



# Sunset Hills

## M E S S E N G E R

### November 2023

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### A Message from Pastor Laura

“I am in your world,” said Aslan, “but there I have another name. You must learn to know me by that name. This was the very reason why you were brought to Narnia, that by knowing me here for a little, you may know me better there.”

- *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis



What do Father Christmas, a wardrobe, and a talking lion have in common? All three appear in C.S. Lewis’s novel, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe.* This tale incorporates a multitude of themes from various mythologies and fantasies. Lewis combines these themes to craft an allegory for the Christian life. The talking lion, Aslan, represents Jesus Christ. The youngest male protagonist, Edmund, is like every one of us who are in

need of forgiveness. Father Christmas symbolizes the bounty Christianity has to offer.

We are journeying into Narnia this Advent season along with Aslan, Edmund, Father Christmas, and all the rest! Taylor Strang is in the process of creating a light post just like the one from Narnia as a part of our Narnia theme, and we aim to carry on the theme with Narnia’s iconic snow. There will be a sermon series on the different themes from Narnia. This series will include short clips from the film in worship each Sunday so that we all may engage in the story. We will continue our study of these themes in Sunday School, which will be an intergenerational Sunday School class including our elementary children’s class with the adults.

Our Christmas celebration will include a congregation-wide Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 17. Invitations will be sent out shortly and we ask that you please RSVP. The main dish will be provided for this dinner. The Congregational Care Team, led by Elder Mary Abbott, is asking that everyone bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will enjoy a festive dinner and carol singing together - a cozy time to celebrate an old-fashioned Christmas!

Though it is only November, now is the time to look forward to our Advent and Christmas together. We have much to be thankful for, including our church family and our church home. Let us celebrate this season of Thanksgiving with anticipation of a special Christmas to come!

In Christ’s Love,  
Pastor Laura

## Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

Many thanks to our Chancel Choir, Campanile Bell Choir, and our bagpiper, Mychael Morohovich, for providing all our wonderful music for our Reformation Sunday celebration on October 29! Now that November is upon us, our choirs and GPM are

busy preparing music for Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and the rapidly approaching Advent and Christmas season! As you know, many hours of practice go into all the music that is offered in our worship services.

Our primary aim in our music

preparation is to bring honor and glory to God through the words that we sing or the melodies that we ring. But in addition, our goal is also to help the congregation draw closer to God, through the beautiful creation called music. Whether it be simple, touching melodies, toe-tapping, joyful tunes, or thought-provoking words, we hope that everyone is touched in some way by the music that is offered each week.

Throughout the remainder of the calendar year, the choir will continue to sing each Sunday morning, and the Campanile Bells will ring on December 3, and the morning service on December 24.

We hope you'll join us for worship, to be drawn closer to God through the Word, the Message, and the Music!

### A Special Thank You!

Many thanks to all who stayed after worship on October 22 to create the five beautiful, warm fleece blankets. The blankets were delivered to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Carnegie, where they will be delivered to local homeless shelters. Our hope is that the blankets will not only give someone warmth on a cold winter night, but will also warm their heart as well, knowing that someone is thinking of them.

### Christmas Stockings

During the month of December, we will be collecting small, travel-sized toiletry items (deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc.) that will be distributed to Familylinks. Familylinks is an organization in the South Hills that services youth, adults, and seniors. Their mission is to positively impact lives through integrated community, behavioral, and social programs. They have recently expanded their emergency shelter capacity by 50% and are always in need of personal care items for their shelter visitors. During each of the four Sundays of Advent, stockings will be hung on the ends of the pews down the center aisle of the sanctuary. Please place your items right into the stockings when you come in for worship. The stockings will be emptied following worship each Sunday, and all items collected will be distributed to Familylinks in early January. Thank you for participating in this important mission and ministry!





## Notes from Christian Education

By Taylor Strang



Picture this: a seemingly ordinary lamppost that serves as a way of knowing you are close to returning back home. Or a wardrobe that holds luxurious fur coats and linens is also a portal to a different realm. From Mr. Tumnus to Mr. and Mrs. Beaver each character adds to this magical world. Who would have thought that these items or the childhood story that we all know and love would hold themes that we use in our faith everyday?

During Advent the youth of the congregation will be joining adult Sunday School to learn how themes of faith are involved in *“The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe”* by C.S. Lewis. Children’s Church will be included in these themes with the board book version of the book while focusing on the bravery and strength of the Pevensie siblings.

Looking back onto October, our Harvest Festival was filled with children’s laughter and games allowing the children to win prize after prize. It was such a blessing to reach out into our community and bring joy to the families on a rainy day. During our Harvest Festival we held a coloring contest for the children. Be sure to check out the entries on page 4.

### **URGENTLY LOOKING FOR CHILDREN’S CHURCH VOLUNTEERS**

Help lead the youngest members of our church (birth to 2nd grade) with children’s books and play.

Volunteers are rotated every 6-8 weeks. Contact Taylor at:

[sunsethillsce@gmail.com](mailto:sunsethillsce@gmail.com)

if you would like to volunteer.

