



# The Good News

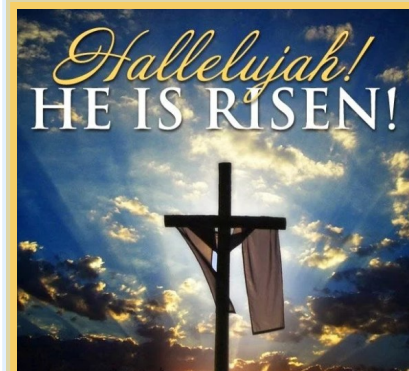
Happy Easter Sharon Church!

As the stone is rolled away from the tomb and the angel proclaims that Christ has not died, but has indeed risen, Easter welcomes us into a season of resurrection! What does resurrection mean to you? Is it just something that happened to Jesus? Or is it something that can happen for you?

After Jesus rose, he lingered on this side of heaven, surprising his own disciples with his fleshly presence. He first speaks with Mary of Magdelene, then pops into the upper room, he walks and talks with unsuspecting disciples, he eats bread and fish with them, and he summons them to believe in the resurrection. Yet, they don't immediately believe. His own disciples want a further explanation for what has happened, they want to touch his wounds, they want to know why all did not go according to "plan"—why he did not become the earthly king of Israel and save them from the Romans—and finally, they wanted to understand the "new plan"—this "new life" or resurrected life in Christ.

For most of Jesus' devoted followers, they needed **to see to believe**. In the face of loss and threat, their faith did not have the legs to endure this challenge. In fact, at his death, at the lowest point of their loss, Jesus' closest friends and disciples denied that they knew him, abandoning him and his salvation. After Jesus rose and God brought resurrection into reality, it still took his dear friends and followers some time to adjust their thinking, their feelings, and regroup.

The post-resurrection story of the disciples is a very relatable story for most of us. We, too, proclaim a strong faith in Jesus, but when we face challenge or things do not go how we believe they should, all of a sudden, our faith is revealed to be a false faith or idolatrous faith—a belief in *something* without trust in God. Indeed, many of our beliefs today have become encapsulated and calcified in our church traditions and symbols—a focus on *how* things should be—instead of an openness to and trust in a living, moving God who is always creating and bringing new life into our world.



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Church theologian, Saint Augustine, once opined that “faith is to believe what you do not see; the *reward* of this faith is to see what you believe.” So, what are we trusting these days? God, but not people? People, but not God? Well, resurrection certainly imagines a faith and trust in God. Yet, it also asks followers of Jesus to believe in what they cannot see—believe that God is working in the world beyond what we may currently comprehend, believe that God is working in other people, believe and trust that new life is not only possible, but happening!



Here at Sharon Church, your leaders and elders have been believing and trusting in God to show us what God is doing here, in our midst, in our place and time, in our relationships, in our neighborhoods, and in our community. We have put our faith in a ministry and mission that we believe God is leading and reflects not just our own love and gratitude for God, but addresses the needs of our community. We have put our faith in a future that includes a facility that is capable of housing not just us for years to come, but others who seek community here in Moon Township. And we have put our faith in you, God’s people, asking for your support, participation and energy as we regroup and follow what we believe God is directing.

For us, this is resurrection-living. It is our trust in God to speak and lead us into new life. And we believe new life is happening. In this *Good News*, you will find a plethora of mission engagements that invite all of us to share God’s love and serve the needs of our community. You will also find the fruits of several years of hoping, praying and believing in an updated building that will provide for our and other’s future. Finally, you will get to meet one of our new community partners—IPUL: Iglesia Pentecostal Undia Latinoamericana—who has begun worshipping here as of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Friends, I pray that this Easter season bolsters your faith—trusting in God, living with Christ’s peace, love and joy in your hearts, and seeing God’s reward for your belief.

Happy Resurrection!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Becky S.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

## Celebrate Pentecost!

### Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

Wear your RED to worship @ 10:30 a.m. Symbolizing the wind and fire that came from the Holy Spirit and blew life into Christ’s church.

