



March 2024

In this Issue

Message From Pastor Laura	1
Music Notes	2
Women's Retreat 2024	2
Notes from CE	3
Thank You	4
Easter Flowers	4
Lenten Events	5
March Information	6-7
Sunset Hills Book Club	7
.....	

Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
(412) 561-6261
www.shupchurch.org

Rev. Dr. Laura Strauss
revlaurastrauss@gmail.com

Karin Schein, Office Administrator
sunsethillschurch@gmail.com

Shelby Gracey, Music Director
sgracey@verizon.net

Taylor Strang, Christian Ed. Director
sunsethillsCE@gmail.com

Michelle Brumfield, Nursery School
sunsethillsnurseryschool@gmail.com

A Message from Pastor Laura

Be O Lord, a guiding star above me, a smooth path below me, a kindly shepherd behind me and a bright flame before me; today, tonight and forever. Amen.
- Columba of Iona, 521 - 597 AD



The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is traditionally remembered as a denomination founded by the Scot Reformer, John Knox. Knox was born in 1572, a vocal opponent of Mary, Queen of Scots. He and the queen once even had a battle of words in person in Edinburgh's castle! It was of Mary, Queen of Scots, that Knox eventually wrote *The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women*. The

Catholic Queen Mary symbolized much of what the Reformed John Knox despised. His theology, now as much as traditional to Scotland as haggis, built our theology when our ancestors came from Scotland to western Pennsylvania. This is why there's a Presbyterian church on every corner in Pittsburgh, and why we enjoy shortbread for the Lord's Supper: our tradition is totally, completely, thoroughly Scottish.

But, the influence of the church in Scotland reaches back long before the days of John Knox and his grumpy teachings. The influence of the church in Scotland reaches back all the way to the 500's with a man called Columba. It is believed that Saint Patrick, of Saint's Patrick's Day fame, brought Christianity from England to Ireland. Patrick had been taken to Ireland as a slave, returning to Ireland as a missionary after receiving his freedom. It was the Irishman Columba who then carried Christianity from Ireland to Scotland, which was part of the Irish kingdom at the time.

The Women's Retreat, 'Merry of Soul: A Celtic Women's Retreat,' on Saturday, March 16 will explore the ancient history of Christianity in Ireland and Scotland. We'll learn about Patrick and Columba, particularly Columba's founding of an abbey on the isle of Iona. We will also explore the not-so-monstrous regiment of another Irish saint, the patron saint of midwives and newborns, Brigid of Kildare. The cost for the retreat is \$30, which includes breakfast and lunch. We will spend the day in Findley Hall learning, laughing, and being with friends. I hope you'll join us!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Laura

Music Notes


By Shelby Gracey

Throughout the season of Lent, the Chancel Choir and Campanile Bells will be presenting music in worship that reflects the Lenten theme. The bells will ring on March 10, and GPM will sing on March 17. Everyone will share in the beautiful hymn “The Palms” at our Palm Sunday Processional on March 24, and we’ll celebrate Easter Sunday, March 31, with the choir singing and the bells ringing triumphant resurrection Music!

But we all know that Holy Week precedes our glorious Easter celebration. To observe Maundy Thursday this year, we’ll gather in Findley Hall on Thursday, March 28 at 6:00 p.m. We’ll sit at the tables, enjoying a soup, salad, and bread dinner (which will be provided). At 7:00, following our dinner, we’ll remain at the tables as the Tenebrae Service of Shadows begins. There will be hymn-singing, the choir will sing, we’ll share in Holy Communion,

and candles will be extinguished throughout the service, leaving us in the light of the Christ candle. It will be a unique and memorable service for Maundy Thursday.

As you journey through the season of Lent, which leads us to Easter, please plan to join us for Sunday morning worship, as well as our Maundy Thursday dinner and service. We can reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, as we then gather to celebrate the glorious Easter day!



Merry of Soul:

Saturday, March 16th

A Celtic Christian

9 am – 4 pm

Retreat for Women

Sunset Hills U.P. Church

Explore early Christianity in the land of the Celts with sisters in the faith, led by Rev. Dr. Laura Strauss. Enjoy good food, fascinating conversation, and learn about the world of faith in Scotland, Ireland, and beyond!

Cost: \$30.00

Breakfast and Lunch Included

Notes from Christian Education

By Taylor Strang

Courage, Faith & Leadership

This March, we are shining a light on the remarkable female leaders of the Old Testament in Children's Church. From Deborah's strength to Esther's courage, these women inspire us all.

Throughout the month we will be learning about the stories of these remarkable women and share lessons of courage, faith and leadership.

