



Sunset Hills

M E S S E N G E R

April 2024

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A Message from Pastor Laura

People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other.

- The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



When was the last time you spoke with someone of a different faith? I do not mean a Methodist or a Catholic or an Orthodox individual. I mean someone who is not a Christian. I ask this question because it is easy to make generalizations about other faith systems when we don't know members of that particular faith. It is easy, when we do not know adherents of different religions, to believe what the news or the media tell us

about those religions. We can find ourselves making assumptions about other religious adherents, or even making judgments about them. At its extreme, a lack of communication with others of different faiths can lead to hatred of those faiths and their members.

This is the necessity of interfaith engagement. Cultivating relationships with people outside the Christian faith help us to see these individuals as Christ would see them: as children of God. Note the woman at the well was a woman of a different faith from Jesus. But Jesus begins their conversation amicably, honors her point of view, and participates in a conversation with her that provides mutual uplifting. None of us remember the woman at the well as a Samaritan. We remember her as...the woman at the well! So is our goal in interfaith engagement. These relationships honor the faith of the other while also humanizing the other in our own sight. They're no longer the Hindu, the Jew, the Muslim, the Buddhist - they're the guy who loves The Three Stooges or the lady at Uptown Coffee.

The month of April is an opportunity for interfaith engagement. We will have the joy of attending Temple Emmanuel's 2 for Seder event on Sunday, April 14. This program was created in 2019 by Marnie Fienberg, daughter-in-law of Joyce Fienberg who was killed in the 2018 Tree of Life shooting. She created this program in Joyce's memory to help end anti-Semitism and to build community. Marnie Fienberg will be the special guest speaker at

(Cont. on page 2)

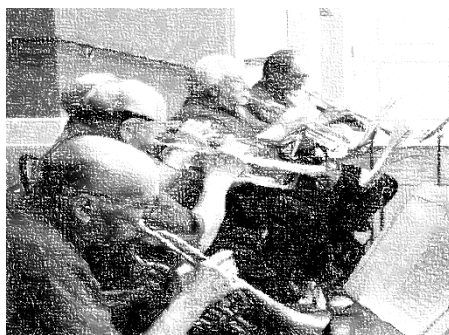
A Message from Pastor Laura (cont.)

this event. We will learn about the Jewish faith and practices surrounding Passover, as well as get to know Temple Emanuel members. Sign-ups are located downstairs outside Findley Hall.

The second opportunity in April is your opportunity to follow Tori Vernacchio, LoAnn Burian (Kara Yates's mom), and I as we make pilgrimage to Japan to visit Tokyo and Koyasan, the home of Shingon Buddhism. We will learn about Japanese religious life, engaging in the life of a Buddhist temple by residing there for four nights. Tori will share about this experience on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, as she preaches in our worship service.

Interfaith relationships are an opportunity to dispel fear, cultivate love, and to grow in our own faith engagement. I hope you'll join us in these opportunities to learn together!

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.)

Thank you....

Dear Friends of SHUP,

Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers that Pastor Laura delivered to me. They made my room so cheerful!

Thank you too for the many prayers, the many cards that made me feel so loved and cared for, the phone calls, and the visits.

All of this helped me to recover faster.

John Ellis, III

Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

Many thanks to the Chancel Choir, Campanile Bell Choir, and GPM for all their beautiful music throughout our Lenten and Easter season. All of our dedicated musicians, singers, and ringers put in many hours of rehearsals to prepare music to present in worship each week. For their commitment, I'm truly grateful, as we lift our voices and instruments to praise God, most especially during the Easter season!

The Campanile Bell Choir will ring again in worship on April 21, with their final ringing of this season taking place on May 12. Our Chancel Choir will continue to sing each Sunday morning throughout the spring, and will end their season on Sunday, June 2. We're always happy to invite some new guests to offer special music throughout the summer months, so please let me know if anyone is interested!

Another opportunity to hear some great music will be on Monday, May 6, at 7:00 p.m. That evening we'll be hosting the Ringold Community Band for a concert in the sanctuary. They'll present lots of great favorites – everything from marches to Big Band tunes. There will be no charge for the evening, but donations will be accepted for the band concert, with the proceeds given to the band for their continued work in the community. We hope you'll join us!

Notes from Christian Education

By Taylor Strang

As April unfolds, our church community is nurturing faith in all ages.

In Children's Church, we're exploring the early church's tales, from the Holy Spirit's power to Peter's miracles, sparking curiosity through interactive lessons and play. Children's Church is during worship and welcomes children from birth to 2nd grade.

Meanwhile, in Sunday School, children in 3rd grade and up are delving into the lives of the 12 disciples, drawing inspiration for their journey of discipleship. Elementary Sunday School is every Sunday from 9-10 am in the library.

But the growth doesn't stop there. On April 21st and 28th, we're gathering all generations in Findley Hall for special mixed-age Sunday School sessions.

Just as April showers bring May flowers, let us embrace this season of growth among our church family.

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.



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



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.



HONOR THE GAME AWARD

The Honor the Game Award is an award that is designed to honor the student athlete that sets high standards and no matter what, sticks to those standards. Honoring the Game gets to what we call the ROOTS of positive play, where ROOTS stands for respect for rules, opponents, officials, teammates, and oneself. Honoring the Game is another definition for sportsmanship – it's about representing our athletic programs with class and excellence.

Congratulations to Riley Farabaugh for being chosen by his teammates on the Mt. Lebanon High School Basketball team for the Honor the Game Award!



