



Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

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

10:15 am WORSHIP
June 8, 2025
Pentecost Sunday

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome Guest Preacher, General Minister Rev. Jessica McClure-Archer

Jessica comes to the work of the presbytery after serving as a pastor within the congregational setting for over fifteen years, both as an associate pastor outside of Washington, D.C. and locally as a solo pastor in the Mon Valley. Jessica is married to Andy, who is a cartographer for the Federal Government's Department of the Interior, and is mom to two young adults, Evan and Cami.

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Preparation

Introit: *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Debbie Edwards

Leader: How manifold are your works, O Lord!

People: In your wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Leader: You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;

People: And so you renew the face of the earth.

Leader: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

People: I will praise my God while I have my being.

Hymn: *On Pentecost They Gathered* (Tune: The Day of Resurrection)

No. 128

*Call to Confession

Our sister Julian of Norwich spoke these words of faith: "All people who shall be saved, while we are in this world, have in us a marvelous mixture of both well-being and woe. We have in us our risen Lord; we have in us the misery of the harm of Adam's falling and dying. We are steadfastly protected by Christ, and by the touch of his grace we are raised into sure trust of salvation. And by Adam's fall our perceptions are so shattered in various ways, by sins and by different sufferings, that we are so darkened and blinded that we can hardly find any comfort." In the strong assurance of pardon, let us confess our sin using the prayer of confession.

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Without your power, O God, we are lost. We have done things we would avoid, and what you desire, we have not done. By your purifying fire transform our lives; guide us into honesty and compassion so that filled with your peace our dreams and visions may be one with yours; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: By the power in whom we live and move and have our being, I pronounce to you the complete forgiveness of all your sins, through the holy Trinity, one God, whose mercy is everlasting.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen!

Response: *Let Every Christian Pray* (vs. 2)

The Spirit brought to birth the church of Christ on earth

To seek and save the lost:

God never has withdrawn, Since that tremendous dawn,

The gifts at Pentecost.

*The Passing of the Peace, American Sign Language

Leader: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

Anthem: *Spirit, Come Down*

M. Hayes

Chorus

Spirit, come down like the days of old.

Spirit, come down and fill my soul.

Lord, I want to be used by You, to feel Your power in all I do.

Spirit, come down and fill my soul.

Now on the day of Pentecost the disciples of the Lord were in one place
When suddenly from heav'n on high came the sound of a mighty wind.
That mighty wind then filled the place, and the Spirit appeared like tongues of fire.
It took control of everyone, filling them with power.

Chorus

There were people there from every land, yet they heard God's word in their native tongue,
For the Spirit had helped them understand the mighty word of the Lord.

Chorus (twice)

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HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me!*

Children's Sermon

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan

to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”

So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

New Testament Reading: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Holy Chaos!*

Rev. Jessica McClure-Archer

Hymn: *Breath on Me, Breath of God*

No. 316

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

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith: A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.4

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage

to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Joys, Concerns, & Testimonies

Minute for Mission

Jeff Allison

Presenting Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

*Response: *Come, O Spirit (vs. 3)*

**Come, O Spirit, fill Your church, making strong our mission;
Fill Your daughters and Your sons with a mighty vision,
Till the great and glorious day when the whole creation
Sings Your praise as Lord and King, Giver of salvation!**

DEPARTING TO SERVE

Hymn: *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

No. 315

*Benediction (To be sung):

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.

*Postlude

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

PENTECOST FLOWERS



IN MEMORY OF

Linda Coutant by Michelle Brumfield

The Dunbars, Templetons, and Alonsos

Nicole Brown by Amy Sumner

Our Parents and Grandparents by Gus & Sandy Gill

IN HONOR OF

Our Church Family by Ray & Ginny Bowman

Loved Ones by Gus & Sandy Gill

Our Children and Granddaughter by Bill & Shelby Gracey

Ron and Amy Sumner by Mary Abbott

Mary Abbott by Amy Sumner



Happy Birthday to Tom Junker (9th), Debbie Edwards (10th), John Fitzwilliam (11th), John Knasko (11th), Maya Williams (12th), and Pastor Laura Strauss (14th).

Happy Anniversary to Thomas & Judy Stacey (12th) and Luke & Sarajane Obarsky (14th).

