



March 2021

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A Message from Pastor Laura

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
- Ephesians 4:32



The March holiday season is my favorite holiday season. It begins on March 14, also known as Pi Day. My family and I have made a tradition of celebrating Pi Day in a rather predictable fashion....with pie! The season continues on March 15 with the Ides of March. I usually celebrate with my loved ones by doing a family dramatic reading of selections from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. We then celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17 with Guinness stew and our annual viewing of Maureen O'Hara's classic film, *The Quiet*

Man. This all makes for a spectacular holiday season in the Strauss House!

And now, thanks to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), there is a NEW March holiday! We are invited to celebrate Mr. Rogers Day on March 20. This is a day to, "celebrate Mr. Rogers' kindness and be one of the helpers."

We can be a helper this March holiday season by participating in the kindness of our various mission partners. Log onto zoom on Wednesday nights at 7:00 for good news and kindness! We'll hear encouraging news for a half hour, and then have an opportunity to ask questions about the works of kindness being done in our community and around the world today.

Our Lenten Mission Wednesdays include Myra Mann from Bread for the World on **March 3**. Bread is a national organization co-founded by various denominations, including the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). They advocate to the government for hunger related initiatives benefiting our local community and the world at large. Garfield Farms is joining us on **March 10**. This is an urban farm founded by a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation in the Garfield neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Our young adults and youth group have loved serving at this location, and we look forward to hearing how the farm is serving in 2021! We welcome the Rev. Charissa Howe on **March 17**. She will share the history of Celtic Christianity with us, accompanied with photos from her journey to Ireland. Finally, I will present on the ministries of Christmas International House on **March 24**. This program provides Christian hospitality to international college students stuck in the United States over Christmas break. It's one of the only times that international students get to visit an American home, and also an opportunity for those who've never experienced the church to hear about Jesus for the first time.

With a lineup like this, who wouldn't agree this season is the absolute best? I hope you'll join me for this Lenten Mission Wednesday series, and in celebrating the kindness of Mister Rogers this March holiday season!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Laura



Holy Week

Palm Sunday: We will hold Palm Sunday service in the sanctuary on March 28th at 10:15 am.

Maundy Thursday: A service will be held in the sanctuary on April 1st at 7:00 pm. There will be communion.

Good Friday: A service for Good Friday will take place via Zoom at 7:00 pm on April 2nd. The link will be posted to our website closer to the date.

Easter Sunday: Our Easter Sunday service will be held in the sanctuary on April 4th at 10:15 am.

The Dish on the Doctorate

Pastor Laura’s final paper for “Rethinking Ecclesiology” will be turned in this month. She is writing her paper on *An Ecclesiology of Delight and the Small Church*.

Her next Doctor of Ministry class will take place on March 7th through March 12th. The class is entitled “Plunging Into the Neighborhood” and is being taught by Dr. Scott Hagley.

Please remember Pastor Laura in your prayers as she continues her studies.

CAFÉ!

FRONTERA DE CRISTO

Our mission partner across the Mexican border is Frontera de Cristo led by Mark Adams. We order Café Justo for SHUP to support their mission with refugees and asylum seekers. Arabica or Arabica Decaf Special Roast, whole bean or ground, \$12/ pound, includes shipping. For up to 4 lbs., \$1 per pound will be donated; for up to 5 lbs., \$2 per pound will be donated to Covid-19 Relief effort in Chiapas and Agua Prieta where the coffee is produced. Relief efforts include; providing food, assistance with medial costs, transportation, utilities and other related expenses. Please help us support them with your personal order on-line or by mail to:

www.fronteradecristo.org/events by credit or debit

Order coffee:

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/ZIP: _____

Arabica Regular	Arabica Decaf
1 lb bag (\$12) ____ (Quantity)	1 lb bag (\$12) ____ (Quantity)
Whole bean ____ Ground ____	Whole bean ____ Ground ____

Total # of bags ____ x \$12.00 = \$ _____

Add a donation for COVID-19 relief: \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Clip this form to order by mail.
Make check payable to Frontera de Cristo
and mail to: Frontera de Cristo,
826 11th Street, Douglas, AZ 85607



Lenten Mission Nights Wednesday's - 7:00 pm on Zoom

We will continue to hold Mission Nights on Wednesday evenings in March. We will be joined in our Zoom meetings by speakers from various missions we support. They will give a half hour presentation followed by 15 minutes of Q&A. Our scheduled speakers are as follows:

March 3rd - Myra Mann from Bread for the World

March 10th - AJ Bisesi from Garfield Farms

March 17th - Rev. Charissa Howe from Celtic Christianity

March 24th - Rev. Pastor Laura speaking on Christmas International House

The link to join the meetings is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86579047363?pwd=NTNsNXN4eXgvQ3AxNnpOUW5FSikrUT09>

Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

When we learned this time last year that we wouldn't be able to celebrate Easter with in-person worship or our Choir Cantata, it was such a disappointment. Last year's Easter celebration was certainly different from anything we could have ever imagined prior to COVID-19 times!

