

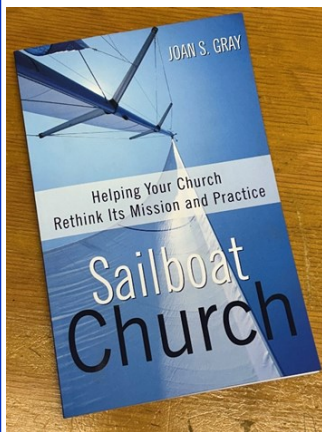
The Good News

Dear Lenten Faithful,

This Lent, on behalf of the Session, I invite you to engage in a Lenten study: *Sailboat Church*. For a few months, you have been hearing about the book, *Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice*, by Joan Gray. It has been featured in *Good News* articles, Generosity articles, and part of our conversation at the 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting. And the reason you've been hearing so much about *Sailboat Church* is not only that it offers an honest and straightforward telling of the many ways in which God is alive and working in Christ's churches, but it also serves as a vehicle for the Holy Spirit itself to reach us, teach us, and maybe even challenge us a bit in our lives of faith; it is an exploration of how God speaks to each of us, gathers us, leads us, and invites us to be a part of what God is doing in the world.

I have detailed some of the outcomes from the Session's experience studying, discussing, and engaging the 40 days of prayer together that followed reading *Sailboat Church* in my pastoral letter to the congregation in the *SCPC 2023 Annual Report*. Yet, one of the key points of discussion by Session was their desire to invite the entire congregation to read and engage *Sailboat Church* so that *all* of God's people may experience the Holy Spirit moving and leading us. *Sailboat Church* is not just for church leaders, but a teaching for all who desire to grow in or reignite their faith and participate in what God is doing (right now!) in the life of the church.

So, there are a number of ways in which you may get ahold of *Sailboat Church* and participate in discussion about it. The book is available for purchase on Amazon for \$12.00. I will also be offering a preaching series on the salient themes of *Sailboat Church* each week during Lent and will make copies of the chapters available in the Narthex to any who are not able to purchase the book.



For conversation about the book, we are leaning into the existing groups who already gather together at SCPC. Whether you are a small group, a committee or a prayer group, if you are a "group" who gathers in the name of Jesus at Sharon Church, we ask that you read this book and organize some time for discussion about it in your meetings. Finally, if you are not currently



In This Issue...

Lenten Devotionals
Easter Choir Rehearsals...2

Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Sunday...3

Easter Candy Collection
Soles4Souls...4

The Bridge
One Great Hour
of Sharing...5

Children and Family
Ministry...6

Thank You's and
Announcements...7

Generosity Letter...Insert

Easter Dedications...Insert

Holy Week 2024
Events...Back Cover

in any group here at the church, then I will be hosting “brown bag” lunch discussions **at noon in Fellowship Hall on the following Wednesdays: March 6th, March 20th and March 27th.**

I'd like to reiterate what you have already heard directly from our elders and leaders of the church at the Annual Meeting—we believe that the Holy Spirit is guiding and shaping us into the church that God needs us to be. We feel called to lead together with openness, faithfulness, sharing our concerns as well as our gratitude for what God is doing in our midst. We feel inspired to continue offering meaningful worship in person and online. We feel committed to the children and families of the congregation and would like to create more opportunity for them to participate in the life of the church. We feel compassion and care for all of our members expressed through friendship, prayer and connection to worship. We are actively building up our missional relationships in the community and creating more opportunities to serve God's purposes in the world. We are committed to making building improvements and working with community partners in need of a presence in Moon Township. And finally, but not lastly, we are listening—to God's Holy Spirit, to God's people, and to any other avenue by which God is speaking, lifting us up and inviting us to follow!



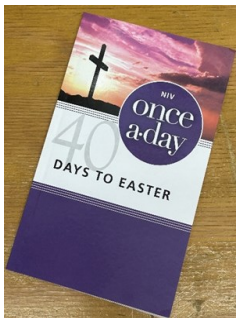
Friends, I hope that you go out and get your copy of *Sailboat Church* today or pick up chapters in the Narthex weekly. You are a critical part of this church and our journey with God's Spirit. Lent is a season of returning to God, laying down our grievances and excuses (a.k.a. our sins), and knowing that resurrection is coming! Won't you please turn your hearts toward the Holy Spirit this Lenten season and join in this invitation to come together as a church body in faith.

Lenten Peace,

Lenten DEVOTIONALS

Your Worship, Music and Arts team has made Lenten devotionals available to the congregation in the Narthex of the Sanctuary as a gift to you.

As we begin Lent together, we pray that you find a quiet place for Christ to speak these words into your life: *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”*



Receive this peace so that you can embody it for those around you.

