

# The Good News

God's Beloved,

In each New Year the church of Jesus Christ ends Christmas and enters a season of Epiphany—unpacking the many gifts of God that came to us in Jesus the Christ. Gifts of healing and compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation, peace and wellbeing, and salvation from our earthly attachments. If you're like me, you realize that the gifts of God are something we end up unpacking our whole life long.

With each season in life, we find the challenge and blessing of growing in God—appreciative for those gifts which give us comfort and aware of God moving us forward into new and uncharted territory. At the close of 2019, our session committed to 60 days of prayer over Advent and Epiphany as we discern together God's presence among us and envision mission and ministry at Sharon Church.

In our session discussions about moving the church of Jesus Christ into 2020, we spoke openly about our commitment to revitalization and some of what may be holding us back from it. The session proclaimed that as the leaders of the church, we must be the ones to commit to change and make "bold decisions" as God guides us.

We acknowledged the fatigue and burnout we have experienced as we try to keep the church of old going. We acknowledged the trials and disappointment of staffing instability. We acknowledged the need to revitalize worship, our mission statement and perhaps even the name of the church. And notably, we saw that we need to change, yet, desire to remain faithful to who we are, who God created us to be.

And central to who we believe God created us to be can be found in our community: we are a welcoming, grounded community of faith who welcomes one and all into the church of Jesus Christ. We also reflected on the need to set aside *our* will for Sharon Church and dream dreams for the church—allow God to empower us to have a "big, hairy, audacious goal" just as Jim Collins in *Built to Last* encourages organizations to make manifest forthcoming inspiration and vision. Finally, we spoke openly about revitalization needing to be both spiritual and concrete as we build on our strengths of community, connection and care.

Paul says to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." In my own life of faith and walk with God, I have come to appreciate Paul's insight and encouragement to embrace every moment before us with thanksgiving because God is always in it!

[Continued on page 11.](#)



The landscape frozen white,  
the earth in stillness holds its breath,  
waiting for God's footprints.

*The Word was made flesh,  
and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory).*  
JOHN 1:14

## Sunday Worship

11:00 AM

## Fellowship Rocks

10:00 AM Fellowship Hall

## Christian Nurture

10:00 AM

Kids 3-5 yrs. #108

K—4th Grade #101

5th Grade & Older #105

Music #100

Children's Church #103

Nursery #106

## Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting

February 9th

Ash Wednesday

Soup Supper and Worship

February 26th

*See Page 11 for details.*

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## 2020 VBS Planning

Families, please check your email for our 2020 VBS Survey. Your opinions matter to us and your feedback will greatly impact our planning for this year's Vacation Bible school.

## Children's Music and Sunday School

Please join us during the Formation hour for Children's Music, beginning in February, in room 100 from 10-10:15am, followed by Sunday School from 10:15am-10:45am.

- ◆ Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade meet in room 108
- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade meet in room 105
- ◆ 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up meet in room 101

Children's Church meets in room 103 during the worship service, after Children's Time (around 11:15 am.)

The nursery is available for children 3 and under during the Formation and Worship hours in room 106.

**Save the date** for our next event at Urban Air Adventure Park in Robinson.

**February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 1pm – 3pm**  
**(Valentine's Day theme)**

We have reserved a private room and purchased the Deluxe package, including Tubes Indoor Playground, for the kids! There is something for all ages.

Pizza and drinks will be provided, along with Urban Air socks. Parent passes are available at an additional cost if anyone wishes to brave



the trampolines with the kids. An email will be sent out with the details and a link for the waiver. I hope every family can participate in this exciting event!



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Our holiday gathering  
at Main Event was a  
huge success.  
Thank you everyone  
who came!  
We enjoyed a great  
time of  
fellowship and fun.