Deacon Greeter(s)/Flower Deliveries Made By: Jonathan Fako & Mike Duffner

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 and 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 – Thursday 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.

Scheduling a Meeting with Pastor Laura: If you would like to meet with Pastor Laura to discuss a matter that is **not** a medical or pastoral care emergency, please reach out to her. You can contact her via email at revlaurastrauss@gmail.com or by calling the church office at (412) 561-6261 to schedule a meeting. Dropping in to say “hi” is always appreciated, but scheduling a meeting ensures that Pastor Laura can dedicate the necessary time to your discussion if needed.

PRAYER LIST

Prayer Circle – Thomas & Afua Akompong and Jeff Allison

June – Jett Owsley & Family, Dee Borman, Emily & Ashley, Dee Schlueter, Francine Brown

Ongoing –Ron Sumner; Nancy Brumfield; Mya Kelly; Joanna; Becca; our sister church in Malawi, Africa, Litchenza CCAP; our WorldVision child, Pabatso Makhalanyane; and all those who are affected by natural disasters.



Welcome to Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun, June 8

9:00 am Children's Sunday School - Library
10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary
10:45 am Children's Church
11:00 am Fellowship
4:00 pm AA – Findley Hall
5:30 pm Troop #16212 - Crystal

Mon, June 9

6:30 pm Troop #46920 – Rm. 110

Tues, June 10

7:00 pm Square Dance Class – Crystal Hall
7:00 pm Counseling Group – Rm. 6

Wed, June 11

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

Thurs, June 12

7:00pm Yoga – Crystal Hall

Fri, June 13

5:00 pm AA – Crystal Hall

Sun, June 15

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
4:00 pm AA – Findley Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **VBS Donation Trees:** Please consider taking an ornament from the VBS Donation Trees in Findley Hall. Thank you in advanced for helping SHUP to create a fun and faith-filled Bible adventure for the children.
- ❖ **VBS: Take VBS to the Alaskan Wilderness!** This year's Vacation Bible School theme, True North: Trusting God in a Wild World is an Alaskan theme. We need to borrow the following supplies for Vacation Bible School from August 4 – 8: Canoes / Kayaks / Oars, Artificial Christmas Trees (unlighted), Coolers, Camp Chairs, Alaskan/Tundra-Themed Décor, Camping Decor/Supplies. Please make sure to put your name on your supplies so they may be returned to you in a timely manner. Supplies can be put in the Junior High Youth room, located on the left after the Sexton office in the downstairs hallways leading to the preschool. Contact Pastor Laura (revlaurastrauss@gmail.com) with any questions.
- ❖ **VBS Volunteers Needed:** Help SHUP guide the littlest hearts and minds to God. Volunteers are needed to help VBS 2025 run successfully. Dedicating your time and talents to this important mission is a tremendous gift to the faith of God's children. Please consider signing up to share yourselves for one or more days during VBS week. Contact Pastor Laura (revlaurastrauss@gmail.com) with any questions. Volunteers are required to have up-to-date clearances. Please contact Stratton in the officed at 412-561-6261 or at sunsethillschurch@gmail.com with any questions about your clearance status.
- ❖ **Congratulations Graduate Julianna “Jules” Ellis:** SHUP extends heartfelt congratulations to Jules on her degree from Slippery Rock University and wishes her all the best in her exciting new role as an educator!

SOCIAL JUSTICE DINNERS:

A Monthly Community Feast for Kindness

**Join us Saturday, June 21 from 6-8 pm
for an evening of good food, great
company, and neighborly care!**

WHERE: Sunset Hills Presbyterian Church, 900 Country Club Dr, Pittsburgh 15228

WHAT: Potluck Dinner and community gathering to share needs and spark action.

2025 will bring challenges for many in our community — but we can rise together. At Social Justice Dinners, we'll break bread, share stories, and stand in solidarity. Each month, we'll spotlight a local cause and build the connections that create real change.

