



# The Good News

Dear Sharon Faithful,

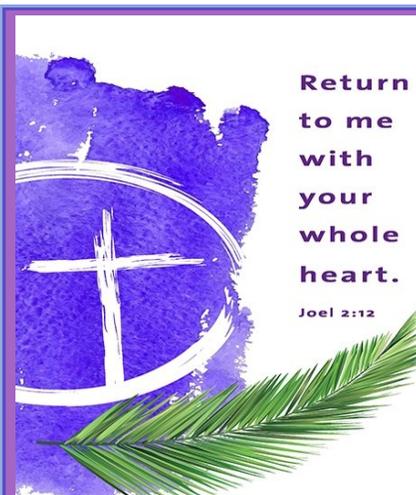
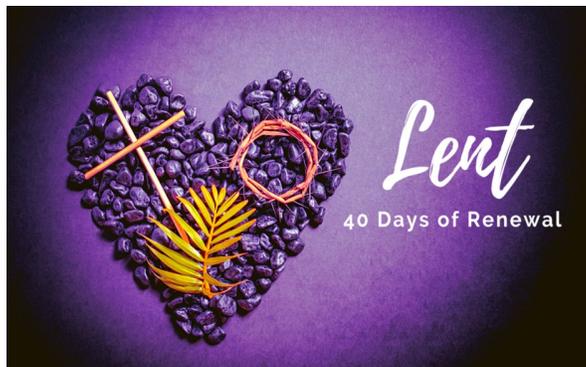
Two thousand years ago when Jesus came into the world, he offered himself to a lost humanity, saying, "I am the way" (John 14:6). Just a few years later, the earliest followers of Jesus began calling themselves "people of the Way" (Acts 9:2). As modern-day followers of Jesus, we continue to believe that the risen Jesus not only points us in the right direction, but is our direction, and, when we are lost or wandering, provides us with opportunities to find our way again. Lent is one of these opportunities in Christ's church that provides "a way" for people of the Way.

In Lent, we are encouraged to return to the heart of God and get our lives back on track. It turns us toward Jesus who meets us where we are, offers his life as the way, and invites us to follow. This Lent, at Sharon Church, we are embracing the "welcome" of Jesus. Jesus says to us in the Gospel of Mathew, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25:35). Simple words, yet a profound exhortation. We hear in Jesus' words the common cry of humanity, "I was unknown, I was alone, I was misunderstood, judged and disregarded" and then a Christ-like response, "But, you welcomed me."

At Sharon, we are practicing Christ's welcome throughout Lent. On **Ash Wednesday**, February 22, we will be hosting the first of many **Lenten Lunches** for any who are hungry. At noon, we will be serving a homemade soup lunch, fellowshiping, and reflecting as a community on John 4. We will also be extending a welcome to the Lenten Lunches to the clients of the West Hills Food Pantry as well as to your friends and neighbors. Please consider inviting a friend to lunch and fellowship on any Wednesday during Lent, and practicing the welcome of Jesus.

Next, the evening of **Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**, we will welcome worshippers to a **Special Lenten Worship Service** of music, scripture, contemplation and ashes. This service is designed for

followers of Jesus to dedicate themselves to a Lenten journey that leads to resurrection and life. Prior to the service, Ms. Sarah and I will offer "drive-thru ashes" on the Portico from 6:00-6:30 p.m. for any who are unable to attend the full worship service.



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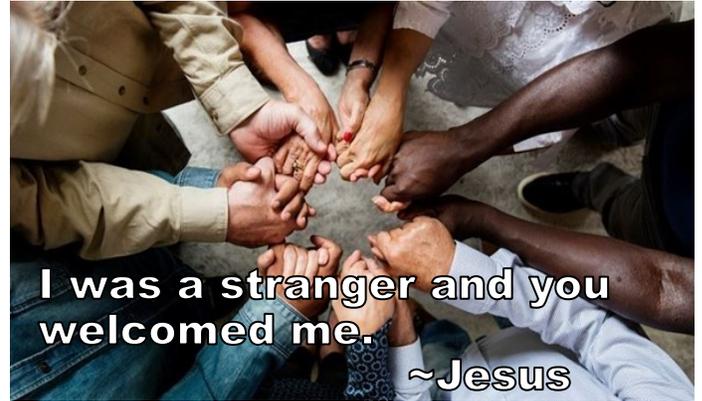
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Also, during Lent, our Mission & Outreach team and our Willing Workers will be offering opportunities for practicing **Welcome Through Mission**. First, the Willing Workers will be collecting bags of “fun-size” or single-serve candy every Sunday throughout Lent in order to create **Easter Bags for the WHFP Families**. So, please bring a bag or two of candy each week so that Willing Workers may fill those Easter Bags generously to the brim.