Join us for our first CHURCH PICNIC following worship. We will be cooking hamburgers and hotdogs outside on the SCPC Patio (weather permitting). Otherwise, we will gather in the newly painted Fellowship Hall.

# Introducing Iglesia Pentecostal Unida Latinoamericana (IPUL)

It is my pleasure and blessing to introduce you to the IPUL church, which is a Hispanic church, Bible-centric and Christ-centric in essence. The Corporation IPUL has been in the states for the past 35 years. IPUL originally came from Colombia, South America and is established already in more than 40 states with more than 150 Pastors across the country. We have missions on Mexico, Canada, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Australia and New Zealand.

As a local Branch the IPUL church in Pittsburgh was established in 2017 with a vibrant congregation of approximately 130 people. Due to recent events in January 2024, the church went through a difficult time resulting in a new beginning.



As part of this fresh start, the church had been moving around the Coraopolis area and has now found a place at Sharon Community Presbyterian Church. We recently started our services in the sanctuary here with around 50 people. We are so excited to see what God has in store for our church in this new chapter, knowing he has control over all things and his will is perfect.



My Name is Nilsson Devia I'm the Pastor at IPUL Pittsburgh church. I am living here with my wife, Hilcia and son, Joseph. We are originally from Colombia, but we have been living in the states for the past nine years. We arrived in

Pittsburgh at the end of March to accept the challenge to work as Family in pro of the Latino Community through the IPUL.

I have the honor of being a Pastor for the last 20 years. With God's grace, I completed my studies as a Theologian at Baptist University of Cali Colombia. We have a lot of expectations and dreams that we know God will help us and guide us to accomplish. I love to worship God and to sing Praises to His Glory.

I hope God allows me to know more about SCPC and the awesome work you have been doing in Moon Township and in the Pittsburgh community.



The Property Team has been hard at work for the past year overseeing the (many) necessary updates to bring our building up to occupancy code including: roofing repairs, electrical repairs and updates, plumbing repairs and updates, fire and safety installations, plastering and painting, fixture installations, and property signage. Their work has paid off and we just received our occupancy permit from Moon Township.

Now, we can safely welcome other groups in our area who are looking for space to gather and grow community!

Thank Doug, Holly, and Scott for their vision and elbow grease in plastering, painting, and renovating the fellowship hall!



## We Have Pews Available!



As our church redesigns and plans for its future, we do not require the use of so many pews for our church sanctuary. We have been collecting them on the stage of our Fellowship Hall, and would like your input as to the creative reuse or repurposing of these excess pews.

If you have a good idea for pew use in other areas or would like to make personal use of a pew or two (or three), please let us know. Please speak with any of our elders or Becky and let us know what you think—all ideas are welcomed!

*Property Team*



**Some Ideas for Pews!**



# Worship

## 2024 Lenten Activities

We gathered on **Ash Wednesday** in the sanctuary for a joint worship service with Riverdale Presbyterian Church, which included special cello accompaniment and the imposition of ashes. Pastor Becky also did a drive-thru imposition of ashes for families in the Portico prior to the service.



On **Maundy Thursday**, we gathered together for a lovely dinner prepared by our WMA Committee to commemorate Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. We also participated in a foot and hand washing ritual.



We commemorated **Good Friday** with a Tenebrae service in the sanctuary. Christ's farewell to his disciples and final words on the cross were enriched and punctuated by musical offerings and interludes and the extinguishing of candles as we emptied ourselves at the cross of Christ and prepared our hearts for new life.



Thanks to the Deacons who once again hosted a delicious Easter Breakfast of various breakfast casseroles, ham, breads, drinks, fruit and of course, sweets! A lovely Easter Sunday morning was had by all. A thank you also from the Deacons to those who donated delicious treats to the breakfast.

Now on to the next season. It's hard to believe summer is almost upon us once more! Stay tuned for dates for summer picnics at Sharon Church.



