



Sunset Hills

M E S S E N G E R

FEBRUARY 2020

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A Message from Pastor Laura



You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine.

Titus 2:1

Doctor of Ministry Intensive #1 is done! I’ve spent these last two weeks studying Theology of Mission and Research Methodologies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. For the next two and a half years, I will spend two weeks every January and every June continuing my doctoral studies work. The preparation for those intensive weeks will include copious reading. The response to those weeks will require 15-25 page term papers. I will then write a doctoral dissertation at the completion of my coursework. And all of this is to make me a better pastor to serve you and to serve Jesus Christ more faithfully.

I’m astounded by how much I’ve learned in these last two weeks alone! Alongside classmates Rev. Matthew Fricker (Assoc. Pastor, John McMillan Presbyterian Church) and Rev. Charissa Howe (Moderator, Pittsburgh Presbytery), we learned that the church’s position on mission work has changed drastically over the past decade. The church is now convinced that the Holy Spirit is already present in our neighborhoods, inviting the church to participate in that presence. We do mission through the holy work of listening, building relationships, and attending to where the Holy Spirit is currently moving in people’s lives. This mission work entails a posture of humility.

This begs the question: what is the Holy Spirit doing in OUR neighborhood of Sunset Hills?

I have MUCH to learn, and I look forward to sharing my findings together as we continue to follow God’s Spirit in our midst.

In Christ’s Service,

Pastor Laura

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Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey

Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir is back in full voice, following their brief rest after Christmas. Rehearsals are underway for the music they'll be presenting in worship throughout the winter, as well as the approaching Lenten and Easter season. Many thanks to Ryan Gracey for leading the music and Harriet Rickard for directing the choir while I was away on vacation for two weeks in January!

Campanile Bells

The Campanile Bell choir resumes their rehearsals on February 4th, and we look forward to working on music using even more bells as we welcome two new ringers on board! It's always a pleasure to start the New Year with the wonderful group of musicians that we have at SHUP!



Food Pantry Needs for February

Canned Fruit

Prayer List

Carolyn Caldwell
JoAnne Enterline
Walter Jackson
Phyllis and Dick Moore
Patti Patterson

Children's Footprints...

By Barb Clark



February is the month of love...

What does that look like in your life right now? The definition of love according to the Oxford dictionary is, "an intense feeling of deep affection." Another word for love is agape. The definition from Britannica of agape is, "the fatherly love of God for humans, as well as the human reciprocal love for God. Agape love is the word used for the love that moved God to send his only son for the world's redemption. The term necessarily extends to the love of one's fellow humans, as the reciprocal love between God and humans is made manifest on one's unselfish love of others."

I once went on a pilgrimage where the forty plus participants were surrounded by agape for 72 hours. We literally did nothing but listen to talks about the love of Jesus. We sang loving songs about our Lord and Savior. We were literally bombarded with the love of Jesus Christ. It was such a moving experience that it was hard to come back into the world as we know it. They drove participants there, set up our beds, prepared every meal, gave small tokens of agape along the way, and if you whispered to someone, "I think I have a headache coming on" – someone from a different room would appear with medicine. It was amazing! I called it my 72 hours with Jesus.

When I think of the word agape, my immediate thoughts move to mission. Mission of the church means to go out into the world and spread the love of Jesus to those you meet simply because it is important to you. Actions of agape can be seen by the love of a stranger in as little as smiling or saying hello to a passerby.

Agape, the love of person to person can be seen in saying you matter, in giving food and clothing to the poor. Traveling halfway around the world to meet people in very different cultures and showing they matter is agape. Agape is creating bags and buckets of hope for the needy or those that just lost everything due to a disaster in their life. Spending time with a friend in need is agape. Working with the elderly and showing them that you do care for them and want to learn about their life is agape. Agape comes in so many ways; even prayer is agape - praying for each other regardless of the circumstances.

Children learn by example; they look to adults around them and mimic the actions. They don't have a clue what the world wants from them. They look to us for guidance in all things, and we look to God for direction and again the word agape comes into play. God is Love; God sent His only son to fix our broken world.

As we enter into the Lenten season at the end of the month, we will be exploring AGAPE and what that looks like here at Sunset Hills Church. Please plan on joining us for 5 Wednesday evenings (or as many as you can) that are packed FULL of Agape for others. The title of the Lenten nights will be DINNERS WITH A PURPOSE. We will explore the missions of the church, share stories, work intergenerationally with each other all while being the hands and feet of Jesus. Praise God!

