



# Sunset Hills

M E S S E N G E R

June 2021

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## A Message from Pastor Laura



I remember that I felt like Abraham. It was the summer of 2007. Ethan and I had been in Uganda for a couple weeks, and found ourselves serving at an orphanage just miles from the equator. My bladder woke me at roughly 3:00 a.m., sending me out from under my mosquito net into the fields where the latrines were found. I remember scurrying in fear to the latrine. What if one of the bulls in the field found me?! Their horns were huge! My humble flashlight

would only do so much in alerting me to the bulls locations! And then all the worries fell away. The field glowed as though it were day. I looked up to see from where the light came, finding myself gaping at God's celestial artwork. I forgot the bulls. I forgot my bladder. My breath caught in my throat. My eyes filled with tears. The milky way stretched across the sky as though the firmament were an Omnimax theatre. I remembered God's promise to Abraham - the promise of offspring as numerous as the stars in the sky. I suddenly understood what Abraham saw when he gazed at the sky above him. Never have I felt more profoundly that I was standing on holy ground.

This is why I love outdoor worship. We are worshipping under the most magnificent worship space this world has seen. It is the sanctuary created by God, complete with a wall of trees, the hymns of the birds, the liturgical dance of the squirrels, and the cathedral ceiling that is the sky. God's creativity is seen with every turn of our heads in the outdoor worship space. It is what John Calvin called general revelation, those things in nature which compel us to proclaim, "God is real!"

You are invited to join us for outdoor worship on the last Sunday of the month throughout this summer. Bring your lawn chair, sunscreen, and a picnic lunch to enjoy afterwards. We will worship beneath God's sky, delight in possible interruptions by local wildlife, and celebrate our God in Jesus Christ. These worship services will be all the more meaningful as we are able to be together in breaking bread and sharing our lives.

(Continued on pg. 2)

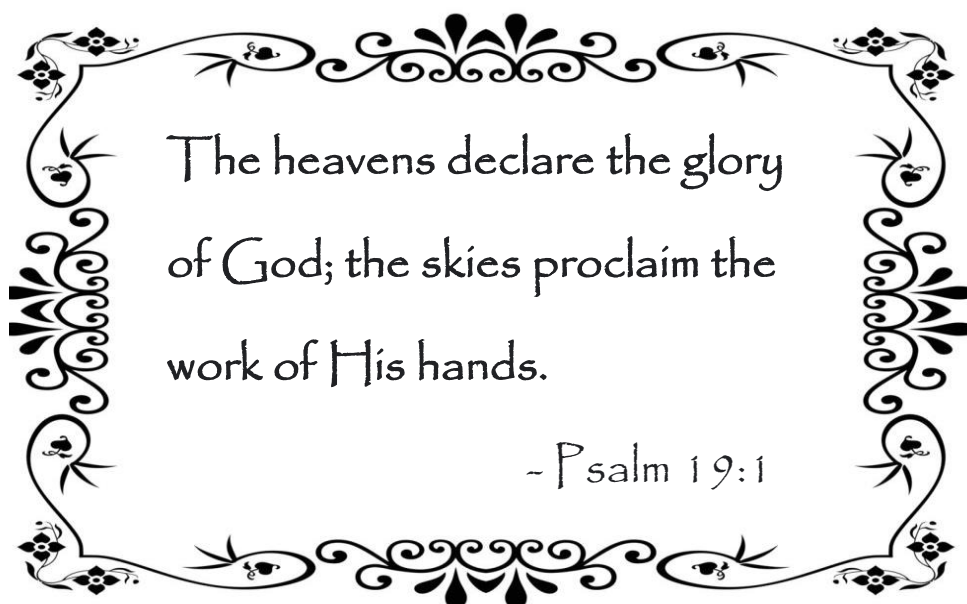
## Pastor Laura Message (Continued from page 1)

The specific dates for outdoor worship in the parking lot are June 27, July 25, and August 29. These services will continue to be posted on YouTube for those who do not feel comfortable joining us in person. If these Sunday's are rainy, worship will be held in the church sanctuary.