2024 Girl Scout Cookies



Thin Mints



Tagalongs



Samoas



Trefoils



Do-si-dos



Adventurefuls



Lemon-ups



S'mores



Toffee Tastics

Gluten free

Girl Scout Cookie

Season is here!

Members of Troop 46920 will be here on:

Sunday, April 7th

After Worship

Findley Hall

Partnering Together to Nourish Our Future

Hunger Advocacy Workshop

Southwest Pennsylvania
Bread for the World



Saturday, April 13th

9:30 am – 1 pm EDT

**Pittsburgh Presbytery
901 Allegheny Avenue**

9:30 am – Registration & Light Continental Breakfast

10:00 am – Welcome & Opening Devotion

10:15 am – Shaping Priorities to Nourish Our Future

11:45 am – Breakout Conversations by Legislative Districts

"Let the little children come to me," Jesus insisted. Today, Christians express our discipleship by caring for children as he did. And our care is desperately needed: across the world, one in five children are malnourished. Right here in Pennsylvania, one in eight children faces food insecurity.

Bread for the World is embarking on a listening campaign that will shape our policy platform for the key federal programs affecting childhood hunger: WIC, the child tax credit, and international assistance. You can be part of this conversation! Come learn about these essential programs, share what you are seeing in your neighborhoods, and discover how you and your church can be effective advocates to end childhood hunger. Meet other people of faith from your legislative district, and help build a strategy for bringing our voices to the halls of Congress.

Registration and a light continental breakfast begins at 9:30, with our program starting at 10:00. The program is free, and lunch (assorted sandwiches, including a vegetarian option, from Bistro to Go) is available following the workshop for a small cost.

To register for the event please visit:

<http://bit.ly/breadworkshop2024>

We hope you will plan to join us.



Temple Emanuel Invites You to Our
Passover
COMMUNITY SEDER

SUNDAY
APRIL 14, 2024
2:00 - 4:00 PM

Push back against anti-Semitism with love and matzah!

You are invited to join Temple Emanuel of South Hills in partnership with 2 For Seder for an interfaith, Community Passover Seder! We will read through an easily followed *Haggadah*, the Seder text, and share hors d'oeuvres, sweets, and matzah over community-building conversation.

RSVP by Sunday, April 7th



2 For Seder was created in 2019 by Marnie Fienberg, daughter-in-law of Joyce Fienberg who was killed in the 2018 Tree of Life shooting, to honor Joyce's memory and approach the task of addressing anti-Semitism through openness and community-building. Temple Emanuel is honored to host 2 For Seder's *official* Community Seder of 2024, featuring guest speaker Marnie Fienberg.

To reserve your spot, please visit their website at:

[Community Seder - Temple Emanuel \(templeemanuelpgh.org\)](https://templeemanuelpgh.org)

Cost for the event is \$10/person or \$80/table (seats 9 people).

April 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 **April 28th – 11:30 am**

Days for Girls will meet in Wilson Hall after the worship service on April 28th. 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 April. 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 March. 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 begin a new 8-week session on April 2nd.

To learn more or to register, please visit their website at: [Stress management & wellbeing programs in Pittsburgh, PA \(breathein2it.com\)](http://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 **Every Tuesday - 6:30 pm**

Bells will have practice in the sanctuary.

Chancel Choir Practice **Every Tuesday - 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

Tai Chi **Every Wednesday – 6:30 pm**

Gurney Bolster, certified Tai Chi instructor, will end her spring session on April 24th.

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 begin a new 8-week session on April 4th.

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

April Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4 Bailey Farabaugh | 14 Matt Sembrat |
| 10 Alie Daniels | 19 Mike Duffner |
| Linda DeBor | 20 Jan Paulsen |
| Sean Matson | 21 Katie Jordan |
| Marie Noonan | 22 John Ellis IV |
| 11 Bill Gracey | 29 Charles Mullen |
| Judy Phillips | |

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>
April 7 th	Susan Pohek & Ryan Harriet Rickard
April 14 th	Amy Riley Mike & Carla Robinson
April 21 st	Beth Romig Rosemary Romig
April 28 th	The Sembrat family; Matt, Brienne, Colby & Ty Tom & Judy Stacey

SHIM Food Donations

April 2024

This month, we will be collecting **Baby Food**.

Office Closed

Monday, April 1st

The church office will be closed on Monday, April 1st.

Pastor Laura Away

April 21st – May 2nd

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

No Book Club in April

Because Pastor Laura will be on her pilgrimage, there will not be a meeting at the end of the month. Instead, Pastor Laura has scheduled two events.

- On Tuesday, April 16th, the Book Club will head to the Frick Museum. Meet at the church at to carpool to the museum for a 9:15 am departure. Cost: \$22
- On Wednesday, April 17th The Book Club will gather in Findley Hall at 6:30 pm to watch the first 2 episodes of *A Gentleman from Moscow*. Bring a snack to share and be ready to discuss when we are done.

Sunset Hills Book Club

May Book of the Month

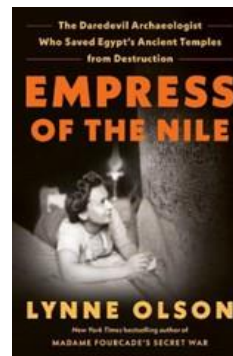
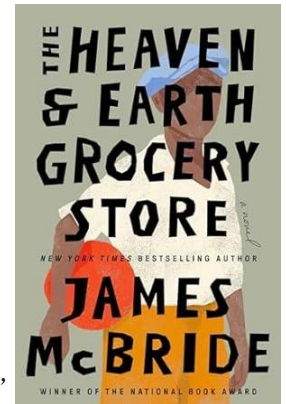
The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store

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

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