# Worship

March 31, 2024

# EASTER SUNDAY



# Easter Dedications



*The Aber and Benard families*

In memory of Bill and Anna Aber

*Jim and Patty Beasock*

In memory of Clara Anne Schmidt

*Dorothy Bower and Ed Hobaugh*

In memory of Loved Ones

*Trish Bricklemyer*

In memory of Mert King and Mark Bricklemyer

*Patty Brunette and Family*

In memory of Paul and Joyce Haskins,  
Gail Zalucky, & Betty Brunette

*Sherri Busch*

In memory of Vanya Conroy

*Sherri, Doug, Kaitlin, Ryan and Katie Busch*

In memory of Niki Busch

*Nancy and Glenn Bush*

In memory of Loved Ones

*Barbara Cain*

In memory of Thomas Cain

*Todd Carter*

In memory of Joan, Jack and David Carter,  
Marcia Harper, & Dorothy and Jim Chisholm

*Samantha and Alexa Ciccone*

In memory of our Mom, Becky

*Bruce Clark*

In memory of Monique Clark  
In honor of Laverne Petrie

*Linda Corcoran*

In memory of Ted Howe

*William Sr., Dan, Janice, Abby,  
Audrey, and Zack Crookshank*

In memory of Vera Crookshank  
& William A. Crookshank, Jr.

*John and Dorothy Devey*

In memory of our daughter, Becky

*Carol Gordon*

In memory of Dave Gordon & our parents

*Jan and Walt Gorr*

In memory of Dave and Helen Mitchell

*Larry, Cindy, Elizabeth, Emily and John Grambo*

In memory of our sister and aunt Becky,  
Grandma and Grandpa Grambo, and Hunter

*Alan and Gail Hiney*

In memory of our daughter, Lori

*Gladys Johnston*

In memory of My dear sister, Nancy Ball

*Barbara Kephart*

In memory of Loved Ones

*George and Donna Kovatch*

In memory of our Catherine Kovatch

*Janet McGuire*

In memory of Peter McGuire & Loved Ones

*Jo Anna E. Mosca*

In memory of Charles E. Mosca

*Dan and Grace Peters*

In memory of our parents

*Gladys Sanderbeck and Mike Sanderbeck*

In memory of Bill Sanderbeck,  
Husband and Father,  
Debra Sanderbeck, Daughter  
& Sharon Sanderbeck, Daughter

*Kay and Harry Schurr II*

In memory of Edna and Harry Schurr, Sr.  
Dolly and Howard McGinnis

*Bryan Thompson*

in memory of Sam Blagovich

*Myra Leigh Tokar*

In memory of Loved Ones

*Susanne Udvari*

In memory of Joseph Udvari

*The Zalucky Family*

In memory of Gail E. Zalucky



# Children's Ministry

Children's Church is continuing with the "Kid's Own Worship" curriculum as they walk through the Bible. This winter and spring focused on the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Recent lessons are:

- ◆ Jesus Heals, Prays, and Preaches, Mark 1:29-39, (God wants us to depend on him)
- ◆ Jesus Calms a Storm, Mark 4:35-41, (Jesus Takes care of us)
- ◆ Jesus teaches about Commitment, Mark 8:31-38 (He wants us to have a lifelong relationship with him)
- ◆ Jesus Clears Merchants from the Temple, John 2:13-22, (God deserves our sincere worship)
- ◆ Jesus Explains Why God Sent Him, John 3:12-21, (God saves us).
- ◆ People Rejoice as Jesus Enters Jerusalem, Mark 11:1-11, (Our praise honors Jesus)
- ◆ Jesus is Alive, Mark 16:1-8, (Jesus Lives!)



The Valentine's boxes staged in the Narthex from February 4th-18th collected many valentines for our youth. The uplifting messages and greetings were thoroughly enjoyed by each of them. Thank you to all who placed valentines in the boxes. The kids also planted flower seeds in February in individual flower pots, and they sprouted and are doing quite well. They can't wait to see the flowers that will appear.

