



May 2021

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***A Message from Pastor Laura***



What do Hugh Jackman, the Dalai Lama, and Dolly Parton have in common? All three have received their COVID-19 vaccine. As have many of the senior citizens, teachers, and other qualifying individuals from our congregation.

This good news of the vaccine has created much joy and hope. This is evidenced in the increasing attendance at

our 10:15 Sunday morning worship service. Every week sees an increase, peaking at 67 in attendance on Easter! Hallelujah, praise be to God!

And, yet, we all know that the pandemic is not over yet. Children and teenagers aren't vaccinated, and new strains of the virus have caused new questions.

What does this mean for us as a church?

We need to continue to be patient. As we read in The Year of the Bible in March, Paul writes about the importance of patience to the church at Rome. Their affliction comes in the form of persecution. Emperor Nero, who welcomes the Jewish population back to Rome, turns out to be a pretty awful man - he's eventually going to inaccurately blame the Christians for a fire that burns much of Rome, and persecutes both Jewish and Gentile Christians. It's a torrent of violence that, frankly, puts this pandemic in perspective. In response to this violence and affliction, Paul calls the church to patience.

The only way patience is possible is with prayer. I know this from personal experience. When I struggle with patience, especially in 2020/21, I have been known to say aloud, "Give me patience, Lord Jesus." Why? Because this season is hard! We want Fellowship Hour! We want church dinners! We want to hug the huggers from our congregation! We want life to get back to our church normal! And, with the joy of the vaccinations, the pain of being apart is felt all the more. How do we find the patience to endure it? We find it in prayer.

(Continued on pg. 2)

## Pastor Laura Message

(Continued from page 1)

My encouragement to you this month is to nourish your prayer life. Take a moment to reflect on how your relationship with the Savior is at the moment. Where do you find yourself feeling close to Jesus? Where do you feel isolated? What has drawn you into his presence, nurtured your walk, and helped you to be patient in these days? What parts of your life and daily practices have pulled you away from him? Reflect on your prayer life, discovering for yourself those practices that help you in your relationship with Jesus.

If you'd like help, I'd be delighted to reflect on your prayer life with you and to encourage you in what practices may be best for your personal, devotional life - I'm just an email or phone call away!

With Joy and Hope In These Days,

Pastor Laura

### **Contact Information:**

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## The Year of the Bible

### Daily Year of the Bible Readings May 2021

|        |                                 |        |                                  |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| May 1  | 1 Samuel 20-22/Mark 15          | May 16 | 2 Samuel 23, 24/1 Corinthians 10 |
| May 2  | 1 Samuel 23, 24/Mark 16         | May 17 | 1 Kings 1, 2/Psalm 55            |
| May 3  | 1 Samuel 25, 26/Psalm 49        | May 18 | 1 Kings 3-5/1 Corinthians 11     |
| May 4  | 1 Samuel 27, 28/1 Corinthians 1 | May 19 | 1 Kings 6, 7/1 Corinthians 12    |
| May 5  | 1 Samuel 29-31/1 Corinthians 2  | May 20 | 1 Kings 8, 9/Psalms 56, 57       |
| May 6  | 2 Samuel 1, 2/Psalm 50          | May 21 | 1 Kings 10, 11/1 Corinthians 13  |
| May 7  | 2 Samuel 3-5/1 Corinthians 3    | May 22 | 1 Kings 12, 13/1 Corinthians 14  |
| May 8  | 2 Samuel 6, 7/1 Corinthians 4   | May 23 | 1 Kings 14, 15/1 Corinthians 15  |
| May 9  | 2 Samuel 8-10/1 Corinthians 5   | May 24 | 1 Kings 16, 17/Psalms 56, 57     |
| May 10 | 2 Samuel 11, 12/Psalm 51        | May 25 | 1 Kings 18, 19/1 Corinthians 16  |
| May 11 | 2 Samuel 13, 14/1 Corinthians 6 | May 26 | 1 Kings 20, 21/2 Corinthians 1   |
| May 12 | 2 Samuel 15, 16/1 Corinthians 7 | May 27 | 1 Kings 22/Psalms 60, 61         |
| May 13 | 2 Samuel 17, 18/Psalms 52-54    | May 28 | 2 Kings 1-3/2 Corinthians 2      |
| May 14 | 2 Samuel 19, 20/1 Corinthians 8 | May 29 | 2 Kings 4, 5/2 Corinthians 3     |
| May 15 | 2 Samuel 21, 22/1 Corinthians 9 | May 30 | 2 Kings 6, 7/2 Corinthians 4     |
|        |                                 | May 31 | 2 Kings 8, 9/Psalms 62, 63       |

## Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

Each month when I write my article, I usually go back and review the article that I wrote a year ago, just to make sure I'm not repeating myself! When I read my May 2020 article, it talked about how I needed to ask for help and rely on Ryan and others to assist me with the music for our online services (which went on far longer than any of us could have imagined!) Thankfully, we've been able to worship in person again these last few months, but we know that our online recordings will continue into the unforeseen future!

