



# Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228  
[www.shupchurch.org](http://www.shupchurch.org)

10:15 am WORSHIP  
September 1, 2024  
**The Season of Peace**

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## IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret.*

- Ambrose Bierce, American Author, 1842-1914

*Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.*

James 1:19b-20

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## ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Preparation

\*Call to Worship (from J. Philip Newell)

Liturgist: Marla Bruschi

Leader: I watch this morning for the light that the darkness has not overcome.

**People: I watch for the fire that was in the beginning and that burns still in the brilliance of the rising sun.**

Leader: I watch for the flow of life that flames in the growing earth and glistens in sea and sky.

**People: I watch for your light, O God, in the eyes of every living creature and in the ever-living flame of my own soul.**

Leader: If the grace of seeing were ours this day we would glimpse you in all that lives.

**People: Grant us the grace of seeing this day. Grant us, O God, the grace of seeing.**

\*Hymn: *God of Our Life*

No. 275

\*Call to Confession

Leader: Let us confess our sins to our loving God who calls us close through our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

\*Unison Prayer of Confession

**Loving, righteous God, our hearts are marked with hatred. You have called us to your way of peace, but we have gone away. Forgetting your living Word, we cling to dead traditions. Hypocrites, we honor you with our lips while our spirits are far from you. Cleanse our hearts from destructive intentions; cleanse our tongues from cruel words so that our worship may be faithful and we may live with you in love for others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

(Silent Confession)

\*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Our generous God has given us the gift of forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus has liberated us from dead tradition and made us new by the living Word filling our hearts with God's love.

\*Response: *Gloria Patri*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

\*The Passing of the Peace, American Sign Language

Speaker: Peace be with you.

**Respond: And also with you.**

Special Music: *Make God First*

R. Skaggs

(GPM – Frank Cepits, Ryan Gracey, Dave Petty, Mike Robinson & Keith Yanda)

Children's Story Time

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 15

O LORD, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right  
and speak the truth from their heart;

<sup>3</sup> who do not slander with their tongue  
and do no evil to their friends  
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

<sup>4</sup> in whose eyes the wicked are despised  
but who honor those who fear the LORD;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

<sup>5</sup> who do not lend money at interest  
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

New Testament Reading: James 1:17-27

<sup>17</sup> Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup> In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup> You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, <sup>20</sup> for human anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup> Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup> For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup> But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup> If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Laura Strauss

Verses:

Be doers of the word of God, Not simply those who hear.	James 1:22
Be ones who look into God's word, Obey, and persevere.	James 1:25
Be quick to listen, slow to speak, And slow to anger, too.	James 1:19
Put wrath aside; instead, be meek And let God work in you.	James 1:21
Religion that is undefiled, Religion that is pure Will reach to help the orphaned child And welcome all the poor.	James 1:27
If people come here poorly dressed, To judge them is a sin. The rich aren't better than the rest; God welcomes poor ones in.	James 2:1-7
O Christ, you save us by God's grace From having to obey.	Ephesians 2:8
Then freed to love, we can embrace A life that seeks your way.	Ephesians 5:1-2
May we be doers of the word;	1 John 3:18
May faith shine through our deeds; And as we seek to trust in God, May ethics follow creeds.	1 John 3:23

Biblical References: James; Ephesians; 1 John

Tune: *Gesangbuch der Herzoglich Württembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784 ("I Sing the Mighty Power of God"; "Hail To the Lord's Anointed") ([MIDI](#))

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Included in [Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor](#) (Upper Room Books, 2009).

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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Affirmation of Faith: The Larger Catechism, Cambridge University, 7.211

Leader: What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?

**People: The preface to the Ten Commandments is contained in these words: "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." Where God manifests his sovereignty, as being Jehovah, the eternal, immutable, and almighty god; having his being in and of himself, and giving being to all his words and works; and that he is a God in covenant, as with Israel of old, so with all his people; who as he brought them out of their bondage in Egypt, so he delivered us from spiritual thralldom; and that therefore we are bound to take him for our God alone, and to keep all his commandments.**

Joys, Concerns, & Testimonies

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.

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

The Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastoral Prayer

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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.**

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread

The Sharing of the Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

### **DEPARTING TO SERVE**

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Hymn: *Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace*

No. 374

(Tune: *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*)

\*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 GPM for sharing their special musical talents with us today.