Mission & Outreach will also be leading us in a **Soles 4 Souls Shoe Collection** during Lent. New this year, is that we are asking *not only* for your shoe donations, but for your *help and participation* in managing the collection. Last year, we were blessed (and overwhelmed) by the outstanding community response to our call for shoes, collecting over 1,300 pairs of shoes. This year, while we hope to exceed last year’s collection goal, we also hope to collect YOU and welcome you into the mission process!

We are asking for our SCPC members and friends to come and offer their time and talent to help with the **Soles 4 Souls Mission Effort**. We will have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex during Lent where you will be able to select a time to come and be the helping hands and feet of Jesus in this mission. Families are welcomed to bring their children. Members are welcomed to bring friends. The goal is to work together as the Body of Christ on this global mission that operates to elevate and restore the lost, the last and the least.



The M&O team is also reaching out the congregation and welcoming your voice and input about future SCPC mission relationships and projects on the **Mission Survey** insert in this *Good News*. Our missional efforts at SCPC are vital only as they are able to respond and meet the needs of the community that surrounds us. God has placed you in this community. So, where do you see need? Who do you know in need? How may we serve? Don’t be shy, you may be the one through whom God reveals a new way forward in missional service. So, please fill out the Mission Survey insert and return it to the church a.s.a.p.

Finally, during **Holy Week**, we welcome the return of our **Maundy Thursday Last (Soup) Supper and Foot/Hand Washing** in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m. Our Maundy Thursday gathering is a time to dwell on Jesus’ command “to love one another” before he was betrayed and arrested. We will begin by breaking bread together and enjoying a soup supper. We will then reflect together on Christ’s last night with his disciples and offer a foot or hand washing. This gathering is family-friendly and all children are welcomed to participate in all aspects of the dinner and service.

For **Good Friday** on April 7<sup>th</sup>, we will host an **Open Sanctuary** from noon to 3:00 p.m. in the SCPC Sanctuary. During the hours that Jesus was upon the cross, you are welcomed into a time of personal prayer, reflection and contemplative music in remembrance of Christ’s sacrifice. You are welcome to come and go as you please; you may also stay as long as you like.

Welcome, people of the Way, as we turn our hearts to God in Lent and prepare for new life and resurrection at Easter.

Lenten Peace,

## Lent Begins Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>



**Ash Wednesday**, often called the Day of Ashes, begins our 40 day journey to Easter.

Please join us for Ash Wednesday on **February 22** as we begin Lent together and are marked as God's own:

- ◆ **Noon—1:15pm**—Lenten Lunch and Ashes in **Fellowship Hall**
- ◆ **6:00 — 6:30pm** —Drive-thru Ashes Imposed on the **Church Portico**
- ◆ **7:00pm** — Contemplative Worship and Imposition of Ashes in the **Sanctuary**

## Calling ALL Easter Singers

It's still winter, but Easter is just around corner! Easter brings life and the church resounds with joyful singing. Our Easter celebration will include choral music, instrumental music, and most importantly, God's congregational loudly expressing praise and thanksgiving through hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs.

If you would like to participate in this year's Easter choir, please contact Hanna Chung, [0812hanna@gmail.com](mailto:0812hanna@gmail.com) or 585-200-9884.



We'd love to have you be a part of the group! Easter choir rehearsals will be held in the sanctuary from 11:45am—1:00pm starting February 26<sup>th</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup> (Palm Sunday).



## HOLY WEEK 2023 Events

**Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>—Palm Sunday “Hosanna in the Highest”**

- ◆ Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

**Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>—Maundy Thursday “Love One Another”**

- ◆ Last (Soup) Supper Gathering and Foot/Hand Washing, 6:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>—Good Friday “It Is Finished”**

- ◆ Open Sanctuary Time of Contemplation, noon-3:00 p.m.

**Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>—Easter “He Is Risen!”**

- ◆ Resurrection Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:00 a.m.
- ◆ Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

## LENTEN LUNCHEAS: SACRED SOUPS & SACRED READINGS

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN LENT

FELLOWSHIP HALL

NOON—1:15 P.M.

