



# The Good News

## Reflections for this Lenten Season

*A message from your Worship, Music, and Arts Committee*

In *Whistling in the Dark*, Christian author Frederick Buechner writes, “In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went alone into the wilderness and spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves.”

Lent is a time when we remember through our own earthly practices, God in Christ who came to live an earthly life among us and to show us the way to the Father. As we enter this time of self-examination, we ponder those aspects of our lives of which we need to rid ourselves so that we can better set our focus on God and things above. We also listen for what actions God might be asking us to take on in order to more fully represent Christ, love and serve our neighbors, and fulfill The Great Commission.

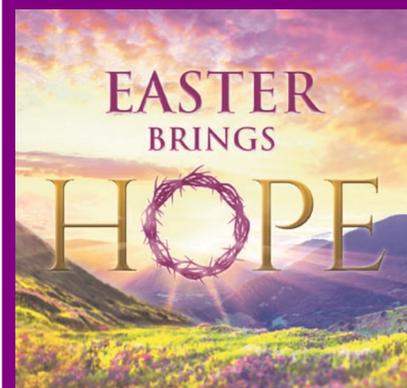
Exhibiting discipline or being disciplined are not usually thought of as enjoyable experiences, but the Bible shows us that they are both beneficial in the life of a believer and work together for our good and the good of those to whom we minister. In 2 Timothy 1:6-7, the Apostle Paul illustrates that God gives us the means to do what is right through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us: “For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of *power* and of *love* and of *self-discipline*.”

Our earthly practices of discipline during Lent could include giving things up or taking things on—the point is to draw closer to God as Jesus draws nearer to the cross. Some examples of things one could give

up for Lent include certain foods, bad habits, television, or social media time. The money and/or time we would normally spend on them when we are “fasting” could be donated to causes and outreaches that share God's love with our community.



*Continued on the next page.*



### Sunday Worship

11:00 AM

### Fellowship Rocks

9:45 AM Fellowship Hall

### Christian Formation Lenten Series

10 AM and 6:30 PM

### Christian Nurture

Nursery Rm 106

Music Program 10 AM  
Rm 100

Sunday School 10:15 AM

Grades K—2 Rm 108

Grades 3—5 Rm 105

Grades 6 and Up Rm 101

Children's Church  
Rm 103

### Holy Week Events

Maundy Thursday  
April 9<sup>th</sup>

Good Friday  
April 10<sup>th</sup>

Easter Sunday  
April 12<sup>th</sup>

*See pages 4 and 5  
for details.*

## Reflections for this Lenten Season

*Continued from page 1.*

Even small changes made during Lent can make a difference. For example, someone who gives up chocolate could still carry chocolate with them to offer to others throughout the day. Who knows what spirits this could boost or conversations it could start!

It has also become popular to adopt a positive practice during Lent. Ideas include dedicating daily time for Bible reading and prayer, committing to service to others, appreciating time in God's creation, or even a busy person intentionally slowing down to enjoy God's gifts. Picking a set time each day for a devotional time with God and sticking to it can be very helpful for those who are just starting out with this experience or who want to restart it.

As we embark on our Lenten journey, it will probably not be easy at the start. In his essay on Lent, Buechner describes the pain of examining our own life choices, mortality, and frailty. However, he also notes the beauty of the new life that can arise from it: "It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end." What a wonderful reminder!

As we practice discipline in our daily walk with Christ during Lent, we are engaging in not just physical and mental exercise, but more importantly, spiritual exercise. This summer, the 2020 Olympics will take place in Tokyo, Japan. The athletes participating in the summer games have been training daily for years to get to this historic moment. Most have coaches whom they listen to, respect, and trust. They all push through pain, trials, exhaustion, and setbacks and do not give up. They prepare mentally and emotionally for the competition. They give it their all and aim to improve their best effort with each event.

Imagine if we as Christians took on the same mindset and discipline as these World-class athletes! Are we *listening* for the voice of God and following God's advice? Are we *prepared* to share Christ's love with others? Do we place our *hope* in Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith? Olympic athletes aren't born overnight and neither are faithful disciples—it takes numerous years to build up focus, discipline, dedication, strength, and endurance.



Hebrews 12:1-2 encourages "...let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

Our walk with Christ is not dissimilar to the training of Olympic athletes, and what better time to start training for the race God in Christ has set before us than Lent!



