



Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
www.shupchurch.org

10:15 am WORSHIP
June 9, 2024
Graduation Sunday

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.

- 2 Corinthians 4:16

It gives me a deep comforting sense that things seen are temporal and things unseen are eternal.

- Helen Keller (1880-1968)

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Preparation

Call to Worship

Liturgist: 2024 Graduates

Leader: God of days, we praise your name, for your grace sustains us. We wait for you, Lord, for your word strengthens us.

People: **Our outer nature is wasting away day by day, but our inner nature is being renewed by your daily bread.**

Leader: Grant us the eyes to see what cannot be seen and to gaze on what is eternal.

People: **May we revel in your work and be a visible witness to your kingdom of love. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen!**

*Hymn: *Guide Me, O Though Great Jehovah!*

No. 281

*Call to Confession

Leader: Let us confess our sins, for God has already forgiven us and is calling us to return to the Lord. Let us pray together with the prayer of confession.

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, have mercy on us, for we have failed to be faithful to you, though you have always been faithful to us. You show us your wisdom, but we prefer to go another way. Our broken relationships with you and one another have created poverty in our souls. In your mercy, reconcile us to you and to one another for the work of justice, peace, and love, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Siblings, do not lose heart. When we call, God hears; when we confess God forgives us. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Be at peace.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen!

*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: *You Can Tell the World*

Camb & Gibson

(GPM: Frank Cepits, Ryan Gracey, Dave Petty & Keith Yanda)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me!*

No. 304

Children's Story Time

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

¹³⁻¹⁵ We're not keeping this quiet, not on your life. Just like the psalmist who wrote, "I believed it, so I said it," we say what we believe. And what we believe is that the One who raised up the Master Jesus will just as certainly raise us up with you, alive. Every detail works to your advantage and to God's glory: more and more grace, more and more people, more and more praise!

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

5 ¹⁻⁵ For instance, we know that when these bodies of ours are taken down like tents and folded away, they will be replaced by resurrection bodies in heaven—God-made, not handmade—and we'll never have to relocate our "tents" again. Sometimes we can hardly wait to move—and so we cry out in frustration. Compared to what's coming, living conditions around here seem like a stopover in an unfurnished shack, and we're tired of it! We've been given a glimpse of the real thing, our true home, our resurrection bodies! The Spirit of God whets our appetite by giving us a taste of what's ahead. He puts a little of heaven in our hearts so that we'll never settle for less.

Psalm Reading: Psalm 138

¹⁻³ Thank you! Everything in me says "Thank you!"

Angels listen as I sing my thanks.

I kneel in worship facing your holy temple

and say it again: "Thank you!"

Thank you for your love,

thank you for your faithfulness;

Most holy is your name,

most holy is your Word.

The moment I called out, you stepped in;

you made my life large with strength.

⁴⁻⁶ When they hear what you have to say, GOD,

all earth's kings will say "Thank you."

They'll sing of what you've done:

"How great the glory of GOD!"

And here's why: GOD, high above, sees far below;

no matter the distance, he knows everything about us.

⁷⁻⁸ When I walk into the thick of trouble,

keep me alive in the angry turmoil.

With one hand strike my foes,

With your other hand save me.

Finish what you started in me, GOD.

Your love is eternal—don't quit on me now.

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Laura Strauss

Organ Solo: *You'll Never Walk Alone*

Rodgers & Hammerstein

When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark. At the end of a storm there's a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark.

Walk on through the wind, walk on through the rain
Though your dreams be tossed and blown.
Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone
You'll never walk alone
CCLI #1065469

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith: The Confession of Belhar, a portion of 10.3, from the Uniting Reformed Church of Southern Africa, 1986

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by work and by deed to the new heaven and new earth in which righteousness dwells. We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of reconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

Recognition of our 2024 High School graduates and Mehaffey Scholarship winners:

▪ Jacey Ellis ▪ Riley Farabaugh ▪ Robert Tang

Recognition of our 2024 College graduates:

▪ Drew Kennedy ▪ Ryan Pochek

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

Hymn: *O Christ, the Great Foundation*

No. 443

*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: *Teach Your Children Well*

G. Nash

(GPM)

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

A Special Thank You to GPM for providing us with our special music this morning.

Happy Birthday to Debbie Edwards (10th), John Fitzwilliam (11th), John Knasko (11th), Maya Williams (12th) & Pastor Laura (14th)!

Happy Anniversary to Tom & Judy Stacey (12th) and Luke & Sarajane Obarsky (14th)!

The Chancel Flowers were given today by Dee Borman in honor of SHUP friends.

The Flower Delivery will be made by Pat Ellis.

Our Greeters today was Pat Ellis.

Deacon Food Drive Donations for June: Pancake/Muffin Mix

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 Yates family; Daniel, Kara & Amelia and The Zeglin family; Amanda, Garth, Tristan, Rowan & Violet

June – Betty Coffey, Rev. Dr. Bill Gracey, Evelyn Lape, Tim Slater (Jeff Allison's friend)

May – Chrissie LeJeune (Karin's friend), Rev. Dr. Bill Gracey

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

Congratulations to the SHUP 2024 Graduates

High School Graduates and Mehaffey Scholarship Winners:

Jacey Ellis: Jacey will be attending the University of Pittsburgh and plans to major in Law or Physical Therapy.

Riley Farabaugh: Riley Will be attending Slippery Rock University and will be majoring in Exercise Science and Physical Therapy.

Robert Tang: Robert was recruited by Gannon University to join their cross-country team. He has not decided on a major.

College Graduates:

Drew Kennedy: Drew graduated from Penn State with a degree in Data Sciences. He plans to find a job here in the Pittsburgh area.

Ryan Pocek: Ryan graduated from The Ohio State University on May 5, 2024 with a BS in Business Administration specializing in Finance and a Minor in Engineering. He will be starting as an Investment Banking Analyst at Macquarie Group in Chicago, IL on July 29, 2024.



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

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun, June 9 – Graduation 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 Graduation Celebration – Findley Hall
5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

Tues, June 11

4:20 pm Yoga – Crystal Hall
7:00 pm Square Dance Class – Crystal Hall

Wed, June 12

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

Fri, June 14

5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

Sun, June 16

9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall
9:00 am Children’s Sunday School – Library
9:45 am Men’s Chorus Rehearsal - Sanctuary
10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary
10:45 am Children’s Church
11:30 am Mission Meeting – Cort Room
5:00 pm AA Meeting – Findley Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Pastor Away:** Pastor Laura is attending a conference for a Bread for the World in Washington D.C. on Monday and Tuesday this week. If you have a pastoral emergency outside of office hours, please contact Bev Knasko at (412)563-7154.
- ❖ **Men’s Chorus:** All men of the congregation are invited to sing during worship next Sunday, June 16th. There will be a brief rehearsal that morning at 9:45 am in the sanctuary.
- ❖ **Women’s Chorus:** All women of the congregation are invited to sing during the worship service on Sunday, June 23rd. There will be a brief rehearsal that morning at 9:45 am in the sanctuary.
- ❖ **Vacation Bible School:** The CE Commission will hold VBS on July 29th through August 2nd (M-F/9:30 am – Noon). If you would like to register your child(ren) or learn more, please visit our website at [VBS | Mysite \(shupchurch.org\)](http://VBS|Mysite(shupchurch.org)). The cost for the week is \$25/child. There are scholarships available. Please contact Taylor Strang at sunsethillsce@gmail.com with any questions.