Barring any unforeseen spikes in the coming month, we're thankful that we'll be able to gather on Easter Sunday for in-person worship this year. However, it's bittersweet that we'll still be without a choir to celebrate this most important time in the year of the Christian Church. Fortunately, our Campanile Bell Choir has once again begun rehearsals and will be offering music for the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services.

We've also been given the opportunity once again to participate in a virtual choir concert, produced by composer Joseph Martin. Like December's "*The Virtual Singing Christmas Tree*" concert, this season's concert will be called "*The Virtual Alleluia: The Music of Grace*." As before, seven of our own SHUP Chancel Choir members will be part of the anthem called, "Great Day! The Lord Is Risen!" (Watch for Ryan Gracey, Shelby Gracey, Dave Petty, Sarajane Obarsky, Tori Vernacchio, Keith Yanda, and Michelle Yanda) to be part of that anthem, which will be presented on the screen during Easter Sunday worship. In addition, the hour-long concert will feature some of the finest vocal artists and musicians

from around the country. For those who watched "*The Virtual Singing Christmas Tree*" concert, you know you're in for another treat – this time featuring music of Holy Week and Easter. Our participation in the event allows us to share the entire concert through our SHUP website, Facebook, and other social media platforms, so you'll be able to watch the full concert in the comfort of your own homes.

While singing individually into a recording on our phones or cameras will never compare to singing together with our wonderful choir family, we're thankful for the ability to share music in this new way. This concert will premiere and be available for online viewing during Holy Week and Eastertide. If you would like to watch this virtual event when it has been completed, you can visit their website at <https://virtualalleluia.wpcomstaging.com/>. We will also post the link to the concert on our SHUP website, as well as our SHUP Facebook page as soon as it premieres. My hope is that this concert will be a meaningful experience for our church community, as we walk together through the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!



Message from Finance

As you know, there have been struggles and disappointments over the last two months in relation to our former finance secretary. I want to reassure you that the Finance Commission, along with Pastor Laura and Bev Knasko and others, have been working diligently to review our finances, gather information and develop a comprehensive plan for the future. In addition to investigating software changes and possible consolidations, we are developing a "Best Practices" document that will outline procedures to protect SHUP in the future.

We would also like to announce that Beth Romig, who has been working non-stop to get us back on track and our receipts and expenditures properly recorded, has accepted our offer to be the interim Financial Administrator. She will officially become a member of the SHUP staff on March 1st. She will be in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. (This means that our Administrative Assistant, Karin Schein will be in the office on M/W/F). The office hours remain 8:30 am - 2:30 pm.

Beth has also been working on getting out the 2020 Giving Statements. Please note that if you used the Tithe.ly app to make your donations, there may be a delay, but you should receive your statement shortly.

