



Sunset Hills

M E S S E N G E R

September 2022

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A Message from Pastor Laura



This does not feel like a God-permeated season in the life of the world. The struggle of 2020 has increasingly revealed itself to actually be the struggle of the 2020's. The pandemic is officially still a pandemic, with roughly 500 Americans dying every day of this disease. The war in Ukraine rages on, lasting longer than our news cycle is willing to cover. Mass shootings are as much a part of our daily reality as the weather catastrophes plaguing our nation. It does not feel like this is a God-permeated season in the life of the world.

But, feelings are not always accurate indicators. While feelings are real and need to be acknowledged, feelings are not reliable truth tellers regarding any given situation. Consider the book of Acts.

The book of Acts is set in a world on fire. The Rome Empire is shaping the world in its own image and, as Justo Gonzales writes, that image is the image of a city. Peoples who'd lived on land for hundreds of years were displaced by Rome, sent into slavery. The humanity of persons was not a given. Simultaneously, these enslaved persons were made to create thousands of public buildings, temples in the colorful style of Roman architecture. All cultures were assimilated into the predominant Roman culture, and all religions were made subject to Roman paganism. The book of Acts takes place in a world of danger, threat, violence, exile, and loss. It feels like God is completely, hopelessly, horrifically absent.

And, yet, what do we know from Acts? We know that God is present in the misery of Roman occupation. More than that, we know God is doing new, wondrous, world-changing work by the presence of God's Spirit in this time. The stories of Acts shows God enabling the disciples to speak in languages not their own, breaking Peter out of prison on numerous occasions, Paul miraculously surviving shipwrecks as he brings the gospel to the world, Lydia using her entrepreneurial acumen to start a church in a supposedly godforsaken city, and the list goes on. God isn't only present in spite of Rome, God's work is thriving in spite of Rome.

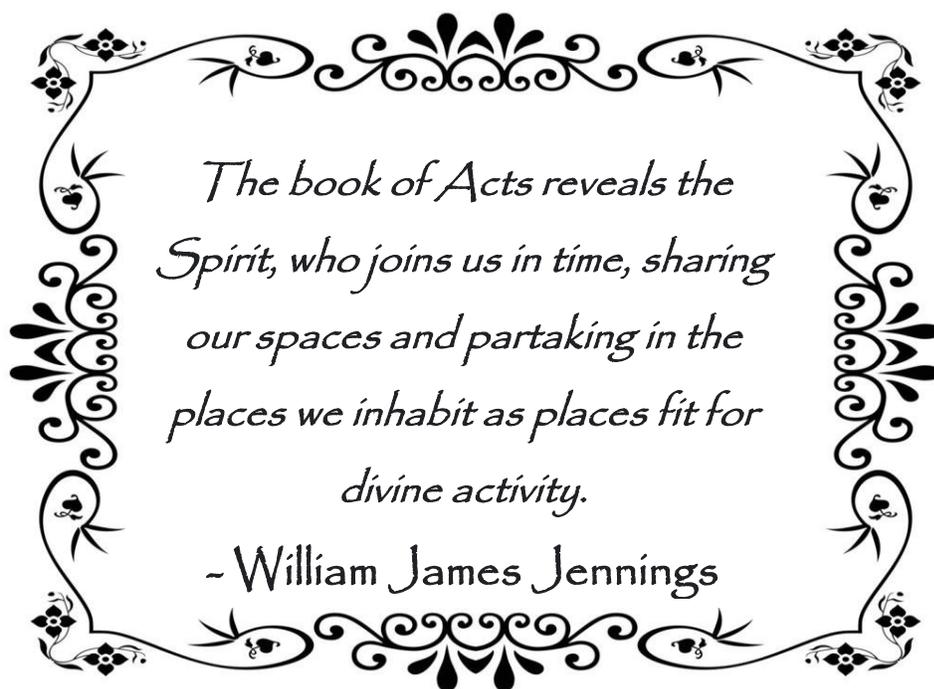
(Continued on page 2)

Pastor Laura Message (Continued from page 1)

How are we to know God's ministry isn't thriving in these 2020's in our world today? How are we to know that God isn't using God's people to do the miraculous in spite of the horrors we too commonly see? WHO are we to limit the work and scope of God's divine love in our broken world?