Easter CHOIR

CALLING
ALL
VOICES

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 congregation loudly expressing praise and thanksgiving through hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs.

No experience necessary! If you'd like to participate in this year's Easter choir, please contact Claire Toomey at claire.toomey1016@gmail.com. We'd love to have you!

Easter choir rehearsals will be held in the sanctuary starting Feb 25th through Palm Sunday from 11:45-1:00.

Worship ✦ Music ✦ Arts

Maundy Thursday Dinner and Foot Washing

Thursday, March 28th

6:00 – 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

On Thursday, March 28th, gather with us from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner to commemorate Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. WMA will provide the main course; feel free to bring a side or dessert to share, or just bring yourself!

We will also partake in a foot and hand washing ritual just as they did to remember Christ's example and to remind ourselves that we should be his disciples everywhere we go.



Good Friday Service

**Tenebrae service on Friday, March 29th
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**



Christ's farewell to his disciples and final words on the cross will be enriched and punctuated by musical offerings and interludes.

Please join us this Good Friday as we move through the death of our Savior, empty ourselves at the cross of Christ, and prepare our hearts for new life and resurrection at Easter.

Celebrate Easter Sunday March 31st

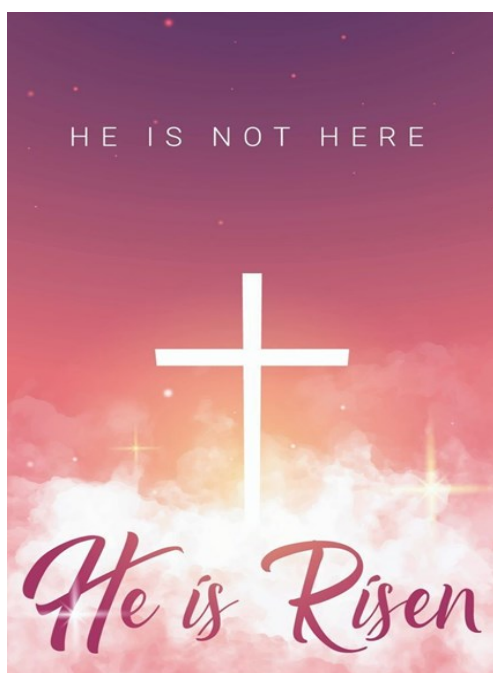
**9:00 a.m. Resurrection Breakfast
in Fellowship Hall**

10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

The trumpets will sound, the choir will sing, and we will rejoice as we celebrate Easter in the Sanctuary.

Let's come together and praise our risen Lord and Savior on Resurrection Sunday!



Mission and Outreach

EASTER CANDY COLLECTION FOR WHFP FAMILIES



Sunday, February 25th thru Sunday, March 17th

Willing Workers are collecting bags of individually wrapped candies to fill Easter Bags for food pantry families. There will be 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—**our goal is 80 bags!** Thank you in advance for your contribution.

SOLES4SOULS

Collection Dates: March 10th thru March 24th

**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, and neighbors.

Flyers will be in the Narthex for you to take.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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 17th.**



Create opportunity.

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



Generate income.

By selling shoes, business owners have money to provide for their family—and people who need shoes the



Protect the environment.

By repurposing discarded shoes and clothing, you keep them out of landfills and help promote sustaina-

Mission and Outreach

You're Invited to The Bridge!

Come enjoy an evening of live music, worship, food, and fellowship at **Uncommon Grounds Café** in Aliquippa. The event formerly known as "Church in the Margins", our mission partners at Uncommon Grounds are re-igniting their Saturday evening ministry—now known as **"THE BRIDGE"**.

- † **WHEN:** 2nd Saturday of every month at 6:00 PM
- † **WHERE:** Uncommon Grounds Café (380 Franklin Ave, Aliquippa, PA 15001)
- † **WHAT:** Music (open mic format), a scripture reading, conversation of the scripture reading, then of course, FOOD!

March 9th

April 13th

May 11th

We will have a sign up sheet available in the Narthex for anyone who is interested in going. We will meet at the church at 5:30 PM and carpool together.

Please contact Mission & Outreach Chair Kilee Bomgardner if you have any questions. kileebee@gmail.com or 717-580-4556



IN THIS SEASON OF LENT,

we follow Jesus' example;

walking alongside the most vulnerable

to partner in repairing the harm inflicted upon them.

WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER;

and we are there with those who need us.