Agape and Peace

Barb



Calendar Highlights for February

Legos & the Lord - Wednesdays 3:45 - 5:30/Crystal Hall (Formerly Kids Club)

This outreach program is for children in grades K-5. We build for a while then have some Bible fun. We have a snack and maybe craft time. We finish up the evening with some recreation. We laugh and smile much! We ask questions and grow as a community of Children who love and follow Jesus. We help each other, respect each other, and help others by way of doing small mission-oriented tasks all while building Legos. If your child is interested, please contact Barb Clark at youthandfamilyshup@gmail.com or visit our website for more information. Don't forget to tell your family, friends and neighbors about this fun and FREE activity! (No Legos on Feb. 26th).

Scout Sunday - February 9th/during Sunday Worship Service

We will be joined by many of the boys and girls who hold their scout meetings at SHUP. Come and help us celebrate these troops and the good deeds they all do throughout the year.

Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper - Wednesday, February 26th - 6:00 pm/Findley Hall

Join us in Findley Hall for the annual Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper provided by the Deacons. There is no cost, but a free-will offering will be accepted to support Deacon Ministries.

Ash Wednesday Service - February 26th - 7:00 pm/Sanctuary

After the pancake dinner, there will be a service in the sanctuary with the imposition of ashes and the sacrament of communion.

SHUP Ski Trip to Hidden Valley - Saturday, February 29th

Please join us for a ski day at Hidden Valley. Check our website for more information or contact Don Tang or Jenn Kennedy.

February Activities

Adult Sunday School - 9:00 am/Findley Hall

Adult Sunday School will continue their study of Adam Hamilton's book "Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times."

Youth Club

Sunday, Feb. 2nd - We will meet for lunch after worship.
Sunday, Feb. 23rd - Meet at SHUP at 6:30 pm for a youth group meeting.

Monday Mission

Feb. 10th - We will meet at SHUP at 5:00 pm for a light meal and then head down to the Baptist Homes to visit with the residents.
Feb. 17th - We will head down to World Vision for the afternoon. Please meet at SHUP at noon.

Findley Hall Bible Study Mondays @ 12:30 pm

This group will finish the study of "Making Your Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel. As Lent approaches they will start a study of "The Easter Experience" by Kyle Idleman. Please contact Evelyn Lape or the office for more information.

Wilson Hall Bible Study Tuesdays @ 1:00 pm

Wilson Hall Bible Study will continue to meet in February. If you interested in joining this group study, please contact Carole McCullough through the church office.

M.O.P.S.

Every other Wednesday - 9:00 am/Cort Room

Mothers of Preschoolers (M.O.P.S.) is a group for moms to get together to discuss various topics relating to motherhood. Our group is one of only three in the South Hills of Pittsburgh. If you, or someone you know would be interested in joining this group, please contact Barb Clark at youthandfamilyshup@gmail.com.

Meeting dates this month: 2/12 & 2/26

Confirmation Class

Wednesdays - 4:00 pm/Library

Class will continue every Wednesday in February.

Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays - 7:00 pm/Cort Room

The Wednesday night Bible study will continue to meet in February.

Produce to People



The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank serves 11 counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania. According to their website (pittsburghfoodbank.org), in Allegheny county alone there are over 174,000 people who struggle with food insecurity. These people often have to make many sacrifices to put food on their tables. Those with children, will often forgo their own meals so that their children can have more. Some are forced to choose between medicine and healthcare or basic necessities like electricity and heat over food on the table. One of the biggest sacrifices made by almost all people who are food insecure is to buy less expensive foods.

Less expensive foods tend to be the over-processed and less healthy food option. When these types of foods make up the majority of your diet, you are more likely to suffer from poor health and require more doctor visits and/or more medicine.

Children who eat these over-processed foods are more likely to do

poorly in school and require extra help with their education. Teens who are food insecure are also more likely to die by suicide.

Because buying fresh food is not always an option for people who are food insecure, The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank created a program called *Produce to People*. Each month they set up 18 distribution centers in 8 counties in Southwestern, PA. at these sites, people who cannot afford to buy fresh produce can come and get items like potatoes, cabbage, onions and apples. They try to have 9 to 11 different fresh produce items available each time. Through this program, they have been able to get fresh food to approximately 7,500 households every month.

Since 2018 members of SHUP have been volunteering to hand out these fresh food items at the distribution center located in the North Side of Pittsburgh. In 2019, we were glad to visit this site on 3 different occasions. We would like to continue this tradition in 2020. Our first visit will be on **Saturday, February 15th**. We will head down to **Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School (50 Montgomery Place)** to package and distribute fresh produce. **If you would like to join us, please contact Barb Clark or sign-up on the sheet in Findley Hall. You must be at least 12 years old to volunteer. We are asked to arrive by 8:30 that morning to start packaging the food, distribution begins at 10:00 am and ends at noon. With clean-up, we should be done by 12:30 pm.** Also, *be sure to dress for the weather, we will be under cover, but exposed to the elements.* Please consider joining us for this always fun and rewarding mission!