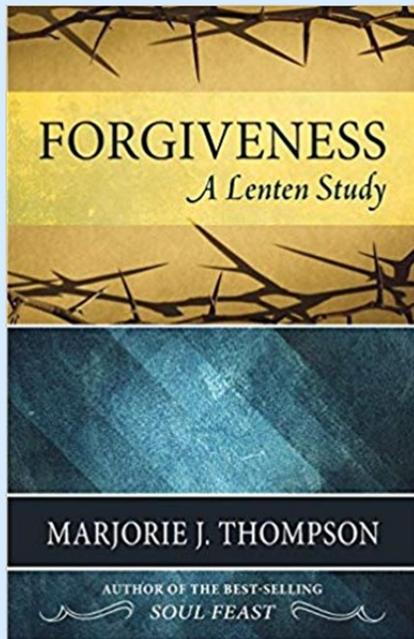
PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

# Invitation to Adult Formation: *Lenten Studies*

**6 Sunday Mornings 10-10:45 am—March 1<sup>st</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>**

“Forgiveness is the healing stream flowing out from the crucified Christ over a world that does not know how desperately it needs healing.”  
~Marjorie Thompson

Forgiving others and humbly asking for forgiveness are central disciplines for all Christian believers. Lent is a time to reflect on our Christian journey and perfect time to deepen our understanding and practice of forgiveness.



Marjorie J. Thompson, a Presbyterian pastor and author of the best-selling book *Soul Feast*, takes a close look at our understanding of forgiveness in this encouraging study, which addresses questions, such as:

- ♦ Is forgiveness a Christian duty under all circumstances? Or are there situations when Christians do not need to forgive?
- ♦ Is forgiveness a matter between individuals, or is it meaningful only in the context of communities?
- ♦ Is forgiving the best route to healing for the injured?
- ♦ How do we get past emotional barriers to real forgiveness?

With clarity, insight, and sensitivity, this book uses biblical examples and real-life situations to examine both our ability to forgive and our own need for forgiveness.

Pastor Becky will lead discussion on *Forgiveness: A Lenten Study*. Participants are invited to purchase the book and read along each week OR simply come for conversation on Sunday morning. A copy of weekly chapters will be available in the Narthex beginning February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

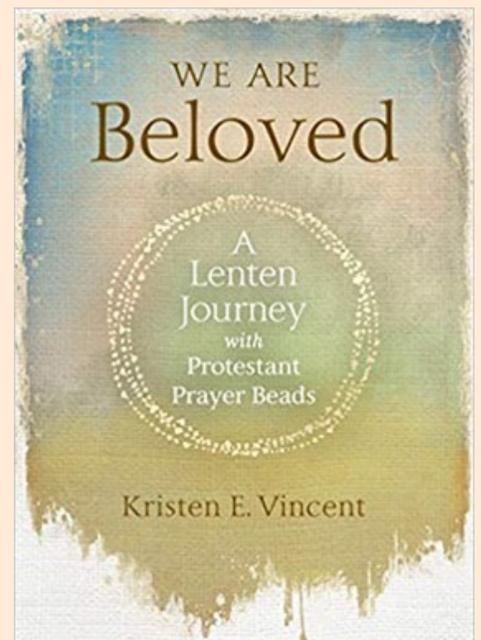
**6 Sunday Evenings 6:30-8 pm—March 1<sup>st</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Christians often have the head knowledge that we are beloved, but deep in our hearts do we truly believe it? When we encounter Jesus in scripture, we tend to hear Jesus' words with judgment, thinking we cannot be beloved because we will never measure up to God's standards. Author Kristen Vincent takes us on a journey alongside Jesus that helps break this false understanding and allows us to discover how deeply beloved we are.

This 6-week Lenten journey follows stories of Jesus' experience of God's love. The incarnate Son of God was made fully human, which means that Jesus had to fully mature in strength and wisdom to learn that he was beloved. Just as Jesus learned of his belovedness, we, too, can cultivate the wisdom and knowledge that we are deeply loved.

Each week we will read a Gospel lesson and contemplate its message. A series of reflection questions will help us ponder the message of the scripture passage for us personally. We also will use prayer beads to help quiet our minds and increase our sense of God's presence. Each lesson includes a prayer bead experience, a step-by-step devotion using prayer beads. The experience is designed to help us reflect on the lesson in a deeper way.

