



Sunset Hills

M E S S E N G E R

May 2022

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A Message from Pastor Laura

"What you are doing, may you keep on doing and do not stop. But with swiftness, agility, and unswerving feet, may you go forward with joy and security knowing that you are on the path of wisdom and happiness...Nothing should be allowed to prevent you from offering yourself to the Most High in the perfection to which the Spirit of God has called you." - Clare of Assisi



Clare of Assisi lived her life in community. Like Francis, she grew up in a wealthy family of faith. Unlike Francis, Clare was expected to marry well. Having been inspired by the ministry of Francis of Assisi, Clare rebelled against her parents' expectations, founding her own female Franciscan community of faith. It was a monastery for women who wanted to live the way of Francis, a way of simplicity, prayer, and service. Most importantly, it was a group of Christian women who wanted to experience a Christ-centered community.

We all need Christian community from time to time, whether it be on Sunday for worship or Tuesday for choir practice. There is balm in knowing that we are with people who will pray for us, even as we pray for them. We challenge each other to grow in our faith. We nurture each other in Christ's name in times of pain. We celebrate one another's pieces of good news. This community carries us through the tumultuous difficulties and unpredictable seasons of life.

In addition to the Christian community that we enjoy from time to time throughout our week, I believe it is also worthwhile to enjoy extended periods of Christian togetherness. Sometimes we've done this through a retreat to Crestfield, or through a weeklong mission trip to the Carolina's. For a couple of the women of Sunset Hills U.P. Church, along with women from Pittsburgh Presbytery, we will be experiencing Christian community with our Roman Catholic sisters (literally - they're nuns!) in Italy.

This May, the Rev. Rebecca DePoe and I are leading Presbyterian women from our region in a time of intentional women's Christian community,

(Continued on page 2)

Pastor Laura Message (Continued from page 1)

following in the steps of women like St. Clare of Assisi and St. Catherine of Sienna. We will pray together throughout the day, we will live simply in convents, and we will visit the sites of sisters in the faith from throughout the past millennia. Rev. DePoe and I are working together to craft an

intentional Christian community for these women, a community where souls are shared, Christ is central, and everyone learns something new about God's workings in our midst.

Please pray for us as we travel this month. I will be away one Sunday,

April 22nd, and am excited for the pastor who will be covering for me. I look forward to sharing God's historic and current holy mischief in Florence, Assisi, and Rome upon my return!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Laura

Session



Luke Obarsky, Ryan Gracey, Bev Knasko, Mary Abbot, Jody Colby, Chip McCoy, Tim Fako, Lisa Ursitz, Carla Robinson, Kara Yates & Pastor Laura

The Session of Sunset Hills holds their monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of every month. In April, they had a special meeting at Lumberjanes. The experience gave our hardworking Session members a much-needed stress release and afforded them the opportunity to do some team bonding. They will be back to their usual way of meeting in May.

Updates from A & P

CE Director

It is with much joy that the A&P Commission of Sunset Hills is proud to announce that Taylor Strang has accepted our offer to become our new Christian Education Director. Taylor began her internship in October and has done an amazing job. We feel blessed that she will continue her excellent work with us in the months and years ahead.

Congratulations Taylor, we're so glad to have you on our team!

CE Director Hours

Taylor's hours will remain the same:

Tuesday: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am - 4:15 pm

Sunday: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

CE Email Update

Please note that the email address for Taylor, our CE Director has been changed. Her new email address is:

sunsethillsCE@gmail.com

Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

What a wonderful Easter celebration we had in worship this year, after two long years of the pandemic! A huge “thank you” to the Chancel Choir, Campanile Bells, and GPM (& the Gals) who led us in music throughout the season of Lent, but most especially on Easter Sunday as we celebrated the risen Christ! I know I’ve said this many times over the years, but I’ll say it again – we are SO very blessed to have a congregation full of musically-talented people, who share their love of the Lord through all their hard work and dedication to the music ministry here at SHUP!



Please plan to join us on Monday, May 9 at 6:45 p.m. in Findley Hall. We’ll have dessert & coffee, provided by the Chancel Choir and

Campanile Bell choir, prior to moving upstairs to the sanctuary for the Ringold Community Band concert. This band has played several concerts for us over the years, and we first invited them here when one of our members, Bill Lane, played in the band. Bill & his wife, Betty, have both gone home to be with the Lord, but their daughter, Cheryl Ursitz, and their granddaughter, Lisa Ursitz (one of our elders), both currently play in the band. Please mark your calendars and come out to enjoy a beautiful spring evening of dessert, fellowship, and beautiful music!