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs ~



HOUSE RESTORATION - VILLAT

**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

*Restore Streets
to Live In*



**PRESBYTERIAN
HUNGER
PROGRAM**

*Share your Bread
with the Hungry*



KASUPE MINISTRIES

**SELF-
DEVELOPMENT
OF PEOPLE**

*Loose the Bonds
of Injustice*

**75
YEARS**



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



February 14-March 31, 2024

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

WAYS TO GIVE —

- Through your congregation
- Online at pcusa.org/give-oghs
- Text OGHS to 91999 to give

-or-

Help sustain the important ministries and programs by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

Children and Family Ministry



Children's Church is continuing with the "Kid's Own Worship" curriculum as we continue *walking through the Bible*. The fall was dedicated to the book of Genesis and this winter we have been focusing on the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

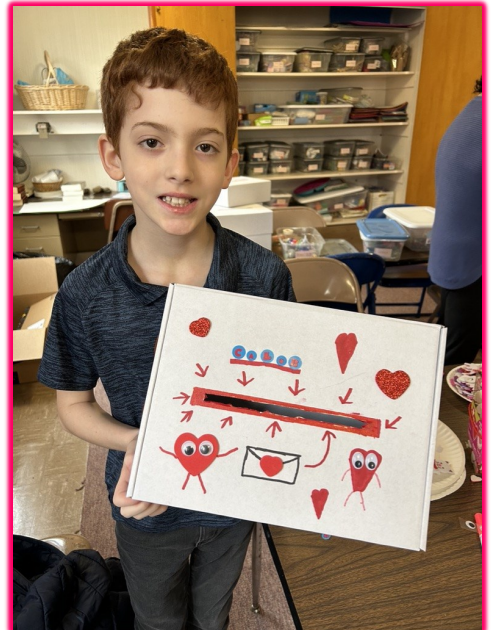
Each week, I am always incredibly impressed watching the gears in their minds turn as they make connections to the material and put it

in terms of their own lives. Not to mention, I am in awe of the in-depth conversations we have each week. It truly is a wonderful experience working with them each week!



The children recently decorated Valentine's boxes to go along with our lesson that Jesus shows us how to love. The Valentine's boxes will be in the Narthex from February 4th-18th along with Valentines cards for members of the congregation to fill out and place in their boxes.

Please leave a Valentine in their boxes to remind the kids of how much we care about them!



Lenten Activities for Children and Families

During Lent, we will be decorating pots and planting seeds. This will connect with our lesson on doing "something beautiful for someone else in the name of Jesus".

Each child will also receive a "Lent Activity Challenge Calendar". Each of the 40 days has a different challenge such as reading a story from the Bible, giving up sweets for the day, and more. I will be encouraging the kids to have their parents take pictures of them performing the challenges at home so we can talk about it in class.

We will continue using "Kids Own Worship" curriculum and the "Jesus is Alive!" lesson will fall on Easter Sunday. This will include a variety of crafts and games that remind the children that Jesus lives. I look forward to the upcoming lessons, activities, and discussions that will be taking place in Children's Church!



Sharon Community Presbyterian Church Members,

Thank you SO much for your generous donation of diapers and wipes for the babies and young children of the West Hills Food Pantry. You have 'warmed' the hearts and homes during these chilly months by showing families that someone cares!

Thank you so much!

West Hills Food Pantry Families and Volunteers



Diaper collection



Traveling to the pantry



Ready to go to the families

We have a local quilting celebrity in our midst!

Sharon Church has a small quilting group downstairs in the church where we keep a large stash of fabric of all sizes and colors, threads, batting, and many other necessary items. Kathy Hamsher and Sara Lintner are our quilting experts, and they lead us in making baby and children's quilts to be given to local hospitals to comfort sick children.

We are part of the The Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter of the National non-profit, Project Linus, headquartered in the Caste Village Shopping Center in the South Hills. All year we are busy making quilts. In November, there is a luncheon held for all participants. Quilts are displayed, some are judged, and various raffles and fun takes place. This past year we donated approximately 75 quilts to Project Linus with the majority of those being made by Kathy and Sara. Kathy had an entry in the judging for themed quilts, the theme being OWLS. She used fabric donated by Project Linus and her creation was awarded first prize in the popularity vote by the members. Please congratulate her on her beautiful entry! *(by Trish Bricklemeyer)*



Thank you all for the prayers, love, concern and all the beautiful cards for my daughter. She is home with the Lord now, with love and peace surrounding her.

Blessings to you all,
~ Gladys and Mike Sanderbeck

Closings and Delays

If the Moon Area School District is closed due to inclement weather, the church campus is also closed for everyone's safety.





HOLY WEEK

2024

Events

Sunday, March 24th—Palm Sunday “Hosanna in the Highest”

- ♦ Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 28th—Maundy Thursday “Love One Another”

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

Friday, March 29th—Good Friday “It Is Finished”

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

Sunday, March 31st—Easter “He Is Risen!”

- ♦ Resurrection Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:00 a.m.
- ♦ Easter Egg Hunt for children 10:00 a.m.
- ♦ Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

**Sharon Community
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The Good News