I look forward to worshipping with you under God's sky this summer!

In Christ's Service,

Laura



## The Year of the Bible

### Daily Year of the Bible Readings June 2021

June 1	2 Kings 10-12/2 Corinthians 5	June 16	1 Chronicles 24-27/Galatians 3
June 2	2 Kings 13, 14/2 Corinthians 6	June 17	1 Chronicles 28, 29/Psalms 70, 71
June 3	2 Kings 15, 16/Psalms 64, 65	June 18	2 Chronicles 1, 2/Galatians 4
June 4	2 Kings 17, 18/2 Corinthians 7	June 19	2 Chronicles 3-5/Galatians 5
June 5	2 Kings 19, 20/2 Corinthians 8	June 20	2 Chronicles 6, 7/Galatians 6
June 6	2 Kings 21, 22/2 Corinthians 9	June 21	2 Chronicles 8, 9/Psalm 72
June 7	2 Kings 23-25/Psalms 66, 67	June 22	2 Chronicles 10-12/Ephesians 1
June 8	1 Chronicles 1-3/2 Corinthians 10	June 23	2 Chronicles 13-15/Ephesians 2
June 9	1 Chronicles 4-6/2 Corinthians 11	June 24	2 Chronicles 16, 17/Psalm 73
June 10	1 Chronicles 7-10/Psalm 68	June 25	2 Chronicles 18-20/Ephesians 3
June 11	1 Chronicles 11-14/2 Corinthians 12	June 26	2 Chronicles 21-23/Ephesians 4
June 12	1 Chronicles 15, 16/2 Corinthians 13	June 27	2 Chronicles 24, 25/Ephesians 5
June 13	1 Chronicles 17, 18/Galatians 1	June 28	2 Chronicles 26-28/Psalms 74
June 14	1 Chronicles 19-21/Psalm 69	June 29	2 Chronicles 29, 30/Ephesians 6
June 15	1 Chronicles 22, 23/Galatians 2	June 30	2 Chronicles 31, 32/Luke 1:1-38

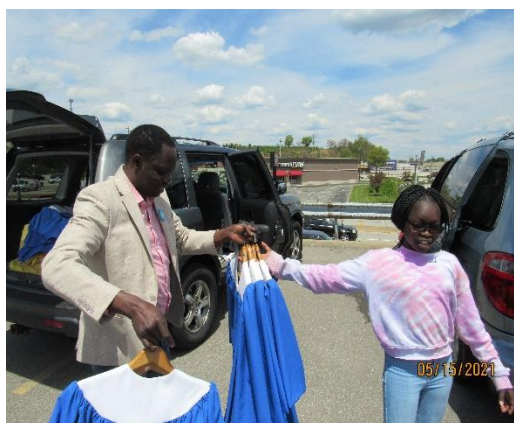
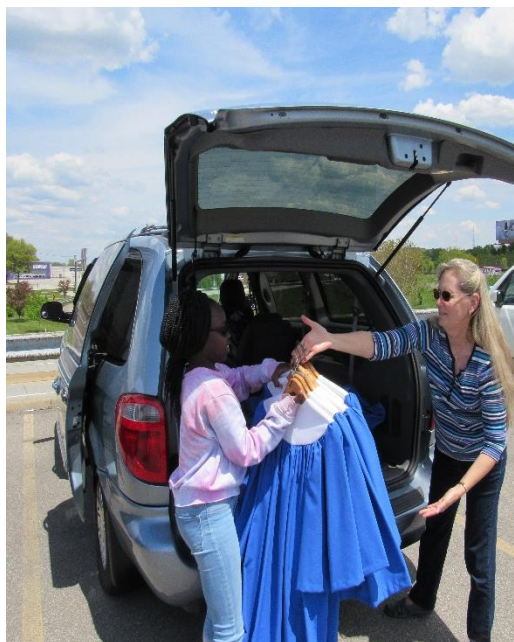


## Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

As the summer approaches, we'll mix it up a little bit and hold some outdoor worship services on the last Sunday of each month. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, June 27, July 25, and August 29 for an outdoor service. Bring your lawn chair and a picnic lunch, and we'll hold our worship in the parking lot, followed by a time of picnic and fellowship outdoors. Our hope is that this will allow even more people to attend in-person worship, for those who are still uncomfortable being indoors. (And we can even do some singing, since we'll be outside!)

