



May 2024

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 Presbyterian Church**

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A Message from Pastor Laura

If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. - 1 Peter 4:10



Our God in Christ never changes. His church, however, changes all of the time. The church met in catacombs and homes in its first hundred years. There were no choirs, no pews, and no Sunday School classes. Fast forward a thousand years to the church in England, which, for hundreds of years, maintained a vicarage system. The pastor served as the vicar of the congregation, as well as for the entire village

community. Churches were funded through taxes, as they still are in some European countries. Move into the 1700's in America and we find Presbyterian parishioners buying their own pew, reserving it for Sunday worship. There is a not-so-distant history of communion tokens, debates over organs and piano playing in worship, and dress codes for serving the eucharist. The church is always, always changing.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is entering into a season of change in 2024. First, the Board of Pensions approved a new policy that the PC(USA) will no longer provide health insurance to installed pastor's dependents beginning in 2025. The Committee on Ministry at Pittsburgh Presbytery is currently working through how this will look in our presbytery. We will know more come summer, and our session is keeping informed on these changes. As a point of context, the Board of Pensions has historically always fully funded the health insurance of pastor's dependents. This is a big change and is causing significant disturbance amongst PC(USA) pastors and church finance teams.

Second, the General Assembly of the PC(USA) is meeting in Salt Lake City in June to vote on various overtures. The overture that is receiving the most coverage is OVT-001 which will alter our Book of Order, the second part of the church constitution, to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. This came about in response to numerous individuals

Continued on page 2

A Message from Pastor Laura (cont.)

being prohibited by presbyteries from being ordained as pastors because of their LGBT+ identity, as well as the challenges faced by LGBT+ pastors in finding pastoral calls. If this change passes at the General Assembly, it will then go to all of our nation's presbyteries to vote. If the majority of the presbytery's vote in favor of this overture, it will be instituted. Whether it passes or not, this overture is generating a lot of conversation, debate, and general hubbub.

These two changes are causing a large amount of anxiety within our denomination. As ever, the church is called to adapt to the changing needs of our contexts. Likewise, however, the church is called to decide how it faces these changes through the lens of its faithfulness to Jesus Christ. This means we are called to respond to change through prayer, leaning into the fruits of the Spirit, loving one another when we disagree with one another and doing the next right thing as best revealed to us by God through the Holy Spirit.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Laura

**Join us for the
Ringold
Community
Band Concert
Monday, May 6
7:00 p.m.
SHUP Sanctuary**

**(No charge, but donations will
be gratefully accepted.)**

Pittsburgh South PA Days for Girls (DfG)

More than 500 million people worldwide do not have what they need to manage their periods. DfG is an organization that sends reusable menstrual kits all over the world to help those in need.

Our chapter is focusing on sewing the drawstring bags that are used to hold all of the supplies in the kit.

We are committed to making a change and believe each stitch represents a message to every girl who receives our bags: "You matter." Everyone is welcome to join us to help make a change and put an end to period poverty.

**DAYS FOR
GIRLS**



When?

**Wednesdays
10 am – 2 pm**

&

**The last Sunday of
the month
11:30 am – 2:30 pm**

Where?

**Sunset Hills United
Presbyterian Church
Wilson Hall**

**Enter through the side door of the
large parking lot.**

**900 Country Club Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228**

Donations Needed:

- Polyester Thread
- -5/8 Grosgrain Ribbon
- Sewing Scissors
- Seam Rippers
- Sewing Lights
- Rotary Cutters
- Straight Pins

Monetary donations also accepted.

More Information:

Contact Taylor Strang at
sunsethillsce@gmail.com

or

pittsburghsouthpa@daysforgirls.org

or

(412)561-6261

Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

Over the years, I've written about the worship service that my family held in our local nursing home each month, with me on the piano at a very young age. Our closing hymn was always *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*. Many hymnals leave off the beautiful chorus to this tune, which was my favorite part of the song. On May 12, our Campanile Bells will close our morning worship with an arrangement of that hymn that includes the chorus. As you listen to this song, you'll note that it has the quality of a gentle, music box lullaby.

The words to this hymn were written by Jeremiah Rankin in 1880. A powerful preacher and promoter of congregational singing, Rankin wrote this hymn after discovering that the term "good-bye" meant "God Be With You." It's still one of the finest farewells that can be expressed by Christians to one another as they leave a place of worship.