We owe a huge debt of thanks to Ryan for all his work on Sunday mornings (and afternoons). He has worked the sound board, run the video camera, sung as our "cantor," and then spent part of his afternoon editing and uploading the worship videos to our YouTube channel, so those who are unable to join us in person are still able to view the services.

Now that summer is approaching, we're working on some back-up plans in order for people to step in and allow Ryan to take a few weeks of vacation. Many thanks to those who have agreed to help out with the sound board, recording, and editing on occasion this summer. Ryan has been "fine-tuning" his editing skills over this past year, so please be patient if an occasional summer video isn't exactly what you've gotten used to, as our back-up folks learn the ropes. And if there's anyone out there who would like to volunteer to help



out at the sound board, the video camera, or the editing & uploading, please let me know.

Many thanks to the Campanile Bell Choir who has offered their beautiful music throughout the year. Their last Sunday to ring will be May 16 before they take a break for the summer, and we're so appreciative of the time they've committed to the music this year. We'll continue to present recordings of our choir anthems and congregational singing until the time comes when we can all sing together once again. Stay tuned for some possible outdoor worship services this summer as well, as the re-entry team continues to make decisions regarding worship and meeting together.

My May 2020 article ended with the following words:

*If this crisis has taught us anything, one of the most important lessons I'll take away from this time is that we need to lean on each other – to ask for help when we need it – and to offer help when we can give it. Let's hope that this lesson will continue to apply to everyone long after this crisis has passed!*

Unfortunately, this pandemic still isn't in our rear-view mirror yet, but as long as we continue to help and support each other throughout this challenge, we can emerge as a stronger church family, once this is finally over for good!




## Mission Updates



On Saturday April 10, an intergenerational group of 15 from SHUP travelled across town to Garfield Community Farms. In attendance was Pat & John Ellis, Dottie & Dick Fleming, Beth Romig, Jody Colby, Mike Duffner, Darlene

& Riley Farabaugh, Max, Ryan Gracey, Sarajane & Luke Obarsky and Christa & Robert Tang. Director AJ Mosma met us and assigned jobs appropriate to our age and strength. Some weeded, some spread mulch, some dug up rebar, some hauled

heavy things, and all worked hard from 9:30 to Noon. It was a joy to be in nature on a beautiful sunny day enjoying a garden that will produce abundantly for the community and enjoying the fellowship of our friends and neighbors.





**PENTECOST**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

**The Pentecost Offering supports our ministries with children and youth.**

*Join us!*

WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,  
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!  
April 5 – May 23, 2021



 MATTHEW 25

With a foundation in faith built in the early years, our youth can teach us something about leading movements for change in their own communities and in the world. Gifts to the Pentecost Offering are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ. The gifts we share will help young people learn important lessons about life and faith. And children, youth, and young adults can teach us new things and help us shape our faith, too.

We will be collecting for the Pentecost Special offering through May 23<sup>rd</sup>. You can mail your donation to the church office, drop it in the collection baskets on Sunday or by using the tithe.ly app. Just be sure to write “Pentecost Offering” on the memo line.

Please give generously...for if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



# NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP



On Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> Pastor Laura led a neighborhood clean-up! This mission was part of her assignment for her Doctor of Ministry course “Plunging Into the Neighborhood.” She will be writing a 9-page paper about this project and your support is much appreciated!

Members of SHUP were joined by some of our Sunset Hills Neighbors. After a bagged lunch on the lawn, the volunteers headed out to clean-up. They were greeted and thanked by many in the Sunset Hills community. It was indeed a “beautiful day for a neighbor.”





## Mehaffey Scholarships

Applications for the Mehaffey Scholarship from SHUP are now available for 2021 high school seniors. The scholarships are awarded annually to seniors who are members of SHUP, active in service to the church and the community, show good character, and demonstrate academic achievement.