While the Mission Commission has been highlighting several of our ongoing mission projects lately, we received a new opportunity for outreach from the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM). I received an email from PAM stating that the Rev. Owar Ojulu of Ebensburg and Colver Presbyterian Churches is headed to Ethiopia and South Sudan this June. The request was made that if any churches have unused choir robes that we wish to donate, they would be greatly appreciated by the churches in these countries. For many years, we've had several gold robes, as well as some blue children & youth choir robes hanging in a closet. The gold robes haven't been used for 20 years, and the blue robes were last used when our current young adults were in elementary school. (They're all in their late 20's now, so you can do the math on those!) We also had several



purple acolyte robes that were unused in the back of the narthex. We contacted Rev. Ojulu and he was thrilled to receive our donation of almost 70 robes! We met Rev. Ojulu and his 12-year-old daughter at a midway point in Greensburg to make the choir robe "hand-off." Rev. Ojulu is a native of Ethiopia and his daughter was born there as well. She's excited to be accompanying her dad on the trip, because they left the country when she was just four years old

He assured us that the choir robes will be greatly appreciated in his home church in Ethiopia, as well as some churches in South Sudan. He promised to send pictures once the robes are presented, which we hope to share in a future issue of *The Messenger*. How wonderful that we can share some of our unused resources with our brothers and sisters in Christ on the other side of the world!

## Mission Updates



<https://www.helloneighbor.io/>

Despite the unprecedented challenges that 2020 held, we were able to accomplish so much good in the face of such adversity. Together we:

- **Matched 27 refugee and immigrant families** with dedicated mentors.
- **Launched our Study Buddy program**, hosting 143 virtual tutoring sessions between refugee youth and dedicated peer tutors.
- **Launched our Direct Services program** in response to the economic challenges our families faced due to COVID-19, providing food, PPE, and essential items to over **500 refugees and immigrants** in need.
- **Raised over \$75,000 for the Refugee Assistance Fund** to distribute cash assistance checks to refugee and immigrant families in need.
- **Supported 8 new refugee and immigrant moms and their newborns** through meal trains, essential item deliveries, and bi-weekly wellness check-ins.
- **Expanded the Hello Neighbor Network**, inviting **15 new members** to join as 2021 Fellows.

Every dollar you donate, every volunteer opportunity you attend, and every minute you spend getting to know your new neighbors is a step forward in helping refugee and immigrant families transition from surviving to thriving.

Together with our incredible community we have accomplished so much good in the city of Pittsburgh. **This is just the beginning.**



# FOOD TRUCK EVENT

## SUNDAY - JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup>

The Congregational Care Committee would like to invite you to the SHUP Food Truck Event to be held in our parking lot on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

We will be joined by Gyros N'At, Kona Ice and TOTOPO Mexican Kitchen & Bar. In addition to the food trucks, the Mt. Lebanon Fire Department will stop by to visit with the kids.

We will follow all CDC guidelines that are in place to keep everyone safe and ask that you do the same while you are here.

We hope you will join us for our first big social event in over a year!



Everyone loves Kona Ice! They offer over 10 different flavors for your shaved ice. You can pick one of their already prepared flavors or you can do it "Kona-Style" and create your own personal concoction.

## 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Family owned and operated, Gyros N'At offers a menu of various types of gyros, falafel wraps, Greek salads, hummus, chicken fingers, fries (Greek and regular) and grape leaves.



TOTOPO Mexican Kitchen & Bar is a vibrant celebration of the culture and cuisine of Mexico with a focus on the foods served in that country. They offer, various tacos, nachos, burritos and empanadas.