FEBRUARY 22—MARCH 29



WMA and Pastor Becky will be hosting Lenten Lunches every Wednesday throughout Lent.

We will be reading and reflecting on John 4 as a community, fellowshiping and enjoying homemade soups offered by the gifted hands of God's people.

**Ash Wed, February 22: John 4:1-9—Welcome**

- Broccoli Cheese
- Chili
- Butternut Squash with Sage Cream
- Italian Wedding Soup

**Wed, March 1: John 4:10-15—Surprise**

- Vegetable Beef
- Chicken Tortilla

**Wed, March 8: John 4:16-24—Trust**

- Ham Mac & Cheese
- Chicken Noodle

**Wed, March 15: John 4:25-30—Letting Go**

- Clam Chowder
- Italian Sausage

**Wed, March 22: John 4:31-38—Discipleship**

- Stuffed Pepper
- Chicken Vegetable

**Wed, March 29: John 4:39-42—Transformation**

- Vegetable Beef
- Corn Chowder

Everyone is welcome to join us for one or more Lenten lunches!



## Confirmation 2023

“Confirmation” is a time in the life of a child of the church when those who have been baptized as children discern if they are ready to make a public profession of faith and accept the responsibility of life in the church.

This Lenten season, Pastor Becky and Mr. Tom Capkovic will be leading Leah Henry and Abby Zalucky in Confirmation discernment. We ask for you to please pray for Abby and Leah as they grow in their faith and discover more about who Christ is to them, who they are to Christ, and what it means to be a member of Christ's church today.

# Mission ✦ Outreach

## SOLES 4 SOULS

March 19<sup>th</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Gather your new & gently used shoes for our Soles4Souls Shoe Drive this Lenten Season!**

Collection boxes will be located under the Portico and at the back of the sanctuary. This is a community-wide collection, so please tell your friends, loved ones, & neighbors.

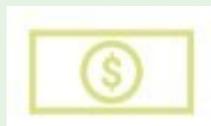
### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

This year we want to increase member participation and involvement. At the beginning of March, a sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex for those able to help us pack the shoes into shipping boxes **during the week of March 26<sup>th</sup>**.



#### Create opportunity.

Gently used shoes we collect get funneled to developing countries, where people start small businesses to sell them.



#### Generate income.

By selling shoes, business owners have money to provide for their family—and people who need shoes the most get them at a price they can afford.



#### Protect the environment.

By repurposing discarded shoes and clothing, you keep them out of landfills and help promote sustainability.

## EASTER CANDY COLLECTION FOR WHFP FAMILIES

Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>



Willing Workers are collecting bags of individually wrapped candies to fill Easter Bags for Food Pantry Families—usually labeled as 'fun-size'. We will have an Easter Basket in the Narthex of the church where you may deposit bags of candy each week,

We will pack as many Easter Bags for WHFP families as we have candy! Thank you in advance for your contribution.

## Willing Workers 2023

Willing Workers invite all women of the church to join us at noon the first Tuesday of the month at noon in Fellowship Hall to experience the joy of fellowship, friendship and fun.

We are a small group who offer friendship and fellowship to each other, outreach to shut-ins and those at the Hillview facility in Coraopolis. We would love to have you join us.



# Children and Family Ministry

Ash Wednesday

## Family DRIVE-THRU Service



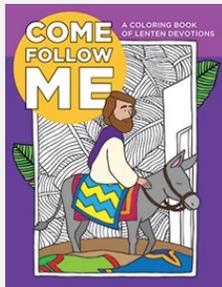
Wednesday, February 22nd  
6pm-7pm

Start the Lenten season with your family by attending our **Family Drive-thru Service**.

- † Come up to the church anytime between 6:00 — 6:30 p.m. (using the portico driveway) to receive a blessing and ashes.
- † Pick up your family's Lent devotionals and activities.

These materials will not be mailed out to you, so please come to the church for pick up, or make other arrangements by contacting Miss Sarah ([children@sharoncpc.com](mailto:children@sharoncpc.com), or 412-680-4228).

Your Family's Lenten bundle includes:



Coloring Book



Devotional



Collection Box

Lenten Activities	1	2	3	4
1 <sup>st</sup> SUNDAY	5	6	7	8
2 <sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY	11	12	13	14
3 <sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY	17	18	19	20
4 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY	23	24	25	26
5 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY	29	30	31	32
6 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY	35	36	37	38

HAPPY EASTER! BE GLAD AND REJOICE!