Ringold Community Band



Join us for an evening of Dessert and Music on Monday, May 9, 2022

6:45 pm – Dessert and Coffee in Findley Hall
(prepared by Chancel and Bell Choirs)

7:30 pm – Concert by Ringold Band in the Sanctuary

The Ringold Community Band is comprised of approximately 30 members from the surrounding communities, who will play a variety of favorite music. This is the longest, continually performing community band in Western Pennsylvania, named after its first director, John Ringold, 1909.

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.

Notes from Christian Education

By Taylor Strang

Kid's Club

When I first entered this church in the youth ministry as a child, I was in SHUP's youth club on Wednesdays. It was something that I looked forward to every week and that is why I was honored to get my career at SHUP working with the elementary school youth at Kid's Club. This month, Kid's club will be held every Wednesday at 4:30. We will have our last lesson on May 25th before we depart for our summer break.

Youth Fundraiser

The youth are selling hoagies from Peppi's to help raise funds for their mission trip to Philadelphia in June!

The choices are Italian, Ham w/cheese, Turkey w/cheese or provolone (vegetarian). They cost \$8 each and come with fresh tomato, lettuce and an Italian dressing packet. All orders can be placed by emailing me at:

sunsethillsCE@gmail.com

or Luke Obarsky at:

l.obarsky@gmail.com

All orders are due by May 25th. The hoagies will be distributed after worship service on June 5th.

Graduation Sunday

Please join us for Graduation Sunday during worship on June 5th. We will be presenting our high school graduates with the

Mehaffey Scholarship and blessings for their journey onto college. This year, our graduates are:

Ty Sembrat: Ty will be attending Kent State to study Business Administration.

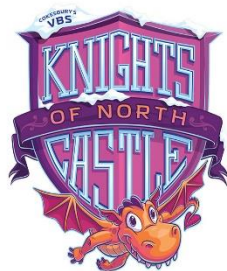
Travis Strang: Travis will be attending the University of Pittsburgh/Johnstown to study Mechanical Engineering.

Chris Tang: Christ will be attending the University of Vermont to study Bio-Mechanical Engineering.

Your SHUP family is so proud of you all!

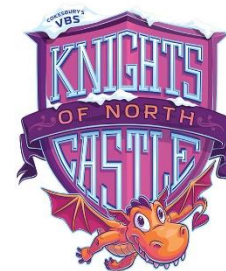
VBS

It is almost summer, the pandemic policies have lessened, and the call to worship is here. If you have not heard yet, Vacation Bible School is back and in full swing for the 2022 season of *The Knights of North Castle*! VBS will be held the week of July 18th - 22nd. The journey will begin at 9:00 am and continue until 12:30 pm every day. The knights are excited to armor up with truth, faith, peace, and justice. The fee for the week is \$25 and is payable by cash, check or through our tithe.ly app. You can register online using the link/information below. We are also in need of volunteers to help with decorations, daily activities, and clean-up. If you or someone you know is interested in helping, please contact Taylor using the information below. Any support you can give is much appreciated!



VBS

July 18th - 22nd



Registration now open: <https://forms.gle/UEUcoQayqWR62kraA> or visit our website at:
shupchurch.org/vbs

\$25/week payable in cash, check or [Church Giving: Mobile App, Online & Text Giving for Churches | Tithe.ly](#)

Volunteers needed: Please contact Taylor at sunsethillsCE@gmail.com to offer your help!

Pet Blessing & Spring Festival

Pet Blessing & Spring Festival

**Sunday, May 1st
4pm - 7pm**

**Be sure to join us for our Pet Blessing
and Spring Festival. We will have food
trucks, games and more!**

***Don't forget to bring the pet members of
your family for a blessing from
Pastor Laura.***



Letters to SHUP

Dear Friends,

*Many thanks for the beautiful Easter basket,
and the lovely flowers that Karen Heim and her
granddaughter delivered to me on Easter
Sunday.*

*The flowers are so colorful and bright in our
living room.*

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Best Wishes,

Marjorie Petty

Dear SHUP Family,

*Thank you to Karen Heim for dropping off my
wonderful easter basket. I am enjoying all of
the special treats.*

Carol McCallum

***Thank
You!***



PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

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.