HONORARY PASTOR EMERITUS

BILL GRACEY



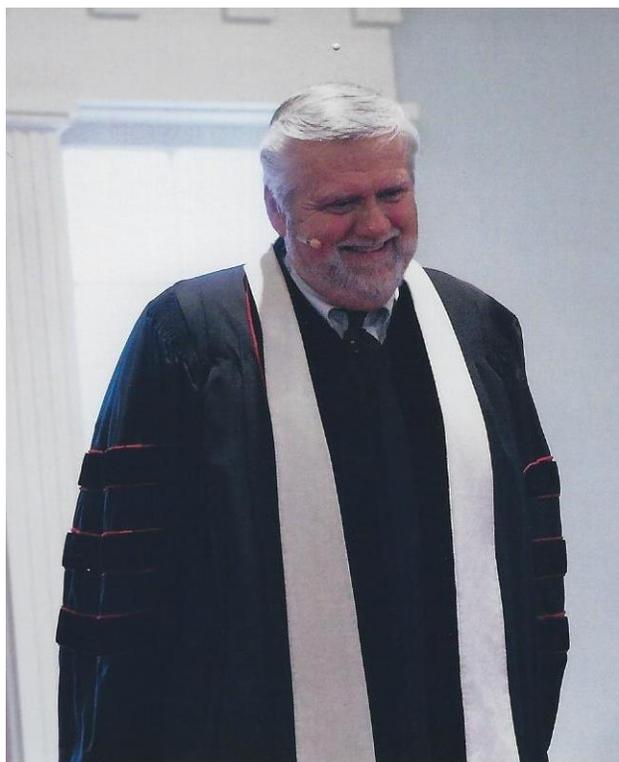
At the congregational meeting on January 24, 2021, the title of Pastor Emeritus was bestowed upon our beloved former pastor, Rev. Dr. William I. Gracey. The Pastor Emeritus status is defined as “An honorary relationship built upon gratitude and affection of a congregation for their pastor.” The Committee on Ministry ordinarily requires that there has been a pastoral tenure of at least 10 years. Normally, a congregation is encouraged to wait between one to three years following retirement to bestow this honor. The Session of SHUP voted last winter to bring the request to Pittsburgh Presbytery. However, due to the COVID shutdown, the action was stalled and was finally approved at the December 2020 Presbytery Meeting. While it took longer than usual to confer this honor, it comes with no less gratitude and appreciation than it would have, had it been granted several years ago!

Dr. Gracey (Bill) served the Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church congregation from February 1999 until his retirement in November 2013. Throughout his nearly 15-year tenure, his

hard-working passion for the ministry, his preaching, his sense of humor and, above all, his outstanding pastoral care for us all endeared him to our church family. The comment was often made that Bill would already be waiting at the hospital when anyone arrived for an early morning pre-op check-in! He was always there to walk beside us through our darkest times, as well as our happy times. His vision and leadership for the mission and ministry of Sunset Hills UPC took us to new heights in our ability to serve the local community and beyond. The COVID virus still makes it impossible to celebrate this happy event in person right now. However, when the day comes that we’re finally able to safely gather with FOOD, there will be a recognition dinner for the entire church family when we can come together to celebrate and honor Dr. Bill Gracey’s new title as SHUP Pastor Emeritus!



MEMORIES...



"Dr. Gracey was our first pastor when we joined SHUP. His warm and caring attitude along with the friendly congregation is the reason why we joined SHUP. He has been there for us through thick and thin. Thank you Dr. Gracey for everything you've done with us!!"

- The Tang Family

"Bill and Shelby attended all five of the adult mission trips to Asheville. Bill was like one of the free-range chickens on the Warren Wilson campus. As soon as Shelby finished unpacking the car (note who is doing the heavy lifting), Bill would be out and about chatting with students, faculty and staff as well as other dorm dwellers like ourselves. His love of people and enthusiasm were unbridled (to add another farm metaphor). One of the highlights of each trip was a serenade to the servers and cooks at the local Waffle House in Swannanoa. Lyrics were provided by the GPM and Bill would lead us in a heartfelt chorus giving thanks to people who are often not appreciated for the work that they do. The servers would have tears in their eyes by the time we finished.

Bill was in his glory as the Free-Range Pastor of Asheville. Those were the days, my friends."

- Dave and Carla Greenfield

"During Dr. Gracey's tenure at SHUP, there were many special moments, many special memories. My family will always be grateful for the love, support and care he provided to us when my Mother, in her final days, was a patient at St. Clair Hospital. She was unresponsive, not responding to either my sister or me. Dr. Gracey visited her most mornings to hold her hand and say a prayer. When he entered the room, in his booming voice, he always said, "Good Morning Junie!"

When Mother heard this, her eyes widened & she tried to smile. It was comforting to know what an impact that had on her. It gave the rest of us peace, knowing that with Dr. Gracey's care, she was in God's Hands."

- Pat Ellis



"Dr. Gracey was there every time someone went to the hospital. My husband went in to have a defibrillator put in. It was an in and out procedure. We didn't tell anyone as he'd be going home that day. Dr. Gracey showed up before the operation and we couldn't figure out how he knew. I was in St. Clair for a blood clot in my leg, which I had just found out about a few hours earlier. Guess who showed up? Dr. Gracey. I'm sure many of our congregation could tell the same story and that mine is just one of many."