If you would like to apply for the scholarship, please contact the church office at (412)561-6261 or [sunsethillschurch@gmail.com](mailto:sunsethillschurch@gmail.com).

The application along with a copy of high school transcripts and one letter of reference is due by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Graduation Recognition Sunday

We will be honoring our high school and college graduates at our Sunday service on June 6<sup>th</sup>. If you or a family member will be graduating this year, we would like to recognize your efforts.

Please contact the church office at (412)561-6261 or [sunsethillschurch@gmail.com](mailto:sunsethillschurch@gmail.com) with the following information:

- Graduating school name
- Degree received (if graduating college level or higher)
- Future plans (further schooling or employment)



**Saturday, May 15**  
**9:30 AM - 12:00 PM Via Zoom**

Register here: <http://bit.ly/breadworkshop2021>  
 Facebook event:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/243540724171098>



**breadfortheworld**  
 HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

2021 SW PA  
 Bread for the World  
**Annual Workshop**

- Presentation of the 2021 focus of the Offering of Letters
- Racial wealth gap simulation developed by Bread for the World

*All participants will participate in simulation*

**2021 Speaker**  
**Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith**  
 Senior Associate for  
 Pan African and  
 Orthodox Church  
 Engagement at Bread  
 for the World



**breadfortheworld**  
 HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

## May Events

### Adult Sunday School

**8:30 am**

Adult Sunday School will continue their discussions on the daily *The Year of the Bible* readings.

This class will continue using Zoom.

### Sunday Worship

**10:15 am**

Worship in the Sanctuary! 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:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeEpiQYSD\\_9My9tb5GEhVRA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeEpiQYSD_9My9tb5GEhVRA)

You can get a copy of the bulletin by clicking on the link on the homepage of our website [www.shupchurch.org](http://www.shupchurch.org).

### Youth Group

**Sunday's - 6:30 pm**

All youth are invited to join us for Youth Group. They will be meeting in Findley Hall.

The youth group will meet on May 16<sup>th</sup> and then they will take a break for the summer.

### Pastor Laura Away

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> - May 11<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor Laura will be away from the office from May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have a Pastoral Care Emergency, please call the office during office hours (M-F/8:30 am - 2:30 pm) at (412)561-6261 or contact Bev Knasko at (412)563-7154 outside of office hours.

### Special Guest Preacher

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**

While Pastor Laura is away, we will be joined by Rev. Michael Gehrling at our May 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service.

You may remember Rev. Gehrling from our service on March 7<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to welcome him back to SHUP!

### Findley Hall Bible Study

**Monday's - 1:00 pm**

This class will continue meeting using Zoom. They will continue their study of *Think Like Jesus* by Randy Frazee. Please watch the videos on Study Gateway before class.

Contact Evelyn Lape at (412)531-9856 if you would like to join this class and/or to have the Zoom link sent to you.

### Wilson Hall Bible Study

**Tuesday's - 1:00 pm - Wilson Hall**

The Wilson Hall Bible study will continue to meet in person in Wilson Hall. They will be discussing the book of Psalms.

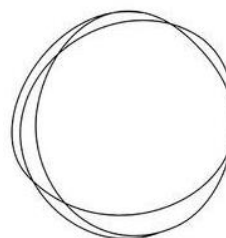
If you are interested in joining this class, please contact Carole McCullough at (412)343-5758.

### Kid's Club

**Wednesday's - 4:30 pm - Findley Hall**

All kids in K-5<sup>th</sup> are invited to join Pastor Laura for fun in learning about Jesus. To learn more about Kid's Club, please contact Pastor Laura at [revlaurastrauss@gmail.com](mailto:revlaurastrauss@gmail.com).