40%

stays with the Congregation

to develop and support local 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

especially the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.



10%

is devoted to children at-risk

to improve education and provide safe havens.

Noah Westfall spent his YAV year working with a Texas-based interfaith organization that works on issues that impact the most vulnerable. This experience led him to his current career in health care-advocacy with a nonprofit in Washington, DC.



NOAH WESTFALL



WAYS TO GIVE —



Through your congregation



Text PENTECOST to 91999 to support these vital ministries



Give online at pcusa.org/donatepentecost



AKILAH HYRAMS

The Young Adult Volunteer program is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young people ages 19–30 in sites across the United States and around the world. Akilah Hyrums spent a year serving in health clinics in the Philippines after expressing an interest in a medical career — a career she is now pursuing.

We will be collecting for the Pentecost Special offering beginning April 18th. 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. Donations will be accepted through June 5th.

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

May Information

Adult Sunday School

8:30 am

Pastor Laura will continue the study of the series entitled: *The History & Archaeology of the Bible* using videos from National Geographic Historian, Jean-Pierre Isbouts.

This class will continue using Zoom.

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:

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.

Fellowship Hour

11:15 am - Findley Hall

We are bringing back Fellowship Hour on the first Sunday of every month! Everyone is invited to join us for fellowship in Findley Hall on May 1st. There will be a sign-up sheet in Findley Hall if you would like to host a Sunday going forward.

Youth Group

Sunday - 11:30 am - Findley Hall

Youth Group will begin meeting after worship services on Sunday. They will meet on May 8th & May 22nd this month.

Findley Hall Bible Study

Monday's - 12:45 pm

The class will finish their study of "The Chosen" on May 9th. They will begin a 3-week study of "Drive Thru History" on May 16th. Please watch the videos on Study Gateway at [Study Gateway | Video Bible Studies On Demand](#) before class.

Please contact Evelyn Lape at: heyeve7@verizon.net to learn more about this class.

Wilson Hall Bible Study

Tuesday's - 1:00 pm

To learn more about this study please contact Carole McCullough at seamus1219@hotmail.com

Campanile Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday's - 6:30 pm

Campanile Bells will continue to meet in the sanctuary in on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm.

Chancel Choir Practice

Tuesday's - 7:30 pm

Chancel Choir will continue to meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm.

Kid's Club

Wednesday's - 4:30 pm

All kids in K-5th grade are invited to join Taylor for Kid's Club.

If you would like to learn more about Kid's Club, please contact Taylor at sunsethillsCE@gmail.com.

Tai Chi

Wednesday's - 7:00 pm

Gurney Bolster, certified Tai Chi instructor, will continue her classes through May 25th. If you would like to join in on a class, please contact Gurney at gurneybolster@gmail.com.

Memorial Service

Saturday, May 7th - 11:00 am - Sanctuary

The family of Don MacDougall will hold a memorial service in the sanctuary. There will be a reception immediately following in Findley Hall.

Pastor Away

Sunday, May 16th - May 25th

Pastor Laura will be away on the "Italian Pilgrimage" for these days in May. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Bev Knasko at (412)563-7154.

Guest Leader

Sunday, May 22nd

While Pastor Laura is in Italy, we will be joined in worship by Ralph Lowe, Director of Justice Ministries at Pittsburgh Presbytery.

Office Closed

Monday, May 30th

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 30th in honor of Memorial Day.



May Birthdays

1	Jason D'Amico	15	Michael Comstock
5	Jenn Kennedy	16	Kelly Dawson
	Rosalie Pillitteri	17	Kait Holloway
6	David Greenfield	18	Riley Farabaugh
8	Christopher Tang	19	Kylie Bryer
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
		30	Bob Shetler

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>
May 1 st	Jan Paulsen
	David Petty
May 8 th	Marge Petty
	Judy Phillips
May 15 th	Rosalie Pillitteri
	Susan Pohek
May 22 nd	Robert Pritchard
	Harriet Rickard
May 29 th	Amy Riley
	Michael & Carla Robinson

SHIM Food Donations

May 2022

For the month of May, we will be collecting **Personal Items**.