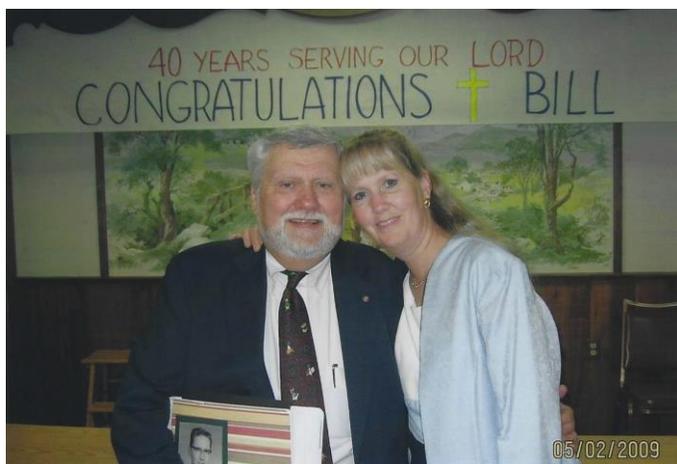
- Harriet Rickard



MORE MEMORIES...

"We have deeply appreciated Dr. Gracey's ministry with us. Seeing his children grow up during his ministry, be confirmed and participate in the SHUP Church family has been very special. Ray had several surgeries during Bill's tenure. His support and prayers at the hospital early mornings before surgery were especially meaningful. We will be forever grateful. Ray has wonderful memories of Bill and Shelby's participation in Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh."

- Ray & Ginny Bowman

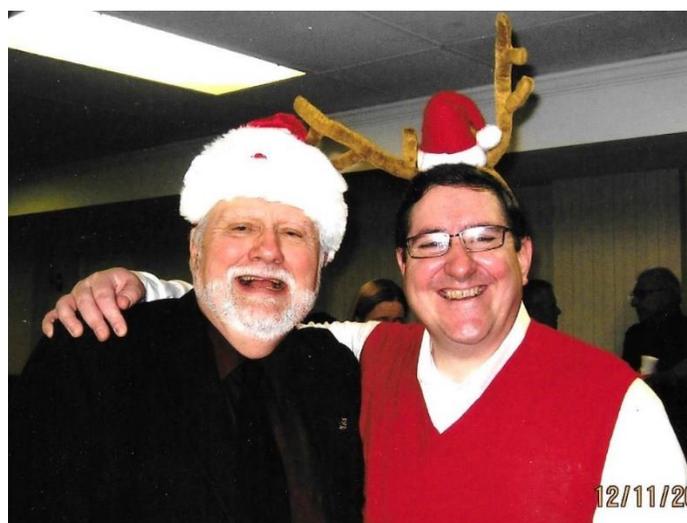


"Bill Gracey and I were sitting across from each other at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's Alumna/e Association gathering. I was a new mom, lamenting to Bill about the culture of Santa Claus. I didn't want my son to grow up with this materialistic, jolly old elf of a genie in his life. I wanted my son to celebrate Christ at Christmas. Well, Bill had some words for me! He told me about his ministry at Christmas time at the Science Center. He told me all about how he dresses up as Saint Nicholas, complete with cassock. He also told me all about his beautiful elf, Shelby. That was it for me - I had my solution for raising my son with a Christ-filled Christmas! We have loved going to the Science Center to see Bill, and loved that we get to call our church home the home of none other than Saint Nicholas."

- Rev. Laura Strauss

"In 2009 I was one of the leaders on that year's Youth Mission trip, during which I wound up rear-ending a car one morning while attempting to drive the church bus to our scheduled activity. A myriad of thoughts ran through my head right afterwards: how did I let this happen, I may have injured another person, our van insurance is going to go through the roof and on and on. After everything was sorted out at the scene, I despondently took my seat as a passenger. No sooner had we got moving again that my cell phone rang. It was Dr. Gracey, calling to tell me that everything was going to work out, and that I needed to "get right back on the horse" and get back in the driver's seat ASAP! He both reassured me and gave me a step to take to help with my anxiety about what happened. Without hearing those words at that time, I doubt I would have been able to regain my confidence and concentrate again on the work that week. If he had not called right when he did, I think I would have simply despaired (in the theological sense). This is only one item out of a long list of his countless kindnesses both to myself and my family. God Bless You, Bill!"

- Dave Petty



AND MORE!



“Rev. Bill always told great stories relating to his sermons. One of my favorites was the family’s trip to Kennywood. Before they departed, Ryan was acting up and not listening to his mother. Bill warned him if he kept it up, he wouldn’t be allowed to go on the rides. He didn’t listen and when they attended Kennywood, Ryan wasn’t allowed on the rides. It worked, and in the future, all they had to say was, “Remember Kennywood!” Now look at what a wonderful Christian man Ryan turned out to be. Not many parents would have had the courage to follow through on that decision.”

