



# Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

[www.shupchurch.org](http://www.shupchurch.org)

10:15 am WORSHIP  
April 28, 2024

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

## IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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*With the Spirit at work, what is impossible for humans becomes not only possible, but immediate, compelling, and real. Places and situations that might seem God-forsaken become the sites of revelation and blessing.*

- Paul Bellan-Boyer

## ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

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Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Preparation

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Kara Yates

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is alive; let all people praise him.

**People: Let all creation sing with joy. Alleluia!**

\*Hymn: *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

No. 379

\*Call to Confession

Leader: Trusting in the love of God to make all things new, let us confess our sin to God and our neighbor.

\*Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy, your command to love one another across differences opens us to new horizons. Yet we often respond with hostility and judgment that hinders your goal for humanity. Forgive us our sins, we pray. Give us a true repentance that leads to life for all creation. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

(Silent Confession)

\*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God's promises are trustworthy and true. Your sins are forgiven. Be at peace to serve the Lord, and may you always be know by your love.

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

\*Response: *The Gloria*

**Now let our voices raise; Alleluia! Amen!  
To give to God our praise; Alleluia! Amen!  
Mercy and grace abound! In God our lives are found!  
Long may our joy resound; Alleluia! Amen!**

\*The Passing of the Peace, American Sign Language

Speaker: Peace be with you.

**Respond: And also with you.**

Anthem: *You Are My Hiding Place*

M. Ledner

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

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Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me!*

No. 304

Children's Story Time

Jeff Allison

New Testament Reading: Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26-28</sup> Later God's angel spoke to Philip: "At noon today I want you to walk over to that desolate road that goes from Jerusalem down to Gaza." He got up and went. He met an Ethiopian eunuch coming down the road. The eunuch had been on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and was returning to Ethiopia, where he was minister in charge of all the finances of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was riding in a chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29-30</sup> The Spirit told Philip, "Climb into the chariot." Running up alongside, Philip heard the eunuch reading Isaiah and asked, "Do you understand what you're reading?"

<sup>31-33</sup> He answered, "How can I without some help?" and invited Philip into the chariot with him.

The passage he was reading was this:

As a sheep led to slaughter,  
and quiet as a lamb being sheared,

He was silent, saying nothing.

He was mocked and put down, never got a fair trial.

But who now can count his kin

since he's been taken from the earth?

<sup>34-35</sup> The eunuch said, "Tell me, who is the prophet talking about: himself or some other?" Philip grabbed his chance. Using this passage as his text, he preached Jesus to him.

<sup>36-39</sup> As they continued down the road, they came to a stream of water. The eunuch said, "Here's water. Why can't I be baptized?" He ordered the chariot to stop. They both went down to the water, and Philip baptized him on the spot. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of God suddenly took Philip off, and that was the last the eunuch saw of him. But he didn't mind. He had what he'd come for and went on down the road as happy as he could be.

<sup>40</sup> Philip showed up in Azotus and continued north, preaching the Message in all the villages along that route until he arrived at Caesarea.

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

<sup>1-3</sup>“I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn’t bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

<sup>4</sup>“Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

<sup>5-8</sup>“I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can’t produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: *Down in the Puddle*

Rev. Liddy Barlow

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**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

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Affirmation of Faith: Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Joys, Concerns, & Testimonies

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Presenting Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

\*Response: *Doxology*

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**DEPARTING TO SERVE**

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Hymn: *Baptized in Water*

No. 492

\*Benediction (from the Northumbria Community)

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you: may he guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm: may he bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders he has shown you: may he bring you home rejoicing: once again into our doors.

\*Response

\*Postlude

*\*If you are able to do so, please stand.*

**A Special Thank You to** Rev. Liddy Barlow for leading us in worship today while Pastor Laura is away on her pilgrimage.

**Happy Birthday** to Charles Mullen (29<sup>th</sup>) & Jason D'Amico (1<sup>st</sup>)!

**Happy Anniversary** to Ryan & Andrea Gracey (28<sup>th</sup>)!

**The Chancel Flowers** were given today by Tom & Judy Stacey in memory of Sara Belle and Emerson Dietrich.

**The Flower Delivery** will be made by Pat Patterson and Mike Duffner.

**Our Greeters** today were Pat Patterson and Mike Duffner.

**Deacon Food Drive Donations for April:** Baby Food

**Special Items Needed for Refugees & Immigrants:** Dried Beans, Lentils, Rice, Flour, Cooking Oil, Sugar, Spices (Salt, Pepper, Garlic Powder, Chili Powder, Turmeric) & Disposable Diapers

**Hospital visits** by Pastor Laura can be scheduled through the church office. If you or someone you know is having surgery or is in the hospital, please let us know so that Pastor Laura can be there to visit and pray with you and your loved ones.