## Movies with the Minister



### **Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

### **The Marvels**

Join Pastor Laura for an afternoon at the movies! We will also meet after the showing to discuss the movie.

Showtime and gathering place will be announced during the Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> worship service.

*Attendees are responsible for the purchase of their ticket and dinner.*



# Harvest Festival

We held our annual Harvest Festival on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Despite the rainy weather, it was a nice turn out. GPM entertained us with live music, the Deacons held a bake sale, there were pumpkins and mums for purchase and CE had crafts, games, and a coloring contest. Below are pictures by winner, Mark and the honorable mentions from Marina, John Paul, Paula, and Vivian.



© 2019 Crayola. Serpentine Design®

Mark



© 2019 Crayola. Serpentine Design®

John Paul



© 2019 Crayola. Serpentine Design®

Paula



© 2019 Crayola. Serpentine Design®

Marina



© 2019 Crayola. Serpentine Design®

Vivian



## *Hanging of the Greens*



## *Stewardship*

Each year we ask for your financial support so that we may continue to serve our church and support mission work. This year Psalm 23 Verse 1 is our inspiration:

*“God my shepherd! I don’t need a thing.”*

Stewardship Campaign Appeal letters will be mailed out the beginning of November. Stewardship Sunday is 13 November, Stewardship Commitment Sunday is 20 November.

As in prior years, we are asking that you make a pledge allowing us to plan for the coming year. Your pledges are the foundation upon which we consider how we may best give back what **God** has so generously **provides** each of us.

Yours in Christ,

The Stewardship Commission



Violins of Hope



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VIOLINS of HOPE GREATER PITTSBURGH

Hope in the South Hills

Join us for an extraordinary evening, as we gather with the South Hills community to embrace the power of music and remembrance.

Presented by Violins of Hope Pittsburgh in partnership with SHIM, JCC's Center for Loving Kindness, and other valued South Hills partners, this event is open to all and free of charge.

Music by the renowned Clarion Quartet Readings and performances by local students.



Register Today!

Go to: bit.ly/45RFQOB



November 13 | 7pm Upper St. Clair High School





## Monts Malawi Mission Update



What a weekend celebration down at the just-born Chicken Ranch! Deb and I celebrate and have just invested \$3,500US of your eggstravagantly generous donations, in the industrious vision of Director Chifundo Chinsampha and his Coordinating Team of Alinafe Communities of Hope (ACOH), in initiating an EGG business for the benefits of nutrition and funding support for their elderly and disabled clients in villages surrounding Nkhoma.

As donors to us who have donated to ACOH, you are now the proud owners of 250 chickens that will begin producing eggs, for food and revenue, in just a week or two; your donations are

also providing funds for three months for two security guards, two chicken handlers, painting of the building, protective fencing around the building, chickenfeed, water and feed dispensers, and a couple of inches of rice chaff on the floor for the chickens' comfort and safe-egg-laying. (That's a lot of chicken scratch for \$3,500!)

US dollars are worth twice as much if they are brought into Malawi verses being sent electronically. Just so happens the gracious Moderator of the CCAP Synods of Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe just got back from visiting Boston with a Malawian delegation. Your donations were collected, sent by check to a former member of the Hollidaysburg, PA, Church, who cashed the check and gave fifty \$100 bills to Rev. Nkhoma who, in turn, brought them back to Malawi and handed them to me last Sunday. Ten minutes later, a friend of ours, a seminary student, put me in touch with someone who exchanged them for nearly 10 Million kwacha. How grateful we are for your donations! How grateful we are for the vision and compassion of the leadership team of ACOH. How grateful we are for the simple egg that will be doing so much to provide nutrition and resources of support for the clients of ACOH. Go chickens, go!



### Chuck & Deb Monts

#### A Year in Malawi

Please join us as we welcome Chuck and Deb back from their year in Malawi and hear about their adventures.

**Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 pm – Findley Hall**

Refreshments and dessert will be served.

## November Information

### Adult Sunday School

**9:00 am - Library**

Join Pastor Laura every Sunday before the worship for adult Sunday School 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](http://www.shupchurch.org).

### Fellowship Hour

**First Sunday of the Month**

There will be fellowship after the worship service on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Findley Hall Bible Study

**Monday's – 1:00 pm**

The Findley Hall Bible Study will continue their video study of “The Chosen” season 3.

If you would like to learn more about this study, please contact Jody Colby at [jody.colby@verizon.net](mailto:jody.colby@verizon.net).

### Wilson Hall Bible Study

**Tuesday's – 1:00 pm**

The class will be studying the Epistles, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. They will be using the Bible study series from Dr. J. Vernon McGee offering sound biblical scholarship and down-to-earth suggestions for applying the principles of scripture to everyday life. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Carole McCullough at (412)343-5758.

### 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.

### Campanile Bells Rehearsal

**Tuesday's - 6:30 pm**

Bells will have practice in the choir room.

