



Sunset Hills

M E S S E N G E R

APRIL 2020

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A Message from Pastor Laura

He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.

– Luke 24:6-7



“Spring is cancelled,” Fritz moaned. I asked him what he was talking about. “You know,” he replied, “because of Corona. Everything’s cancelled. Spring’s cancelled.” I told Fritz to put his shoes and jacket on, took him by the hand, and went for a walk in our neighborhood. We looked at the robins, spied green buds on bare bushes, and delighted over daffodils. “Do you still think spring is cancelled?” I asked Fritz.

“Nope,” Fritz answered, “Corona cancelled everything else, but it couldn’t cancel spring!”

The good news of the gospel this day is this: neither can Corona cancel Easter! All four gospels assure us that Jesus Christ is risen yesterday, today, and for all eternity. We know that Mary Magdalene came to the tomb, saw that it was empty, and was commissioned as the first preacher to tell the good news of Christ’s resurrection. Likewise, the story stays true that Jesus appeared through the locked doors of the Upper Room to his disciples, his first words to them being, “Peace be with you.” He enjoyed a meal with them, his eating serving as proof that he wasn’t a ghost. Onward, we remain confident that Jesus prepared a breakfast of fish for his disciples one morning, and commissioned Simon Peter to, “feed his sheep.” Our story of our Lord cannot be cancelled, come pandemic or high water!

And that story of Christ’s resurrection, which cannot change, is the story of our resurrection, which cannot change. These are challenging times. But, we remain a people who are loved, redeemed, and claimed by God in Christ. Our Lord is watching over us and providing for us in ways that we cannot comprehend. Our God is faithful.

Be at peace, beloved. If you have needs arise because of this pandemic, please do not hesitate to contact me via the church office. You will find in this edition of the Messenger ways that we will continue to provide for your spiritual and physical needs via YouTube, Facebook, the Tithely On-Line Giving App, and our Free Food Pantry Exchange. Let us be the church to you, as you continue to be the church to one another, brothers and sisters in the risen Lord.

In Christ’s Service,
Pastor Laura

Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

My original Messenger article was all about our musical plans for Palm Sunday and Easter. As things have changed drastically over the last many days, my hope is that the story behind this well-known hymn will help to soothe your soul during this trying time in the world's history.

“Inner peace through an implicit trust in the love of God is the real evidence of a mature Christian faith. Only with this kind of confidence in his heavenly Father could Horatio G. Spafford experience such heartrending tragedies as he did and yet be able to say, “It is well with my soul.”

Spafford had known peaceful and happy days as a successful attorney in Chicago. He was the father of four daughters, an active member of the Presbyterian church, and a loyal friend and supporter of D.L. Moody and other evangelical leaders of his day. Then, a series of calamities began, starting with the great Chicago fire of 1871, which wiped out the family's extensive real estate investments. When Mr. Moody and his music associate, Ira Sankey, left for Great Britain for an evangelistic campaign, Spafford decided to lift the spirits of his family by taking them on a vacation to Europe.

In November 1873, Spafford was

detained by urgent business, but he sent his wife and four daughters as scheduled on the *S.S. Ville du Harve*, planning to join them soon. Halfway across the Atlantic, the ship was struck by an English vessel and sank in twelve minutes. All four of the Spafford daughters were among the 226 who drowned. Mrs. Spafford was among the few who were miraculously saved.

Horatio Spafford stood hour after hour on the deck of the ship carrying him to rejoin his sorrowing wife in Cardiff, Wales. When the ship passed the approximate place where his precious daughters had drowned, Spafford received sustaining comfort from God that enabled him to write, “When sorrows like sea billows roll . . . It is well with my soul.” What a picture of hope for us all, as we traverse the rough seas of this uncertain time!