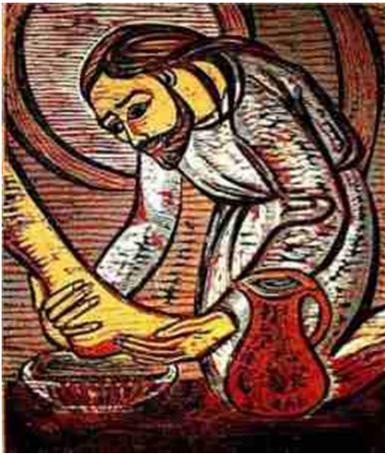
Pastor Becky will lead discussion on *We Are Beloved: A Lenten Journey with Protestant Prayer Beads* by Kristen Vincent. Participants are invited to purchase the book and read along each week OR simply come for conversation on Sunday evenings.





# HOLY WEEK

## At Sharon Church



### **Maundy Thursday** **Food, Fellowship and Foot Washing** **6:30 pm on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>** **in Fellowship Hall**

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

*John 13:5-5*

Our Maundy Thursday gathering is a time to dwell on Jesus serving his disciples. In John's gospel, the last night before Jesus' betrayal and arrest, he shared a simple meal with his disciples, washed their feet, and then gave them a new commandment: **to love one another as he had loved them.**

In service to the church, our elders will lead our Maundy Thursday devotional. 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. The Worship, Music and Arts committee has taken great care to offer a sanitary manner for washing our feet or hands. This supper and service is family-friendly and all children are welcomed to participate in all aspects of the dinner and service.

**Please come and follow in the  
footsteps of Jesus and his disciples  
this Maundy Thursday as we prepare  
ourselves for Easter!**



**7:00 PM FRIDAY,  
APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>  
IN THE SANCTUARY**

## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE:

**“NOT MY WILL, BUT YOURS BE DONE.”**

Rob and Amy Rucker have prepared a feast of sensation through music and worship for Good Friday. Our worship will be supported by string players, offering luscious accompaniment to our singing and adding a moving selection to the flow of liturgy.

We will follow Peter through the events of Jesus' last week before his death and resurrection. With a few lines of dialogue, Peter

will help us see with fresh eyes and ears the paradox and complexities of the drama of redemption.

Our choir will offer a haunting rendition of Jesus' words, "Not my will, but yours be done." The sanctuary will grow increasingly dark with each extinguished candle, marking the deepening shadows and evil attempts to conquer love.

**H E I S R I S E N**  
CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

## **Easter Services and Events, Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter Fellowship and Breakfast @ 9:30—10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**

*Egg Strata, French Toast Casserole, Fruit, Sweet Rolls, Doughnuts, Beverages and Jesus!*

**Easter Egg Hunt and Activities for Children @ 10:00—10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**

*Younger children will do an egg hunt (with candy/stickers/small toys).*

*Older children will do an egg hunt that is part of a cooperative activity.*

*All children will rejoice in the Risen Lord!*

**Worship @11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

*All of God's people celebrate the Resurrection!*

# 2020 Session Leadership, Committees and Co-Chairs



Moderator of Session	Rev. Becky Branch-Trevathan
Clerk of Session	Todd Carter
Mission and Membership	Wayne Schuliger and Kylie Bomgardner
Worship	Chira Cratsley and Bob Lintner
Children's Formation	Sarah Painter and Cindy Roberts
New Life	Dave Michaels and Stephen Ford
Finance and Generosity	Mark Killmeyer and Todd Carter
Personnel	Cindy Zwergel and Dick Shirra
Property	Rob Hamsher and Doug Busch
Nominating	Walt Gorr
Boy Scouts Liaison	Stephen Ford
Fellowship and Congregational Care	Deacons

## Leadership outside of Session

Adult Formation	Rev. Becky Branch-Trevathan
Communications	Tom Capkovic and Chris Cratsley
Office/web technology	Church Administrator, Anna Laufer
Sanctuary technology	Music Minister, Rob Rucker
Fellowship Luncheons and Dinners	Members

# A Message from Pastor Becky

The gospels offer us multiple testimonies of Jesus sending his disciples out to minister to people “two by two.” It is a basic principle of teamwork. Knowing that we are better together because we can offer one another support, insight, discernment, wisdom, joy, and encouragement as we endeavor to serve God.