# Willows Christmas Party



# Meet the New Sharon Church Officers



## **Kilee Bomgardner, Elder, Class of 2021**

Kilee was born and raised in Hershey, PA, and has lived in Crafton with Justin and their two Labrador retrievers-Sidney & Zola for the last 3 years. Kilee is a financial advisor for Janney Montgomery Scott in downtown Pittsburgh. She helps people with retirement planning, long term care planning, life insurance, college planning, and estate planning. Outside of work, Kilee loves serving in the community. She is currently President of the Moon Township Rotary Club, and serves on the board of directors for both Treasure House Fashions and the Saint Francis University Alumni Association. She is also a big sister mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh. Her hobbies include hunting, fishing, yoga, and cheering on the Pittsburgh Penguins. Kilee feels extremely honored and blessed to be able to serve on the Session of Sharon Church. She has been looking for a “church home” for the last several years and feels like she finally found it at Sharon. Kilee is excited to continue growing in her faith and serving alongside of the people of God.



## **Todd Carter, Elder, Class of 2022**

I am a long-time Sharon Church member, having joined the Church through the Youth Club program while in junior high school in 1972. I was born and raised in Moon Township, and returned here after graduating from the University of Notre Dame. My wife Val and I have been married for 36 years, and have lived in Moon for 35 of those years. We have one son, Scott, who is 28 years old. I worked in public accounting for several years out of college, then spent 35 years at Mellon Bank/BNY Mellon, retiring two years ago. In retirement, I volunteer at the West Hills Food Pantry, enjoy doing projects at home, and spend time outdoors, hiking, biking and enjoying nature. More travel is in our plans in the coming years!

I was originally ordained an Elder in 2004, and have served on Session and as Treasurer in past years. I have also been a member of the Finance Committee since the early 2000s. God has truly blessed me throughout my life, and I want to give back and help others as much as I can now that I have more time. I believe that He is calling me again at this time to serve Sharon Church and help to lead our Church into the future. I look forward to the challenge!



## **Chira Cratsley, Elder, Class of 2022**

Hi, I'm Chira Cratsley! I've been attending Sharon Church since birth in 1985. I'm married to Chris, and we have four kids: Eva (9), James (6), Petra (3), and Anneliese (2)...and two cats (Chuck and Norris). I have a BS in Geology from Dickinson College, a MS in Geosciences from Penn State, and my teaching certification from Pitt. I teach 8th grade science at Chartiers-Houston Jr./Sr. High School. I enjoy Star Trek: The Next Generation, outdoor activities like hiking and biking, and anything creative, including dancing, music, and art. I've enjoyed serving SCPC in the past in the children's ministry through VBS.

The last few years, God has been teaching me to have faith and joy in the midst of trials and that God is always with me, especially when I step out in faith to do what He asks of me. My favorite scriptures are Matthew 16:13-20, Mark 9:14-29, and Romans 8:9-39. I'm really looking forward to serving SCPC as an elder and all that God has in store for our church!



### **Stephen Ford, Elder, Class of 2022**

My name is Stephen Ford. I am married to Stacy Ford and the Dad of Avigail Ford. We have been going to SCPC for about four year now. I like to hang with the family, hike, hunt, fish, play music, listen to music, and anything baseball.

The reason I want to keep serving the church is to help keep us moving forward.



### **Robert Hamsher, Elder, Class of 2022**

I grew up in Beaver and graduated in 1967 from Beaver High School. I went onto IUP and in my senior year I married my high school sweetheart, Kathy Hogsett. I worked as a programmer analyst for my whole working career with PPG, Mobay, USAir, Sabre, EDS, and HP.

Kathy and I joined Sharon Church in 1973, and our daughter Megan was baptized in 1981. I have been a deacon and an elder and I have been the Treasurer of the church. I am currently on the Finance Committee and Property and Maintenance Committee. I volunteer at the West Hills Food Pantry, and most mornings you will find me at the church doing some sort of maintenance work. I play Bari sax in three different musical groups and play hand bells at Sharon Church.

I have always felt that God has a plan for me. I am still not sure what it is, but I have always felt a need to help people and help do work around the church.