*When peace, like a river, attendeth
my way, when sorrows like sea
billows roll~*

*whatever my lot, Thou hast taught
me to say, It is well, it is well with my
soul.*

*Tho Satan should buffet, tho trials
should come, let this blest assurance
control,*

*that Christ has regarded my
helpless estate, and hath shed His
own blood for my soul.*

*And, Lord, haste the day when my
faith shall be sight, the clouds be
rolled back as a scroll:*

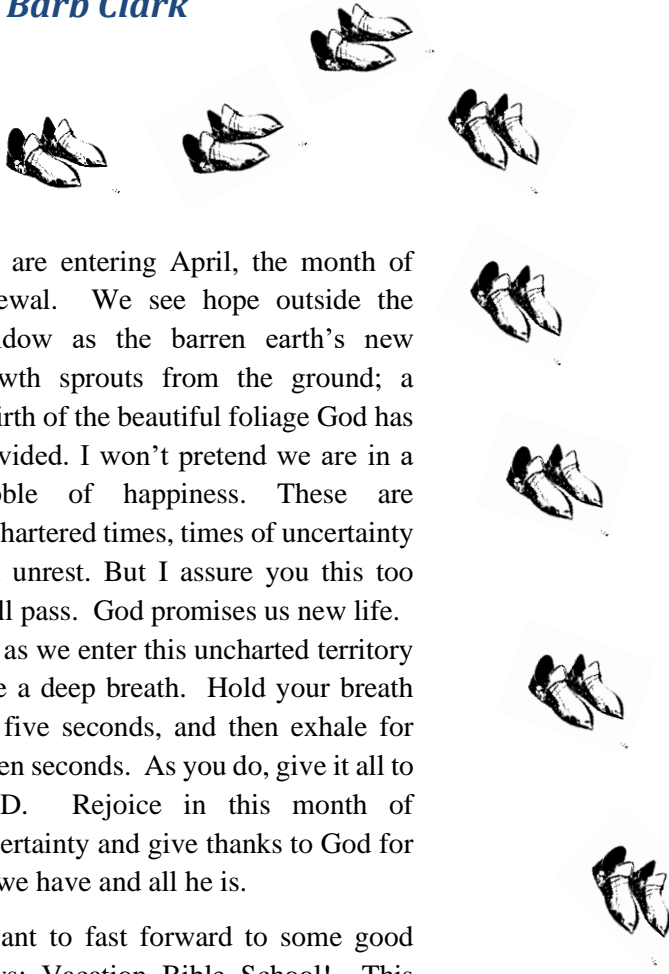
*the trump shall resound and the
Lord shall descend, “Even so” – it is
well with my soul.”*

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



Children's Footprints

by Barb Clark



We are entering April, the month of renewal. We see hope outside the window as the barren earth's new growth sprouts from the ground; a rebirth of the beautiful foliage God has provided. I won't pretend we are in a bubble of happiness. These are uncharted times, times of uncertainty and unrest. But I assure you this too shall pass. God promises us new life. So, as we enter this uncharted territory take a deep breath. Hold your breath for five seconds, and then exhale for seven seconds. As you do, give it all to GOD. Rejoice in this month of uncertainty and give thanks to God for all we have and all he is.

I want to fast forward to some good news: Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is **Knights of North Castle**. The main theme is taken from Ephesians 6:10, "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power." Sneaky Jesus is at it again, just what we need at a time like this! Please mark your calendars for **June 22 – 26, 2020**. On Friday, June 26, at 10:30, families will join us as the children sing their songs and shine the light of Jesus Christ for all to see. We will follow the program with a cookie and punch reception. We will also have a time of singing during the 10:15 Sunday worship service.