An example of the power of this song was expressed by the missionary Darlene Deibler, as she was being liberated from the Japanese Prison Camp at Kampili on September 19, 1945. Eight years earlier, Darlene and her husband landed as missionaries in New Guinea and made great progress in building a growing church. But now, her husband was dead and the 28-year-old widow was returning home without a single possession. During her time in prison camp, she had been subjected to years of physical suffering and mental torture, and her body was debilitated by exhaustion, starvation, malaria, and

dysentery. For over four years she had witnessed atrocities that can scarcely be described.

As the boat carried her from her island prison, she prayed a bitter prayer: "Lord, I'll never come to these islands again. They've robbed me of everything that was most dear to me." Suddenly she heard Indonesian voices ringing from the distance. There on the shore were those who had come to know the Lord through her mission, raising their voices, singing: "God be with you till we meet again / By His counsels guide, uphold you, / With His sheep securely fold you; / God be with you till we meet again."



Darlene later wrote in her autobiography, "This song released the waters of bitterness that had flooded my soul, and the hurt began to drain from me as my tears flowed in a steady stream. The healing had begun. I knew then that someday, God only knew when, I would come back to these, my people, and my island home."

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

*God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again,
'neath His wings protecting hide you,*

*Daily manna still provide you – God
be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again,
when life's perils thick confound you,*

*Put His arms unfailing round you –
God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again,
keep love's banner floating o'er you;*

*Smite death's threatening wave
before you – God be with you till we
meet again.*

*Chorus: Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet,
Till we meet, till we meet; God be
with you till we meet again.*

*("Then Sings My Soul," Robert J.
Morgan, Thomas Nelson
Publications, 2003, p. 204)*

Notes from Christian Education

By Taylor Strang

As the sun shines brighter and the days grow longer, we are buzzing like bees with anticipation for an unforgettable summer ahead! We have something for everyone in our vibrant community.

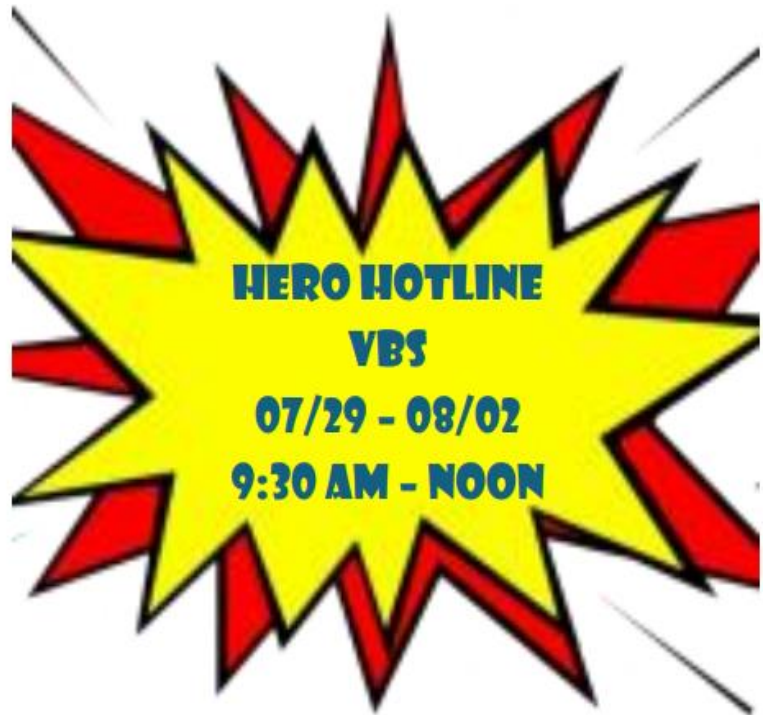
First up on our summer preparation agenda is our registration for Vacation Bible School going live on May 5th. VBS will be held this year from July 29th to August 2nd from 9:30 am to noon each day. Children 3 years old to 5th grade are invited to immerse themselves in a week-long journey of faith, friendship, and fantastic water games by joining us for *Hero Hotline* VBS! With engaging stories, creative crafts, lively songs, and refreshing water activities, *Hero Hotline* promises to be an experience your kids won't soon forget. Be sure to register by visiting our website at:

www.shupchurch.org

Your children are not going to want to miss this exciting adventure! Make your child the hero here at SHUP!