### **Janet McGuire, Deacon, Class of 2022**

I was born and raised in Kittanning, PA, and belonged to the, now named, Grace Presbyterian Church. Several generations of my family, the Stones, Copleys, and Mateers, were, and still are, members of that church, and served as Elders, Trustees, choir members, etc. Grace Presbyterian had two outstanding ministers when I was growing up - Thomas Luce, and Jerry Flanigan, who were both a big influence on me. I met my husband Pete at a combined meeting of the youth groups (Westminster Fellowship) from the Ford City and Kittanning churches when we were 16. After Pete returned from the Navy, and I graduated (with a business certificate) from Thiel College, we were married at Grace Presbyterian in 1960. We then moved to Pittsburgh for Pete to attend Robert Morris while I worked at Ruthledge Equipment Company. I was hired for that job when the owner discovered that the former minister of the Kittanning church, Michael McDevitt, was a friend of theirs from the former Dormont Presbyterian Church.

After living in Sewickley for three years, we moved to Moon Township in 1968, and attended Sharon soon afterwards. I celebrated 50 years with the church last year. While at Sharon, I have served as a Deacon, Elder, served as joint president, with Pete, for "Merry Mates," and currently volunteer in the church office. Pete and I also had the three-year old Sunday School class for a time; I remember Missy Hershberger being in the class at that time. I believe that God has guided me on what I believe, accepting *everyone* as equals.



**Cindy Roberts, Elder, Class of 2022**

Cindy lives in Moon Township and has worked at Total Equipment Co. in Coraopolis for over 31 years. She has two sons:

- ◆ Michael, his wonderful wife Karen, who live in Mainville, OH. They have two of the cutes children, Mary 11, Nathan 7.
- ◆ Joe, his wonderful wife Shanna, who live in Hopewell, PA. They have two of the cutest girls, Leighann 8, and Adaline 4.

Cindy is a member of Glenwillard Boat Club in Crescent PA.



**Wayne Schuliger, Elder, Class of 2020**

I have had a blessed life. I married Jane in 1954, graduated from Pitt as a chemical engineer in 1955, and moved to New Jersey where I worked for EXXON for 10 years. That is where we had our two children and where I became an Elder. We then moved to Warren for 6 months and then came to Pittsburgh where I worked for Calgon Carbon Corporation for 27 years.

During the last 15 years there, one of the things I did was to design and startup carbon systems treating High Fructose Corn Syrup. Now as you all know we are told not to eat or drink anything that has HFCS in it. Darn!

In 1993 I went to work for TIGG corporation where I designed carbon systems for treating water, air and various chemicals.

At the ripe old age of 88 I still consult and teach an all day course on activated carbon theory and system design. I have been on the Mission committee for about 40 years and this is my second time of being on the Session at Sharon.

Jane and I are currently blessed with having 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.



**Philip Squires, Deacon, Class of 2022**

I'm originally from Uniontown, PA and moved to Moon three years ago for work. I'm the front desk lead at Hampton Inn at Settlers Ridge in Robinson Township. I was a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Somerset, PA where I helped with bible school. I was also a member of my family church in Uniontown, PA where I was an usher and helped with the offering. In my spare time I'm an assistant scoutmaster master for Troop 608 at Third Presbyterian church. I like to camp, hike, work in the garden and play video games.

**THANK YOU**

**Special Thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee!**

**Rhiannon Michaels**

**Tim Barrett**

**Donna Kovatch**

**Lori Painter**

**Mark Killmeyer**

**Rob Hamsher**



## Please Pray For...

### Members

Arthur Christian  
 Katherine Roth  
 Cratsley Family  
 Lorna Quinn  
 Arlene Johnson  
 Joyce Zalucky  
 Cindy Roberts  
 Henry Family  
 Zwergel Family  
 Jane Schuliger  
 Abby Zalucky  
 Judy Yeck  
 Clara Anne Schmidt  
 June Campbell  
 Shane Corcoran  
 Jerry Campbell & Family  
 Gordon Hurlbert