In addition to our focus on the female leaders of the Old Testament, we are excited to announce that Sunday School for 2nd-5th grade students will also delve into learning about Jesus' disciples as we close our lessons on the books of the Bible.

Days for Girls Pittsburgh South PA

When?

Starting January 10th!

Wednesdays

10-2 pm

Last Sunday of the Month

11:30-2:30 pm

Team

Donation List

- Polyester Thread
- 5/8" Grosgrain Ribbon
- Sewing Scissors
- Seam Rippers
- Sewing Lights
- Rotary Cutters
- Straight Pins
- 24 x 18 Cutting Mat

Where?

Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

Wilson Hall

Enter through side door of large parking lot

900 Country Club Drive, Pittsburgh, PA, 15226



Mehaffey Scholarship



Applications for the Mehaffey Scholarship are now available to 2024 High School Seniors.

The Mehaffey Scholarship was created by Sara Mehaffey Carter and her sister Barbara

Mehaffey Jocoy in honor of their parents, Edgar and Rosabell Mehaffey. Edgar and Rosabell were active members of SHUP and public-school teachers. For these reasons, the Mehaffey Scholarship Committee awards the scholarship to graduating seniors who are active members of SHUP, active in service to the church and community, show good character, and demonstrate academic achievement.

If you would like an application to apply for the Mehaffey Scholarship, please contact Taylor Strang at (412)561-7997 or sunsethillsce@gmail.com.

All applications are due by April 14th.

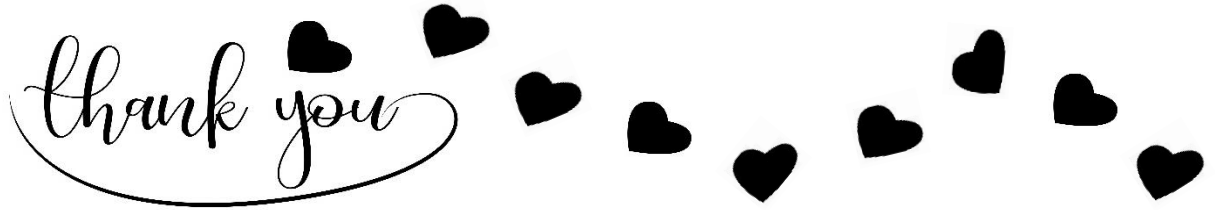
Thank You

Dear SHUP!

Each time I see the flower arrangement from the congregation, I feel such love and joy accompanying the sweet scents. Thanks from the bottom of my heart for the kindness along with the cards and wishes for healing. Progress is slow, but the physical therapy is working.

Blessings,

Jan Paulsen



Easter Flowers

It's time to order your Easter Flowers. The Deacons will be taking orders through, March 7th. If you would like to order flowers, you can fill out the form below and mail it into the church office or drop it in the collection basket on Sunday. Just be sure to include a check and to write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line. If you are using the tithe.ly app, please be sure submit the physical form so we don't miss your order.

The flowers will be used to decorate the church for the Easter Sunday service. They will be available for you to take home after the service.

EASTER FLOWERS

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Please fill in the information below and return it to the church office no later than Thursday, March 7th. Please include your check made payable to SHUP and remember to put "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

Flower Selection

Lilies _____ @ \$12 each

Tulips _____ @ \$8 each

Daffodils _____ @ \$8 each

Flowers will be available for you to take home after worship service on Easter Sunday.

Presented by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Enclosed is my check for: _____

Thank you to Chapons Greenhouse, chosen for their expertise and quality.

Lenten Events



**MAUNDY THURSDAY
MARCH 28
TENEBRAE SERVICE OF
SHADOWS
FINDLEY HALL**

6:00 p.m. – Dinner of soup, salad, bread
7:00 p.m. – Tenebrae Service, with singing,
Communion, and candlelight



Palm Sunday Brunch
Sunday, March 24th
After Worship
Findley Hall

Sponsored by the Deacons



Easter Sunday
March 31st
Worship Service: 10:15 am

March Information

Sunday School

9:00 am – Findley Hall

During the Lenten Season everyone is invited to join Pastor Laura in Findley Hall to watch and discuss a series of documentaries on hunger. We will be learning about food waste, hunger, climate change, and national and global hunger. The videos are compelling to watch and will lead to equally compelling conversations.

There will be Sunday School on Palm & Easter Sunday.

Campanile Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday's - 6:30 pm

Bells will have practice in the sanctuary.

Peanuts Square Dancing Club

Tuesday's - 7:00 pm

The Peanuts Square Dancing club will meet in Crystal Hall. Everyone is welcome, no partner or previous experience is needed. There is a cost of \$5/class.