But the summer fun doesn't end there! Every Sunday morning from 9:00 am to 10:00 am, children in 3rd grade and up are invited to join us for Elementary Sunday School in our library. We will be taking a deeper dive into the Bible and looking at its many themes.

And for our youngest members, Children's Church is the perfect opportunity to introduce them to the wonders of faith! Taking place during the worship service, Children's Church welcomes kids from birth to 2nd grade to participate in activities that nurture their spiritual growth and sense of belonging.



EVERY HERO HAS A ROLE TO PLAY!



Registration opens May 5th

www.shupchurch.org

Potty trained 3 yrs. – 5th grade

\$25/child



Volunteers Needed



VBS 2024

Do you have what it takes to be a hero?

If you would like to help with VBS this year, please contact Taylor at sunsethillsce@gmail.com.

Thank You

*Dear ShHUP Friends,
I was delighted to receive the beautiful Easter basket. It was filled with so many interesting items. My favorite was the cute Easter bunny.
Thank you for being so thoughtful.
Marjorie Petty*

*Thank you for my special Easter basket and to Pat Patterson for delivering it. I am enjoying all of the gifts inside.
Blessings,
Carol McCallum*

*Dear SHUP Family,
Thank you to the Deacon's for the delightful Easter basket that Pat Patterson brought to me. Also, thank you to Pastor Laura for the wonderful Easter sermons and to Shelby Gracey, the chancel choir, and bell ringers for the beautiful music. It brought much joy this Easter season.
In Christ's Love,
Meg MacDougall*



*Dear SHUP Deacons,
Thank you for the thoughtful Easter basket filled with special goodies and loving blessings. A jolly bunny named Leslie hopped to my home on Saturday, March 23rd for a pleasant visit.
Thank you,
Harriet Ross*

*Dear SHUP Deacons,
Many thanks for your thoughtful, fun Easter basket. I appreciate your generosity and all you do for our church.
Thank you.
Christ's Blessing!
Lynne Blanning*

*Dear Members of Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church,
We thank you for your generous contribution of \$1,000.00 to the Synod of the Trinity Medical Debt Campaign. Your gift helped to abolish \$5,957,132 in medical debt for 6,537 families in the Synod of the Trinity.
There is joy when we work together as a community in Christ.
Sincerely,
The Mission Committee of Bower Hill Community Church*

RIP
MEDICAL
DEBT

May Information

Adult Sunday School

9:00 am – Findley Hall

The adult Sunday school class will be using *The Great Courses* class on The Old Testament featuring Dr. Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University Divinity School. The class will continue to meet in Findley Hall.

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.

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.

Days for Girls

May 26th – 11:30 am

Days for Girls will meet in Wilson Hall after the worship service on May 26th.

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

Findley Hall Bible Study

Every Monday – 1:00 pm

The Findley Hall Bible study meet in May. If you would like to learn more about this study, please contact Jody Colby at jody.colby@verizon.net.

Wilson Hall Bible Study

Every Tuesday – 1:00 pm

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

Yoga

Every Tuesday – 5:30 pm – Crystal Hall

BreatheIn2It Yoga instructors will finish their Spring Session on May 21st.

To learn more or to register, please visit their website at: [Stress management & wellbeing programs in Pittsburgh, PA \(breathein2it.com\)](#)

Peanuts Square Dancing Club

Every Tuesday - 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.

Campanile Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday – 7:00 pm

Bells will have their last practice on May 14th.

Chancel Choir Practice

Every Tuesday - 7:30 pm

Chancel choir will have practice in the choir room. Last practice will be on May 28th followed by a party in Findley Hall.

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

Tai Chi

Every Wednesday – 6:30 pm

Gurney Bolster, certified Tai Chi instructor, will have classes every Wednesday in May.

You can register for the classes online at: [Tai Chi for Health Pittsburgh – With Gurney Bolster](#).

Yoga

Every Thursday – 7:00 pm – Crystal Hall

BreatheIn2It Yoga instructors will finish their Spring session on May 23rd.

