



Sunset Hills

M E S S E N G E R

April 2023

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A Message from Pastor Laura

What most distinguishes the sacred art of pilgrimage from a tourist trip or hiking expedition, as beneficial as these are, is the characteristic inward journey, a turning of one’s heart to the Divine, with the expectation of transformation on every level of being along the way.

—Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook



The season is soon upon us! The days of Easter celebrate Christ’s time on earth following his resurrection, carrying us to the day of his ascension, and finally the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is a season of renewal and hope, as evidenced in the spring renewal of the world around us.

Pilgrimage is an opportunity to observe this time of renewal, and that is what I will be leading a number of our congregants in during the last two weeks of April. A number of women from our congregation are traveling with the Rev. Rebecca DePoe and me to reflect at the sites of English theologians in Oxford and Norwich. We have prepared over the past six months by reading some of the works of C.S. Lewis, the reformer Katherine Parr, and the mystic Julian of Norwich. Renewal will be experienced on this trip through daily journaling exercises, communal prayer practices, walking historic labyrinths, and walking in the steps of notable siblings in the Christian faith.

My intention is to share this pilgrimage with you while away. I will post inspirational quotes from the theologians we will be commemorating and sharing photos via Facebook. While there may be photos of food and fun - we will be in England, after all - the pilgrims will mostly be turning their hearts to God in Christ. This turning of hearts will be an Easter observance, a time to be refreshed in the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Please pray for these pilgrims as they make their journey this April, that God may work in their hearts through conversations, sites, and prayers. You are invited to join us in pilgrimage at home by dwelling with some of the wisdom of C.S. Lewis or Julian of Norwich, whether it be through documentaries via YouTube or reading their work yourself.

(Continued on pg. 2)

Pastor Laura Message (Continued from page 1)

Additionally, you are invited into the pilgrims way on **April 16 as Garfield Farms shares in worship** about the ways God moves in their ministry in urban Pittsburgh. You are likewise invited to hear more about the pilgrims way in depth as **Jody Colby and Beth Romig preach on their Holy Land pilgrimage during the April 23 worship service.**

Whatever this Easter season looks like for you, I pray you are renewed in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Laura



Spring Clean Up
Sat, April 22nd
8 am - Noon

Calling all
volunteers!

Please join us to help
with our annual spring
cleaning.

Coffee and donuts will
be provided.

Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

As April arrives, Easter is almost upon us! Please join us for our Palm Sunday service on April 2, where we'll join in the singing of "The Palms," during our processional. We'd like to invite ANYONE who would like to join in the processional that morning to grab a palm frond and wave it jubilantly as we come down the aisle welcoming Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem! Following the service that morning, the Deacons will host a brunch in Findley Hall.

During Holy Week, we will hold our Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service in the sanctuary on Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. This service will be a moving time of scriptures, hymns, holy communion, and candlelight, as we remember the Last Supper of Christ, and His trial and crucifixion. The choir will sing two Holy Week anthems during this service.

There will be special music on Easter Sunday, April 9, for our 10:15 a.m. worship service. The Campanile Bell Choir will ring, and the Chancel Choir will offer a favorite anthem, *Then Came the Morning*, accompanied by an inspirational slide presentation.

Let's all come out to celebrate the most important time in the church year at our Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday celebrations!



Notes from Christian Education

By Taylor Strang

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

- 1 Peter 1:3

April is the perfect month for new life, a time for renewal. Change can be good. It can help us grow and learn. So, during the Lenten season, I took time to reflect, pray, and seek guidance on ways to bring about renewal to our CE programs.

The CE Commission decided that our first step towards renewal was to change the name of the youth ministries to Direct Ministries.



DIRECT MINISTRIES

With Direct Ministries we will have different expectations, create new lessons and make some changes to renew some of our old and existing programs.

The Season of Lent has been eye opening for me and allowed me to take the time to reflect. I invite you to join me in this reflection, to open your minds, and find ways for renewal in your own life.

We are excited to start this journey in the month of April and hope you will join us to help bring new life and renewal to all aspects of life at Sunset Hills.

VBS 2023 – Brought to you by *Direct Ministries*



Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! Your kiddos will need to bring their A-game for this VBS. Come on down to Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church for *Twist and Turns* 2023. The evening games begin on July 17th and last until the 21st. More details to come!



VBS Needs You!

July 17 – 21st

5:00 – 8:00 pm

We need volunteers to help with snacks, mission, crafts, recreation, bible study, music and more!

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Taylor at sunsethillsce@gmail.com.