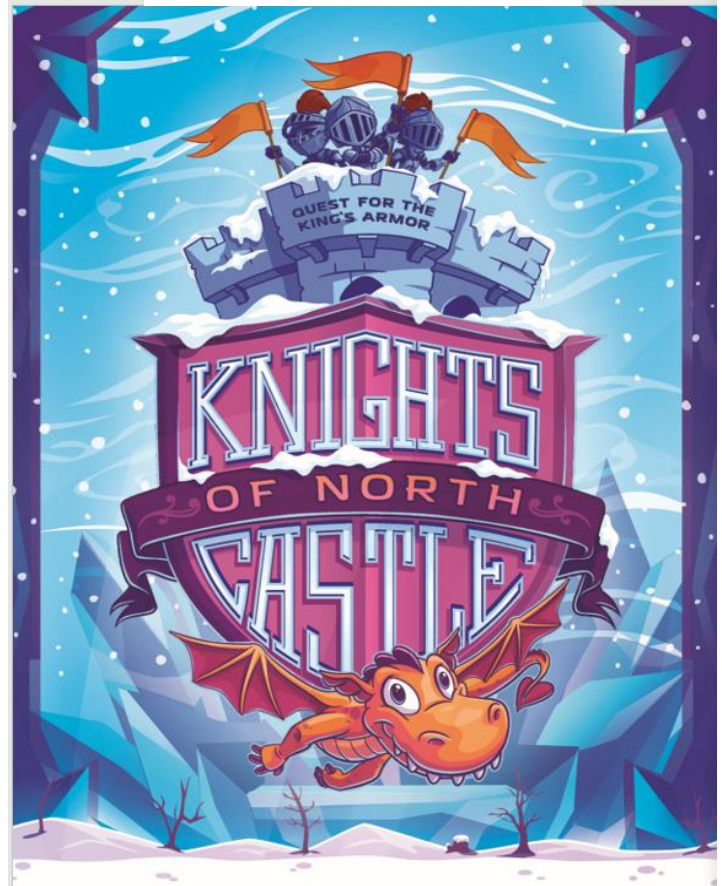
This year we will be hearing the stories of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

on Monday, David and Goliath on Tuesday, Mary on Wednesday, Jesus walks on Water, on Thursday, and the story of Paul and Silas on Friday.

Ephesians 6 is one of my favorite chapters of the Bible. It has taught me to use the gifts God has provided for us. It gives us the STRENGTH, and fortitude, and I personally have used this through some hard times. May I suggest that you to take time to read it with open hearts and minds. And put on the Armor of God!

May God richly bless you through this time. Prayers of peace and comfort and health during these trying days.

VBS
June 22nd - 26th
9:00 am - 11:45 pm



Friday
June 26th
10:15 am
Cookie and Punch Reception
for Families
10:30 am
Children's Concert

Sunday
June 28th
10:15 am
Children invited to sing for
the Congregation during
Worship Service.



Financial Statement Update as of 02/29/20

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	Variance Fav. (Unfav.)
INCOME:			
Pledges, loose offering	33,953	31,852	(2,101)
Designated mission giving	109	64	(45)
Flowers	358	435	77
Per capita	1,283	1,456	173
Interest / Nursery school / misc.	84	102	18
Transfer - Endowments	20,991	21,070	79
Total income	56,778	54,979	(1,799)
EXPENSE:			
Adm. & personnel	(35,562)	(34,177)	1,385
Christian Education	(1,085)	(2,975)	(1,890)
Communications	-	(849)	(849)
Cong. Care & Community Outreach	-	(20)	(20)
Facilities	(12,631)	(8,876)	3,755
Mission *	(1,807)	(1,656)	151
Stewardship	(2,319)	(1,904)	415
Worship & music	(1,072)	(950)	122
Total expense	(54,476)	(51,407)	3,069
Surplus (deficit)	2,302	3,572	1,270

* - includes 5% mission accrual.

Online Giving

We are excited to announce that Sunset Hills has partnered with Tithe.ly to accept online giving and it is easy to do.



There are two ways to give. You can go to our website and click on the link or you can download the Tithe.ly app to your smart phone. Once you enter the site or open the app, follow these steps to start giving:

- Create your personal account
 - User Name
 - Password
 - Personal Pin
- Search for Sunset Hills U.P. Church
- Enter credit/debit card number or bank account information (this information will be saved for future transactions)
- Select where you want your money directed and its frequency
- Enter any additional information in the memo line to direct your payment to the right account
- You have the option to cover processing fees
- A receipt will be emailed to you

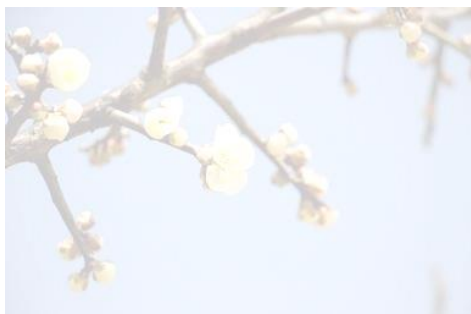
We wanted to offer online giving to make it easier for all members of our congregation to give. Some of you don't have checkbooks or don't even carry cash and for our members and friends who continue to give from far away, we appreciate your offerings and hope this saves you a trip to the post office.