### Friends and Family

Jim Cecille (Carol Musgrave)  
 Joan (Deb Williams)  
 George Jones (Judy Yeck)  
 Shannon (Judy Yeck)  
 Elizabeth (Cindy Zwergel)  
 Delores (Hamsher)  
 Miller Family (Judy Yeck)  
 Dianne (Gail Hiney)  
 Ian Cain  
 Braxden (Cratsley)  
 Brady  
 McLaughlin Family  
 (Michaels)  
 Janine Schuliger  
 Jim Olups  
 Chuck Bennett  
 Amy (Kovatch)  
 Bella (Hershberger)

### Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Donny & Brett Gordon  
 (Henry)  
 Christopher Boyer  
 (Prostko)  
 Walker Loeffler  
 (Meanor)  
 Nick Thompson  
 (Thompson)  
 Matt Harris (Ford)



### Prayer Requests

You can make requests sending an email to:  
[sharonprayerchain@sharoncpc.com](mailto:sharonprayerchain@sharoncpc.com)  
 or by calling the church office at 412-264-7400.

### A Note of Gratitude

To All Who Wrote and Sent the Beautiful and Inspiring Christmas Cards,

They definitely "Blessed my Christmas." Since leaving in 2008, and attending two different churches, none give the love and friendship that my late wife Joan and I always received at Sharon Church.

May God continue to bless all of you at Sharon Church,

In Christ's Love,

~ Roger Behm



Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank those persons who have sent me cards and well wishes.

I also want to thank those of you who have prayed for me during my continuing health challenges.

~ Jane Schuliger



Our online giving platform is now up and running, and waiting for your use! Online giving is an easy and convenient way to present your tithes and offerings to Sharon Church. The platform allows you to make recurring gifts (e.g., weekly or monthly), or individual gifts as you desire. The platform can be accessed through Sharon Church's website, at [www.sharoncpc.com](http://www.sharoncpc.com), or via a mobile device.

On Sharon's website, you will find an "Online Giving" tab at the top of the homepage, and also a blue "GIVE NOW" button on the homepage, located about halfway down the page on the right side. Both of these tabs/buttons will take you directly to the web page that will allow you to sign up for the online giving service, which is supported by the Presbyterian Foundation, through a company called Vanco, which specializes in online giving for churches in the United States.

Online giving can also be done via your smartphone or tablet. If you choose to use

your mobile device, you will need to download the "Give+" app from the App Store (Apple devices) or Google Play (android devices). When you have downloaded the Give+ app, just search for Sharon Community Presbyterian Church, and select it as your primary church. You will then be taken to our online giving page, just as if you access online giving through the Sharon Church web site.

The registration and setup process is very user-friendly, and you can begin using the online giving portal in a matter of minutes. Try it out and see just how easy and convenient it is to give electronically!



### ***A Note from your Finance Committee***

The Per Capita amount for 2020 is \$34.79.

### **2019 Giving Statements**

2019 Giving Statements were mailed out the third week of January.

## ***Make A Joyful Noise Unto The Lord***



By now most of you know that we have hired Rob and Amy Rucker as our interim Music Directors. Their start date was January 1, 2020. All who were involved in this hire: Pastor Becky, the Personnel committee, and the Rucker's themselves, firmly believe that God's hand led us to this moment. It was a case of the right people at the right time for the right situation—brought together by divine intervention.

Rob and Amy are skilled musicians and church professionals. Both have undergraduate degrees in Music from The Ohio State University and Masters Degrees in Music from Southern Methodist University. Rob's skills are in worship, planning, and conducting. Amy is an accomplished pianist and a skilled educator in children's music. They both have hand bell experience.

Rob and Amy are about to celebrate their 34<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and have two children. Their daughter Elise works for the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, and their son Ben is a sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh. Rob and Amy are currently on the staff of Center for Young Musicians. Amy is also an adjunct faculty member at Duquesne University, National Teacher Trainor and Educator for Musikgarten/Music Matters, and founder/teacher at Aspire Studios: Piano and Musikgarten.