Be encouraged: God's Holy Spirit moves, works, transforms in the worst of times. The book of Acts tells us so.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Laura



Notes from Christian Education By Taylor Strang

As most of you know I grew up here at SHUP. I did everything imaginable here and spent countless hours exploring my faith in many ways. That is why I am so excited to start this new school year. We are starting JAM with the nursery school this October and making exciting plans for the middle to high school youth group. Our elementary kids will continue with Childrens Church, and I will be sending them activities to continue their journey.

JAM
Monday's at 11:30 am
Oct. 17th – Dec. 12th
(no class 11/28)
\$10/class

Prayer Partners

Pastor Laura and I are very excited to start the Prayer Partners program. Prayer Partners is SHUP's answer to bringing the youth members and the elders of the church together. With the pairing of a youth member in the church and a trusted elder in the church, different stories of faith and important conversations will arise. I will be mailing sign-up sheets this month for that.

The Christian Education committee is still looking for more dedicated and kind members to join. If you do not receive a sign-up sheet, and you are interested in participating in this program, or if you have any questions, please let us know.

I can be reached at:

sunsethillsce@gmail.com

or you can talk to Luke Obarsky at:

l.obarsky@gmail.com.



We must be guardians of spaces that allow students to breathe, be curious, and to explore the world and be who they are without suffocation.

-Brene Brown

Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

A heartfelt “Thank You!” goes out to everyone who gave of their time and talent to offer special music for worship this summer. After a two-year hiatus, we were happy to welcome back our friends from Southminster Presbyterian Church for our last outdoor worship of the summer. As always, much appreciation to my dependable GPM Guys for stepping in numerous times to help throughout the summer. And it was a special treat to have Scott Conboy & Ron Brusceci from Unity Presbyterian Church in Greentree join the GPM group on August 21. This congregation has many talented musicians, and we’re grateful for your willingness to serve God in this way. It’s wonderful that the choir can have a few months off, but we’re still able to provide special music throughout the summer worship season!

On behalf of the Music & Worship Commission, I’d also like to express our appreciation for our elders Chip McCoy, Ryan Gracey, and Dave Petty who led us in worship this summer when Pastor Laura was on study leave and vacation. And thank you to all the willing hands who helped set up and take down the canopies for our outdoor worship services, and to Keith Yanda for all the sound equipment set-up and tear-down. It takes many people to keep our worship services vibrant and meaningful, and we thank everyone for their contributions to make that happen!

As mentioned in the August Messenger, our first rehearsal for the Chancel Choir will be held on **Tuesday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room.**

We always have room for **MORE** choir members, and we would love to have new people join us! Please let me know if you’re interested, so I’ll have enough music for our first rehearsal.

The Campanile Bells will resume our Fall ringing season, with our first rehearsal on **Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the choir/bell room.** We look forward to ringing several times throughout the fall and Advent/Christmas season.

We’re all looking forward to a wonderful new season of offering up our praises to God by “making a joyful noise” – either through singing, ringing, or playing instruments!

Thank You



Dear SHUP friends,

What a wonderful surprise it was to see Beth Romig and Dick & Dottie Fleming here with a huge vase of the most beautiful flowers for my 90th birthday. This was a special birthday, and your flowers, dear SHUP friends, are as special as you are.

It's amazing how long your flowers are staying lovely, and you will always be special. Thank you very much.

With much love,

Dee Borman

Sibling Saints

Pilgrims Traveling With Pilgrims
Writing and Reflecting Together
In the Holy Sites of Authors in the Faith