On Palm Sunday, the kids made praise certificates for Jesus to honor him with awards. As they made the praise certificate, they thought about these questions: "How can you honor Jesus?" and "If Jesus were standing beside me now, how would you honor him today?"

Our "Jesus is Alive!" lesson fell on Easter Sunday and included a variety of crafts and games that reminded the children that Jesus lives. Before the service on Easter, Natalie and Lorna led them on an Easter egg hunt outside church in the shrubs and grass.

Later during Children's Church kids were given 4 eggs. Inside the first egg was a cross to remind us that Jesus willingly carried his cross to Calvary to die for our sins. Inside the second egg were three nails, to remind us that Jesus was nailed to the cross. Inside the third egg was a stone, a reminder that even a huge stone could not keep Jesus in the grave. The fourth egg was empty, reminding us that Jesus' tomb was empty. He is risen, just as he said he would.





# Mission and Outreach

## Soup for Souls and Prayer Bead Crafting Party

**Sunday, April 28, 2024 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall**

Do you like to hang out, prepare food, cook food, eat food, and talk about food? Do you enjoy creating prayer beads for our Welcome bags? The Beading Party is joining forces with the Soup for Souls Party! The Mission and Outreach Committee invites you to join us for another Prayer Bead crafting party in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 28, 2024, at 11:30 am following worship. Lunch will be provided. We will have Jersey Mike sandwiches. There is:

- Soup to be made, packaged, and frozen
- Beading and other activity available.
- An opportunity to enjoy yourself and get to know people better.

The first Soup for Souls Party was held in October 2023 and we produced 25 quarts of chicken and vegetable soup. The soup was shared with our members and friends. That batch of soup is gone and pleasantly remembered. Our Freezer is empty!



You are welcome to participate in all Soup for Souls and Prayer Bead Party activities. There will be soup preparation, beading, and prayer cards available, rocking chairs, and conversation.

After the soup is frozen, it will be available for Deacons to share with our membership; for Members to share with friends, neighbors, and family; for our Church to share with our community. Its purpose is to share a smile, lighten a load, to say "We care". Our prayer beads are also shared by the Deacons and Care Team.



Come down to the kitchen, make soup, make beads, smile, and make smiles! There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex with a volunteer grocery list! The Party is over when the soup hits the freezer.

## POCKET CHANGE FOR DEEP SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL

**Help provide clean drinking water for families in Haiti**

If you've been keeping up with the news about Haiti, you know that the situation there is very bad. Fortunately, DSI's manufacturing facilities have not been attacked. However, they do have to go into Port au Prince for equipment and chemicals. Since it is so dangerous, they hire someone to go with them, and that person has to pay different people he knows so they are not harmed. This allows DSI to continue to prepare the chemical for treating water.

Currently, DSI provides chemicals to **200** families. These families live in rural areas without water treatment facilities. The DSI treatment makes the water of sufficient quality to prevent cholera among young children.

Your contribution saves lives and provided jobs for Haitians.

Please bring your pocket change, dollars or checks to church on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, or you may mail your donation to the church. Thank you.



# Mission and Outreach

HELP SUPPORT THE WEST HILLS FOOD PANTRY

## PAPER MOON

### ITEMS NEEDED

- ▶ Toilet paper
- ▶ Paper towels
- ▶ Tissues
- ▶ Napkins

### DROP-OFF LOCATION

Look for labeled collection boxes in the Narthex & Sanctuary or the outdoor collection box in the portico

We are excited to announce a new collection for our friends at the Food Pantry! During the month of May, we will be collecting paper goods.



# SOLES 4 SOULS

Thank you to everyone who collected shoes for Soles4Souls. We surpassed our goal and collected a total of **1,108 pairs** (that is 100 more than last year when we collected 1,008!)

Start saving and collecting shoes for 2025.



# Mission and Outreach

## Supporting the West Hill Food Pantry

Thank you to Sharon Church for generously donating **\$720** (almost double from last year!) to the West Hill Food Pantry this Easter Season . Your support of the vital mission is appreciated!