At Sharon Church Amy will conduct the bell choir and accompany the singing choir, while Rob will conduct the singing choir, do worship planning and ring in the hand bell choir.

Although Rob and Amy have only been with us a short time, their musical and organizational skills are already apparent.

Next time you are in church, stop and introduce yourself to Rob and Amy with a warm Sharon Church welcome. Also, if you have any interest in singing or ringing hand bells see Rob or Amy. We are always looking for more singers and ringers—no experience necessary, just a love of music and a desire to praise the Lord.



***Elise, Amy, Benjamin, and Rob Rucker***

## Mission Milestones

The caring congregation of Sharon Church has again showed its heart for mission by generously supporting our holiday mission opportunities. Operation Christmas Child was again a huge success as we filled and sent off 66 boxes to children in need around the world.

Our hearts and ovens were warm as we baked and packaged many dozens of cookies and distributed them to our home bound members.

The Christmas Cheer offering made the holidays much brighter for our food pantry families. Our congregation provided 109 \$20 Walmart gift cards through this offering, and our mission funds provided \$1,500 for 75 more



cards. No family was left out. Christmas memorials also contributed \$607.50 to the West Hills Food Pantry.

The generosity of this congregation was also evident as we collected \$607 through the Christmas Joy offering. Church workers experiencing critical needs and minority students in need and studying for church related careers will benefit from these funds. 15% of these funds will be awarded to eligible students in the Pittsburgh Presbytery.

In December, the Mission Committee also allocated mission funds as follows: \$500 to Family Promise and \$500 to Samaritan Counseling.

Thank you, Sharon Church, for witnessing Christ's love in this community and beyond.

## West Hills Food Pantry News

We celebrated a wonderful holiday season. Starting in November the pantry gave out 397 coats to clients in time for the winter. All coats that were left at the end of the drive were donated to other area organizations.

We would like to especially thank Sharon Church members as their generous donations allowed us to give out about 160 gift cards to families in need to help make their Christmas a little brighter. We also served our families at the annual Christmas Shoppe providing gifts for all members of the family.

A great thank you on behalf of the West Hills

Food Pantry volunteers to Sharon Church for the use of Fellowship Hall for both the coat drive and the Christmas Shoppe.

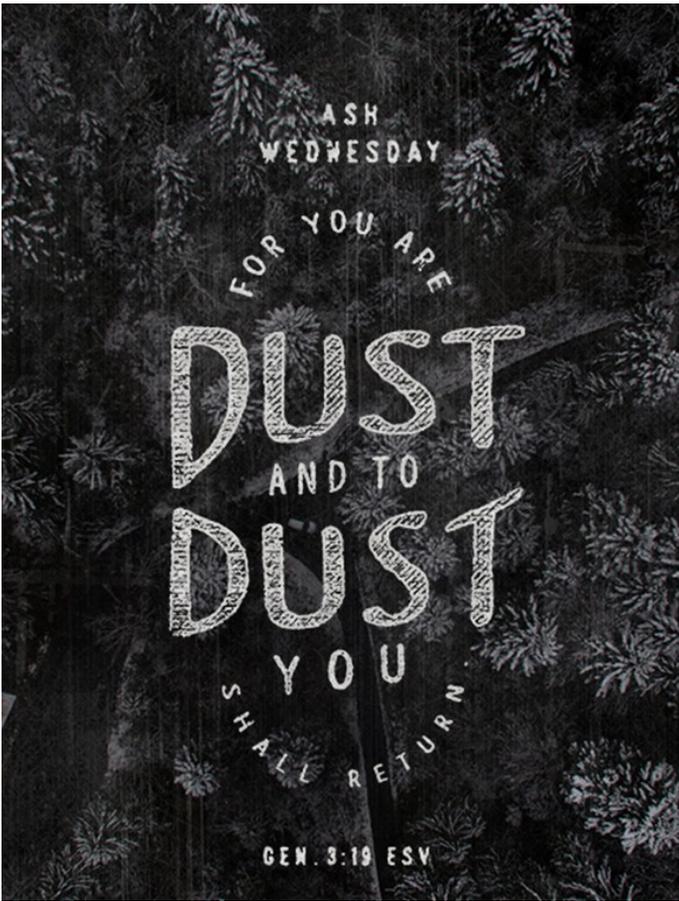
In the new year we continue to serve our community with food and other essentials. As the pantry winds down from a busy and blessed holiday season we appreciate any and all donations to help us continue to meet our client's needs.