Sunday Worship

10:15 am

If you are not able to join us in person, a video of the service will be posted to our YouTube channel on the Monday after the service: [Sunset Hills Church - YouTube](#). You can get a copy of the bulletin by clicking on the link on the homepage of our website www.shupchurch.org.

Chancel Choir Practice

Tuesday's - 7:30 pm

Chancel choir will have practice in the choir room.

Days for Girls

Every Wednesday – 10:00 am

Days for Girls will meet in Wilson Hall.

For more information about DfG, please contact Taylor at sunsethillsCE@gmail.com

Fellowship Hour First Sunday of the Month

We will continue to hold fellowship after the worship service on the first Sunday of every month. If you would like to host one Sunday, please sign up on the sheet outside of Findley Hall.

Tai Chi

Wednesday's – 6:30 pm

Gurney Bolster, certified Tai Chi instructor, will begin a new 8-week session on March 6th.

You can register for the classes online at:

[Tai Chi for Health Pittsburgh – With Gurney Bolster.](#)

Findley Hall Bible Study Monday's – 1:00 pm

The Findley Hall Bible study meet for the month of March.

If you would like to learn more about this study, please contact Jody Colby at jody.colby@verizon.net.

Office Closed

Monday, March 25th

The church office will be closed on Monday, March 25th.

Wilson Hall Bible Study Tuesday's – 1:00 pm

The class will be studying the Epistles, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. They will continue to meet in March. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Carole McCullough at (412)343-5758.

Nursery School Closed Easter Break

The Sunset Hills Nursery School will be closed for the Easter holiday from Friday, March 22nd through Friday, March 29th.

March Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Evelyn Lape | 10 Karin Daniels |
| 2 Parker Chambers
Barbara Geary | 15 Frank Cepits |
| 3 Michelle Escobar | 21 Jody Colby |
| Mike Robinson | 22 Amy Riley |
| 4 Chris Gardner | 26 Karen Heim |
| Nathaniel Kennedy | Jim McKean |
| Linda McKean | 27 David Brumfield |
| 9 Ray Bowman | Savy Dunlevy |
| | 29 Jessica McCulloch |

Prayer List

Dee Borman



Prayer Circle

We ask that every week you take a moment and add these people to your daily prayers.

<u>Week of:</u>	<u>Praying for:</u>
March 3 rd	Ian & Jenna Ney The Ney family; Bill, Leslie & Alecia
March 10 th	Carol Noonan Marie Noonan
March 17 th	The Obarsky family; Luke, Sarajane & Lorelei Pat Patterson
March 24 th	Jan Paulsen David Petty
March 31 st	Marge Petty Rosalie Pillitteri

SHIM Food Donations

March 2024

This month, we will be collecting **Canned or Dried Beans.**

Rev. Dr. Strauss's Dissertation

Pastor Laura Dissertation entitled "As a Hen Gathers Her Chicks," will be made available in early 2024 to the congregation. She will be using her dissertation for a sermon series of the same name through the season of Lent, February 18 – March 17, 2024.

Sunset Hills Book Club

March Book of

the Month

The Magnolia Palace

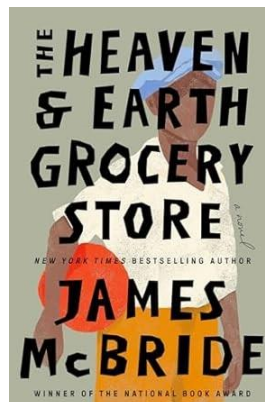
By Fiona Davis

March 27th – 7:30 pm

Eight months since losing her mother in the Spanish flu outbreak, Lillian Carter's life has fallen apart. For the past six years, under the moniker Angelica, Lillian was one of the most sought-after artists' models in New York City. But with her mother gone, a grieving Lillian is rudderless and desperate. So when she stumbles upon an employment opportunity at the Frick mansion, Lillian jumps at the chance. But the longer she works as a private secretary to the imperious and demanding Helen Frick, the more deeply her life gets intertwined with that of the family.

Fifty years later, model Veronica Weber has her own chance to make her career—and with it, earn the money she needs to support her family back home—within the walls of the former Frick residence, now converted into one of New York City's most impressive museums. But when she is dismissed from the Vogue shoot taking place at the Frick Collection, she chances upon a series of hidden messages in the museum: messages that will lead her on a hunt that could not only solve Veronica's financial woes, but could finally reveal the truth behind a decades-old murder in the infamous Frick family.

(Amazon Book Description)



May 2024

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store

by James McBride

Meeting on May 29th

In Person

June 2024

Empress of the Nile

by Lynne Olson

Meeting on June 26th

In Person