Calendar

## EASTER Egg Hunt Lunch!

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held after church on **Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**. After the egg hunt, families are invited for lunch at the YCC. The gym will be open for the kids to play in. Registration will be required if your family plans to stay for lunch. Hope to see you all there! You will receive an email closer to the date to sign up. RSVP Miss Sarah ([children@sharoncpc.com](mailto:children@sharoncpc.com), or 412-680-4228).

## Announcement and Thank You's



Arlene Johnson would like to thank everyone for the beautiful birthday cards for her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

She appreciated all of the good wishes, thoughts, and prayers.

Dear friends,  
It has been almost a year now since my grandson Nate's accident. Thank you so much for your continued concerns and prayers on his behalf. He is progressing as can be expected under the circumstances.

Please keep him in your prayers. Your encouragement and thoughtfulness are special and appreciated.

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.*

~ Nancy Moore



# Generosity

We enter this new year with high hopes and expectations that God's people at Sharon Church will once again generously share their time, talents and treasure with His church. As a reminder of our call to be faithful stewards of our gifts from God, we find an early expression of our call to generosity in words attributed to Moses in Deuteronomy 26:

"Once you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance... take some of the early produce of the fertile ground that you have harvested from the land the Lord your God is giving you, and put it in a basket, then go to the priest. The priest will then take the basket from you and place it before the Lord your God's altar."

The passages in Deuteronomy recount the story of the Israelites suffering in Egypt and their wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, none of which was easy, but God *always* provided for their basic needs. As they neared arrival at the Promised Land, a land "full of milk and honey", Moses preaches a sermon reminding God's people about the covenant that God has made with them and then describes the blessings they will experience in the Promised Land.

Moses instructs them in what they are called to do with the abundant summer harvest that they will soon experience, a chance for them to fulfill their side of the covenant that God has kept with them. God's people are called to give back generously and take care of the oppressed and marginalized. God promises that they will be blessed with abundance, but with this newfound abundance they will experience also comes responsibility to give back, meet the needs of others, and to celebrate with joy.

We can draw some parallels between the experience of the Israelites 3,000 years ago and our own lives today. The last few years have made us feel like we are wandering in the wilderness in

many ways. But if we reflect back on our own wilderness wanderings, we can see the times that God continued to provide for us in big and small ways. And now, like the Israelites, God is inviting us to respond to God's faithful provision with generosity and joy!

The passages from Deuteronomy remind us that it is in our spiritual DNA to be people of generosity and joy. This call dates all the way back to God's people wandering in the wilderness and arriving in the Promised Land, and is heard in the messages of the prophets, endures in the words of Jesus, and in Paul's letters, and continues today.

What great things has the Lord done in our lives? Being thankful is the first characteristic that God shapes into His people's lives by having them remember His wonderful grace to them in bringing them into the Promised Land.

In these still uncertain times, we cannot know all that lies ahead of us, but we know that God has been faithful and provided abundantly for Christ's church. Through Christ in *you* and your generosity, our church has continued doing what love requires of us by nurturing life-giving, joyful mission and ministry both inside and outside the walls of our congregation.

Nearly every member of Sharon Church make an annual financial commitment to the church. Some members tithe, committing ten percent of their income to the work and mission of our church. Others give proportionally by committing a certain percentage of their income. Still others give as they are able. What is most important, is that *everyone* supports our church operations in the form of a financial pledge. We ask you to prayerfully consider how you might contribute this year.

On the back cover of the Good News is a pledge card for 2023. Please make your 2023 financial pledge here as an active member of SCPC and return the card to the church by **March 31<sup>st</sup>**.

Faithfully,

*Elder Todd Carter, Generosity Chair*



# The Good News

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## Sharon Community Presbyterian Church

522 Carnot Road

Moon Township, PA 15108-2317

*"Caring People Reaching Out  
to Others"*



Almighty and loving God, you have called us to be your people and called Sharon Church to be Christ's church, voice and presence in the world.

Thank you, God, for all of your good gifts. With our eyes on you and our hearts filled with your grace, I/we pledge with a cheerful heart \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the ministry and mission of SCPC.



I prefer to give:  Weekly  Monthly  Annually  Online  Direct Deposit  
\*QR Code is provided to allow you to give through our online portal.

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

**Please return this Pledge Card to the church by March 31<sup>st</sup>.**