And thank you Willing Workers for collecting candy during Lent, and creating Easter Goodie bags for the Food Pantry families this year. The Willing Workers assembled 80 Goodie bags which were part of the distribution on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.



## Feeding Homeless Men in Pittsburgh

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, a few SCPC members cooked & served a delicious meal at the Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter on the North Side. Thank you to those who volunteered their time & talents. **We are scheduled to serve another meal at the shelter on Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and we need volunteers to help!**



There are three levels of participation.:

- 1. Minimum participation:** Spend about two hours with a friend cooking the meal in the church kitchen. We have tried and true easy menus, or create your own menu. M&O will purchase the ingredients for you.
- 2. Medium participation:** Prepare the meal and shop for and purchase the food. (The committee will reimburse you.)
- 3. Full participation:** Provide the above, AND deliver the food to the shelter and serve the men. This requires three people.

Contact Grace Peters @ 412-264-7683 or [gracepeters@verizon.net](mailto:gracepeters@verizon.net) for more information and/or to volunteer. Thank you!

# Strategic Planning Update

You have been hearing and reading in recent months about all the wonderful things God has been doing at Sharon Church, and how the Holy Spirit is leading us in new directions, doing God's work in our church, our community and beyond. As the *Sailboat Church*, the basis of our Lenten study, has taught us, God invites us *all* to experience the Holy Spirit moving and leading us.

One of the important elements of becoming a sailboat congregation is working intentionally toward a culture of spiritual abundance and generosity based on God's faithfulness. *Sailboat Church* tells us that as the Holy Spirit begins to work in the church, this work becomes easier. Experiencing God's presence and activity helps us to trust God's provision. Those who trust God to provide are more willing to give, and it is the abundance and faithfulness of



God that leads to generous giving.

In the transformation to being a Spirit-led church that is underway now at Sharon Church, it is important that we reach 100% active membership – not just in financial giving, but also in participation in God's work in our church. Every single person in the

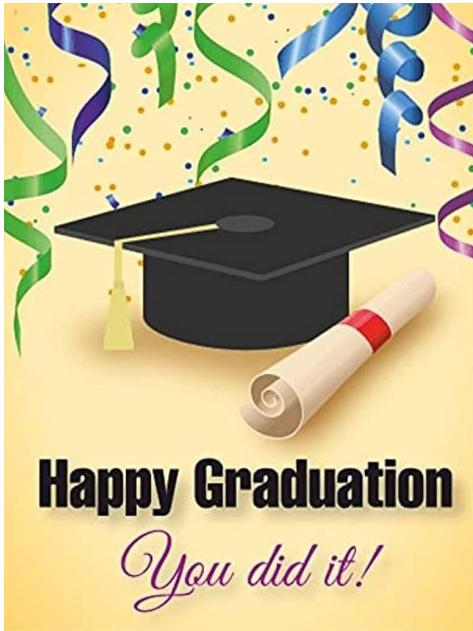


congregation has gifts to offer, and the church needs *everyone* to find their spiritual gifts and to put them to work to the end that the mission of the church will go forward and God will be glorified. Joyfulness results from serving in mission and ministry, and is a major avenue of spiritual growth.

The Generosity communication in the February/March **Good News** noted that we are looking for every active member to support Sharon Church operations in the form of a financial pledge, and we asked pledges be returned to the church by March 31<sup>st</sup>. To date, though, only about one in three active members has made a pledge for 2024. If you have not yet made a commitment, please prayerfully consider the gifts you have been given, and trusting in God's provision, make a pledge to support the mission and ministry of Sharon Church. Give as you are able, and help us to build that culture of abundance and generosity!

This summer, you will be hearing more from your session and leadership who will be reaching out to the membership (as we have in the past) to check in and see how God may be inviting you to deepen your involvement and participation in Christ's church.