### **PRAYER LIST**

**Prayer Circle** – The Sembrat family; Matt, Brienne, Colby & Ty and Tom & Judy Stacey

**April** - The family of Mitch Cipullo (Mary Abbott's brother-in-law), The family of Jim Young (Nancy Newman's brother), Matthew Fako, Patience Bergfelt, Lisa Ursitz

**March** – Phyllis Moore, The family of Bernie Abbott (Mary Abbott's brother-in-law)

**Ongoing** - Nancy Brumfield, Eneless Frank, Mya Kelly, Joanna, Becca, our Mission Co-Workers: Rev. Mark Adams & Miriam Maldonado Escobar and their children; Cindy Anna Flor & Nathan who serve at the U.S.-Mexico Border, our sister church, Litchenza CCAP in Malawi, Africa,



# WELCOME TO SUNSET HILLS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

**CONNECT with us!**

Phone: 412-561-6261

Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Address: 900 Country Club Dr. Pgh, PA 15228

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Laura E. Strauss

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. William Gracey

Website: [www.shupchurch.org](http://www.shupchurch.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shupchurch/>

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### Sun, Apr 28 - Guest Leader/Rev. Liddy Barlow

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall  
 9:00 am Children’s Sunday School - Library  
 10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary  
 10:45 am Children’s Church  
 11:15 am Library Revitalization - Library  
 11:30 am Days for Girls – Wilson Hall  
 5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

### Mon, Apr 29

1:00 pm Findley Hall Bible Study

### Tues, Apr 30

1:00 pm Wilson Hall Bible Study  
 5:30 pm Yoga – Crystal Hall  
 7:00 pm Bells Choir  
 7:00 pm Square Dance Class – Crystal Hall  
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

### Wed, May 1

10:00 am Days for Girls - Wilson  
 4:00 pm Quilting Group – Findley Hall  
 6:30 pm Tai Chi – Crystal Hall

### Thurs, May 2

7:00 pm Yoga – Crystal Hall

### Fri, May 3

5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

### Sun, May 5 – Move-Up Sunday

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall  
 9:00 am Children’s Sunday School - Library  
 10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary  
 10:45 am Children’s Church  
 11:30 am Fellowship – Findley Hall  
 12:00 pm CPR/AED Training – Findley Hall  
 4:00 pm Troop #57074 – Rm. 110  
 5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Pentecost Special Offering:** We will be collecting for the PC (USA) special offering. Your donation will go toward programs/events that are geared to the youth in the church. There are envelopes available in the pews for your donation. If you are not able to be with us in person, you can mail your check to the church office or use the tithe.ly app. Be sure to write “Pentecost Offering” on the memo line.
- ❖ **Library Revitalization Follow-up Meeting:** Anyone who is interested in helping with this project is welcome to join us in the Library after worship today to decide how we will move forward with our plans.
- ❖ **Pastor Away:** Pastor Laura will be away through May 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Japanese Pilgrimage. If you have a pastoral care emergency outside of office hours, please call Bev Knakso at (412)563-7154.
- ❖ **Move-Up Sunday:** We will be joined in worship next Sunday by the children from the Nursery School who will be graduating and “moving-up” to kindergarten next year.
- ❖ **CPR/AED Training:** There will be CPR/AED training in Findley Hall next Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> immediately following Fellowship. Please sign up on the sheet located outside of Findley Hall if you would like to attend.
- ❖ **Ringold Community Band:** The Ringold Community Band will perform in the sanctuary on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7 pm. Everyone is invited to attend. There is no charge for this event, but donations will be accepted.
- ❖ **VBS 2024:** VBS will be held the week of July 29<sup>th</sup> – Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:30 am until noon. This year’s theme is Hero Hotline where every hero has a role to play! The cost is \$25/child. Registration opens on May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **VBS Volunteers:** We are looking for volunteers to help with our summer VBS. If you would like to help, please contact Taylor at [sunsethillsce@gmail.com](mailto:sunsethillsce@gmail.com).