



# Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228  
[www.shupchurch.org](http://www.shupchurch.org)

10:15 am WORSHIP  
August 17, 2025

**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**

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## IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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*When asked who owned the patent on the polio vaccine, Jonas Salk replied:  
“Well, the people, I would say. There is no patent. Could you patent the sun?”*

*— Jonas Salk*

Welcome Guest Preacher, Elder “Chip” McCoy

“Chip” is married to Susanne Kurz of Steinwenden, Germany and has two grown children Benjamin and Katherine. They live on his family farm in Beaver County. He is on Session serving the Administration and Personnel Commission. He’s retired from a career in the Air Force, runs a sawmill and makes furniture.

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## ENTERING GOD’S PRESENCE

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Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Preparation

Introit: *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

D. Akers

THE HOLY SPIRIT

# 291 Sweet, Sweet Spirit

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love . . . Gal. 5:22*

Unison

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has two staves, treble and bass, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef. The lyrics are: 'There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I / There are sweet ex - pres-sions on each face, and I'. The second system also has two staves, treble and bass, with the same key signature and time signature. The melody continues in the treble clef. The lyrics are: 'know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; / know they feel the pres-ence of the Lord.' The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I  
There are sweet ex - pres-sions on each face, and I

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord;  
know they feel the pres-ence of the Lord.

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Bev Knasko

Leader: God gives justice to the weak and the orphans.

**People: God rescues the weak and the needy.**

Leader: Blessed be the one, holy and living God, now and forever.

**People: By the power of your Holy Spirit, illuminate our sight and enflame our hearts.**

Hymn: *Open My Eyes That I May See*

No. 324

\*Call to Confession

Trusting in God's hopes for us, let us come before God with contrite hearts, asking for reconciliation and seeking peace.

\*Unison Prayer of Confession, from the Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman

**Holy God, I seek the strength to overcome evil.**

**I seek the strength to overcome the tendency to evil in my own heart. I recognize the tendency to do the unkind thing when the mood of retaliation or revenge rides high in my spirit.**

**I seek the strength to overcome the evil that is present all about me. I recognize the evil in the will to power as found in groups, institutions and individuals.**

**I seek the strength to overcome evil; I must not be overcome by evil. I seek the purification of my own heart, the purging of my own motives.**

**What I seek for myself I desire with all my heart for friend and foe alike. I seek the strength to overcome evil.**

(Silent Confession)

\*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Beloved, your sins are forgiven, for God is merciful and just. Therefore, be reconciled to the Lord and to one another, walking in the light of Christ.

**People: Alleluia! Amen!**

Response: *Gloria Patri*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

\*The Passing of the Peace, American Sign Language

Leader: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Special Music: *I Am a Pilgrim*

arr. McGuinn & Hillman

(Dave Petty, Ryan Gracey & Keith Yanda)

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

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Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me!*

Children's Story Time

Old Testament: *Exodus 12:1-14*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover.

“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance.”

New Testament: *Romans 8:31-39*

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the

future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: *Acquired Immunity*

Chip McCoy

Hymn: *My Faith Looks Up To Thee* (vs. 1-3)

No. 383

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

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**Affirmation of Faith: *The Confession of Belhar***

**We believe that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and seek what is right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream; that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others. Amen.**

Joys, Concerns, & Testimonies

Presenting Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

\*Response: *Doxology*

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## DEPARTING TO SERVE

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Hymn: *We Walk By Faith & Not By Sight* (Tune: *The Lord's My Shepherd*)

No. 399

\*Benediction (To be sung):

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you; wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness; protect you through the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing; at the wonders he has shown you; may he bring you home rejoicing; once again into our doors.

\*Postlude

*\*If you are able to do so, please stand*

**Thank you to Dave Petty, Ryan Gracey & Keith Yanda for providing the special music during worship today.**

**Chancel Flowers** were not sponsored today.

**Happy Birthday** to Carla Robinson (19<sup>th</sup>), Christa Jo Tang (20<sup>th</sup>), and Pat Ellis (21<sup>st</sup>).

**Happy Anniversary** to David & Carla Greenfield (23<sup>rd</sup>).

**Deacon Greeter(s)/Flower Deliveries Made By:** Pat Ellis & Mike Duffner

**Most Needed Items for SHIM:** Dried beans, lentils, pasta sauce in jars, cereal & oatmeal, soup, condiments, spices, adult diapers, baby diapers (size 4-6), dog and cat food, and personal care items.