To learn more or to register, please visit their website at: [Stress management & wellbeing programs in Pittsburgh, PA \(breathein2it.com\)](#)

May Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Jason D'Amico | 15 Mike Comstock |
| 5 Jenn Kennedy | 16 Kelly Dawson |
| Rosalie Pillitteri | 20 Jan Paulsen |
| 6 Dave Greenfield | 18 Riley Farabaugh |
| 8 Christopher Tang | 24 David Heim |
| 10 Nathan Enterline | 27 Drew Kennedy |
| 13 Karen Comstock | Phyllis Moore |
| Ian Ney | |

Prayer List

Dee Borman



Prayer Circle

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

Week of:	Praying for:
May 5 th	Jeannine Stimmel Jeff & Joanna Stimmel
May 12 th	Taylor Strang The Tang family; Don, Christa, Christopher, Robert, & Lucy
May 19 th	Diane Van Houtte Alie Vernacchio
May 26 th	Tori Vernacchio Kay Walker

SHIM Food Donations

May 2024

This month, we will be collecting **Personal Items.**

Office Closed

Monday, May 27th

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.

Pastor Laura Away

May 13th – 19th

Pastor Laura will be away the week of May 13th. If you have a pastoral emergency outside of office hours, please call Bev Knasko at (412)563-7154.

Sunset Hills Book Club

May Book of the Month

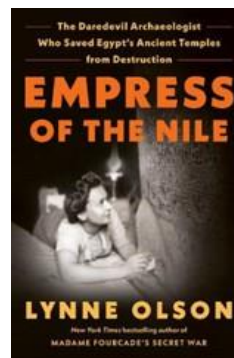
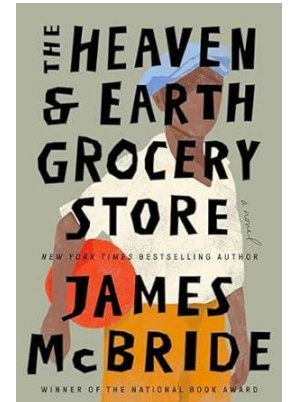
The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store

By James McBride

May 29th – 7:30 pm

In Person

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe.
(Amazon Book Description)



June 2024

Empress of the Nile

by Lynne Olson

Meeting on **June 26th**

In Person

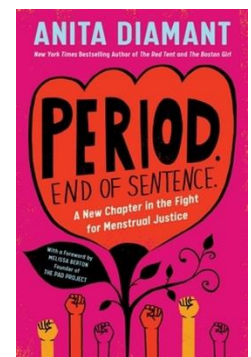
July 2024

Period. End of Sentence

by Anita Diamant

Meeting on **July 31st**

In Person



Health & Wellness

Reasons to Square Dance...



- The Social Interaction
- Gets you up and MOVING
- Entertainment (w/ variety of music)
- Mentally stimulating
- Revitalizes your spirit after a long day
- Come as you are (casual dress)
- Most of all... It's FUN!!!

We Dance: Every Tuesday Night, 7 to 9:30

(All level of dancers welcome; No partner required)

\$5 Admission

Where: **Sunset Hills U.P Church**

900 Country Club Drive
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228

Courtesy of: **Peanut Squares**
and caller

Howard Williamson

What's holding you back?

Contact: Nick 412-667-0929 or Beth 412-680-4837

PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

April 1 – May 19



DREAM



PRESBYTERIAN MINISTRY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

DREAM, a ministry of the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign, Illinois, stands for Driven to Reach Excellence and Academic Achievement for Males. DREAM is designed to reach, teach and invest in African American boys at risk and to walk alongside them and their families beginning at the early age of three until they reach the age of 24. Tracy Dace, DREAM's founder and CEO, calls gifts to the Pentecost Offering "hope in action."

The Young Adult Volunteer program is a faith-based year of service in sites across the U.S. and around the world that has been changing the lives of young people ages 19–30 for nearly three decades. Maggie Collins, who served at Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, said, "My home church has always put an important focus on social justice and the church's obligation to serve the greater community. This had a large impact on me and my conception of what it means to be a Christian."

- 40%** stays with your congregation to support ministries with children, youth, and young adults.
- 25%** supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV), serving in communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.
- 25%** supports Ministries with Youth including the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.
- 10%** is devoted to children at-risk and supports to improve education and provide safe havens.

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.

WAYS TO GIVE —

Through your congregation

Text PENTECOST
to 91999 to support these vital ministries

Give online at
pcusa.org/give/Pentecost