*Todd Carter, Generosity Chair*



Natalie St. Hill  
Mary Pappert School of Music at  
Duquesne University  
Bachelor of Science in Music Education  
& Minor in African Studies,  
(May 10, 2024)



Justin Field  
Carnegie Mellon University  
School of Music  
Master of Fine Arts, Collaborative Piano  
(May 12, 2024)



Alex Weibel  
Mary Pappert School of Music at  
Duquesne University  
Masters in Music Performance—Jazz  
(May 10, 2024)

Dear SCPC Members,

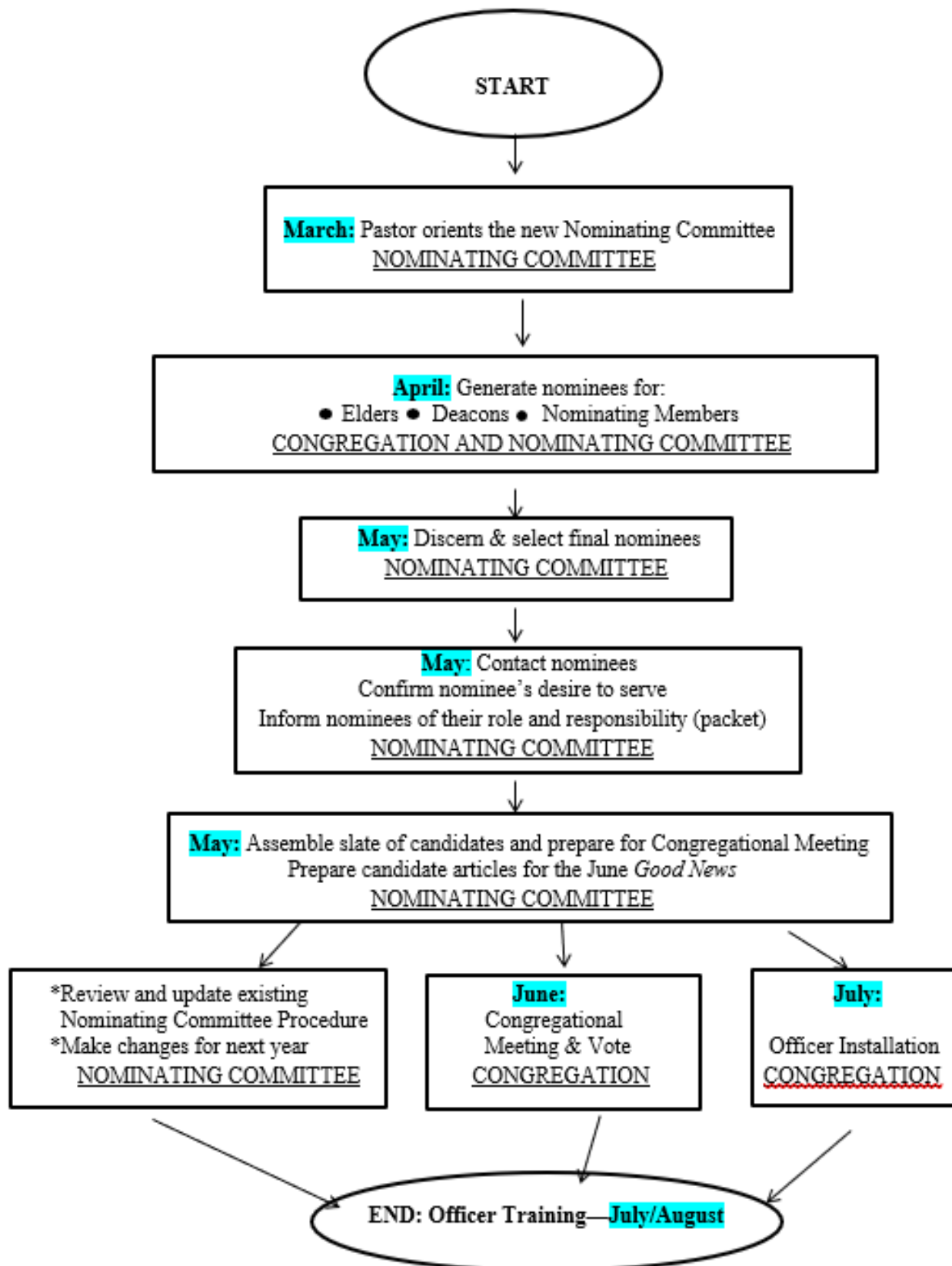
In April and May, your Nominating Committee is soliciting your recommendations for church officers—Deacons and Elders—along with future nominating committee members. You will find a recommendation form in this *Good News* or in the Narthex at church on Sundays. These forms may be submitted at church on Sunday or mailed to the church office. You may offer as many officer recommendations as you desire and you may even nominate yourself. You are also invited to let the Nominating Committee know that you believe God is calling *you* to serve in leadership.