**SHIM Clothing Closet:** Accepting donations of clothes (in season), shoes, and linens (no large household items). Located at the Church of Nazarene (5601 Library Road). Drop-off hours: Mondays 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. *If you are not able to deliver your donations during their hours, you can leave them in the closet outside of Findley Hall and a Mission Commission member will deliver them for you.*

**Hospital visits** by Pastor Laura can be scheduled through the church office. If you or someone you know is having surgery or is in the hospital, please let us know so that Pastor Laura can be there to visit and pray with you and your loved ones.

**Scheduling a Meeting with Pastor Laura:** If you would like to meet with Pastor Laura to discuss a matter that is **not** a medical or pastoral care emergency, please reach out to her. You can contact her via email at [revlaurastrauss@gmail.com](mailto:revlaurastrauss@gmail.com) or by calling the church office at (412) 561-6261 to schedule a meeting. Dropping in to say “hi” is always appreciated, but scheduling a meeting ensures that Pastor Laura can dedicate the necessary time to your discussion if needed.

### **PRAYER LIST**

**Prayer Circle** – Lee & Frank Cepits

**August** – Jett Owsley & Family, Baby Calliope & Family, Dee Schlueter, Harriet Ross, Cookie Bruschi, Wanda Miller, and all those facing illegal and unethical deportation.

**Ongoing** –Ron Sumner; Nancy Brumfield; Mya Kelly; Joanna; Becca; our mission co-workers at the U.S.-Mexico border, the Rev. Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar and their children, Cindy, Anna Flor, and Nathan; our sister church in Malawi, Africa, Litchenza CCAP; our WorldVision child, Pabatso Makhalanyane; and all those who are affected by natural disasters.



## **Welcome to Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church**

Phone: 412-561-6261

Office hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

900 Country Club Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15228

[www.shupchurch.org](http://www.shupchurch.org)

### **CHURCH CALENDAR**

#### **Sun, Aug 17**

**9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley**  
**9:00 am Children's Sunday School**  
**10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary**  
**10:45 am Children's Church**  
**4:00 pm AA – Findley Hall**

#### **Tues, Aug 19**

**7:00 pm Square Dance Class – Crystal**  
**7:00 pm Counseling Group – Rm. 6**

#### **Thurs, Aug 21**

**10:00 am Quilters**  
**7:00 pm Yoga – Crystal Hall**

#### **Fri, Aug 22**

**5:00 pm AA – Crystal Hall**

#### **Sun, Aug 24**

**9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley**  
**9:00 am Children's Sunday School**  
**10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary**  
**10:45 am Children's Church**  
**4:00 pm AA – Findley Hall**