Please direct any questions to our Financial Secretary, Karen Comstock at shupfinance@gmail.com or call her at (412)561-6261 (Monday or Thursday).

Online Worship Services

Sundays

10:15 am



While we are all being asked to stay home and the church building remains closed, Pastor Laura will be doing worship services remotely. They will be posted to our YouTube channel which you can access by going to youtube.com and searching for Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church. Click on the picture to access our channel and then subscribe.

On Sunday mornings at 10:15 am, open the video to pray along with Pastor Laura and all of your fellow church members. You should have received e-mails with this information as well as a copy of the bulletin for the March 22nd and the March 29th service. If you did not, please contact the church office to be added to that e-mail list so that you will be sure to get the information for the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday service.

We know everyone will be excited when we can all come together on Sunday mornings. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy going to service in your pjs or take your laptop outside and worship while enjoying the sweet smells and the beauty of spring!

Pantry Exchange

On March 17th, SHUP set-up a “Free Pantry Exchange” to share with our neighbors in Sunset Hills. The pantry was stocked with canned goods, boxed items, baby food, diapers and of course toilet paper.

The idea is that if we have something a neighbor needs to create a meal for their family, they should take it. We are also encouraging anyone to leave an item that they may not need or want for someone who might be able to use it.

We are hoping that we will be able to take down the pantry soon and donate any remaining items to SHIM. However, we will leave the pantry out as long as we are being asked to practice “social distancing.” Please feel free to share this information with any friends or neighbors you know who live in the area.

If you would like to donate items to add to the pantry, there will be a bin outside the door to Findley Hall for collection.

If you need something that we might have or have items that you would like to donate, but cannot make it to the church, please contact the church office to schedule a drop-off/pick-up.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

- Hebrews 13:16



A Daily devotional from the First Presbyterian Church in Waynesville, NC.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

(#275), verse 3.

*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.*

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 5th

9:00 am - Adult Sunday School: The class will be led by Barb Clark using Zoom. A link to enter this will be e-mailed to you on Friday, April 3rd. You can also join the class by going to the Zoom app on your smartphone, or Zoom.com on your PC and entering the meeting id: 565 592 459/password: 016811.

Children's Church: Available on our Facebook page. Led by Barb Clark.

10:15 am - Worship: Worship service led by Pastor Laura with music pre-recorded by Shelby Gracey will be posted to our YouTube channel.

8:00 pm - Online evening Devotions: Led by Barb Clark, a video will be posted to our YouTube channel.

Holy Monday, April 6th

8:00 pm - Online evening Devotions: Led by Pastor Laura, a video will be posted to our YouTube channel.

Holy Tuesday, April 7th

8:00 pm - Online evening Devotions: Led by Pastor Laura, a video will be posted to our YouTube channel.

Holy Wednesday, April 8th

6:00 pm - Church Dinner via Zoom: Everyone is invited to join us using zoom at their dinner table. We will eat dinner together while enjoying casual conversation and an interactive devotion led by Pastor Laura. A link to join will be e-mailed to you before this event.

8:00 pm - Online evening Devotions: Led by Barb Clark, a video will be posted to our YouTube channel.

Maundy Thursday, April 9th

6:00 pm - Worship Service: Maundy Thursday worship service led by Pastor Laura with music pre-recorded by Shelby Gracey will be posted to our YouTube channel.

**All congregants are invited to have bread and juice/wine on hand during this service to participate in the sacrament of communion from home.*

**This will be a service of lament where there will be a time of silence to lament on all that has been lost during this epidemic, from the tragic to the trivial.*

Good Friday, April 10th

12:00 pm - Community Worship Service: The worship service from Mt. Lebanon Methodist Church will be posted to our YouTube channel with a brief message from Pastor Laura.

7:00 pm - Tenebrae Service: Tenebrae service led by Pastor Laura with music pre-recorded by Shelby Gracey will be posted to our YouTube channel.

