



# Sunset Hills

M E S S E N G E R

## November 2022

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### Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

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### A Message from Pastor Laura

*May silent thanks at least to God be given with a full heart; Our thoughts are heard in heaven.*  
- William Wordsworth



The church in Acts looks different from our own in many ways. The church meets in the large homes of wealthy church members. Their services begin with a meal. They still consider themselves to be of the Jewish faith. The list goes on. One way that the church remains the same however is through the sacrament of communion: the eucharist.

Eucharist comes from the Greek word *eucharisteo*, meaning thanksgiving. We give thanks at the Lord's table. We are thankful for the gift of Christ's body and blood shed on the cross for the love of the world. We give thanks for the gift of the community of Christ that exists today, lifted into Jesus's presence by the mysterious power of the Holy Spirit. We express thanks for the feast that is to come when Christ returns in glory.

The communion table is not the only place to give thanks, particularly in this season. Here are some ideas for how you may express your gratitude to God this November:

- Keep a gratitude journal. Write a letter to God each night with a list of what you are grateful for that particular day.
- Share gratitude at the table. Whether at breakfast or dinner, incorporate gratitude into your prayer. Name one thing that you are thankful for at that moment.
- Write thank you notes. Make a practice each day, or on Sunday's, of writing thank you notes to people who've been kind to you.
- Turn off the radio in your car. Use that time to pray a prayer of thanksgiving.

We have more to be grateful for than we know, and gratitude is at the heart of the Christian life. I look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving with you on **Sunday, November 13** at our Thanksgiving banquet, and celebrating God's blessings together.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Laura

## Music Notes

By Shelby Gracey



This month finds the Chancel Choir and the Campanile Bells 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 the following weeks:

- **November 6** – (music for Veteran's Day)
- **November 20** – (music for Thanksgiving)
- **December 5** – (music for Advent)
- **December 18** – (music for Christmas)

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

## Deacon News

The Deacons have been busy preparing for the many events that we have coming up at SHUP.

### Thanksgiving Banquet

The Deacons have volunteered to help with the Thanksgiving banquet that will be held in Findley Hall on November 13<sup>th</sup>. They will be providing the main course as well as set-up/clean-up and serving the meal. Don't forget to bring a side dish or dessert to help the Deacons make the meal a true feast!

### Hanging of the Greens

The Deacons will be decorating the church after the worship service on November 20<sup>th</sup> for the upcoming Advent and Christmas Season. Everyone is invited to join in the fun!

### Cookie Sale

The annual cookie sale will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 am until Noon in Findley Hall. Please consider helping by putting your baking skills to work and donating cookies. This is the only fundraiser the Deacons hold every year and the money raised helps them continue their good works.

If you would like to donate, they will be accepting baked goods on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 pm and on Saturday morning before the start of the sale starting at 8:30 am in the kitchen.

Please be sure to mark your donations if they contain ingredients that may cause an allergic reaction.

The Deacons would like to thank you in advance for any help that you are able to offer them so that they can make all of these events a huge success. They look forward to seeing you in the coming months at SHUP.



**Deacon Cookie Sale**  
**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**10 am – Noon**  
**Findley Hall**

## Notes from Christian Education

By Taylor Strang

Almost every child goes through a phase of asking why, whether it be a toddler or an angsty teen. I suppose that is why I enjoy working with children and other youth. They don't just accept what is told to them, they wonder about it and have a hunger for answers. I am still in that phase and always ask questions and I continue to wait for the answers. That is my favorite part of the ministry here at SHUP, unanswerable questions are always welcome.

The preschool program, Jesus and Me, started on October 17th and I have been enjoying teaching the children about God's creation. They bring their teachings home and have enjoyed the homework of pointing out what in the world is God's creation.

I am so excited for the advent fellowship hours and the themes for each week. If you've forgotten, here they are:

### Nursery Volunteers Needed

#### Sunday during Worship Service

We are looking for some volunteers to help us in the nursery during worship on Sundays. If you are interested, please contact Taylor at [sunsethillsce@gmail.com](mailto:sunsethillsce@gmail.com).



### CE Closet Clean-Up

We have been cleaning out the CE closet of curriculum used before 2020 and other unwanted items. If there is anything that you would like, please let Taylor know.

**November 27<sup>th</sup> - Ugly Sweater Contest:** Wear an ugly Christmas sweater to service and join the contest during fellowship. Winners will be awarded a prize.



**December 4<sup>th</sup> - Cookie Decorating:** Bring your artistic abilities and your sweet tooth to decorate your own cookie during fellowship hour.

**December 11<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Karaoke:** Singing should not be contained to the choir here at SHUP. Come join us to sing your favorite Christmas songs.



**December 18<sup>th</sup> - Ornament Making:** Send our friends of shup and members that need to stay home a gift this holiday season by decorating an ornament for them.