Clearances required by July 10th.

Monts Malawi Mission



Nkhoma Mt, namesake of the village and Synod, 3000 feet high and 3 miles from our apartment with views of 10s and 10s of little villages dotting the landscape for miles in all directions.



Such difficult manual labor that takes us back in time to when grass was cut with machetes and boards were cut by hand with long saws and two-men teams.



Me, a mzungu (white person), with a frisbee always attracts attention and kids, along dirt roads and on the soccer field on Fridays after school.

Holy Week & Easter Sunday



Resurrection of the Lord

Easter Sunday

April 9th

Worship Service ~ 10:15 am



Bread for the World

Southwest Pennsylvania
Bread for the World
2023 Hunger Advocacy Workshop



Sowing Food Justice:

A Hunger Advocacy Workshop on the Farm Bill

Saturday, April 22, 2023

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

John Knox Room, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary



Join us to learn more about the Farm Bill, a comprehensive piece of legislation that plays a huge role in ending food insecurity in the U.S. and saving the lives of millions abroad. Learn more about key priorities for this year's Farm Bill; hear from local advocates, elected officials, and policy experts; and find out how each one of us, in our own congregation, can work to end hunger. Invited speakers include Sen. John Fetterman and Rep. Glenn Thompson.

To register, click the QR code above, or visit bit.ly/breadworkshop2023

Pentecost Special Offering

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.



A tri-presbytery event, called “Belonging Together,” brought together a diverse group of sixth to 12th graders across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This event served to lift up the Matthew 25 vision “to demonstrate as people of God we have a true calling to address division, exclusion and all that goes against the love of Jesus Christ in our world.”

“All our events build up the body of Christ in our worship, keynote, small groups and table fellowship,” said Leslee Kirkconnell, a ruling elder in the Presbytery of Western Kentucky. “This event emphasized the very real bonds we have as humans, as Christians, as Presbyterians. We learned these bonds must be nurtured and encouraged — that relationships are so important.”

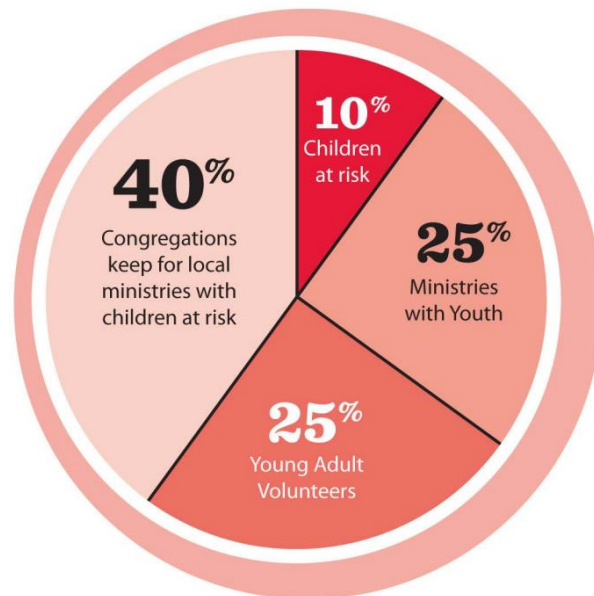
Empowering God, help us to encourage all of your children

to connect with us, one another and you,

that they may grow, thrive and take part

in building up the body of Christ.

AMEN.



WAYS TO GIVE —

-  Through your congregation
-  Text **PENTECOST** to 91999 to support these vital ministries
-  Give online at pcusa.org/donatepentecost



**PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

April 10 – May 28

From Finance

**Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church
Budget vs. Actuals: 2023 - FY23 P&L
February, 2023**

	Year - to - Date 2/28/2023			For the Year 2023
	Actual	Budget	B/(W) Budget	
Revenue				
103-inc Endowment Income & Principle	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,600.00
106.1 Building Usage	350.00	0.00	350.00	
Total 106 Facilities - Income	350.00	0.00	350.00	
110 Interest Income	61.06	85.00	(23.94)	510.00
Offering				
101 Pledges (envelopes)	37,946.94	38,416.66	(469.72)	170,500.00
102 Per Capita (donations)	744.09	866.66	(122.57)	1,300.00
105 Loose (collection)	1.00	166.66	(165.66)	1,000.00
108 Flowers	500.00	400.00	100.00	2,400.00
Total 113 Designated Mission	591.75	0.00	591.75	6,100.00
Total Offering	39,783.78	39,849.98	(66.20)	
Trans Endowment Income	565.47	533.34	32.13	4,200.00
Total Revenue	\$ 40,760.31	\$ 40,468.32	\$ 291.99	188,610.00
Expenditures				
Total Administrative and Personnel	\$ 34,391.13	\$ 35,880.36	1,489.23	206,956.00
Total Budget - Finance	\$ 8,443.35	\$ 8,406.34	(37.01)	17,373.00
Total CE (Christian Education)	\$ 585.80	\$ 1,000.00	414.20	7,250.00
Total Communications-Outreach	\$ 300.00	\$ 400.00	100.00	2,400.00
Total Congregational Care	\$ 0.00	\$ 83.34	83.34	500.00
Total Facilities - Expense	\$ 15,304.79	\$ 9,676.82	(5,627.97)	59,261.00
Total Mission	\$ 3,849.45	\$ 3,974.18	124.73	23,555.00
Total Worship-Music	\$ 1,376.00	\$ 891.66	(484.34)	6,350.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 64,250.52	\$ 60,312.70	(\$3,937.82)	323,645.00
Net Operating Revenue	(\$23,490.21)	(\$19,844.38)	(\$3,645.83)	(135,035.00)

Mission Opportunity

A decorative border of various tropical leaves in shades of green, yellow, and blue surrounds a central dark green circle containing text.

Garfield Farms Weekend

April 15 – 16, 2023

Saturday

Meet at Sunset Hills at 8:00 a.m. to carpool. Serve at Garfield Farms (509 Wicklow Street) from 9:00 – 12:00. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and garden gloves

Sunday

AJ Mosma of Garfield Farms presents during the 10:15 a.m. worship service.

All Are Welcome!

2024 Pilgrimage

Japan: An Interfaith Pilgrimage

Monday, April 22 - Thursday, May 2, 2024

Contemplate the Sacred within Nature

Journey on an interfaith pilgrimage with other women as we'll reflect on and nurture together our relationship with the Divine. Our reflections will take place with visits to Mt. Fuji, participation in Japanese arts, and three full days in the natural sanctuary of the Buddhist community at Koyasan.



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 Buddhist guest houses, known as shukubo. There will be shared bathing facilities and beds will be futons upon tatami floors, in keeping with Japanese tradition. All meals at the shukubo are vegetarian.

Discover Sacred Spaces

Our trip leaders, Rev.'s DePoe and Strauss will guide us through the sacred temples of Koyasan, providing Christian reflection on how this different tradition helps illuminate and enrich our own. While discussion will be dynamic, the pilgrimage will focus on respite, retreat, and spiritual growth that leads to renewal.

Itinerary, Deadlines, and Cost

Monday:	Depart from U.S. for Tokyo
Tuesday:	Arrive in Tokyo
Wednesday:	Free Day in Tokyo (Optional: Tokyo Disney)
Thursday:	Sacred Tokyo: Kintsugi Pottery
Friday:	Sacred Tokyo: Day Trip to Mount Fuji
Saturday:	Travel to Koyasan
Sunday:	Koyasan
Monday:	Koyasan
Tuesday:	Koyasan
Wednesday:	Travel to Tokyo
Thursday:	Depart and Arrive in the U.S.
<u>Cost:</u>	\$2500

The above includes daily breakfast in Tokyo, accommodations, train tickets to and from Koyasan, daily breakfast and dinner in Koyasan. Cost **does not** include airfare, public transportation, tax, gratuities, or meals not otherwise mentioned. We recommend budgeting \$1500 for roundtrip airfare.

COVID-guidelines set by Japan's government will act as the guidelines for this trip. These will be communicated to attendees as we grow closer to April 2024. Proof of vaccination is required.

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is due by September 8, 2023 to reserve a spot for this trip. Spaces are first-come, first served. Passports must have six months left until expiration following May 2024. Contact Rebecca DePoe or Laura Strauss with questions.

Staff Updates from A & P

By Bev Knasko

Financial Secretary

As many of you remember in January 2021, SHUP became a victim of stolen funds by our financial secretary. Immediately following this discovery, our accounts were frozen, and work began on re-establishing safe financial policies at SHUP.

At that time, Beth Romig volunteered her financial experience and began what was to be a temporary position. Because of a re-organization of our Administrative Team and Mary Abbott's resignation as Treasurer, Beth's last day as Financial Secretary will be on March 31.

We want to thank her for her invaluable assistance and perseverance in "righting the wrong" that had occurred at SHUP. We are forever grateful for her devotion to SHUP and wish her many peaceful days in the months and years ahead.

