



# Sunset Hills

## M E S S E N G E R

### NOVEMBER 2020

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### A Message from Pastor Laura

*After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.*  
 – Revelation 7:9



A blessed All Saints’ Day to you! This is the perfect day to remember those in the faith who have gone home to the Lord, and whose lives in Jesus Christ have positively impacted our own. Today is the day I remember individuals like Dick Moore, Ileana Wyerman, and Patti Patterson – beloved individuals from our Sunset Hills U.P.

Church community who have gone home in glory.

This is also a day that we remember, and are inspired by, the challenges faced by the saints who’ve gone before. A recent conversation with Lynne Blanning reminded me that many of our saints have endured pandemics, political turmoil, and other struggles similar to our own in centuries past. I am reminded of the Apostle John who writes Revelation from the island of Patmos. Is he writing from Patmos because he’s been exiled by a corrupt government? Or is he writing from Patmos because he’s hiding out from a corrupt government? I don’t know! But I know he is a man who has faced significant difficulties. The saints who have gone before have walked roads similar to our own and, by the grace of God in Christ, have arrived on the other side.

Thus, in this difficult season, I invite you to lean on Jesus Christ and to lean on the saints that have gone before. Rest in the memories of your loved ones who taught you about your Savior. Rely on the inspiration of those Christians who’ve persevered amidst struggles in the past. Draw strength from the communion of saints this All Saints Day – for the saints are many, and the saints have much to teach us in our journey here on earth!

In Christ’s Service,

Pastor Laura

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## November Worship

### Our Doors are open!



During the month of November, we will have worship service in the Sanctuary. If you would like to join us, we are requesting that you make a reservation with the church office the week before the service. You can do so by sending an email to [sunsethillschurch@gmail.com](mailto:sunsethillschurch@gmail.com) or by calling (412) 561-6261.

Please see the letter from Pastor Laura on our website for a more detailed description on how the service will work.

If you are not able to join us in the sanctuary, a video of the service will continue to be posted to our YouTube channel every Monday. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeEpiQYSD9My9tb5GEhVRA>.

### Post-Election Day Prayer Service

#### November 4<sup>th</sup>

#### 6:00 pm - Sanctuary

Pastor Laura and Shelby are planning a prayer service in the Sanctuary on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to join us for music and prayer.

## Music Notes

### By Shelby Gracey



As I write this, we're preparing for our first Sunday service back in our sanctuary on October 18, after seven long months of being away. Our Campanile Bell Choir is excited to play for worship on our first Sunday back, as well as a few more times throughout the remainder of the Fall season!

As we celebrate All Saints Day on November 1, I'd like to reflect on the meaning of this day.

"Someone has described a "saint" as any Christian who makes it easier for others to believe in God. One of the neglected liturgical days in many Protestant churches is All Saints Day, which occurs on the first Sunday in November. This neglect is understandable because the tradition of the day is rooted in medieval Catholicism. Homage is given on this day to the departed canonized saints of the church.

"There is, however, an underlying meaning to this day that evangelical Christians should use and recognize. Here, for example, are some lessons it can teach us.

- Every believer whom God has called by His grace and sanctified by His Spirit has been called to sainthood.
- We should thankfully remember those believers from our local church who were called to their heavenly home during the past year.
- We can thank God for that one particular individual who has especially influenced our lives – directing us to God, tutoring us in truth, and modeling the virtues of the Christian life.

"Bishop William W. How wrote the text of "For All the Saints" in 1864, for use in the Anglican church liturgy commemorating "All Saints Day."

"How do we best honor the memory of loved ones and friends who have contributed to our lives? By rededicating our own life to God, obeying Him implicitly, and reaching out to the needs of others."

(The hymn was originally written with eight verses, but the following four verses appear in our Presbyterian Hymnal.)

*For all the Saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*Thou art our rock, our fortress, and our might; Thou, Lord, our captain in the well-fought fight; Thou, in the darkness drear, our one true light. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*O blest communion, fellowship divine, we feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the countless host; Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

(*"Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions,"* Kenneth W. Osbeck, Kregel Publications, 2002, p. 114.)

## Children's Footprints...

By Barb Clark



We have much to be thankful for these days, even amid a pandemic.

“O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds, Thy hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed.” (How Great Thou Art)

Let us go in a slightly different direction for a moment; you may want to grab your Bible.