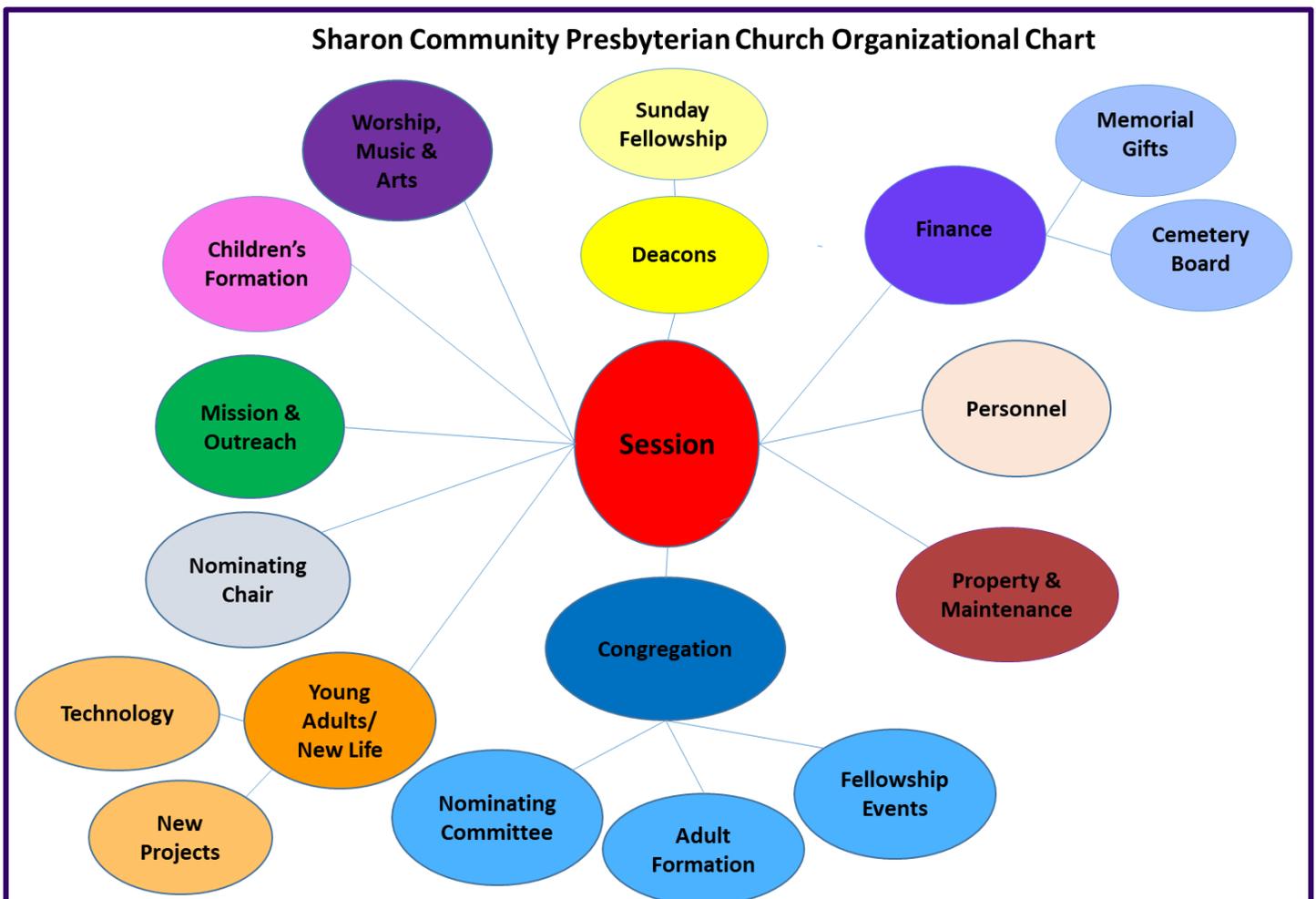
The session is practicing this concept of discipleship by pairing our elders as committee co-chairs. You will see all of the standing committees and their leadership on the previous page. Our hope is that as we strength-

en relationships among elders, God will deepen our understanding of one another, the needs of the church, and the gifts of God’s people. In essence, as discipleship pairs, we grow as leaders and are better equipped to build up the church.

You will also notice below a new committee structure. Notably the addition of a New Life committee as well as greater leadership offered by the staff and membership outside of the committee structure.

Every one of these committees is available for you to participate

in the life of the church. Most importantly, without you, we are not a church! So, please consider where God is calling you to serve. Your time and talents are greatly desired and we invite you to add your gifts to the life of the church!



## January Session Highlights

Session began 2020 by welcoming the new elders who were elected at the Congregational Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>. The Clerk reported that we had 192 members at the end of 2019, and average weekly worship attendance for the year was 99. We received a letter from Judy and Bob Lentz requesting that they be removed from Sharon Church membership rolls, since they are permanently relocating to Greenwood, South Carolina. Session approved the motion. We will miss them as they have been our good friends for many years!