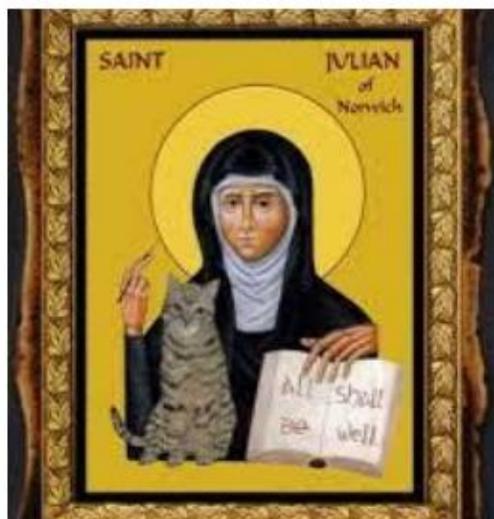


An English Pilgrimage

April 17 - 26, 2023

Nestle into Your Walk with God

Open the journal that's too beautiful to write in and encounter Jesus. Our ten days in England will include introductions to Christian authors from the Middle Ages and 20th Century. We will walk with these saints as we discover new prayer practices and take on the practice of spiritual, reflective writing.



Find Your Community

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

We will journal and pray together daily. All writings will be private, and only shared with the author's permission. The goal is vulnerability before Jesus, and judgment before no one.

Discover Sacred Spaces

Julians' Norwich, and the Divinity School of Oxford University are included in our pilgrimage. We will have three orientations before our trip, including reading assignments to prepare ourselves for the sites visited. These orientations and readings are an essential part of building our pilgrimage community, connecting with the saints who've gone before, and growing in faith.

Itinerary, Deadlines, and Cost

Monday:	Depart from U.S. for London
Tuesday:	Morning Arrival in London; Train to Oxford Welcome Dinner, Introduction to the Prayer Practices
Wednesday:	C.S. Lewis Tour of Oxford
Thursday:	Day Trip to Bath
Friday:	Free Morning in Oxford Afternoon Canal Cruise in Oxford
Saturday:	Day Trip to Cotswolds, site of theologian Catherine Parr
Sunday:	Free Morning in Oxford Afternoon Train to Norwich via London
Monday:	Morning Sites of Julian of Norwich Free Afternoon and Evening in Norwich
Tuesday:	Farewell Brunch in Norwich Aboard LifeBoat used at Battle of Dunkirk Evening Train to and Overnight in London near Airport
Wednesday:	Depart for Home
COST:	\$2800

The above includes required books, daily breakfast, accommodations, train tickets, public transportation/car transportation to local sites, admission costs, and dinner on the first and last night of our time together. Cost **does not** include airfare, tax, gratuities, or meals not otherwise mentioned. A deposit of \$350 is due by September 16, 2022 to reserve a spot for this trip. Spaces are first-come, first served. Contact Rebecca DePoe or Laura Strauss with questions.

Mission Opportunity**World Mission Initiative Conference and W. Don McClure Lecture*****Missional Leadership in a Time of Disruption***

In Person and Online • Oct. 7-8, 2022





www.pts.edu/wmi-conference

Co-organized by
Continuing Education
at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Rev. Eugene E. Cho
President / CEO
Bread for the World



Missional Leadership In a Time of Destruction

Everyone is invited to attend this amazing and free opportunity for learning about missional leadership amidst the disruption. The lectures and workshops offered will cover questions like: “What does it mean to engage in God’s mission of love, peace, and justice through the major disruptions of our day?” and “How can we lead in mission in new ways amidst the disruption we’ve experienced in the past two years?”

The conference will be held in person at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 North Highland Ave, 15206) or you can attend virtually. To register for the lecture, please visit:

[WMI Conference \(pts.edu\)](http://WMI Conference (pts.edu))

Schedule**Friday, October 7**

5:00 pm: Registration, Mission Displays, Book Table

7:00 – 7:20 pm: Opening Worship

7:20 pm: W. Don McClure Lecture

W. Don McClure Lecture

The Rev. Eugene Cho, President/CEO of Bread for World and Bread Institute, will discuss the many ways the disruptions in the world today impact world hunger. The lecture honors the Rev. Dr. W. Don McClure, a 1934 graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, who served as a missionary in Africa for nearly 50 years. Born in Blairsville, Pa., Don McClure began teaching in Khartoum in 1928, upon graduating from Westminster College, Pa. After studying at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, he returned with his wife, Lyda, to Sudan to evangelize among the Shulla people.

Finance Updates

After 2 years, we are able to share some financial information with you.

