitehead. Chris Tomlin has received many awards for his Christian music which includes *How Great is Our God*. They share their insights on what it means to praise and truly worship God. Books will be available for pickup at the church. Please contact Evelyn Lape at (412)531-9856 to have the Zoom link sent to you.

Kid's Club

Wednesday's - 4:30 pm

All children PreK-5th grade are invited to join Barb Clark for this class to learn about the love of Jesus

Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays - 7:30 pm

We will gather for a 4-part series on racial injustice entitled *Jesus Christ and the Dividing Wall: Race and God's Mission*.

Please note that the start time of each lecture is 7:30 pm.

After the lecture, the group will meet using Zoom for discussion.

You must register for the series. Please see the Mission article on page 3 of the Messenger for information on how to register.

Sunset Hills Autumn Book Club

Thursday, October 29th

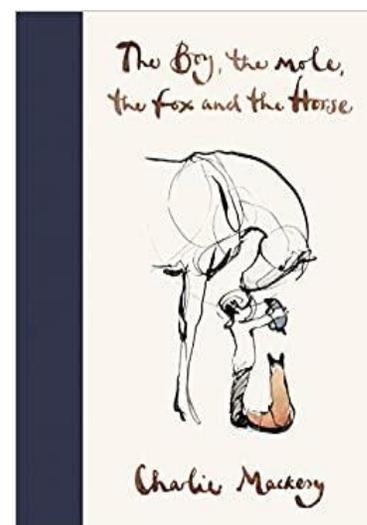
7:00 pm

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox & the Horse

From the revered British illustrator, a modern fable for all ages that explores life's universal lessons, featuring 100 color and black-and-white drawings.

Charlie Mackesy offers inspiration and hope in uncertain times in this beautiful book based on his famous quartet of characters. The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse explores their unlikely friendship and the poignant, universal lessons they learn together. (Amazon.com Book Description)

Join Pastor Laura via Zoom to discuss this month's book, *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox & the Horse*.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jonathon Fako | 28 Randy Farabaugh, |
| 11 Susan Pochek | Liz Huston & |
| 13 Christopher Duffner | Ali Vernacchio |
| 14 Tori Vernacchio | 29 Julianna Ellis & |
| 21 Pat Patterson | Bill Weidensall |
| 22 James Ross | 31 Beverly Knasko & |
| 23 Alecia Ney | Ryan Pochek |
| 26 Mary Abbott | |



Prayer List

Carolyn Caldwell
JoAnne Enterline
Walter Jackson

Our prayers and sympathies are with...

The family of Richard "Dick" Moore.

Dick passed away on Monday, August 24th with his devoted wife Phyllis by his side. Dick and Phyllis became members of SHUP Church on June 11, 1967 shortly after moving to the Sunset Hills neighborhood. In his time here, Dick served as a Deacon and the Treasurer. He volunteered regularly with the "Rebuilding Together" events, was a longtime member of the Monday Morning Marvels and became known as "the church painter." On August 28th, Pastor Laura led a funeral service for the family. Ryan Gracey was there to sing "God Bless America" and Dick was laid to rest with full military honors by representatives from the United States Army and the Veteran's Honor Guard from the VFW Post #1810. Condolences to the family can be sent to: Phyllis Moore, 762 Country Club Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228.

Thank you for your prayers.



Thank you

I would like to thank my SHUP family for all of their support during Dick's illness. The prayers and calls meant so much to me and to Dick.

Since his passing, I have been touched by your outpouring of love and the many cards that I have received. The heartfelt and thoughtful messages on the cards have helped me through this very difficult time.

I would especially like to thank Dick and Dottie for all of the help they have given me. They are truly a blessing.

*With love and gratitude,
Phyllis Moore*

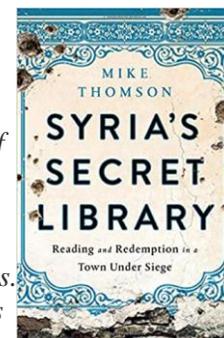
November Book of the Month

Syria's Secret Library

Daraya lies on the fringe of Damascus, just southwest of the Syrian capital. Yet for four years it lived in another world. Besieged by government forces early in the Syrian Civil War, its people were deprived of food, bombarded by heavy artillery, and under the constant fire of snipers. But deep beneath this scene of frightening devastation lay a hidden library. While the streets above echoed with shelling and rifle fire, the secret world below was a haven of books.

Long rows of well-thumbed volumes lined almost every wall: bloated editions with grand leather covers, pocket-sized guides to Syrian poetry, and no-nonsense reference books, all arranged in well-ordered lines. But this precious horde was not bought from publishers or loaned by other libraries--they were the books salvaged and scavenged at great personal risk from the doomed city above.

The story of this extraordinary place and the people who found purpose and refuge in it is one of hope, human resilience, and above all, the timeless, universal love of literature and the compassion and wisdom it fosters. (Amazon.com Book Description)



The Book Club will meet on Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 pm.