## Thank You from Rev. Chuck Monts

Dear Laura, Elders, Mission Committee, Church Members,  
Blessings to you, your families, and SHUP's Life,  
Ministry, Mission and Witness in Word and Deed to  
all in need.

Please know that Deb and I were extremely amazed  
with your extravagant donation to our upcoming  
year of volunteer service in Malawi. Thank you!  
And please extend our gratitude to the leadership  
and membership of the church.

It is quite humbling to think of your generosity  
towards my wife and me over the years- -beginning  
with taking on a young, inexperienced and  
sometimes overly exuberant young adult to work  
with the youth and to preach occasionally (yikes) just after I graduated from  
Westminster College in 1982 and before I went to seminary; the church  
welcomed me into the pulpit to preach for several churches in the Presbytery in  
1988; last summer you opened your home to us, Laura, and the thoughtful  
group hosted a pot-luck and connection time as we biked into PA on our way  
from LA to NYC, and donating generously to The Bowery Mission; and now,  
after all these years and with such a hopeful, faithful, vibrant ministry going  
on Country Club Drive, and in addition to your current missional giving and  
serving, you've made such a significant investment in our year of mission and  
learning. Thank you!

We'd love to have your members consider following our experiences and  
reflections on our website: [montsmalawimission.org](http://montsmalawimission.org) and/or on our Facebook  
page: *On the Road Again: Malawi, 2023*, both of which will include blogs and  
brief videos that may serve as catalysts for individual or group devotions. Also,  
in '24, we'd love to come to SHUP to say thank you in person and, perhaps, to  
tell of some of our experiences in service and learning.

Until then, continued blessings in service to God and Neighbor,  
Chuck



Mission



CHRISTMAS JOY

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> - Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>

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.

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.

50%

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

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).
Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999.

Mission Day at Garfield Farm

Saturday, November 5th

10:00 am - Noon



Everyone is invited to join us for a day of Mission at Garfield Farm. We will meet in the church parking lot at 9:00 am for an 9:15 am departure.

Remember, we will be working on the farm, so please dress for the occasion and be sure to bring some gardening gloves if you have them.

## Church Directory

The Sunset Hills UP Church directory has been printed and distributed. If you have not received a copy and would like one, please call the church office at (412)561-6261 to request your copy today.

If you noticed that your information in the directory is not correct, please let us know so we can make the updates and share them with our other church members.

### Update

If you did receive a directory, we do have an update. Please add the following information for Elder, Lisa Ursitz:

**Ursitz, Lisa**

384 980 Road

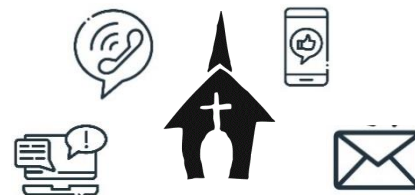
McDonald, PA 15057

Cell: (412)667-8679

Email: [lursitz@hotmail.com](mailto:lursitz@hotmail.com)

### Thank You

A special thank you to Harriet Rickard for helping the church office put together the directory and for distributing the copies after worship on Sunday. Your help is always appreciated!



## Chancel Flowers 2023

The church office is getting ready to reserve the dates for the chancel flowers in 2023. If you have a date already reserved in January or February, you will be receiving a letter soon asking if you would like to keep the date. Those who have dates later in the year will receive a letter closer to that time.

The support and generosity given to this ministry by our members is uplifting to not only those who attend the worship service, but also to those who receive the bouquets that are delivered by the Deacons every Sunday. It is a wonderful ministry, and your support is greatly appreciated.

We currently have the following dates available:

**March 12** – 1 bouquet

**July 2** – 2 bouquets

**July 30** – 2 bouquets

The cost of each bouquet is \$25. If you would like to reserve one of these dates, please contact the church office at (412)561-6261,

## Election Day Prayer Service

Feeling anxious, tired, or even upset during this election season? All are welcome to attend this inter-faith service on election day.

**Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> - 8:00 pm**

**Sunny Hill Unitarian Universalist Church**

1240 Washington Road



## November Information

### Adult Sunday School

**9:00 am - Library**

The Adult Sunday School class will meet in person 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:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeEpiQYSD\\_9My9tb5GEhVRA](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](http://www.shupchurch.org).

### Fellowship Hour

**11:15 am - Findley Hall**

Everyone is invited to join us for fellowship in Findley Hall on November 6<sup>th</sup> and on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Youth Group

**Sunday's – 11:30 am**

The youth group will meet on Sunday after the worship service. This month, they will meet on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Jesus & Me (JAM)

**Monday's – 11:30 am**

Taylor will hold JAM for the pre-school in room 113 in November (no class Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>). There is a cost of \$10/class.