Lenten Nights

Dinners with a Purpose

We'll observe the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26th, with a Pancake Supper in Findley Hall at 6:00 pm. Worship will take place at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Communion and the imposition of ashes will be included.



For the remaining Wednesdays during Lent (March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th & April 1st), you are invited to *Dinners with a Purpose!* Join us for a meal in Findley Hall at 6:00 pm. We will do an easy, impactful, all-ages-can-do-it mission project afterward in Findley Hall. Our hands will create kits for those in need at home, our ears will hear about the Spirit's mischief overseas, and our hearts will be full from serving God's people. Come and see!

Save the Dates

SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH
Movies with the Minister

Join Pastor Laura for a late afternoon showing of Pixar's "Onward." After the movie everyone is invited to a local restaurant for dinner and conversation.

Time and place will be determined as we get closer to the date. Be sure to check the website for more details.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH
JUNE 6th - 12th
Adult Mission Trip

We will be returning to Ashville, NC and staying at Warren Wilson College.

More information to follow.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Received during the season of Lent, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to build God’s household and welcome our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Each gift to OGHS helps improve the lives of people through three impactful programs:

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER

ASSISTANCE: Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER

PROGRAM: Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF

PEOPLE: Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

You can help sustain these important ministries and programs that are supported by the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making a donation to the cause. During the Lenten season, we will have envelopes

for you to enclose your donation, or you can write (OGHS) on your check. We will also have “Lenten Banks” available for pick up in the Narthex beginning February 23rd. You can use these banks to collect your loose change all season long, remember, every little bit helps.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you for your support!



Financial Statement Update as of 12/31/19

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	Variance Fav. (Unfav.)
INCOME:			
Pledges, loose offering	173,845	186,554	12,709
Designated mission giving	2,700	1,578	(1,122)
Flowers	2,500	2,311	(189)
Per capita	1,810	1,580	(230)
Interest / Nursery school / misc.	7,820	8,979	1,159
Transfer - Endowments	136,436	108,934	(27,502)
Total income	325,111	309,936	(15,175)
EXPENSE:			
Adm. & personnel	(209,185)	(209,679)	(494)
Budget & finance	(15,491)	(13,740)	1,751
Christian Education	(8,500)	(6,955)	1,545
Cong. Care & Comm. O/R	(700)	437	1,137
Communications	(3,000)	(2,150)	850
Facilities	(61,300)	(50,023)	11,277
Worship & music	(6,575)	(6,533)	42
Y/R Stewardship	(20,360)	(21,293)	(933)
Total expense	(325,111)	(309,936)	15,175
Surplus (deficit) *	-	-	-

* - deficit offset by transfer from Gallagher / Helmig Endowment.

Circle of Friends



“Adventures in Friendship” co-founders
Miriam Lane & Rosabell Mehaffey



Circle of Friends will be starting new activities in another month or so and everyone is welcome to join us; members, friends and

neighbors! We meet during the day, often Wednesday or Thursday, for an interesting speaker, for lunch, to play games, or for a visit to a local area attraction. We also have a mission project each year, as a way to share our blessings with others.

We’re asking for your ideas for events. What topics or activities interest you? What places would you enjoy visiting? Please share your ideas with Ginny Bowman at:

412.561.2696

or

gbowman3150@gmail.com

Watch for an announcement soon for the first 2020 meeting and plan to come for fellowship, food and fun!

A Brief History...

Circle of Friends was organized several years ago by the consolidation of two other groups. During the early years at SHUP, the Women’s Association was very large, so several Circles were formed to allow members who had a common interest to get to know one another better. For example, women with young children formed one Circle, while older women joined others. The number of Circles decreased until Meg MacDougall was leading the one remaining Circle.

Then, in 1988, Miriam Lane and Rosabell Mehaffey formed a group called “Adventures in Friendship.” Their first meeting was on February 16, 1988. They met regularly to hear speakers, enjoy refreshments and socialize. Later on, Lois McMahon assumed leadership along with help from Ginny and Art Reynolds. When Lois was unable to continue leading the group and the Women’s Association had only one Circle, a decision was made to merge the Association’s remaining group with “Adventures in Friendship.” They named the group “Circle of Friends” to not only represent both groups, but to continue the missions and purpose they had in common.



Lois McMahon presents a cake to Miriam Lane in honor of her 14 years of service to “Adventures in Friendship.”