- Meg MacDougall

“When my father died, Rev Gracey attended his funeral. It meant a lot to me as Bill had just been at our church a short time and didn't know me well, plus the funeral was in Brighton Heights; not an area easy to find. Another time when I had to have a heart cath at Allegheny General Hospital and was very anxious about the procedure I called the church for prayer and lo and behold Bill arrived at 6 a.m. to pray with me! I feel God has given him the gift of Pastoral Care which makes a church member feel very blessed.”

- Carole McCullough

“Bill is the reason I got involved with the music of the church. He is also the person behind the formation of GPM... Bill and I were talking about music and I mentioned that I played the bass. Bill encouraged me to mention to Shelby about possibly incorporating the bass with the music in the church. He thought I played the double bass when in reality of course, I play the electric bass. Long story short, that motivated me to speak with Shelby. I soon started playing bass on some of the choir music. Then I decided to join the choir and while in the choir, most of the guys in the bass section at that time became GPM.”

- Keith Yanda

“To this day I keep a copy of his benediction in my wallet.”

- Rich Sahar



“Over the years, Bill has shared his good humor on adult mission trips, and on many other occasions, both in and out of church. At his retirement celebration at SHUP, the GPM band turned the table and shared a little of our own humor in his honor by performing my paraphrased version of the Everly brothers' *Wake Up Little Susie* called *Wake Up Little Shelby*.”

- Frank Cepits

For a copy of the lyrics to Frank’s original song, please contact the church office.

"To say I have many personal stories about the Rev. Dr. Dad Bill Gracey would be an understatement. I'm going to make this short and to the point. My father is the single most influential person I know. He inspires me to work my hardest each and every day, but more importantly, he taught me to treat every single human with care, love, and respect in the way that Christ originally taught us. He makes me a better man each and every day and I couldn't be prouder to call him my dad. Congratulations on being a member of the SHUP Hall of Fame. You completely deserve it. I love you with all of my heart. God Bless!"

-Ryan

The Year of the Bible

Daily Year of the Bible Readings

March 1	Numbers 6, 7/Psalms 26, 27	March 16	Deuteronomy 2, 3/Acts 26
March 2	Numbers 8, 9/Acts 16	March 17	Deuteronomy 4, 5/Acts 27
March 3	Numbers 10, 11/Acts 17	March 18	Deuteronomy 6, 7/Psalm 33
March 4	Numbers 12-14/Psalms 28, 29	March 19	Deuteronomy 8, 9/Acts 28
March 5	Numbers 15, 16/Acts 18	March 20	Deuteronomy 10, 11/Romans 1
March 6	Numbers 17-19/Acts 19	March 21	Deuteronomy 12-14/Romans 2
March 7	Numbers 20, 21/Acts 20	March 22	Deuteronomy 15, 16/Psalm 34
March 8	Numbers 22, 23/Psalm 30	March 23	Deuteronomy 17, 18/Romans 3
March 9	Numbers 24, 25/Acts 21	March 24	Deuteronomy 19, 20/Romans 4
March 10	Numbers 26, 28/Acts 22	March 25	Deuteronomy 21, 22/Psalm 35
March 11	Numbers 28, 29/Psalm 31	March 26	Deuteronomy 23, 24/Romans 5
March 12	Numbers 30, 31/Acts 23	March 27	Deuteronomy 25, 26/Romans 6
March 13	Numbers 32, 33/Acts 24	March 28	Deuteronomy 27, 28/Romans 7
March 14	Numbers 34, 35/Acts 25	March 29	Deuteronomy 29, 30/Psalm 36
March 15	Numbers 36, Deuteronomy 1/Psalm 32	March 30	Deuteronomy 31, 32/Romans 8
		March 31	Deuteronomy 33, 34/Romans 9

It's time to place orders for:

EASTER FLOWERS

Please fill in the information below and return it to the church office no later than Sunday, March 21st. Please include your check made payable to SHUP and remember to put "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

Flower Selection

Lilies _____ @ \$6.50 each

Tulips _____ @ \$6.50 each

Flowers will be available for you to take home after worship service on Easter Sunday.

Presented by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Enclosed is my check for: _____



Thank you to Jim Jenkins Lawn & Garden Center, chosen for their expertise and quality.