Sexton

Our SHUP staff regrets to announce the resignation of our sexton, Jim Hudak, effective March 8, due to ongoing health issues. Jim began with SHUP in November, 2020 and did an outstanding job in his years with us; he became a member of our

Congregation in May, 2022. Please continue prayers for Jim's continuing strength and well-being in the months ahead. We look forward to welcoming him back to Sunday worship service soon.

Our Monday Morning Marvels have taken over many of Jim's duties as we begin our search for his replacement. Thank You Marvels.

Thank you

Border Ministry

On Sunday, April 9th, Mark Adams from the Border Ministry in Agua de Prieta will join us in worship to share his message and update us on the Presbyterian Mission at the Border.

Accompanying Mark will be his wife, Miriam Maldonado Escobar, also a mission worker at the Border, and their children, Cindy Yessenia, Anna Flor and Nathan.

After the worship service, there will be a meet and greet held in Findley Hall with coffee and donuts.

To learn more about the work they do at the border and/or to donate to this cause, please visit: [Presbyterian Mission Agency Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar | Co-Workers | Presbyterian Mission Agency](#).



Guest Worship Leaders

While Pastor Laura is away on her pilgrimage to England, we will be joined in Worship by special Guest Leaders:



Sunday, April 16th

We will be joined in worship by A. J. Monsma, Community Engagement Coordinator at Garfield Farm. *After graduating with a BSW from Grace College, AJ spent three years in Rwanda serving as a Peace Corps volunteer. It was in Rwanda that she first witnessed the power that agriculture has in building community. Confident that God was calling her to continue that work of building community, she took very intentional steps after landing back in the states. These steps ultimately led to an MA in Social & Public Policy from Duquesne University, her current position at Garfield Community Farm, buying a house a block from the farm, and becoming a member at Valley View Presbyterian Church.*

Sunday, April 23rd

Our very own elders, Jody Colby and Beth Romig will lead us in worship on April 23rd. They will preach on their time spent in the Holy Land.

We hope you will join us to hear about their spiritual journey to see the sacred, holy places where Jesus lived and taught.



April Information

Adult Sunday School

9:00 am - Library

The Sunday school class will continue to meet before worship in the Library.

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.

Jesus & Me (JAM)

Monday's – 11:30 am

Taylor will hold JAM for the pre-school in room 113 in April.

No JAM April 10th.

Findley Hall Bible Study

Monday's – 1:00 pm

This class will continue the video study of “EPIC-An Around the World Journey Through Christian History” with Pastor Tim Challies.

If you would like to learn more about this study, please contact Jody Colby at jody.colby@verizon.net.

Yoga

Tuesday's – 9:15 am - Crystal Hall

If you would like to sign up for classes offered by BreathIn2It, please visit their website at: [Online Stress Management & Anxiety Relief Programs \(breathein2it.com\)](#).

Wilson Hall Bible Study

Tuesday's – 1:00 pm

The Wilson Hall Bible Study class will continue to meet every Tuesday in Wilson Hall.

If you would like to learn more about this class, please contact Carole McCullough at: seamus1219@hotmail.com.

Campanile Bells

Tuesday's - 6:30 pm

Campanile Bells will continue to meet for rehearsal in the sanctuary.

Peanuts Square Dancing Club

Tuesday's - 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. (See flyer on page 15 for more information).

Chancel Choir Practice

Tuesday's - 7:30 pm

Chancel choir practice will continue to practice on Tuesday evenings.

Tai Chi

Wednesday's – 6:30 pm

Gurney Bolster, certified Tai Chi instructor, will hold beginner Tai Chi classes in Crystal Hall. If you are interested in learning more about these classes, please contact Gurney at: gurneybolster@gmail.com.

Yoga

Thursday's 6:45 pm - Crystal Hall

If you would like to sign up for classes offered by BreathIn2It, please visit their website at: [Online Stress Management & Anxiety Relief Programs \(breathein2it.com\)](#).

Pastor Laura Away

April 15th – April 26th

Pastor Laura will be away on her English Pilgrimage in April. If you have a pastoral emergency outside of office hours, please call Bev Knasko at (412) 563-8154.

Office & Nursery School Closed

April 10th

The office and Nursery School will be closed on Monday, April 10th.

April Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|---------------|
| 4 | Bailey Farabaugh | 14 | Matt Sembrat |
| 10 | Ali Daniels | 19 | Mike Duffner |
| | Linda DeBor | 20 | Jan Paulsen |
| | Sean Matson | 21 | Katie Jordan |
| | Vince Vernacchio | 22 | John Ellis IV |
| 11 | Bill Gracey | | |
| | 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>
Apr 9 th	Ian Ney The Ney family; Bill, Leslie & Alecia
Apr 16 th	Carol Noonan The Obarsky family, Luke, Sarajane & Lorelei
Apr 23 rd	Pat Patterson Jan Paulsen
Apr 30 th	Dave Petty Marge Petty

SHIM Food Donations

April 2023

For the month of April, we will be collecting **Baby Food**.

We appreciate your continued support of this ministry.

Save the Date

Neighborhood Clean Up Mission Day

Sunday, May 21st

Join us after the worship service for a mission day right here in the Sunset Hills Neighborhood!

We'll have lunch and then head out to brighten up the neighborhood.

Sunset Hills Book Club

April Book of the Month

Jack

By Marilynne Robinson

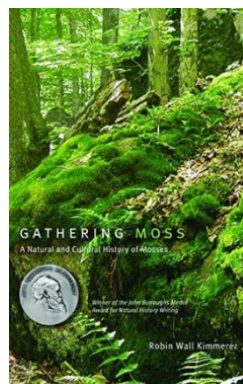
May 5th – 7:30 pm

Marilynne Robinson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal, returns to the world of Gilead with Jack, the latest novel in one of the great works of contemporary American fiction

Marilynne Robinson's mythical world of Gilead, Iowa—the setting of her novels Gilead, Home, Lila, and now Jack—and its beloved characters have illuminated and interrogated the complexities of American history, the power of our emotions, and the wonders of a sacred world.

Jack is Robinson's fourth novel in this now-classic series. In it, Robinson tells the story of John Ames Boughton, the prodigal son of Gilead's Presbyterian minister, and his romance with Della Miles, a high school teacher who is also the child of a preacher. Their deeply felt, tormented, star-crossed interracial romance resonates with all the paradoxes of American life, then and now.

Robinson's Gilead novels, which have won one Pulitzer Prize and two National Book Critics Circle Awards, are a vital contribution to contemporary American literature and a revelation of our national character and humanity. (Amazon Book Description)



May 2023

Gathering Moss

by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Meeting on May 31st

June 2023

Britt Marie Was Here

by Fredrik Backman

Meeting on June 28th





ANDREA

KITCHEN

AND

RYAN

GRACEY

TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THEIR WEDDING


FRIDAY

APRIL 28 2023

2:00 PM

SUNSET HILLS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US FOR THIS HAPPY EVENT



Health and Wellness

RESOLVED TO MOVE MORE?

Join Social Square Dancing

(Caller: Shawn Brown)

EVERY TUESDAY 7 – 9:30 PM

Sunset Hills U.P. Church
900 Country Club Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Everyone Welcome / No partner required
\$5 admission
(Inquire about Student & Family rates)
Courtesy of **Peanut Squares**

Beth: 412-680-4837

Nick: 412-667-0929

Save the Date



SUNSET HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP

SUNDAY, MAY 21

**MEET AT SUNSET HILLS UP CHURCH ON CORNER OF
COUNTRY CLUB ROAD AND KENILWORTH DRIVE**

11:30 A.M. Picnic

12:00 P.M. Clean-Up

Please Wear: Gloves and Closed-Toe Shoes

Pack a Lunch. Ice Cream will be Provided.

Summer Job Opportunity



SPEND A SUMMER AT CHAUTAUQUA

The Presbyterian House at Chautauqua (presbychq.org) is looking for summer employees. The House has 36 rooms and accommodates approximately 60 guests for each of the nine weeks of the season. Three meals a day are served, and the House operates as a small hotel/inn.

The Presbyterian House is hiring young adults (those who will graduate from high school in 2023) and college students, couples, or older adults. We ask for a 10-week commitment; however, often workers need to leave early for school or other reasons and we understand and can accommodate those needs. We are flexible and will entertain half summer commitments as well. One need not be a Presbyterian to work at the House.

There are a variety of positions, and each includes a salary (plus tips), room and board, a gate pass and parking pass. There is also a good deal of flexibility allowing employees to attend lectures, concerts, religious services and other events available at the Institution (chq.org).

If you are interested in learning more and/or seeing job descriptions, please contact Jo Wolfe at wolfe4evergreen@gmail.com (814 558-5115) or Kathy Taylor at kathy@presbychq.org (203 605-1544)