In the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus starts the evening at the table with his disciples, at this point what happens? Read verses 1-7. Okay, now, move over into Luke's Gospel 22:24-27, now, jump back into John's Gospel. Remember they were all there, they all experienced what just happened. We see an action of complete and utter love and gratitude from Jesus despite the bickering that was taking place. I imagine Jesus bending down, heart broken and saddened that they still did not get it - but loving them anyway as he washed their feet.

Can you feel Jesus in this moment? As he moves from foot to foot; from disciple to disciple, I imagine him praying for each one of them. “Father comfort Peter when the cock crows the third time. And Judas, Father, please not Judas!” Maybe he even asked why? “But Father if it is your will, please forgive them for they know not what.....” Praying for each of them, an intimate moment of love and gratitude for the disciples. And I also believe, that the memory of the Lord stooping before them washing their feet and the feeling of peace he bestowed on each of them, would be used as a great source of comfort and gratitude throughout their ministry.

Fast forward.....three days had passed and in the Upper Room the disciples while frightened, were remembering, this may have been the first time they became thankful for all that Jesus had done for them to include when he bent down and washed their feet. THIS, they could hold onto for the rest of their lives. Thankful!

Thankfulness and Gratitude are topics of conversation as we enter the Fall season. As we prepare our hearts for the season of thankfulness, what does that look like in your life? What could you blurt out loud that you are thankful for? Do it, shout it, then say another and another, keep yourself going until maybe tears stream down your face. Let it sink in and then be grateful for it all, the good, the bad and the ugly. Without those other pieces of the puzzle you would not even know what *thankful* looked like and would not even recognize it if it stood before you.

Jesus said “My peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you, I do not give peace to you as the world gives.” And then.....

The gift of the Holy Spirit, the peace that transcends! Hallelujah! Praise God from whom all Blessings flow!



This will be my last article for the Sunset Hills Messenger. I will miss you all, I am extremely thankful and blessed to have been a part of SHUP these last few years.

Remembering we go nowhere by chance. May the Holy Spirit be with you All.

Barb



## November Activities

### Adult Sunday School

**8:15 am**

This class will continue via Zoom. Pastor Laura will finish the study of *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be no class on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The class will begin the study of *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* by Adam Hamilton on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Children's Church

**Sunday's - 9:00 am**

All children PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join Barb Clark for this Zoom class.

### Sunday Worship Service

**10:15 am**

Join us in the Sanctuary. If you are not able to join us or are not feeling well, Pastor Laura will continue to post a video of the service to our YouTube channel the Monday after the service.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeEpiQYSD\\_9My9tb5](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeEpiQYSD_9My9tb5)

### Youth Group

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

Please bring a snack and drink. Youth Group will meet on:

- November 8<sup>th</sup>
- November 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Sunset Hills Autumn Book Club

**Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 pm**

**Syria's Secret Library by Mike Thomson**

*Daraya lies on the fringe of Damascus, just southwest of the Syrian capital. Yet for four years it lived in another world. Besieged by government forces early in the Syrian Civil War, its people were deprived of food, bombarded by heavy artillery, and under the constant fire of snipers. But deep beneath this scene of frightening devastation lay a hidden library. While the streets above echoed with shelling and rifle fire, the secret world below was a haven of books.*

*Long rows of well-thumbed volumes lined almost every wall: bloated editions with grand leather covers, pocket-sized guides to Syrian poetry, and no-nonsense reference books, all arranged in well-ordered lines. But this precious horde was not bought from publishers or loaned by other libraries--they were the books salvaged and scavenged at great personal risk from the doomed city above.*

*The story of this extraordinary place and the people who found purpose and refuge in it is one of hope, human resilience, and above all, the timeless, universal love of literature and the compassion and wisdom it fosters. (Amazon.com Book Description)*

Join Pastor Laura via Zoom to discuss this month's book.

### Wilson Hall Bible Study

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

If you are interested in joining this study, please contact Carole McCullough at [seamus1219@hotmail.com](mailto:seamus1219@hotmail.com).

### Findley Hall Bible Study

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

This class will continue meeting using Zoom. Beginning November 9<sup>th</sup>, the class will begin a 5-week study of *The Mission of Jesus* with Ray Vander Laan. Ray takes us on Jesus' path through Israel as he stirred the hearts of new followers and challenged the rule of Ancient Rome. Please contact Evelyn Lape at (412)531-9856 to have the Zoom link sent to you.

### Kid's Club

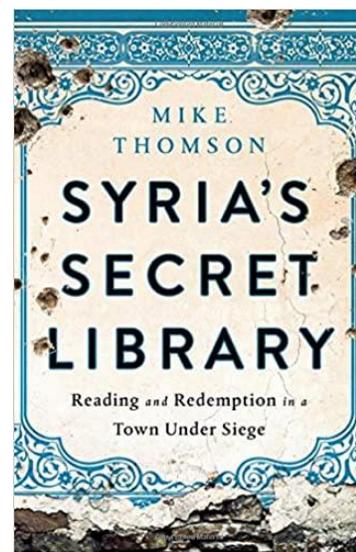
**Wednesday's - 4:30 pm - Findley Hall**

All children PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us for this class to learn about the love of Jesus. ***No meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> this month!***

### Adult Bible Study

**Wednesdays - 7:30 pm**

This class will continue to meet using Zoom. ***There will be no meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> this month!***



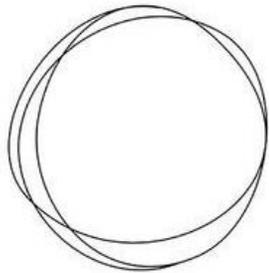
**November Birthdays**

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Robert Taylor     | 18 Ethan Strauss,    |
| 3 Robert Tang       | Robert Wingold       |
| 8 Jessica Brumfield | 19 Orion Hoffman     |
| 9 Eric Stuart       | 23 Darlene Farabaugh |
| 10 Diane Van Houtte | 26 Jeff Bryer        |
| 13 Leslie Ney       | Ty Sembrat           |
| 15 Betty Lane       | <b>HAPPY</b>         |
|                     | <b>THANKSGIVING!</b> |



**Prayer List**

- Carolyn Caldwell  
JoAnne Enterline  
Walter Jackson



**Prayer Circle**

We will be continuing our prayer circle in November. Every week we will pray for 2 members (be it family or individuals). We started at the

beginning of the directory in September and will continue until we reach the end and then repeat. Someone from the church will call you and see if you have any specific prayer requests. 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.

<u>Week of:</u>	<u>Praying for:</u>
Nov. 1 <sup>st</sup> .....	Michael & Karen Comstock The D'Amico Family; Jason, Heather, Emily & Jacob
Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup> .....	The Daniels Family; Sean, Karin, Anna & Alison The Dawson Family; Terry, Lisa, Ryan & Kelly
Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup> .....	The Duffner Family; Chris, Carrie, Elizabeth, Michael & Catherine Tom & Dian Duffner
Nov. 22 <sup>nd</sup> .....	Debbie Edwards The Edwards Family, Brian, Rachele, Sydney & Jackson
Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup> .....	Larry & Jackie Elborne The Ellis Family; John, Angela Jessalynn, Juliana & Jacey

**Sunset Hills Nursery School**

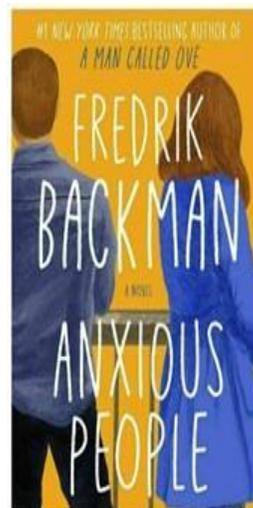


After delaying the opening of the preschool in September, we have decided to slowly reopen in November. We will offer morning 4 and 5-year old classes with smaller class sizes. This gradual opening will allow us to open slowly and thoughtfully. We currently have 15 students enrolled in November. We will then open the school to all ages and afternoon sessions in January.

Of course, this is an ever-changing situation. We appreciate the support of the church, and we hope for a safe and happy return to preschool.

Thank you for supporting Sunset Hills Nursery School. If you would like to learn more about the preschool, you can contact the Director, Christine Huber at [cmhuber8@comcast.net](mailto:cmhuber8@comcast.net).

**Sunset Hills Book Club**



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**December Book of the Month**  
**December 17<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm**  
***Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman**

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)