Below is spending versus budget as of July 31st. The net loss of (\$60,287.16) is funded by our endowment funds. We should not let this loss overshadow the ongoing support from the congregation. Thank you for supporting SHUP's ongoing mission to spread God's message in our community.

Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church Budget vs. Actuals: 2022 Budget - FY22 P&L January - July, 2022

	Total				For the Year 2022
	Actual	Budget	B/(W) Budget	% of Budget	
Revenue					
Total 106 Facilities - Income	1,035.00	-	1,035.00	0.00%	
Offering					
101 Pledges (envelopes)	105,931.81	91,180.81	14,751.00	116.18%	156,310.00
102 Per Capita (donations)	909.76	921.69	(11.93)	98.71%	1,580.00
105 Loose (collection)	449.50	1,633.31	(1,183.81)	27.52%	2,800.00
108 Flowers	1,103.00	1,400.00	(297.00)	78.79%	2,400.00
Total 113 Designated Mission	4,027.15	1,283.31	2,743.84	313.81%	4,600.00
Trans Endowment Income	2,006.72	2,258.69	(251.97)	88.84%	3,872.00
Total Revenue	115,462.94	98,677.81	16,785.13	117.01%	171,562.00
Expenditures					
Total Administrative and Personnel	116,988.64	113,139.84	(3,848.80)	103.40%	193,954.00
Total Budget - Finance	13,897.20	7,591.54	(6,305.66)	183.06%	13,014.00
Total CE (Christian Education)	6,204.62	6,795.74	591.12	91.30%	11,650.00
Total Communications-Outreach	1,150.90	1,400.00	249.10	82.21%	2,400.00
Total Congregational Care	-	291.69	291.69	0.00%	500.00
Total Facilities - Expense	28,481.78	36,983.38	8,501.60	77.01%	63,400.00
Total Mission	5,842.83	5,924.31	81.48	98.62%	10,156.00
Total Worship-Music	3,164.13	3,500.00	335.87	90.40%	6,000.00
Total Expenditures	175,730.10	175,626.50	(103.60)	100.06%	301,074.00
Net Operating Revenue	(60,267.16)	(76,948.69)	16,681.53	78.32%	(129,512.00)

Health & Wellness

Return to the Mat:)

Fall Hatha 1 Yoga at SHUP!



Time to breathe
in calm, stretch,
strengthen, relax

When/Where: Tuesdays 9:15-10:15 AM, Crystal Hall, SHUP Church, starting September 13th and going 8 weeks

How: Register at www.breathein2it.com/yoga

Who: Led by E-YRT500 Aimee Lamendola of breatheIN2IT, LLC

www.breathein2it.com/yoga

SHUP Church: 900 Country Club Drive, 15228

September Information

Adult Sunday School

8:30 am

The Adult Sunday School class will begin meeting **in person** on September 4th.

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

Everyone is invited to join us for fellowship in Findley Hall on September 4th.

Youth Group

Sunday's – 11:30 am

The youth group will meet on Sunday after the worship service. This month, they will meet on September 25th.

Findley Hall Bible Study

Monday's – 1:00 pm

The Findley Hall Bible Study class will begin meeting on September 12th. They will begin a 9-week study of "Drive-Thru History."

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

Wilson Hall Bible Study

Tuesday's – 1:00 pm

The Wilson Hall Bible Study class will begin meeting on September 13th. They will continue their study of the Book of Psalms.

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 begin rehearsal on Tuesday, September 13th.

Chancel Choir Practice

Tuesday's - 7:30 pm

Chancel choir practice will begin on Tuesday, September 6th. They will meet in the choir room.

Tai Chi

Wednesday's - 7:00 pm

Gurney Bolster, certified Tai Chi instructor, will start the second summer session of beginner Tai Chi classes on August 3rd and continue through September 21st. A new 8-week session will begin on Oct. 12th. If you are interested in learning more about these classes, please contact Gurney at: gurneybolster@gmail.com.

Special September Dates/Information

Office Closed

Monday, September 5th

The Church office will be closed on Monday, September 5th in honor of Labor Day,

First Day of Nursery School

Monday, September 12th

The Sunset Hills Nursery School will begin the fall semester on September 12th.