A musical tribute to Miriam and Rosabell (to the tune of “Lead On, O King Eternal”) was sung to them at their “Queens for a Day” event in March of 1993.

REJOICE, O CHRISTIAN PEOPLE,
AND LET YOUR VOICES RING!
FOR MIRIAM AND ROSABELL
OUR THANKFUL HEARTS WILL
SING.

FOR ALL THEIR DEDICATION
AND FRIENDSHIP TO US ALL
WE HONOR THESE TWO LADIES
TODAY IN FINDLEY HALL!

OUR FRIENDSHIP’S AN
ADVENTURE
ON TUESDAYS WE COME HERE
TO TALK AND LAUGH AND VISIT
AND SHARE A BIT OF CHEER.
ITS MIRIAM AND ROSABELL WHO
PLAN THESE PLEASANT DAYS
WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR
EFFORTS
AND CARING, LOVING WAYS.
THEY’VE WORKED AND PLANNED
AND PLOTTED

TO BRING US HAPPY TIMES.
SURPRISES, PARTIES, CONCERTS,
AND EVEN MERRY RHYMES!
OUR DEEP APPRECIATION
TO THEM FORE’ER BELONGS!

*Every Sunday Unless noted:
 9:00 am Adult Sunday School/Findley
 9:00 am Children's Breakfast/Wilson
 10:15 am Worship
 11:15 am Fellowship/Findley
 5:00 pm AA Mtg./Findley
 6:30 pm AA Mtg./Findley

FEBRUARY



Happy Birthday

ALL BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATIONS ARE WRITTEN ON THE CALENDAR IN ALL CAPITAL LETTERS.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 12:00 Youth Club Lunch 4:00 pm Trp 52976/Crystal 4:00 pm Trp 57074/Rm 110 6:00 pm Trp 52705/Crystal WALTER JACKSON NANCY NEWMAN MARG PETTY	3 8:30 am Monday Marvels 12:30 pm Findley Hall Bible Study	4 1:00 pm Wilson Hall Bible Study 6:30 pm Campanile Bell Rehearsal 6:30 pm Pack 65/Crystal 7:30 pm Choir Practice	5 3:45 pm Legos & the Lord/Crystal 4:00 pm Confirmation Class/ Library GINNY BOWMAN GARTH HOFFMAN	6 7:00 pm Trp 65/Crystal DAVE HUSTON BILL NEY	7 CONNOR BRUMFIELD	8
9 Scout Sunday 11:45 am Deacon Mtg/ Wilson Hall 4:00 pm Trp 46698/Crystal 5:30 pm Trp 16247/Crystal MARALEE WILLIAMS	10 8:30 am Monday Marvels 11:15 am JAM/Rm 113 12:30 pm Findley Hall Bible Study 5:00 pm Monday Mission BILL NEWMAN PATTI PATTERSON	11 1:00 pm Wilson Hall Bible Study 6:30 pm Campanile Bell Rehearsal 6:30 pm Pack 65/Crystal 7:30 pm Choir Practice JESSALYNN ELLIS	12 9:00 am MOPS/Cort Room 3:45 pm Legos & the Lord/Crystal 4:00 pm Confirmation Class/ Library 6:30 pm Session Mtg/ Wilson	13 1:00 pm Presbytery Mtg/ Pgh. Theological Seminary 7:00 pm Trp 65/Crystal SEAN DANIELS	14  KAREN EVANS	15 8:00 am Produce to People HARRIET ROSS
16 4:00 pm Trp 52976/Crystal 6:30 pm Pack 65/Library JEFFREY STIMMEL	17 8:30 am Monday Marvels 12:30 pm Findley Hall Bible Study 1:00 pm Monday Mission	18 1:00 pm Wilson Hall Bible Study 6:30 pm Campanile Bell Rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir Practice MICHELLE BRUMFIELD	19 3:45 pm Legos & the Lord/Crystal 4:00 pm Confirmation Class/ Library	20 7:00 pm Trp 65/Crystal AIDEN BRYER	21	22
23 3:30 pm Trp. 36898/Crystal 6:30 pm Youth Group	24 8:30 am Monday Marvels 11:15 am JAM/Rm113 12:30 pm Findley Hall Bible Study BILL GEARY	25 1:00 pm Wilson Hall Bible Study 6:30 pm Campanile Bell Rehearsal 7:30 pm Choir Practice	26 Ash Wednesday 9:00 am MOPS/Cort Room 4:00 pm Confirmation Class/ Library 6:00 pm Pancake Supper/ Findley 7:00 pm Worship Service	27 7:00 pm Trp 65/Crystal	28 JESSICA WEIDENSALL	29 SHUP Ski Trip to Hidden Valley 