### Chancel Choir Practice

**Tuesday's - 7:30 pm**

Chancel choir will have practice in the choir room.

### Yoga - Morning

**Wednesday's – 9:15 am - Crystal Hall**

To sign up for the classes or to learn more about the program, please visit their website at: [Online Stress Management & Anxiety Relief Programs \(breathein2it.com\)](#).

### 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](mailto:gurneybolster@gmail.com).

### Yoga - Evening

**Thursday's – 7:00 pm - Crystal Hall**

To sign up for the classes or to learn more about the program, please visit their website at: [Online Stress Management & Anxiety Relief Programs \(breathein2it.com\)](#).

### Office Closed

**Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>**

The church office will be closed from Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> through Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday.

### Nursery School Closed

**Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>**

The Sunset Hills Nursery School will be closed from Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> through Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday.

### Rev. Dr. Strauss's Dissertation

Pastor Laura Dissertation entitled “As a Hen Gathers Her Chicks,” will be made available in early 2023 to the congregation. She will be using her dissertation for a sermon series of the same name through the season of Lent, February 18 – March 17, 2024.



### November Birthdays

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Don Tang          | 23 Darlene Farabaugh |
| 7 Jessica Brumfield | 26 Jeff Bryer        |
| 10 Diane Van Houtte | Jim McKeen           |
| 13 Leslie Ney       | Ty Sembrat           |
| 18 Ethan Strauss    |                      |



### Prayer List

Dee Borman



### Prayer Circle

We ask that every week you take a moment and add these people to your daily prayers.

<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Praying for:</b>
Nov 5 <sup>th</sup> .....	Joanne Enterline The Ernst family; Kevin, Sarah, Charles, Sara & Lorryn
Nov 12 <sup>th</sup> .....	Jonathan Fako, The Farrabaugh family; Randy, Darlene, Parker, Bailey & Riley
Nov 19 <sup>th</sup> .....	Jeffrey Fitzwilliam John Fitzwilliam
Nov 26 <sup>th</sup> .....	Greg & Laura Flaus Dick & Dottie Fleming

### SHIM Food Donations

#### November 2023

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

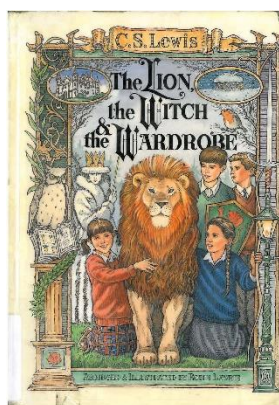
### Sunset Hills Book Club November Book of the Month

#### First Ladies

By M. Benedict & V. Murray

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 pm

*The daughter of formerly enslaved parents, Mary McLeod Bethune refuses to back down as white supremacists attempt to thwart her work. She marches on as an activist and an educator, and as her reputation grows she becomes a celebrity, revered by titans of business and recognized by U.S. Presidents. Eleanor Roosevelt herself is awestruck and eager to make her acquaintance. Initially drawn together because of their shared belief in women’s rights and the power of education, Mary and Eleanor become fast friends confiding their secrets, hopes and dreams—and holding each other’s hands through tragedy and triumph. When Franklin Delano Roosevelt is elected president, the two women begin to collaborate more closely, particularly as Eleanor moves toward her own agenda separate from FDR, a consequence of the devastating discovery of her husband’s secret love affair. Eleanor becomes a controversial First Lady for her outspokenness, particularly on civil rights. And when she receives threats because of her strong ties to Mary, it only fuels the women’s desire to fight together for justice and equality.*  
(Amazon Book Description)



### December 2023

*The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*

by C.S. Lewis

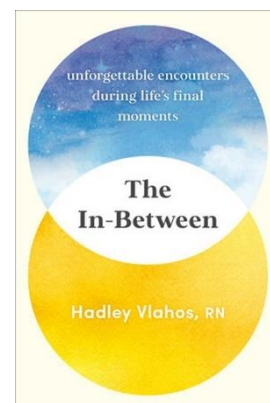
Meeting on December 27<sup>th</sup>

### January 2024

*The In Between*

by Hadley Vlahos

Meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>



Coming in December

## Deacon Holiday Bake Sale

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

10 am – Noon

Findley Hall



## Bake Sale Donations Needed

*Calling all SHUP Bakers! The Deacons need your help!*

Donations accepted on:  
Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm

&

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 9 am

- Donation Drop- off in the kitchen.
- Wrap all cookies separately (2-4/package).
- Mark Donations if they contain ingredients that may cause a common allergic reaction.





More in December

Get Your Littles in their PJ's for

# Parents' Night Out

Children ages three through nine are invited to the church for a night out so their parents can shop, wrap, or even nap! While parents have their 'grown-up' time, kids will enjoy dinner, activities, and a movie.

December 15, 2023 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

SUNSET HILLS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Reserve spot by emailing [revlaurastrauss@gmail.com](mailto:revlaurastrauss@gmail.com)

Freewill Donations Accepted