Young Adult Dinner

Sunday, September 25th – 6:00 pm

The young adults will hold a potluck dinner in Wilson Hall on Sunday, September 25th at 6:00 pm.

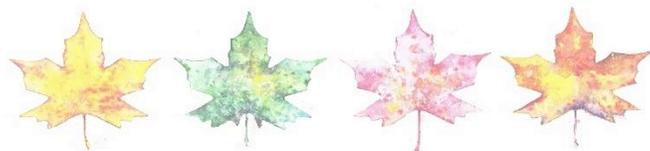
New Office Hours

M-F/9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Beginning September 1st, the new office hours will be 9:00 am until 3:00 pm (M-F).

September Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ryan Dawson | 11 Eneliss Frank |
| Declan Hoffman | Fritz Strauss |
| Lisa Ursitz | 15 Matt Fako |
| 2 Ryan Stuart | 20 Carla Greenfield |
| 5 Jeff Allison | 21 Clayton Allison |
| Andrew Gracey | 22 Roberta Allison |
| Meg MacDougall | Lily Weidensall |
| 7 Julie Martinez | 25 David Arnold |



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>
Sept 4 th	Alice Bonim Jean Booker
Sept 11 th	Dee Borman Ray & Ginny Bowman
Sept 18 th	Francine Brown The Brumfield family; David, Michelle, Connor & Jessica
Sept 25 th	Marla & Paul Bruschi The Bryer family; Jeff, Jennifer, Kylie & Aiden



SHIM Food Donations September 2022



For the month of September, we will be collecting **Peanut Butter & Jelly.**

We appreciate your continued support of this ministry.

Sunset Hills Book Club

MEETING IN PERSON

September Book of the Month

Lila

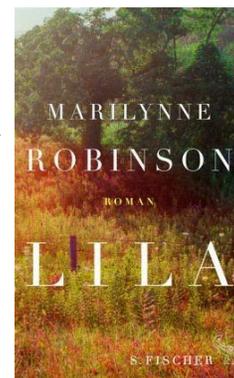
By Marilynne Robinson

September 28th - 7:30 pm

Marilynne Robinson, one of the greatest novelists of our time, returns to the town of Gilead in an unforgettable story of a girlhood lived on the fringes of society in fear, awe, and wonder.

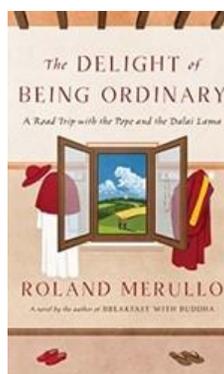
Lila, homeless and alone after years of roaming the countryside, steps inside a small-town Iowa church—the only available shelter from the rain—and ignites a romance and a debate that will reshape her life. She becomes the wife of a minister, John Ames, and begins a new existence while trying to make sense of the life that preceded her newfound security.

Neglected as a toddler, Lila was rescued by Doll, a canny young drifter, and brought up by her in a hardscrabble childhood. Together they crafted a life on the run, living hand to mouth with nothing but their sisterly bond and a ragged blade to protect them. Despite bouts of petty violence and moments of desperation, their shared life was laced with moments of joy and love. When Lila arrives in Gilead, she struggles to reconcile the life of her makeshift family and their days of hardship with the gentle Christian worldview of her husband which paradoxically judges those she loves. (Amazon Book Description)



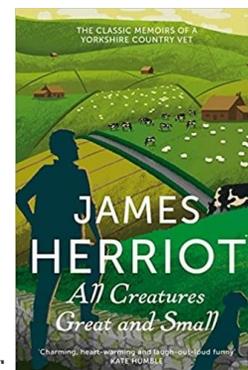
October 2022 Book of the Month *The Delight of Being Ordinary*

By
Roland Merullo
Meeting on October 26th



November 2022 Book of the Month *All Creatures Great & Small* (Chapters 1-40)

By
James Herriot



Save the Date – Saturday, October 8th



Pancake Breakfast
Starting at 8:30 am
October 8th



Our Young Adults will be making a pancake breakfast before the start of the Harvest Festival.