Treasurer Mark Killmeyer reported on the financial results for 2019. We had income of \$321,653 for the year, and expenses of the same amount. While income was \$44,000 below our budget for the year due mostly to lower-than-planned envelope giving, expenses were also below budget, with savings coming from Personnel, Utilities, and Program expenses. The lower expenses more than offset the lower income, allowing us to add \$9,522 to the Property Maintenance Reserve, while still balancing

our income and expenses for the year. A good achievement during a year that included a number of staffing changes!

Mark also presented the budget for Sharon Church for 2020, which included projected income of \$355,638, which represents an increase of 11% over the actual 2019 results, offset by forecasted expenses of \$355,638, resulting in a balanced budget. Session approved the proposed budget, which was subsequently presented to the congregation during the Annual Meeting.

On behalf of the Worship, Music and Arts committee, Elder Bob Lintner presented information about the exploration of the addition of a new musical instrument. The Committee is looking at a digital baby grand piano to be used to enhance the music in our worship services. Bob also talked about the condition of our pipe organ, which is in need of very expensive repairs to be fully usable. The committee will further evaluate the costs and benefits of the digital baby grand piano.

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## February Session Highlights

Session spent a significant portion of the February meeting discussing the transformation process. We began with a scripture passage from the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 9, describing the Transfiguration of Christ. Using this as our guide, we talked about the steps in our own transformation at Sharon Church, with each committee group evaluating where they are in the process. We had spirited discussion, and learned that we are at various stages on the timeline between “surviving” and “thriving”. Be assured that your leaders on Session have plenty of good ideas to help in the process of moving our church forward to the thriving stage!

In the regular business of the Session, your Clerk reported that membership stood at 190, and weekly worship attendance averaged 87 for the month of January. Treasurer Mark Killmeyer shared the January financial results, which showed a deficit of \$5,824 for January, with income of \$28,443, offset by expenses of \$34,267. He noted that we paid the full amount of our 2020 Presbytery Assessment of \$6,379 in January to take advantage of a discount,

which explains the net deficit for the month. Your Per Capita contributions are used to cover the Presbytery Assessment, so please don't forget to consider that in your giving to Sharon Church.

The Worship, Music, and Arts committee presented additional information about the acquisition of a new musical instrument to be used in worship, as discussed in the January Session Highlights. After considering several options, the committee settled on the digital baby grand piano (a Roland GP607 for those of you who are musically inclined), which comes highly recommended by Rob and Amy Rucker, our Music Directors. A motion to make the purchase was presented by the committee, and approved by Session, which should allow for the delivery of the new instrument for use at Easter. WMA worked with Finance, and certain reserve funds were identified that will allow for the purchase of the instrument outside of our regular operating budget for the year. A win-win for all. You will be hearing more about this instrument shortly.

# Making Music at Sharon

You will see throughout the newsletter that there has been a lot of conversation in leadership about supporting our music program with an additional instrument—a digital baby grand piano. However, while leaders of the church have been discussing this acquisition for a few years, it has occurred to the session that the congregation has not been privy to how we arrived at considering the purchase of a new instrument. Namely, why we are moving away from the use of the organ and to a digital piano.

So, I would like to share with you everything I know about this conversation and hopefully answer a few of your questions about music in worship. At the top of everyone's mind is WHAT ABOUT THE ORGAN? So, about the organ... the first thing to know is that the purchase of the digital piano does not mean we are abandoning the organ. If the church feels called to finance, maintenance and up-keep the organ, then the leadership will do just that.

What the congregation needs to know is that the present condition of our beloved organ is poor. We have known for a number of years that the parts for our organ are no longer manufactured and in order to properly repair the organ, parts would need to be especially made. The estimated cost for repairing the central console is \$150,000, and this estimate does not include repairs to damaged stops, pulls, leathers or pipes.

The significant damage to the organ is not due to a lack of maintenance. The church has always provided regular care and maintenance for the organ. The damage to the organ is largely due to the sanctuary not being temperature controlled—while we have ample heat in the winter, we do not have adequate cool air in the summers. An organ installation requires an environment where the temperature is controlled and maintained throughout the year. This has led to demise of our organ console over the years.

You may be wondering, why, then were our former organists able to play the instrument? Basically, our organ players worked around the many problems with the instrument. Yet, their work-arounds were limited. And at some point, the console itself will simply fail. In 2018, when the organ motor failed, there was discussion about moving to a digital piano that would give us not only a robust piano sound, but a simulated organ sound. Yet, it was decided to replace the organ motor.

Presently, however, we do not have an organist on our music staff and as you know from our music staff search in 2019, staffing the church with a committed, part-time organist has become an unprecedented challenge in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Additionally, sometime in the fall of 2019, the church's smaller digital piano had been stored in the basement and “went missing.” These factors led us to return to considering the purchase of a larger digital piano in order to enhance and expand our music in worship.