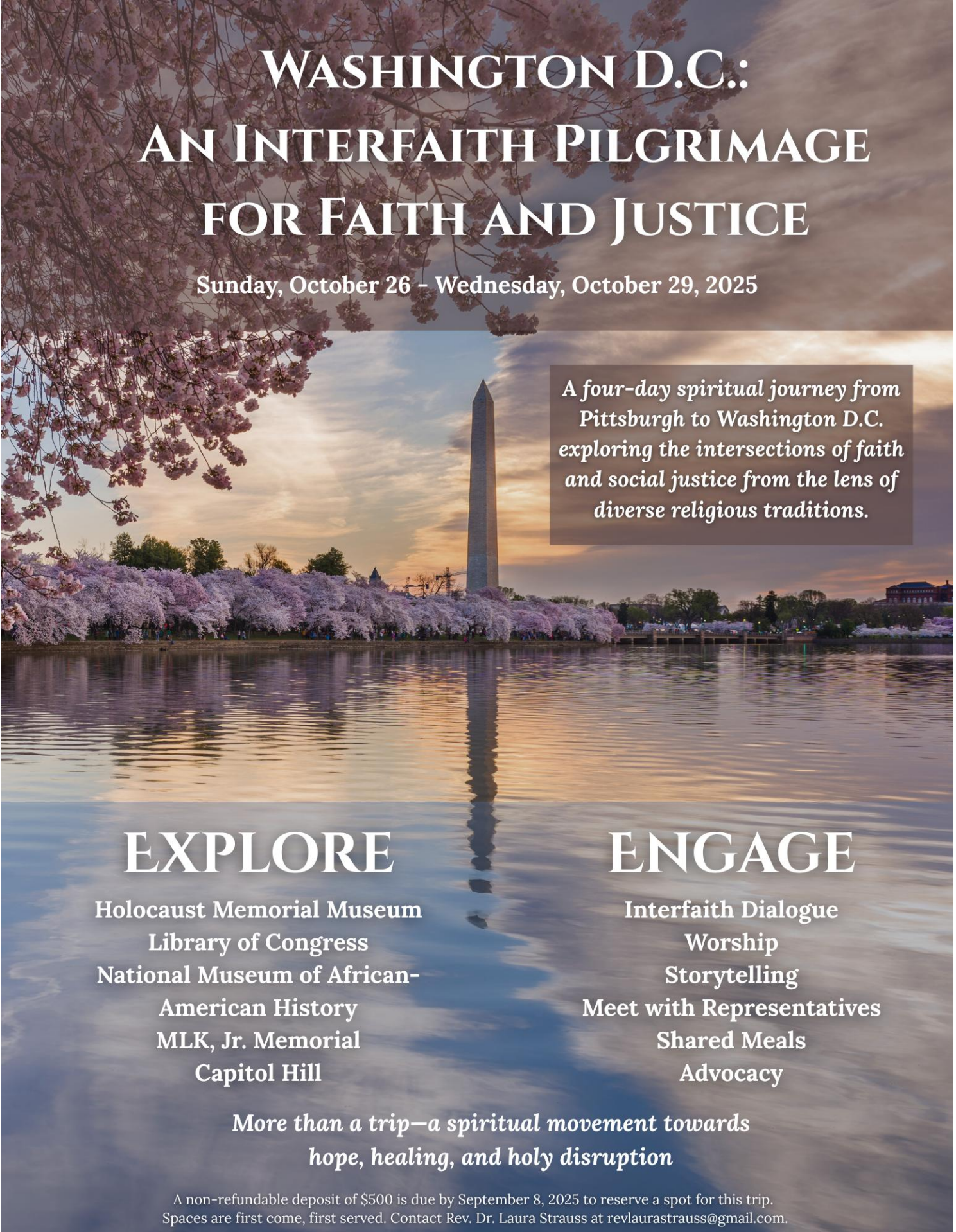


## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Thank you to Chip McCoy for being SHUP's guest preacher today.**
- ❖ **Pastor Laura Away:** Pastor Laura will be away August 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. In an emergency, call Stratton in the office Monday-Thursday from 9:00am-3:00pm at 412-561-6261 or Chip McCoy afterhours at 703-485-7901.
- ❖ **Blessing of the Backpacks:** Mark your calendars for the blessing of the backpacks after worship on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Pet Blessing:** Join us for SHUP's annual Pet Blessing from 6:00-8:00pm on September 7<sup>th</sup> in the Memorial Garden with food trucks, games, and fun for the whole family.
- ❖ **In Memory of Darlene Blodgett:** A Celebration of Life service will be held at Hope Lutheran Church on Saturday, September 20, for Darlene Blodgett, a former SHUP member who went home to our Lord on July 3. The service will begin at 11am, followed by a luncheon where memories can be shared. Hope Lutheran Church is located at 8070 Rowan Road, Cranberry Twp., 16066.
- ❖ **Ligonier Highland Games:** You're invited to attend the 66<sup>th</sup> annual Ligonier Highland Games on Saturday, September 13 at Idlewild Park, 2574 U.S. Route 30, Ligonier, PA 15658. The oldest continuous Scottish Highland Games in the US and honored in 2010 for being the only Highland Games in the US that the current Lord Lyon of Scotland, official representative of the British Crown, attended, this event is one you won't want to miss. Enjoy musical and athletic competitions, professional performers, dancing, games, haggis hurl, wool spinning and weaving, handbells, tartan history, keg toss competitions, and a Scottish clan gathering. Order through SHUP's office by August 26 and receive special church group discounted pricing: \$15/adult, \$13/senior, \$1/youth, and free admission for children under 11 years old.







# WASHINGTON D.C.: AN INTERFAITH PILGRIMAGE FOR FAITH AND JUSTICE

Sunday, October 26 – Wednesday, October 29, 2025

*A four-day spiritual journey from  
Pittsburgh to Washington D.C.  
exploring the intersections of faith  
and social justice from the lens of  
diverse religious traditions.*

## EXPLORE

Holocaust Memorial Museum  
Library of Congress  
National Museum of African-  
American History  
MLK, Jr. Memorial  
Capitol Hill

## ENGAGE

Interfaith Dialogue  
Worship  
Storytelling  
Meet with Representatives  
Shared Meals  
Advocacy

*More than a trip—a spiritual movement towards  
hope, healing, and holy disruption*

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is due by September 8, 2025 to reserve a spot for this trip.  
Spaces are first come, first served. Contact Rev. Dr. Laura Strauss at [revlaurastrauss@gmail.com](mailto:revlaurastrauss@gmail.com).