Shim is asking for specific donations for refugees and immigrants. These items are:

- Dried Beans
- Lentils
- Rice
- Flour
- Cooking Oil
- Sugar
- Spices (S&P, Garlic & Chili Powder & Turmeric)
- Disposable Diapers

We appreciate your continued support of this ministry.

Sunset Hills Book Club

May Book of the Month

The Midnight Library

By Matt Haig

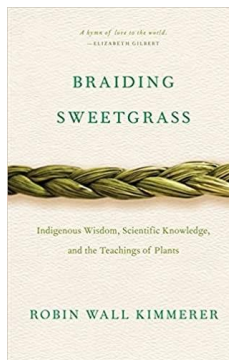
May 31st - 7:30 pm

The #1 New York Times bestselling
WORLDWIDE phenomenon

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?

In The Midnight Library, Matt Haig's enchanting blockbuster novel, Nora Seed finds herself faced with this decision. Faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist; she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place. (Amazon Book Description)

Book Club is on a Tuesday Night in May!!!



June 2022

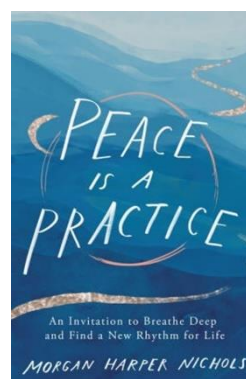
Book of the Month

Braiding Sweetgrass

By

Robin Wall Kimmerer

Meeting on June 29th



July 2022

Book of the Month

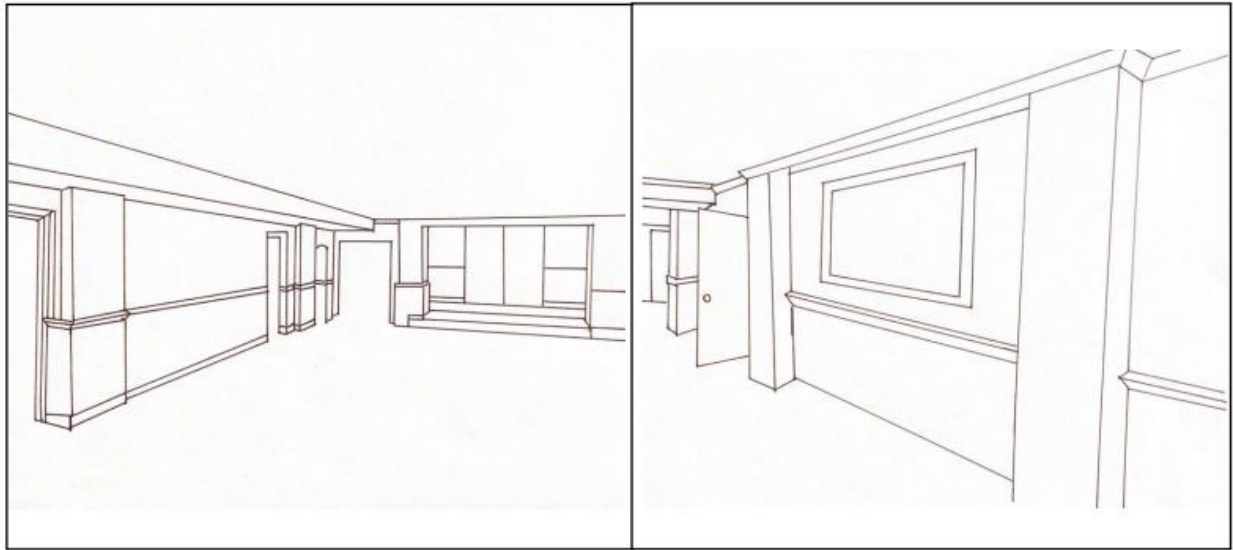
Peace is a Practice

By

Morgan Harper Nichols

Meeting on July 20th

Findley Hall Renovations



SHUP Young Adults Need YOU to help

Support the \$10,000

FRESHEN UP FINDLEY

Capital Campaign

Help us purchase **ALL NEW FLOORING** to Freshen Up Findley! We will be working on Findley during our At Home Mission Trip (June 4-11)

We currently have money to work on the following

Painting the walls

New ceiling tiles

Repairing the paneling

New Lighting

Let's breathe new life into our church

DONATE: www.shupchurch.org/give

or

CHECK: Sunset Hills UP Memo: CAPITAL CAMPAIGN