## SHUP PARKING LOT

## Quilt Dedication



Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church received a quilt made by Darlene Venables Rebeck. Darlene and her husband, Ben Venables, Jr. were active members of SHUP from 1983 until Ben's death in 2001. Darlene then moved and transferred her membership to another church closer to her new home.

During their time here, Ben & Darlene participated in the first training of the Stephen Ministers. Ben served as a chaperone for one of the youth mission trips and reported that it was a very meaningful experience.

He is remembered fondly for his sense of humor, his work as a volunteer fireman in Baldwin and as a guide for the Trolley Museum in Washington, PA.

Darlene gifted the quilt/banner, that she made to Sunset Hills Church. Per her request, Pastor Laura presented the quilt to the congregation during the Sunday worship service on May 16, 2021. The quilt was dedicated in memory of Darlene's late husband, Benjamin A. Venables, Jr and all of the "other saints interred in the memorial garden." (Please see letter from Darlene below).

*I made this quilt banner and wanted to give it to SHUP in memory of my late husband, Benjamin A. Venables, Jr. and all of the other saints interred in the memorial garden. SHUP will always be family.*

*God bless you all.*

*Darlene Venables Rebeck  
4886 Bermuda Way N.  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577*



Ben & Darlene Venables



### ***William Ralph Newman, February 20, 1935 - May 26, 2020***

The family of Bill Newman (husband of Nancy) will be holding a Memorial and Visitation on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. The service and "sharing time" will be held from 11:00 am - noon and visitation will be from noon until 4:00 pm. Events will be held at the Community Center in the Cranmoor Community, West McMurray Road, Canonsburg, PA 15317. Please feel free to contact Carrie (Newman) Gentile at (724)263-5358 for additional information.



# 2021 GRADUATES

## *Mehaffey Scholarship*

The Mehaffey Scholarship was created in memory of Edgar and Rosabell Mehaffey who were public school teachers and active members of SHUP. It is, therefore, fitting that the recipient(s) of this award be a member of SHUP, active in service to the church and the community, and show good character and academic achievement. The award is given to members of SHUP who are graduating from High School. The recipients this year are:

### *2021 High School Graduates*

- **Julianna Ellis** - Julianna is graduating With honors from Mt. Lebanon High School. She will be attending Slippery Rock University majoring in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Dance.
- **Bailey Farabaugh** - Bailey is graduating from Mt. Lebanon High School. She will be attending Edinboro University majoring in Animation.
- **Sean Matson** - Sean is graduating from Baldwin High School. He will be attending the Duquesne University School of Business.

### *2021 College Graduates*

- **Ian Ney** - Ian Ney graduated from Slippery Rock University on May 1<sup>st</sup>. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice with plans of pursuing a career as a police officer.



## *Graduation Recognition Sunday*

Please join us at our service on **June 6<sup>th</sup>** where we will be honoring our high school and college graduates.

**THANK YOU TO THE MEHAFFEY FAMILY FOR MAKING THIS  
ONGOING SCHOLARSHIP POSSIBLE.**

# Sister Saints

Women Traveling with Women  
Praying and Walking Together  
In The Holy Sites of Sisters in the Faith



## An Italian Pilgrimage

Monday, May 16 - Wednesday, May 25, 2022

### Interact with the Great Cloud of Witnesses

Walk the pilgrim way while learning the history of our sisters in the faith. The sisters will include well known saints such as Saint Catherine of Siena, as well as lesser-known sisters such as St. Lucy Filippini. Their stories will illuminate the sisterhood in Christ

from which we come. We will also reflect on our own path with the Lord, deepening our connection with our faith.



### Dwell in Spiritual Community

There are eight spots for this trip, enabling us to form an intentional community of prayer, support, and encouragement with one another.

### Embrace a Simpler Life

We will be staying in monasteries and convents. We will enjoy delicious Italian food, but also live an intentionally simpler life in these residences.