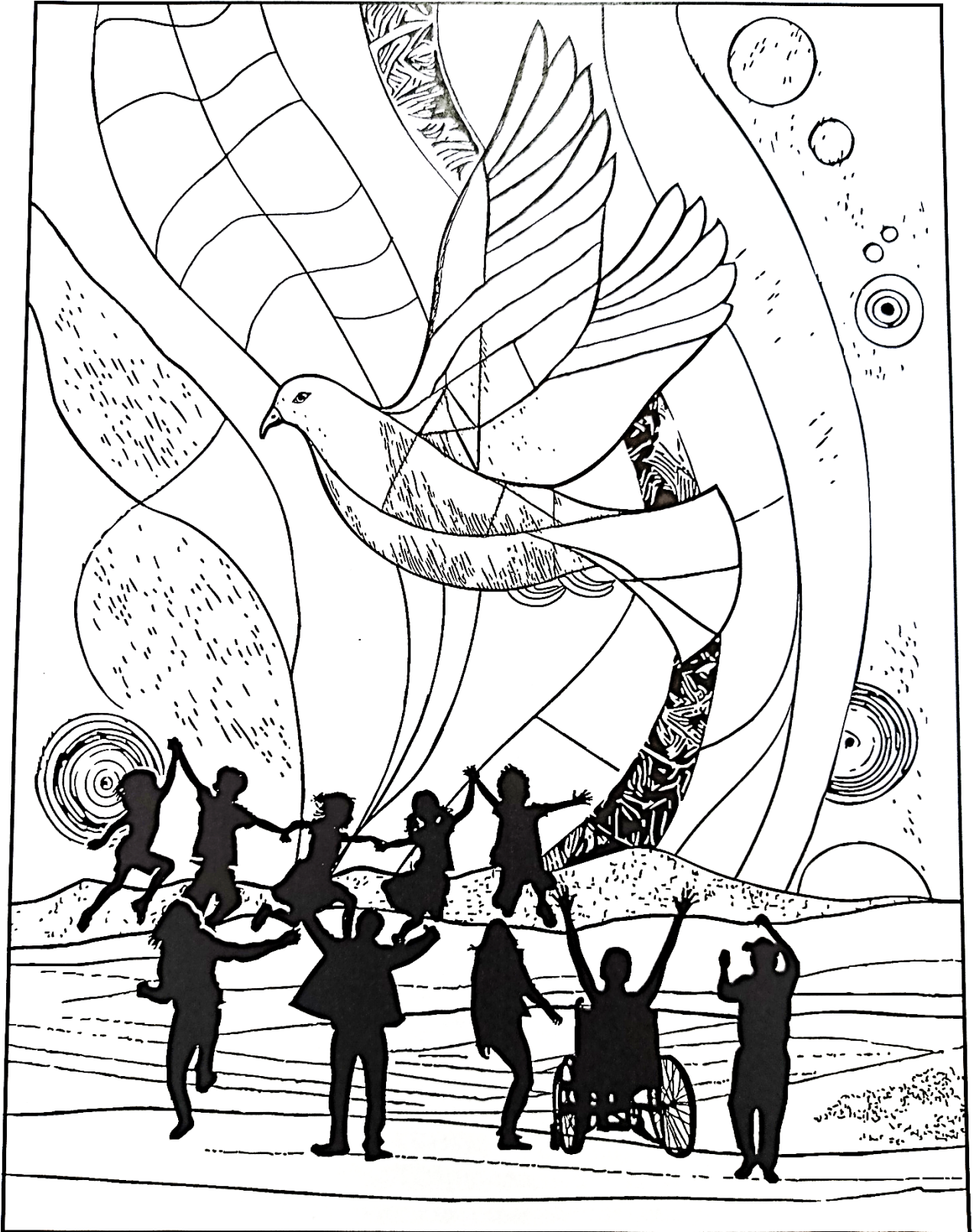
WHAT WE'LL HAVE:

- ✓ **Shared Meal** – Bring a dish to share with your neighbors!
- ✓ **"Help Wall" & Support Table** – Need a hand or have something to offer? Post your request or skill (e.g., "Happy to help with yard work" or "Looking for a book club buddy") and build community connections.
- ✓ **A Spotlight on Local Needs** – Hear from local heroes about ways we can support those in need right here in Lebo.
- ✓ **An Opportunity to Write Letters** to our representatives.
- ✓ **Kids' Activity Corner** – A fun, welcoming space just for kids! Enjoy crafts, games, and creative activities while the grown-ups connect.



**Come for the food, stay for the connection, and leave
knowing you've made a difference. All are welcome!**

RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/leboSJdinner>



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS