



November 2021

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A Message from Pastor Laura



The Lord’s Supper. Communion. Eucharist. Which word do you use to describe the sacrament? It doesn’t really matter. Every one of them is an accurate name, and every one of them shows a different facet of the sacrament we celebrate. The Lord’s Supper reminds us that the sacrament is founded by Jesus - one of the key requirements in the Reformed tradition for a sacrament. Jesus creates this sacrament, instituting the practice and inviting his disciples to continue the practice after his death, resurrection, and ascension. Echoes of this sacrament take place in the meal following the Emmaus journey, in the breakfast on the beach, and in the celebration of the sacrament throughout the book of Acts. The words, “The Lord’s Supper,” reminds us that this comes to us from Jesus, and he is our host.

Communion teaches us that this sacrament is for the community of Christ. The community of Christ includes those gathered in the room literally partaking of the bread and the cup. Additionally, the community includes the church around the world and the church that has already gone up into heaven. The sacrament is a unifying force in the midst of the church’s differences, holding us all together in Christ Jesus.

Eucharist, my personal favorite term, means “thanksgiving.” It comes from the Greek words for thanksgiving, *eucharistea*. The sacrament is a table and communion of thanksgiving, giving thanks for the death and resurrection of Jesus. We give thanks at the table for the new life we receive in him, a life defined by compassion, mercy, grace, hope, peace, joy, and love. We give

(Continued on pg. 2)

Pastor Laura Message *(Continued from page 1)*

thanks that Jesus is with us by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that that same Spirit lifts us into Christ's presence every time we partake of the bread and the cup. We give thanks that the community of Christ is one, even as God is one, united in similarities and celebratory in our differences.

As we approach this cultural time of Thanksgiving, we have much to be grateful for. To quote the Psalmist, *our cup runneth over*. Thanks be to God for Jesus, thanks be to God for one another, and thanks be to God for the sacrament we celebrate.

With Joy,
Pastor Laura



The Year of the Bible

Daily Year of the Bible
Readings November 2021

Nov 1	Ezekiel 2, 3/Psalm 119:97-120	Nov 16	Ezekiel 32, 33/2 Peter 1
Nov 2	Ezekiel 4, 5/James 1	Nov 17	Ezekiel 34, 35/2 Peter 2
Nov 3	Ezekiel 6, 7/James 2	Nov 18	Ezekiel 36, 37/Psalms 126-128
Nov 4	Ezekiel 8, 9/Psalm 119:121-144	Nov 19	Ezekiel 38, 39/2 Peter 3
Nov 5	Ezekiel 10, 11/James 3	Nov 20	Ezekiel 40, 41/1 John 1
Nov 6	Ezekiel 12, 13/James 4	Nov 21	Ezekiel 42, 43/1 John 2
Nov 7	Ezekiel 14, 15/James 5	Nov 22	Ezekiel 44, 45/Psalms 129-131
Nov 8	Ezekiel 16, 17/Psalm 119:145-176	Nov 23	Ezekiel 46, 47/1 John 3
Nov 9	Ezekiel 18, 19/1 Peter 1	Nov 24	Ezekiel 48/1 John 4
Nov 10	Ezekiel 20, 21/ 1 Peter 2	Nov 25	Daniel 1-3/Psalms 132-134
Nov 11	Ezekiel 22, 23/Psalms 120-122	Nov 26	Daniel 4, 5/1 John 5
Nov 12	Ezekiel 24, 25/1 Peter 3	Nov 27	Daniel 6, 7/2 John
Nov 13	Ezekiel 26, 27/1 Peter 4	Nov 28	Daniel 8, 9/3 John
Nov 14	Ezekiel 28, 29/1 Peter 5	Nov 29	Daniel 10-12/Psalms 135, 136
Nov 15	Ezekiel 30, 31/Psalms 123-125	Nov 30	Hosea 1, 2/Jude

Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

After nearly 20 long months, we're so excited to be resuming rehearsals for our Chancel Choir, starting on Tuesday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m.! We'll use the month to get our voices back in shape and will return to singing for worship on the first Sunday of Advent, November 28. It will be so wonderful to have the "live" choir back in worship (although we've been so blessed to have the recordings of past music to share.) Along with the Campanile Bells and GPM, we look forward to having lots of special music to celebrate Advent and the birth of our Savior!

We're also happy to announce that beginning October 31 (Reformation Sunday), the congregation will be invited to sing in worship once again (but we ask that everyone remain masked to sing). Music is such an important element in

WE'RE BACK!



worship, and we're thankful to start bringing singing back!

A bittersweet part of resuming our choir rehearsals is that we'll be missing some familiar faces in our group. During this time of being apart, there have been health issues, a death, relocations, and other circumstances that will prevent some of our members from returning. We'll feel a great void in our choir family, and will greatly miss Karen Comstock, Tom & Dian Duffner, Don MacDougall, Jim Ross (still hoping to get Harriet back!), and Kay Walker. But I know the choir (and congregation) joins me in offering a huge thank you for all their many years of loyalty, hard work, and dedication to the choir. It won't be the same without them, but we're so grateful for the time we had together over the years. God bless you all!

Deacon News

Hanging Lights

We will be hanging lights up outside the church after worship on Sunday, November 14th. Everyone is invited to join in the fun. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Also, if you have an extension cord that we can borrow, please bring that with you as well. (They will be returned when the lights are taken down).



Hanging of the Greens

Everyone is invited to join us after worship service on Sunday, November 21st to help decorate the church for the Advent Season.

Deacon Cookie Sale - Donations Needed

The Deacons will hold their Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 4th in Findley Hall from 10 am - noon. They are in need of donations. If you would like to donate some cookies, drop-off will be in Findley Hall on Friday, December 3rd from 6:00 - 8:00 pm or you can bring them at 9:00 am on Saturday morning. Please wrap your cookies/brownies in individual bags. Also, please mark your contribution if there are nuts, peanut butter or an ingredient you feel may cause an allergic reaction.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Flaus at lflauss@yahoo.com.

Mission Updates



CHRISTMAS JOY

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Nov. 28th - Dec. 19th

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

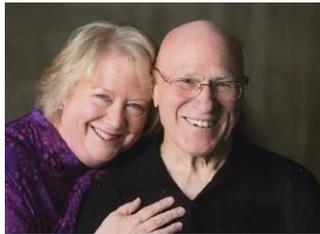
When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church - past, present and future - who point us to God.



“I think a lot of people may not realize how many lives they can affect just by their support. It’s a simple fact when they give students a scholarship, especially those students who are really in need, it’s the best thing that could happen to them. It changes their lives.”

Rayondre (Ray) Roberts
Graduate
Stillman College
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

50%
of your gift assists current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.



50%
of your gift makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Stability in retirement can be a weight lifted, and one that allows for retirees like Jack and Kate to live with emotional and financial flexibility.
Lucas McCool, Assistance Program Operations Mgr., PC (USA) Board of Pensions

Ways to Give

- ✦ Through your congregation - use one of the special envelopes in the pews on Sunday, mail in a check (be sure to write Christmas Joy on the memo line) or use the www.tithe.ly app.
- ✦ By credit card online at [Presbyterian Special Offerings \(pcusa.org\)](http://PresbyterianSpecialOfferings.org).
- ✦ Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999.

WELCOME TO TAYLOR STRANG CHRISTIAN EDUCATION INTERN



We would like to welcome Taylor Strang to the staff at Sunset Hills U.P. Church. She has been hired for the position of Christian Education Intern.

Most of you already know Taylor. Her parents became members in January of 2001, shortly after Taylor was born. So many of you have either watched her grow up or you grew up with her.

Taylor, became a member of SHUP when she made her confirmation on May 19, 2013. She spent her youth and teen years enjoying many of the programs geared toward the youth of Sunset Hills. Because of her love of these programs, we are excited to have her taking charge of the programs we offer today, as well as looking forward to her new plans for the youth of SHUP.

If you have not had a chance, please be sure to welcome her to the SHUP staff the next time you see her. Good luck Taylor!

Getting to Know Taylor...Better

Do you have any special memories/moments from your time at SHUP?

I have so many memories of SHUP, that it is hard for me to pick favorites. I remember being excited to go to SHUP every Wednesday for youth group because it was my safe place and I missed my friends. I enjoyed many lock-ins and would make sure I was free to go to all of them. I was able to feel like a kid at SHUP, and that certainly is my favorite part.

What made you decide/convince you to take this position?

I lost my relationship with my faith due to multiple traumatic experiences at 18 years old. As time went on, I was asked to join a Bible Study with two friends. That study became my first step into rediscovering my relationship with my faith. I missed being a child in those moments and how I learned about David and Goliath or how amazed I was to learn about the miracles that occurred. I decided to take this position because I want to give the youth at Sunset Hills the same feeling that I had in this church as a kid.

Do you have any special plans/ideas for new programs?

I would love to start an afterschool program for the middle to high school members and their friends. They could sign up to come to the church to do their homework together, listen to music, meet new friends or just relax. I think that it is important for our youth and the community to think of the church as a safe space. I would also like to have new youth join by holding a Date/Kids Night Club and open it up to everyone in the community. I would also like to get the youth involved in more volunteer programs like World Vision and other organizations. The one thing I would like to bring back is the high school handprint tradition.

Do you have a specific approach/philosophy for teaching children about the love of Jesus?

The main approach I am using for my teaching the love of Jesus is discipleship. I believe that it is important to teach children how to walk with Jesus and how to live by faith. I want children to think of their faith as a way to understand the world around them and how to treat others and themselves.

What are your hobbies or other interests?

I enjoy crocheting blankets and objects that resemble hats. While I am not very good, it is a really great way to relieve stress and connect with myself. I also enjoy writing and am working on my first novel.

Notes from Christian Education

By Taylor Strang

May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace.

- Psalm 144:12

I heard that verse when I first went to youth group right here at SHUP when I was just a young teen. Twelve years later, I still see that growth in the youth here at Sunset Hills.

To aid in this growth, we offer programs designed specifically for our youth. For children who are under the age of 12, we hold **Kid's Club** every Wednesday from 4:30-5:30 pm. We just finished our lessons on Exodus in October and are very excited to move onto Joshua and the Israelites. We would love to welcome some new members to

Kid's Club. Please tell your family, friends and neighbors with children under 12 about this program. If you already join us every week, please consider bringing a friend.

For our youth who are in their teen years, we hold **Junior and Senior High Youth Group** every other Sunday from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. This group is led by Luke Obarsky in Findley Hall.

We are excited to be working on new ideas and will be offering new activities in the coming months that will continue to help the youth grow.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION INTERN

TAYLOR STRANG OFFICE HOURS

TUES: 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

WED: 10:00 AM - 4:15 PM

SUN: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE: (412)561-7997

EMAIL:

[YOUTHANDFAMILYSHUP@
GMAIL.COM](mailto:YOUTHANDFAMILYSHUP@GMAIL.COM)

Thank You

Dear SHUP Family -

Many thanks for all the support after my broken wrist - prayers, cards, and calls! Everything was deeply appreciated and helped in my recovery.

Blessings,

Ray "Raybo" Bowman

Congregational Care Updates

New Address Information

Below are updated addresses for some of our members who have recently moved:

Phyllis Moore

4122 Avalon Drive
Weymouth, MA 02188

Jody Colby

750 Washington Road
Apt. 1101
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Dick & Dottie Fleming

900 Washington Road
Apt. 407
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Phil McMahon

Atria Kew Gardens
117-01 84th Avenue
Apt. 712
Kew Gardens, NY 11418

Installation Service

On Sunday, October 24th, a Service of Installation was held for Pastor Laura in the Sanctuary. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us. If you were not able to attend, you can watch the video on our YouTube channel: [Sunset Hills Church - YouTube](#).



Back Row: Rev. Depoe, Rev. Fricker, Rev. Woodworth & Rev. Wallace
Front Row: Rev. Howe, Kara Burian, Pastor Laura & Rev. Hagley

A special thank you to all of the worship and music leaders who helped to make the service so special:

Kara Burian

Elder at *Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church*

Rev. Rebecca DePoe

Senior Vice-Moderator of *Pittsburgh Presbytery* and Interim Associate Pastor at *Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church*

Rev. Matthew Fricker

Associate Pastor at *John McMillan Presbyterian Church*

GPM

In House Band for *Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church*; Frank Cepits, Ryan Gracey, Dave Petty, Luke Obarsky, Mike Robinson & Keith Yanda with special guest soloist, Ray Bowman

Shelby Gracey

Director of Music at *Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church*

Dr. Scott Hagley

Associate Professor of Missiology at *Pittsburgh Theological Seminary* & Elder of *The Open Door Church*

Rev. Charissa Howe

Directory of Chaplaincy Services at the *Allegheny County Jail*

Rev. Brian Wallace

Associate Pastor to *The Pittsburgh Presbytery*

Rev. B.J. Woodworth

Director of Spiritual Life Ministries and Minister of Taize at *East Liberty Church*

Charge to the Pastor by Kara Burian

For those who don't know me, my name is Kara and I am a member of the congregation and a serving elder on session.

In preparing for this moment, I did what anyone would do, I went to google, and then YouTube. I did read 2 Timothy chapter 4, which was recommended. and He had some good notes.

I have been taking notes on this for a while and came up with a different list. A charge of things to continue to do:

- *Continue to preach with warmth, openness, cheer, and with puns that make us laugh.*
- *Continue to educate yourself, to be patient with yourself, and with us as we all learn to pivot and try to remain calm together in the 2020's.*
- *Continue to be progressive and vulnerable with warmth and understanding.*
- *Continue to take family time.*
- *Continue to title your sermons as movie quotes, It's fun to brag that we have a pastor who is "punny" and real.*
- *And finally, I charge you with continuing to be you. We as a congregation are lucky to have you and the world needs a few more Laura's.*



WESTMINSTER COLLEGE (PA)

YOUNG PRESBYTERIAN SCHOLARSHIP

A Westminster College (PA) Tradition

The Young Presbyterian Scholarship was established to provide an opportunity for outstanding Presbyterian students to apply to Westminster College, one of the nation's best liberal arts colleges. The scholarship of \$84,000 for four years (\$21,000 per year min.) is for qualified high school seniors entering college in the Fall of 2022.

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

3.5 High School cumulative GPA
Membership at a Presbyterian Church
Nomination by Pastor/Congregation

PROGRAM DEADLINES

Nominations: December 1, 2021
Student Application: December 15, 2021

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Jim Mohr, College Chaplain
mohrjr@westminster.edu
724.946.7116

Kathryn Lombardo, Campus Ministry Fellow
lombarkr@westminster.edu
724.946.7405

319 W. Market Street, New Wilmington, PA 16172 www.westminster.edu

November 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

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.

Youth Group

6:30 pm - Findley Hall

The youth group will meet in Findley Hall on *November 7th & November 21st*.

For more information, please contact Taylor at: youthandfamilyshup@gmail.com.

Campanile Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday's - 6:30 pm

Bells choir will continue to practice in November. They will begin meeting at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary on November 2nd.

Chancel Choir Practice

Tuesday's - 7:30 pm

Chancel Choir will begin meeting on November 2nd at 7:30 pm.

Findley Hall Bible Study

Monday's - 1:00 pm

This group will finish their study of *30 Days to Understanding the Bible* on November 22nd. On November 29th, they will begin the study, *Drive Through History - Holy Land - Christmas, Prophecies and Bethlehem* with David Stotts.

If you are interested in learning more about this class, please contact Evelyn Lape at: heyve7@verizon.net.

Wilson Hall Bible Study

Tuesday's - 1:00 pm

This class will continue their study of the Book of Psalms.

If you would like more information about this study, please contact Carole McCullough at:

seamus1219@hotmail.com.

Kid's Club

Wednesday's - 4:30 pm - Crystal Hall

All kids in K-5th are invited to join Taylor Strang for fun in learning about Jesus. To learn more about Kid's Club, please contact Taylor at:

youthandfamilyshup@gmail.com.

Memorial Service for Barb Fitzwilliam

Sunday, November 7th - 1:00 pm - Sanctuary

The family of Barb Fitzwilliam will hold a memorial service in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 7th at 1:00 pm in the sanctuary. A visitation only reception will be held in Findley Hall following the service.

OFFICE CLOSED

November 24th - 26th

The office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Happy Thanksgiving!



November Birthdays

2	Robert Taylor	18	Ethan Strauss
3	Don Tang		Robert Wingold
8	Jessica Brumfield	19	Orion Hoffman
9	Eric Stuart	23	Darlene Farabaugh
10	Diane Van Houtte	26	Jeff Bryer
13	Leslie Ney		Ty Sembrat
15	Betty Lane		



Prayer List

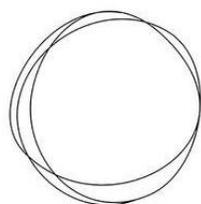
JoAnne Enterline

SHIM Food Donations

November 2021

For the month of November, we will be collecting **Soup & Canned Vegetables.**

We appreciate your continued support for this ministry.



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>
Nov. 7 th	Larry & Jackie Elborne The Ellis family; John, Angela, Jessalyn, Julianna & Jacey
Nov. 14 th	John & Pat Ellis The Enterline family, Eric, Carol & Nathan
Nov. 21 st	Joanne Enterline Pamela Enterline & Anthony Martin
Nov. 27 th	The Ernst family; Kevin, Sarah, Charles, Sara & Lorryn Karen Evans

Sunset Hills Book Club

Nov. Book of the Month

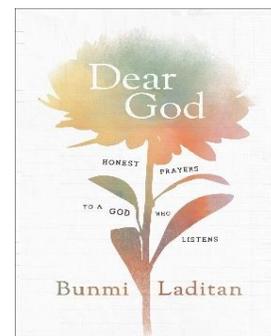
Dear God

By Bunmi Laditan

November 17th - 7:30 pm

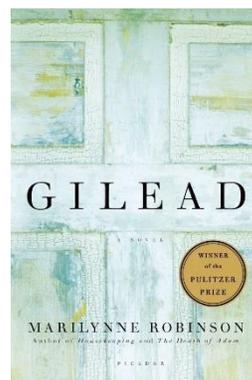
With the same gutsy and poetic honesty that charmed readers around the world, Bunmi now shares prayers and poems that chart her faith journey toward reconnecting with the God she loved, lost, and realized had never left her side even while she wandered. These candid fieldnotes will stir your heart and make you laugh out loud with Bunmi's self-aware humor and profound insight into the spiritual journey we're all trying to navigate.

Join Bunmi as she journeys through emotions we all experience--doubt, anger, joy, desperation, love, loneliness, and gratefulness. Wittingly fresh and stunningly relatable, she exquisitely names our fears, voices our painful questions, and bravely says what we're all thinking anyway in our prayerful wrestling with God. (Amazon Book Description)



The Book Club will meet using Zoom. If you would like to join the discussion, please contact Pastor Laura to have the Zoom link sent to you:

revlaurastrauss@gmail.com



December 2021 Book of the Month

Gilead

By

Marilynne Robinson

Meeting on December 29th

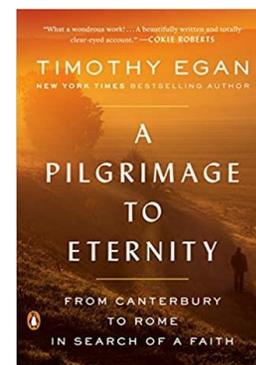
January 2022 Book of the Month

A Pilgrimage to Eternity

By

Timothy Egan

Meeting on January 26th



Please note that Book Club has been moved to Wednesday evenings.

Save the Dates

Cookies, Carols & Christ

Wednesday's during Advent

December 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Crystal Hall

We will begin the evening with “socially distanced” caroling and cookies in Crystal Hall. Adults and teens will then enjoy a Christmas study presented by Pastor Laura. Kids through fifth grade will go to Room 113 for a Christmas lesson with Miss Taylor.

SHUP Christmas Festival

Sunday, December 19th

4:00 - 7:00 pm

SHUP Parking Lot

-  Live Nativity
-  Food Trucks
-  Lights
-  Visits with St. Nick
-  Live Music