### Discover Sacred Spaces

The Duomo in Florence, St. Francis' Assisi, and the Vatican are included in our walking exploration of sacred sites. We will visit these sites from a protestant, spiritual perspective. These places will be entered into in a spirit of prayerful adventure, discovery, and reflection.



## Itinerary, Deadlines, and Cost

Monday:	Depart from U.S. for Florence
Tuesday:	Morning Arrival in Florence The Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and St. John's Baptistery Welcome Dinner
Wednesday:	Santa Maria Novella and the Jewish Presence in Florence Free Afternoon in Florence
Thursday:	Day Trip by Train to St. Catherine's Sienna
Friday:	Depart by Train for Assisi Sites of St. Clare of Assisi
Saturday:	Sites of St. Francis of Assisi Free Afternoon in Assisi
Sunday:	Depart by Train for Rome Free Afternoon in Rome
Monday:	Day Trip by Train to St. Lucy Filippini's Montefiascone
Tuesday:	The Vatican and St. Paul Sites Farewell Dinner
Wednesday:	Depart for Home

**Cost:**        **\$2400**

The above includes daily breakfast, accommodations, train tickets, public transportation/car transportation to local sites, and dinner on the first and last night of our time together. Cost **does not** include airfare, tax, gratuities, or meals not otherwise mentioned.

A deposit of \$350 is due by September 16, 2021 to reserve a spot for this trip. Spaces are first come, first served. Contact Rev. Laura Strauss at [revlaurastrauss@gmail.com](mailto:revlaurastrauss@gmail.com) with any questions.



## COMING HOME

On Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Pastor Laura baptized Eibhlin Reilly Bryanne and Eilise Keelyn Adrienne Budde. We were joined during the service by their parents, Emily & Derek, their older brother Caidain and a large number of their close family and friends.

Derek and Emily live in Ohio but wanted to have the girls baptized in the Pittsburgh area where they are originally from and where most of their family still resides. In addition to having the ceremony take place in Pittsburgh, there was a special reason that Emily wanted the girls to be baptized at Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church.

Emily's grandparents, Ivor, Sr. and Jean Wood, along with their children Beth and Ivor, Jr. were members of SHUP from 1984-1994. Beth Wood married Donald Novak and on January 18, 1990 they had a daughter who they named, Emily Christine Novak. On March 25, 1990, Emily Christine Novak was baptized at Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church by Rev. D. H. Snyder.

Being able to have family and friends attend the ceremony was made that much more special by having the twins baptized in the same church that Emily was baptized in thirty-ones years ago.

The Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church family wishes Eibhlin and Elise happiness in their faith journey and prays that their baptism will be the solid foundation that anchors and supports their lifelong relationship with God. Congratulations on your Baptism!

*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

- Proverbs 22:6



## June Information

### 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).

*Outdoor worship will be held on June 27<sup>th</sup> in the parking lot. Remember to bring a chair and a bagged lunch/picnic to enjoy fellowship after the service. (If it rains, worship will be moved into the sanctuary).*

### Findley Hall Bible Study

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

This class will continue meeting using Zoom. They will finish their study of *Think Like Jesus* by Randy Frazee on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

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.

### 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 June 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

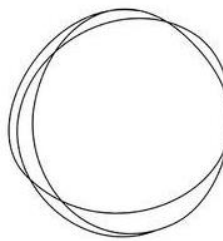
### Choir Picnic

**Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 5:30 pm**

**Church Parking Lot**

The choir will hold a picnic in the church parking lot on Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</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>Week of:</b>	<b>Praying for:</b>
June 6 <sup>th</sup> .....	James & Harriet Ross Art Rupp
June 13 <sup>th</sup> .....	The Sembrat family; Matt, Brienne, Colby & Ty Bob Shetler
June 20 <sup>th</sup> .....	Cliff & Dottie Smith Tom & Judy Stacey
June 27 <sup>th</sup> .....	Jeannine Stimmel Jeff & Joanna Stimmel

### Pastor Laura Away

**June 7<sup>th</sup> - June 20<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor Laura will be away from the office from June 7<sup>th</sup> through June 18<sup>th</sup> to continue studies for her Doctor of Ministry Program.