Saturday, April 11th

6:00 pm - Easter Prayer Vigil: Starting at 6:00 pm and going through 6:00 am Sunday Morning, we are asking that you participate in the Vigil by praying from your home. *Please see the information on page 7 of the Messenger to find out how you can sign-up to participate.*

8:00 pm - Online evening Devotions: Led by Barb Clark, a video will be posted to our YouTube channel.

Easter Sunday, April 12th

6:30 am - Easter Sunrise Breakfast: Early risers are invited to join Pastor Laura on zoom for coffee/breakfast to celebrate the resurrection together; this will be a very casual event with a scripture reading and watching for the sun out of our windows. A link to join will be e-mailed to you before this event.

9:00 am - Adult Sunday School: This class will be led by Barb Clark using zoom. A link to join will be e-mailed to you before this event.

Children's Church: Available on our Facebook page. Led by Barb Clark.

10:15 am - Easter Sunday Worship Service: Worship service led by Pastor Laura with music pre-recorded by Shelby Gracey will be posted to our YouTube channel.

**All congregants are invited to have bread and juice/wine on hand during this service to participate in the sacrament of communion from home.*

Information for April

Church Closure

The Session will follow the order from the Governor as well as the Mt. Lebanon School District schedule and remain closed until April 30th.

One Great Hour of Sharing

We are still accepting donations for One Great Hour of Sharing through April 12th. Since we will be having worship online, this would be a great time to try the online giving that is now available to you. Just remember to write OGHS on the memo section of your donation.

(Details about online giving can be found on page 4 of the Messenger).

Rummage Sale

The sale that was scheduled to be held on April 25th has been canceled and will be rescheduled.

We still would love all of your donations for the sale. If you are using this time at home to clean your house, please put any items that you think we could use for the sale to the side and we will schedule a time that you can drop them off at the church as soon as we are able to do so.

Your donations are needed and will be much appreciated.

Easter Prayer Vigil


Saturday, April 11th

6 pm through

6 am

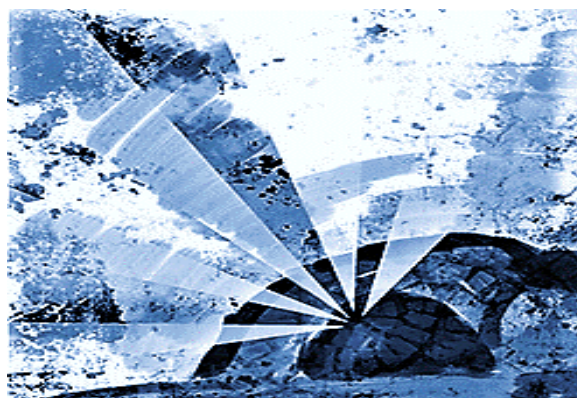
Sunday, April 12th

Although the church will be closed this year, we are still holding the Prayer Vigil. We are asking that you pray from home.

If you would like to sign-up for a half-hour time slot, please go to signupgenius.com, click on the search  icon at the top of

the screen and then search using the e-mail address sunsethillschurch@gmail.com.

This will bring up the sign-up for the Vigil. All you have to do is pick a time slot and enter your e-mail address. We will be notified when you sign-up and a Prayer vigil booklet will be sent to your e-mail address.



SHUP Website

Our Communications Commission has been working on creating a new website for Sunset Hills Church. The final product was rolled out on March 26th! If you have not seen it already, please go to shupchurch.org to see our new design.

Adult Sunday School

We will be having Adult Sunday School at 9:00 am online while the church is closed. We will be using the Zoom app/website to be able to have interactive classes.

A link for the class will be e-mailed prior to the event.

Everyone is invited to join us!

Food Pantry Needs for April

Baby food & Juice

Prayer List

Carolyn Caldwell

JoAnne Enterline

Walter Jackson

Phyllis and Dick Moore

Patti Patterson

April Birthdays

4th - Mackenzie Barnes, Bailey Farabaugh

5th - Don MacDougall

10th - Alie Daniels, Sean Matson, Vince Vernacchio

11th - Bill Gracey, Judy Phillips

12th - Rich Hoffman

14th - Matt Sembrat

19th - Michael Duffner

20th - Jan Paulsen, Ilena Wyerman

22nd - John Ellis IV

29th - Charlie Mullen