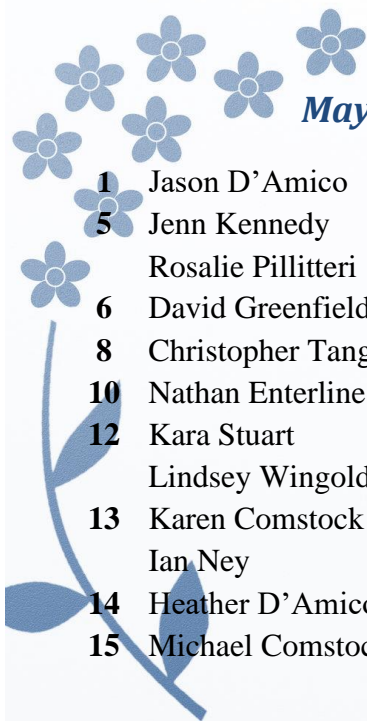
*No class on May 5<sup>th</sup>.*



### Prayer Circle

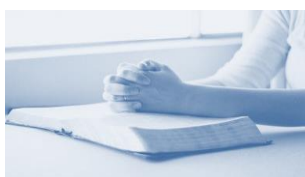
We will be continuing our prayer circle in 2021. Every week we will pray for 2 members (be it family or individuals). This is a time of prayer for our friends and families. We ask that every week you take a moment and add these people to your daily prayers.

| <b><u>Week of:</u></b>     | <b><u>Praying for:</u></b> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| May 2 <sup>nd</sup> .....  | Jan Paulsen                |
|                            | Dave Petty                 |
| May 9 <sup>th</sup> .....  | Marge Petty                |
|                            | Rosalie Pillitteri         |
| May 16 <sup>th</sup> ..... | Susan Pochek               |
|                            | Robert Pritchard           |
| May 23 <sup>rd</sup> ..... | Harriet Rickard            |
|                            | Amy Riley                  |
| May 30 <sup>th</sup> ..... | Mike & Carla Robinson      |
|                            | Beth Romig                 |



## May Birthdays

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jason D'Amico     | 16 Kelly Dawson     |
| 5 Jenn Kennedy      | 17 Kait Holloway    |
| Rosalie Pillitteri  | 18 Riley Farabaugh  |
| 6 David Greenfield  | 19 Kylie Bryer      |
| 8 Christopher Tang  | 23 Barb Fitzwilliam |
| 10 Nathan Enterline | 24 Dian Duffner     |
| 12 Kara Stuart      | David Heim          |
| Lindsey Wingold     | 25 Janeen Hughey    |
| 13 Karen Comstock   | 27 Drew Kennedy     |
| Ian Ney             | Phyllis Moore       |
| 14 Heather D'Amico  | 28 Robert Pritchard |
| 15 Michael Comstock | 30 Bob Shetler      |



## Prayer List

JoAnne Enterline

## Thank You

Dear SHUP Friends,

Thank you all for your calls and most importantly your prayers during my daughter Laura's hospitalization for COVID-19. As I write this note, she has just gotten home from the hospital!! I can only think that your many prayers are the reason she recovered earlier than expected. What a blessing to be a part of the SHUP family!

Gratefully,  
Betty Coffey

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all of your prayers for my cousin, Mark Lewis, as well as the many sympathy cards and condolences that I received upon his passing. Your care and concern truly reflect God's love, and I am very grateful.

Sincerely,  
Carla Robinson

## Sunset Hills Book Club

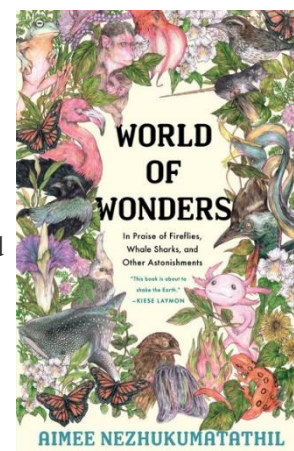
### May Book of the Month

May 27<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm

### *World of Wonders*

By Aimee Nezhukumatathil

As a child, Nezhukumatathil called many places home: the grounds of a Kansas mental institution, where her Filipina mother was a doctor; the open skies and tall mountains of Arizona, where she hiked with her Indian father; and the chillier climes of western New York and Ohio. But no matter where she was transplanted—no matter how awkward the fit or forbidding the landscape—she was able to turn to our world's fierce and funny creatures for guidance. Warm, lyrical, and gorgeously illustrated by Fumi Nakamura, *World of Wonders* is a book of sustenance and joy. (Amazon Book Description)



The Book Club will meet using Zoom. If you would like to join the discussion, contact Pastor Laura to have the link sent to you:

[revlaurastrauss@gmail.com](mailto:revlaurastrauss@gmail.com)



We will be joined by special guest speaker Brienne Sembrat who will be talking about the ways nature connects with our spirituality.

## Save the Date

June 24<sup>th</sup>

7:00 pm - via Zoom

Join Pastor Laura for the  
June 2021 book of the  
month:

*Can't Wait*

to

*Get to Heaven*

By

Fannie Flagg