### Guest Speaker

While Pastor Laura is away, we will be joined by Rev. Susan Rothenberg on June 13<sup>th</sup> and Ralph Lowe, Directory of Justice Ministries at Pittsburgh Presbytery on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

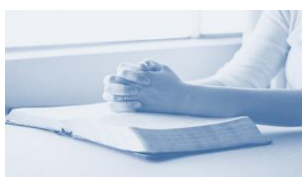
### Chancel Flowers

We have dates open to sponsor the chancel flowers. There are 2 bouquets every Sunday at a cost of \$25 each. Currently, June 27<sup>th</sup> & July 4<sup>th</sup> are available.

Please contact the church office at (412)561-6261 or at [sunsethillschurch@gmail.com](mailto:sunsethillschurch@gmail.com) if you would like to sponsor the flowers for an upcoming service.

## June Birthdays

2 Jack Misterka	12 Maya Williams
Ava Weidensall	14 Rev. Laura Strauss
5 Carrie Duffner	Debbie Vernacchio
6 Karl Hetrick	17 Andrew Glantz
7 John Ellis III	Linda MacDonald
Tiffani Fitzwilliam	19 Jane Huston
10 Debbie Edwards	28 Ryan Gracey
11 John Fitzwilliam	29 Jacob D'Amico
John Knasko	30 Art Rupp



## Prayer List

JoAnne Enterline

## Youth Mission Trip to Benton Harbor, MI

**July 4<sup>th</sup> - July 9<sup>th</sup>**

Our youth will be visiting Benton Harbor, MI for their mission trip this summer. **We are still looking for a male chaperone.** If you are interested in joining our youth on this rewarding journey, please contact Pastor Laura at [revlaurastrauss@gmail.com](mailto:revlaurastrauss@gmail.com).

## Ushers Needed

As we continue to fall back into our normal routine for Sunday worship, we are asking for volunteers to be ushers. If you are interested to being an usher, please contact Maralee Williams at [maraleebwilliams@eaton.com](mailto:maraleebwilliams@eaton.com) or the church office at [sunsethillschurch@gmail.com](mailto:sunsethillschurch@gmail.com).

## Thank you

Dear SHUP Family,

Thank you for your prayers for my mother, Virginia Jones during her illness and for the prayers and cards of condolence and sympathy since her passing.

I feel truly blessed to be a part of this church family. Thank you again so much.

Carol Noonan

## Sunset Hills Book Club

May Book of the Month

June 24<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm

***Can't Wait to Get to Heaven***

**By Fannie Flagg**

*Life is the strangest thing. One minute, Mrs. Elnor Shimfissle is up in her tree, picking figs, and the next thing she knows, she is off on an adventure she never dreamed of, running into people she never in a million years expected to meet. Meanwhile, back home, Elnor's nervous, high-strung niece Norma faints and winds up in bed with a cold rag on her head; Elnor's neighbor Verbena rushes immediately to the Bible; her truck driver friend, Luther Griggs, runs his eighteen-wheeler into a ditch—and the entire town is thrown for a loop and left wondering, "What is life all about, anyway?" Except for Tot Whooten, who owns Tot's Tell It Like It Is Beauty Shop. Her main concern is that the end of the world might come before she can collect her social security.*

*In this comedy-mystery, those near and dear to Elnor discover something wonderful: Heaven is actually right here, right now, with people you love, neighbors you help, friendships you keep. Can't Wait to Get to Heaven is proof once more that Fannie Flagg "was put on this earth to write" (Southern Living), spinning tales as sweet and refreshing as iced tea on a summer day, with a little extra kick thrown in. (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)

## Save the Date

**July 29<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 pm - via Zoom**

July 2021 Book:

*The Book of Joy*

By

Nobel Peace Prize

Laureates His Holiness the

Dalai Lama

and

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