The question I always start and stop with is, where is God in all of this? God is in our worship. Whether we worship with an organ or a digital piano, God is in the joy that we bring to worship. We have the blessing of welcoming Amy and Rob Rucker to our staff as music ministers and worship leaders who bring with them both a passion for praising God and the professional expertise to lead our music program into new and uncharted territory. As we work together to invigorate and revitalize worship, we actively look for God's guiding hand. And while acquiring a new instrument for worship may appear to be a sudden change in course or direction, it is more like a next step in the evolution of music at Sharon; a step in which we believe God is leading us.

The session asks for your prayerful support of worship and music as we walk in faith and take these next brave steps together. Our hope is that God is rightly worshipped and that we may make some “joyful noise” together this Lenten season.

God's peace,  
Becky



# MUSIC Ministry

## *The hills are alive with the sound of music!!!*

Lord willing, we will soon be significantly enhancing our worship experience and congregational praise with a beautiful digital grand piano. The piano will feature a gorgeous ebony case, making it a lovely addition to our worship space. It also contains a digital bank of special features offering future potentiality for music ministry growth, and it will not require ongoing maintenance. If you would like to preview the piano we are considering, please click or type in the online link to the demonstration video at <https://youtu.be/ormEDN65NaM> . You will be able to see and hear the range and sounds of this beautiful instrument.

The best place for the piano isn't entirely determined yet. We are looking at installing the instrument in the left transept, where the choir leads our worship and the sanctuary supports the necessary technology. The space would be modified to accommodate the placement of the new

digital grand: notably, chairs would replace the pews in this space, adding flexibility to the area when we have special musicians in to supplement our worship. Worship, Music and Arts and Property & Maintenance Committees will continue to discern the best use of the sanctuary space to accommodate worship and choral space. If you have any input or ideas, please feel free to participate in the work of our committees. God works through all of us, and this includes you!

Our hope is to have the new piano installed to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter. Additionally, for Easter, we will supplement our music with a resplendent brass quartet: two trombones and two trumpets as we proclaim, "Christ is Risen!" Our favorite hymns, with exuberant new songs, and preaching of the Word, will fill our hearts with praise. Easter is a Sunday not to be missed, and this year is no exception. It will be a musical and spiritual feast to which all are invited!

*In His Love,  
Rob and Amy Rucker*



## *A Note of Thanks*

*Dear Friends at Sharon Church,*

*Your gift to the Food Pantry for the purchase of gift cards is truly appreciated as it enables us to provide gift cards to our clients during the holiday season.*

*Your kindness is a rich blessing to our efforts.*

*Sincerely,  
Gary Springer, Treasurer*



## February 26, 2020

# Ash Wednesday Service at Sharon



On Palm Sunday, **April 5<sup>th</sup>**,  
the children will be  
parading palms  
during the opening hymn.

Please have your child  
meet us in the church foyer  
at 10:45 am.

# New Life Committee

The Young Adults committee is transitioning for 2020. Subsequently the name of the new committee will be **New Life**. The New Life committee will focus on the future of Sharon Church with an emphasis on growth and sustainability.

Membership to the New Life committee has no age range, only a vision for the future for Sharon Church. We encourage ideas, whether old or new, that will help Sharon to become the successful church of the future.

The **first project of the New Life committee** will be revitalizing the use of our property. The YCC is an amazing space, and now with a committee focus, we can properly analyze and leverage the potential opportunity.



A few other projects on our radar include researching Sharon Church as a daycare, partnering with the Food Bank and RMU Greek Life, church recruitment and website/social media upgrades.

As Sharon has seen its membership numbers struggle in the new age of churches, the New Life committee has been created to learn what can Sharon do to counter the trend. Members of Sharon Church are some of the most dedicated Presbyterians, the New Life was created to ensure their hard work and commitment will be continued into

the future. We have ambitious goals and we'd like to invite you to join us for the journey. If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact Pastor Becky, Dave Michaels or Stephen Ford.

## Thinking of You Gift Bags

March and April will be exciting months for the Deacons of Sharon Church. We are adding another visit to our at-home members bringing our total number of visits from three to four per year.

This March we will assemble "Thinking of You" gift bags to take with us when we pay a visit to our at-home members. The gift bags will be filled with tea, cookies, crackers, soup, oatmeal packages, candy, hand creams, non-skid cozy slipper socks, bible verse bookmarks, and lots of LOVE. Each Deacon is paired with at least one at-home member and we make certain each person receives visits and TLC.