On the next page is a roadmap of the Nominating process which outlines each step of the process and timeline of events. The congregation begins and ends the nominating process by first recommending leaders for election and finally electing and installing them.

We are seeking active members of the congregation to lead who, like the early disciples, are “full of the Spirit and of wisdom.” If God is calling you to serve as a 2024-5 church officer or God has placed on your heart someone who is equipped and ready to serve, please fill out a nomination form and let us know about it! The deadline for nomination is **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**.



# 2024 Nominating Process



# Church Officers

- Offering your gifts and talents given by God to further the church's mission and ministry.
- Active participation in the worship and mission of Sharon Church.
- Active participation in respective boards including meetings, leadership and planning for ministry and mission.
- Serve for a three-year term.
- A discerning spirit: openness to explore God at work among us and new forms of service to God.
- Willingness to graciously work and care for one another.
- Commitment to collaborate with other officers, committees, members and the pastor.
- Uphold appropriate confidentiality regarding care for our church members and the business of the church.

## ELDERS

Leading, Shepherding, Teaching.

- **Elders**, together with the minister, constitute the Session. Session is responsible for discerning the mission and spiritual direction of the congregation and is the final authority in the decision-making for the congregation.
- Leadership or co-leadership of a committee, team, or workgroup of church members responsible for a specific aspect of the congregation's mission and ministry, such as Worship, Christian Formation, Finance, Property and Maintenance, Generosity, and Mission.
- The Session acts as the Trustee or legal corporate body of Sharon Church.

## DEACONS

Leading through serving.

- **Deacons** nurture spiritual growth in our congregation as well as foster care and fellowship among God's people.
- They care for the congregation inside and beyond the church walls in ministries of compassion and care.
- They coordinate and lead various ministries, such as, weekly fellowship after church, home communion, meals, rides, medical equipment, visitation, funeral receptions, cards, and flowers.
- Deacons are the hands and feet of Jesus. If you have a caring heart, please consider serving the church as a deacon.

## Recommendation for Church Officers and Nominating Members

*And I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"  
Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." - Isaiah 6:8*

Is it you? Is it your friend? Serving as a church officer or nominating member is a privilege. Your recommendation for active members of our congregation, including yourself, who you believe would serve the mission and purpose of God's church faithfully and with much dedication is needed.

According to the Presbyterian *Book of Order*: To those called to exercise special functions in the church—deacons, ruling elders, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament—God gives suitable gifts for their various duties. In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities, those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world.

**Please prayerfully offer your recommendation below:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested for: (CIRCLE ONE)      **Elder**      **Deacon**      **Nominating**

Reason for recommending this person:

**Return this completed form to the church office by May 19<sup>th</sup>.**



# Spring Concert

SOUNDS of PITTSBURGH  
CHORUS

## RING INTO SPRING CONCERT

Featuring **TROUBLE CLEF** Quartet

Come hear a selection of songs from Broadway, some pop tunes, including “All the Way” and “All I Do is Dream of You” and even some Mr. Rogers! Deacons will host a reception following the concert.

**Sharon Community Presbyterian  
Church Sanctuary**

**Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Admission is Free. All are welcome.**

**Sharon Community  
Presbyterian Church**

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Moon Township, PA 15108

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*The Good News*