### Findley Hall Bible Study

**Monday's – 1:00 pm**

The Findley Hall Bible Study class will continue to meet on Monday in Findley Hall.

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

### Wilson Hall Bible Study

**Tuesday's – 1:00 pm**

The Wilson Hall Bible Study class will continue to meet in November. They will be working on 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](mailto:seamus1219@hotmail.com).

### Campanile Bells

**Tuesday's - 6:45 pm**

Campanile Bells will continue rehearsal in the sanctuary.

### Peanuts Square Dancing Club

**Tuesday's - 7:00 pm**

The Peanuts Square Dancing club will continue to meet in Crystal Hall in November. Everyone is welcome, no partner or previous experience is needed. There is a cost of \$5/class.

### Chancel Choir Practice

**Tuesday's - 7:45 pm**

Chancel choir practice will continue to practice on Tuesday evenings in October.

### Tai Chi

**Wednesday's – 6:30 pm**

Gurney Bolster, certified Tai Chi instructor, will continue her classes in November (no class Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>). If you are interested in learning more about these classes, please contact Gurney at: [gurneybolster@gmail.com](mailto:gurneybolster@gmail.com).

### Young Adult Dinner

**Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm**

The young adults will hold a potluck dinner in Wilson Hall on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

### Office Closed

**November 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**

**&**

**Nursery School Closed**

**November 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>**

### November Birthdays

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



### Prayer List

Dee Borman



### Prayer Circle

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

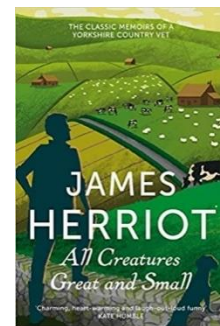
<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Praying for:</b>
Nov 6 <sup>th</sup> .....	The Duffner family; Chris, Carrie, Elizabeth, Michael & Catherine Tom & Dian Duffner
Nov 13 <sup>th</sup> .....	Savy Dunlevy Debbie Edwards
Nov 20 <sup>th</sup> .....	Jackie & Larry Elborne Jessalynn Ellis
Nov 27 <sup>th</sup> .....	The Ellis family, John, Angela, Julianna & Jacey John & Pat Ellis

### SHIM Food Donations November 2022

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

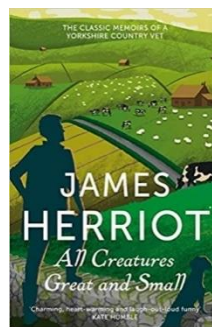
*We appreciate your continued support of this ministry.*

### Sunset Hills Book Club MEETING IN PERSON November Book of the Month (Chapters 1 - 40) *All Creatures Great & Small* By James Herriot November 30<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 pm



*For over forty years, generations of readers have thrilled to Herriot's marvelous tales, deep love of life, and extraordinary storytelling abilities. For decades, Herriot roamed the remote, beautiful Yorkshire Dales, treating every patient that came his way from smallest to largest, and observing animals and humans alike with his keen, loving eye.*

*In All Creatures Great and Small, we meet the young Herriot as he takes up his calling and discovers that the realities of veterinary practice in rural Yorkshire are very different from the sterile setting of veterinary school. Some visits are heart-wrenchingly difficult, such as one to an old man in the village whose very ill dog is his only friend and companion, some are lighthearted and fun, such as Herriot's periodic visits to the overfed and pampered Pekinese Tricky Woo who throws parties and has his own stationery, and yet others are inspirational and enlightening, such as Herriot's recollections of poor farmers who will scrape their meager earnings together to be able to get proper care for their working animals. From seeing to his patients in the depths of winter on the remotest homesteads to dealing with uncooperative owners and critically ill animals, Herriot discovers the wondrous variety and never-ending challenges of veterinary practice as his humor, compassion, and love of the animal world shine forth. (Amazon Book Description)*



**December 2022**  
*All Creatures Great & Small*  
by James Herriot  
(Chapters 41-67)  
Meeting on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>

**January 2023**  
*The Girl with the Louding Voice*  
Voice  
by Abi Dare  
Meeting on Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>





## Thanksgiving Banquet



# A Thanksgiving Banquet

## To Celebrate the Findley Hall Renovations

Sunday, November 13, 2022  
5:00 pm - Findley Hall

*Main Course provided/please bring a side dish or a dessert.*

*If you have not already returned your RSVP, please call the church office if you are planning to attend.*



Coming in December



Sunset Hills United  
Presbyterian Church  
Christmas Festival  
Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 - 7:00 pm

- Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long
- Visits with St. Nick
- Crafts for the Kids
- Food Trucks



**Sunset Hills United  
Presbyterian Church  
Longest Night Service  
Thursday - December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
7:00 pm**

A service of light amidst  
the darkness.