March Events

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

You can get a copy of the bulletin by clicking on the link on the homepage of our website www.shupchurch.org.

Fellowship Hour

Because we will be in the Sanctuary for worship in March, there will be no Fellowship hour this month.

Youth Group

Sunday's - 6:30 pm

All youth are invited to join us for Youth Group. They will be meeting in Findley Hall.

The young adults will be leading youth group for the month of March. If you would like more information, you can contact Luke at l.obarsky@gmail.com or Sarajane at sgracey08@gmail.com.

Youth Group will meet on March 7th and March 21st

Findley Hall Bible Study

Monday's - 1:00 pm

This class will continue meeting using Zoom. They will finish their study of *Irresistible* on March 15th.

On March 22, they will begin a 4-week study of *Why Easter Matters* by Andy Stanley.

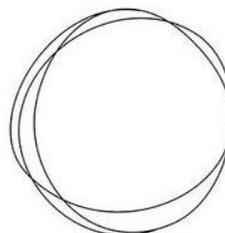
Please watch the videos on Study Gateway before class.

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

All kids in K-5th are invited to join Pastor Laura for fun in learning about Jesus. This class will continue to meet using Zoom. To learn more about Kid's Club, please contact Pastor Laura at revlaurastrauss@gmail.com.



Prayer Circle

We will be continuing our prayer circle in 2021. Every week we will pray for 2 members (be it family or individuals). We started at the beginning of the directory in September of last year and will continue until we reach the end and then repeat. 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>
March 7 th	Don & Meg MacDougall Casey & Julie Martinez
March 14 th	Lori Matson Carol McCallum
March 21 st	Jack & Carole McCullough James & Linda McKean
March 28 th	Phillip McMahan Carol Moeller

SHUP Ski Trip

Saturday, March 6th

Hidden Valley Ski Resort

The annual SHUP Ski trip to Hidden Valley will be held on Saturday, March 6th.

We need at least 15 people to go to receive the group rate as follows:

\$47/Lift Ticket & \$29/Rentals

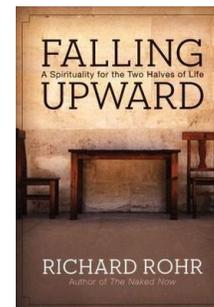
These prices are good from 9 am - 7 pm

Please contact the church office at (412)561-6261, Don Tang at (412) 913-9176 or Ryan Gracey at (412)965-8387 to reserve your spot today.

March Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Evelyn Lape | 17 Carol Berklich |
| 2 Parker Chambers | 21 Jody Colby |
| Barb Geary | 22 Amy Riley |
| 3 Mike Robinson | 23 Jen Bryer |
| Michelle Yanda | 26 Karen Heim |
| 4 Chris Gardner | Jim McKean |
| Nathaniel Kennedy | Katy Stimmel |
| Linda McKean | 27 David Brumfield |
| 9 Ray Bowman | Savy Dunlevy |
| 10 Karin Daniels | 29 Jessica Turocy |
| 15 Frank Cepits | |

Sunset Hills Book Club March Book of the Month March 25th - 7:00 pm *Falling Upward* by **Richard Rohr**



In "Falling Upward," Richard Rohr seeks to help readers understand the tasks of the two halves of life and to show them that those who have fallen, failed, or "gone down" are the only ones who understand "up." Most of us tend to think of the second half of life as largely about getting old, dealing with health issues, and letting go of life, but the whole thesis of this book is exactly the opposite. What looks like falling down can largely be experienced as "falling upward." In fact, it is not a loss but somehow actually a gain, as we have all seen with elders who have come to their fullness.

- Explains why the second half of life can and should be full of spiritual richness
- Offers a new view of how spiritual growth happens? loss is gain
- Richard. Rohr is a regular contributing writer for Sojourners and Tikkun magazines

This important book explores the counterintuitive message that we grow spiritually much more by doing wrong than by doing right--a fresh way of thinking about spirituality that grows throughout life. (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

Daylight Saving Time

March 14th

Don't forget to move your clocks forward so don't show up when the service is over!



Prayer List

JoAnne Enterline

2021 Per Capita

\$34.79

The 2021 per capita has been assessed at \$34.79. Please consider making a separate donation to cover the cost of each church member in your family. Thank you.



Save the Date April 29th 7:00 pm - via Zoom

Join Pastor Laura for the April 2021 book of the month:

Traveling with Pomegranates

By
Sue Monk Kidd
and
Ann Kidd Taylor