The Deacons are hosting Easter Breakfast this Year. Please join us for a wonderful Meal as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Fellowship Rocks is a Favorite Mission of the Deacons. Every Sunday at 9:45am we invite you to come enjoy coffee, donuts and conversation.



# Just 4 Fun Dinner Group

**D**o you like food, fellowship or just a good time? The Just 4 Fun Dinner Group is here for you. We meet monthly from January through October.

The monthly Host/Hostess decide if the group will go to a local restaurant (dutch treat) or have dinner in their home, in which case the entrée is provided by the host/hostess. The rest of us bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert.

Singles and couples are welcome. Check out these great pictures from the last event. **For information, contact Pat Bricklemeyer at 412-262-1031 or [bricktrish@gmail.com](mailto:bricktrish@gmail.com).**



Host/Hostess – 2020	
January	-----Hamsher & Lintner
February	-----Peters
March	-----Sanderbeck & Sprott
April	-----Nicastro & Moore
May	-----Pat Smith
June	-----Keith & Musgrave
July	-----Gorr & Udvari
August	-----Bush
September	-----Shirra
October	-----Yeck
<i>No dinner in November and December</i>	



# Willing Workers Luncheon February 2020

If you are not a member of Willing Workers, we invite you to join us at noon the first Tuesday of the month to experience the joy of fellowship, friendship and fun. We are a small group who meet monthly and offer friendship and fellowship to each other, outreach to shut-ins and those at the Hillview facility in Coraopolis, and provide small donations to worthy causes throughout the year. We would love to have you join us.



## Willing Workers

will be providing Easter bags for children of the Food Pantry. We are asking for your donations of wrapped candy, crackers, cookies, small toys or stuffed animals, pencils, crayons, small tablets, puzzle games, combs. Items should fit into small bags. *Please no glue, toothpaste or items of this nature.*



There will be collection boxes in the church office, Fellowship Hall, and the Narthex throughout the month of March. We and the children will be grateful for your generosity.

Many thanks. God bless. ~ Myra Leigh Tokar

## Willing Workers 2020 Meeting Dates

Mar 3..... Noon ..... Lunch/Meeting ..... Room 202  
Apr 6 ..... 10 AM ..... Easter Baskets..... Food Pantry  
Apr 7 ..... 11 AM ..... Lunch/Auction ..... Room 204  
May TBD.. Noon ..... Spring Lunch..... TBD  
June ..... No Lunch/Meeting  
July TBD .. Noon ..... Summer Lunch ..... Eat N' Park  
August..... No Lunch/Meeting  
Sept 1 ..... Noon ..... Lunch/Meeting ..... Room 202  
Oct 6 ..... TBD..... Ham Dinner..... Fellowship Hall  
Nov 2\* ..... Noon ..... Lunch/Meeting ..... Room 202  
Dec 4 ..... Noon ..... Christmas Lunch..... Montour  
Country Club  
\*Lunch and Meeting on Monday due to Election Day.

# Please Pray For

## Members

Patricia Hersh  
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)

Roger Behm (Barb Cain)  
Tanya Marshall

## Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Donny & Brett Gordon  
(Henry)  
Christopher Boyer (Prostko)  
Walker Loefflier (Meanor)  
Matt Harris (Ford)

## Prayer Requests

Email your request to:

[sharonprayerchain@sharoncpc.com](mailto:sharonprayerchain@sharoncpc.com)

or call the church office:  
412-264-7400.



# What's Your Story?

What amazing works has God done in your life recently or in the past, and when was the last time you told a friend, family member, or neighbor about them? As Christians, God is always active in our lives in both the day-to-day happenings that we often overlook and the larger, more obvious ways. Are what others call coincidences really God's reminders that we aren't forgotten?

After Jesus heals a demon-possessed man in Luke 8, the man wants to accompany Jesus, but Jesus instead instructs the man, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." Verse 39 continues, "So the man went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him." Psalm 107:2 declares, "Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story," and Psalm 71 reminds us that no matter our age, our testimonies of God's grace, power, and love are meant to be shared.

When we share our testimonies, we encourage each other and build our faith, individually and as the body of Christ. When we hear stories of how God moved in the lives of our friends, it renews our own faith and trust in the Lord, and we see that God can move in similar ways in all of our lives. If God did it in the past, God can surely do it again!

The Worship, Music, and Arts Committee is looking for members of the congregation who are willing to step out in faith and share a brief testimony of God's goodness in their life during a Sunday morning worship service. It could be a recent testimony or one from long ago.