**Happy Birthday** to Ryan Dawson (1<sup>st</sup>), Lisa Ursitz (1<sup>st</sup>), Jeff Allison (5<sup>th</sup>), Andrew Gracey (5<sup>th</sup>) & Meg MacDougall (5<sup>th</sup>)!

**Happy Anniversary** to Ian & Jenna Ney (1<sup>st</sup>) and Ray & Ginny Bowman (2<sup>nd</sup>)!

**The Chancel Flowers** were given today by Kay Walker in loving memory of her parents and sister.

**Deacon Greeter(s)/Flower Deliveries Made By:** Mike Duffner & Leslie Ney

**Most Needed Items for SHIM:** Dried Beans, Lentils, Pasta Sauce in jars, Cereal & Oatmeal, Soup, Condiments, Spices, Adult Diapers, Baby Diapers (size 4-6), Dog & Cat Food, and Personal Care Items.

**SHIM Clothing Closet:** Accepting donations of clothes (in season), shoes, and linens (no large household items). Located at the Church of Nazarene (5601 Library Road). Drop-off hours: Monday – 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. *If you are not able to deliver your donations during their hours, you can leave them in the closet outside of Findley Hall and a Mission Commission member will deliver them for you.*

**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** – Jessalynn Ellis & The Ellis family; John, Angela, Julianna & Jacey

**September -**

**August -** The family of Phylis Couillard (Pastor Laura's aunt)

**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, Pabatso Makhalanyane, Healthcare and all Essential Workers, Jon Weaver (Sarajane's friend), all those who continue to be affected by the fires, storms, hurricanes, excessive heat waves and other natural disasters



## 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, Sept 1

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall  
10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary  
10:45 am Children’s Church  
4:00 pm Troop #57074 - Crystal  
5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

#### Tues, Sept 3

5:30 pm Yoga – Crystal Hall  
7:00 pm Square Dance Class – Crystal Hall  
7:00 pm Counseling Group – Cort Room  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice

#### Wed, Sept 4

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

#### Thurs, Sept 5

9:15 am Yoga – Crystal Hall  
7:00 pm Parent Night for NS – Findley Hall

#### Fri, Sept 6

5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

#### Sun, Sept 8

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 CE Meeting - Rm. 106  
11:30 am Mission Meeting – Cort Room  
4:00 pm Troop #57074 – Crystal Hall  
5:30 pm Troop #16212 – Crystal Hall  
5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ **Office Closed:** The office will be closed on Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> in honor of Labor Day.



# Pet Blessing



Sunday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>

5 pm – 7 pm



Sunset Hills UP Church

900 Country Club Drive



- Blessing of Your Pet by Pastor Laura



- Local Food Truck Vendors

- Donations of Pet Food Accepted



- Kids Games/Activities



[SHUPchurch.org](http://SHUPchurch.org)



# 2024 BORDER-TO-BORDER DELEGATION:



## Coffee, Migration & Faith

*Join with people on both sides of the border for a pilgrimage from the US/Mexico border to the Mexico/Guatemala border, exploring the connections between coffee, migration, and faith.*



### From Douglas, Arizona & Agua Prieta, Sonora to Salvador Urbina, Chiapas

- Walk the migrant trails where coffee farmers walked
- Visit the Café Justo roasting facility
- Get an overview of the US border policy
- Talk with ranching families affected by migration
- Enjoy meals with families who have migrated from Chiapas to Agua Prieta
- Spend time in biblical reflection and prayer
- Enjoy a fiesta with members of the coffee cooperative
- Participate in harvesting coffee
- Enjoy fellowship and meals with the co-op families
- Talk with parents whose children have migrated
- Participate in a grower meeting
- Visit the new Café Justo El Aguila Cooperative
- Tour the Mexico/Guatemala Border
- Visit the Scalabrini Migrant Center in Tapachula
- Visit local markets and a butterfly sanctuary
- See local waterfalls and popular sites
- Drink lots of great coffee

# Oct 18-26, 2024



Register Online

- **Cost: \$1,800**
- **\$200 to reserve a spot**
- **\$800 due August 15**
- **\$800 due September 15**
- **Limit 15 participants per trip**

**For more information or to register, contact Mark at 520-364-9257 or [mark@fronteradecristo.org](mailto:mark@fronteradecristo.org)**

*All expenses included from Douglas, Arizona, except for two meals on travel days. Based on round trip air travel between Hermosillo and Tapachula. We may be able to arrange for a flight back to the airport of your choice from Mexico City at no additional cost if we know by September 1. If the cost is more, you would be responsible for the difference.*