## Pocket Change?

Are you putting your pocket change aside for Deep Springs (DSI) personnel to provide drinkable water to Haitian families? DSI is now partnering with UNICEF to provide clean water to families in the central part of Haiti. Thanks for your continued support.





*Ash Wednesday,*  
 often called the Day of Ashes, begins Lent by focusing our hearts on returning to God.  
 We will gather for fellowship, worship and the imposition of ashes on  
 Wednesday  
 February 26th

6:00pm Fellowship Hall  
 Soup Supper and Fellowship

6:30pm Fellowship Hall  
 Ashes for Children and Families

7:00pm Sanctuary  
 Worship and Ashes

## Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon

**When: Sunday, February 9 after Worship**

**Where: Fellowship Hall**



*Pastor's Message cont'd from Page 1:*

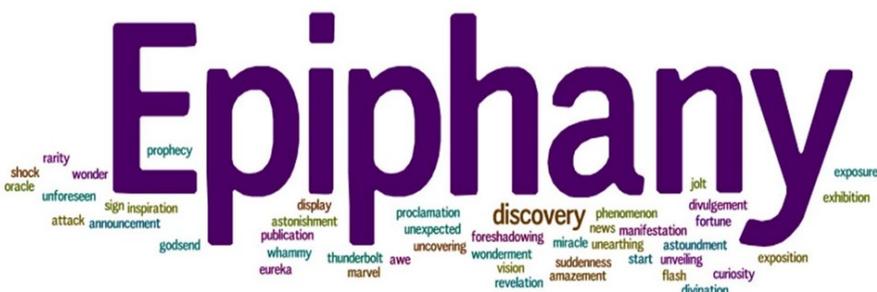
We may need to exercise our spiritual gifts in order to discern, understand and appreciate God's presence, yet, when our eyes are trained on the Spirit of God, God has promised to show us the way.

I am thankful that the body of Christ at Sharon has ordained such amazing people to the session who are willing to listen and follow the Spirit of God in order to lead the church together. And as we ordain new officers to the session and deaconate, I ask the congregation to please join our leadership in

praying for the vitality of Sharon Church and the for the bond of trust to be strengthened among leaders and throughout our congregation—trust in God and trust in one another.

In Christ's Holy Name,

*Becky*



# 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"*



## Sharon Church Staff

Name/Title	eMail	Phone
Becky Branch-Trevathan, Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastorbecky@sharoncpc.com">pastorbecky@sharoncpc.com</a>	407-949-2816 cell
Anna Laufer, Church Administration	<a href="mailto:admin@sharoncpc.com">admin@sharoncpc.com</a>	412-264-7400 <i>Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9 AM-2 PM</i>
Kathy Streeter, Bookkeeper	<a href="mailto:bookkeeper@sharoncpc.com">bookkeeper@sharoncpc.com</a> <a href="mailto:sharonchurch.acct@gmail.com">sharonchurch.acct@gmail.com</a>	412-264-7400
Sarah Painter, Interim Director, Children's Ministry	<a href="mailto:children@sharoncpc.com">children@sharoncpc.com</a>	412 680 4228 cell <i>Office Hours: Wed 9 AM-3 PM</i>
Bill Stevens, Sexton		724-695-8674 home 412-432-6118 cell
Robert and Amy Rucker, Interim Music Ministers	<a href="mailto:music@sharoncpc.com">music@sharoncpc.com</a>	614-520-8825 Rob's cell 614-679-5755 Amy's cell