Testimonies could range from how you came to know Christ, how the Lord got you through a difficult spot in life, a blessing or miracle that occurred in your life, or any other example of God's presence in daily life.

We pray these testimonies will serve as a powerful reminder for all of us to be more aware of God's hand in our lives and the wide variety of ways that God is at work. Nothing is too big or too small for God! Let's honor and thank God with our testimonies! Please call or text **Chira Cratsley** at (412) 956-7489 or e-mail [chira.cratsley@gmail.com](mailto:chira.cratsley@gmail.com) for more information or if you are willing to share your story.

## **Psalm 71:15-18**

- <sup>15</sup> My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds,  
of your saving acts all day long—  
though I know not how to relate them all.
- <sup>16</sup> I will come and proclaim your mighty acts,  
Sovereign Lord;  
I will proclaim your righteous deeds,  
yours alone.
- <sup>17</sup> Since my youth, God, you have taught me,  
and to this day I declare your marvelous  
deeds.
- <sup>18</sup> Even when I am old and gray,  
do not forsake me,  
my God, till I declare your power  
to the next generation,  
your mighty acts to all who are to come.

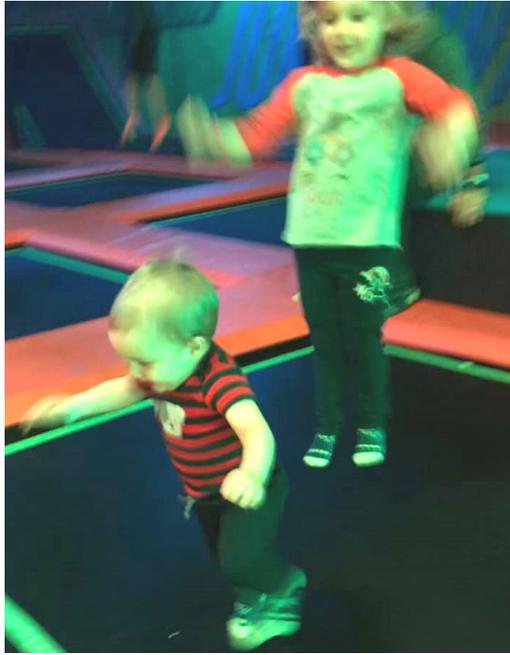
Dave and I want to express our deep appreciation for the lovely silver bell ornament we received at the congregational meeting as a parting gift. We have truly enjoyed our time as members at Sharon Church and felt blessed to be able to contribute our time and energy to such a caring group of faithful people.

We will miss many aspects of Sharon Church and hope others will take up the tasks that we will leave behind in May when we move to South Carolina to be near family. It is our sincere hope that God will continue to bless Sharon Church and help it to prosper for many years to come.

~ Terri Doughty

# Family Fun at Urban Air Adventure Park

In February, over 30 people (11 families—17 children) came together for an afternoon of crazy fun and fellowship at Urban Air Adventure Park in Robinson Township. What a great way to spend a chilly winter afternoon!







Sharon Community Presbyterian Church  
522 Carnot Road  
Moon Township, PA 15108-2317

## THE GOOD NEWS

### **April 1, 2020 is Census Day, - but be aware of census fraud.**

Census scammers may try to contact you by phone, mail, or home visit, or even direct you to phony websites. Along with its once a decade population count, the actual U.S. With detailed questions about things like income, assets, job status, household amenities, even your commute, the ACS does set off scam suspicions but it is legitimate, and relatively easy to verify. Census fraud can hit at home or at work, (the Census Bureau conducts business related surveys, too). Be especially watchful for impostors in early and mid-spring of 2020, when the actual Census Bureau will be sending out reminders to fill out your form and following up in person at households that do not respond.

#### **CENSUS SCAM WARNING SIGNS:**

- ◆ You get an email claiming to be from the Census Bureau. For household surveys and the decennial census, the agency usually makes contact by mail.
- ◆ A supposed census agent asks you for money or financial data, such as your bank account number and balance. The Census Bureau will never ask for this information.
- ◆ A supposed census taker threatens you with arrest. Taking part in the census is required by law, but you can't be imprisoned.

#### **STAY SAFE DURING THE 2020 CENSUS**

No genuine census survey or agent can:

- Ask for your Social Security number, bank, credit card, or account numbers
- Ask when you leave for or return from work
- Ask for money or donations
- Ask for support for a political party
- Threaten jail time

*Any of these is a sure sign that a supposed census taker is looking for ways to steal your identity, money or possessions.*