



The Good News

Dear Sharon Faithful,

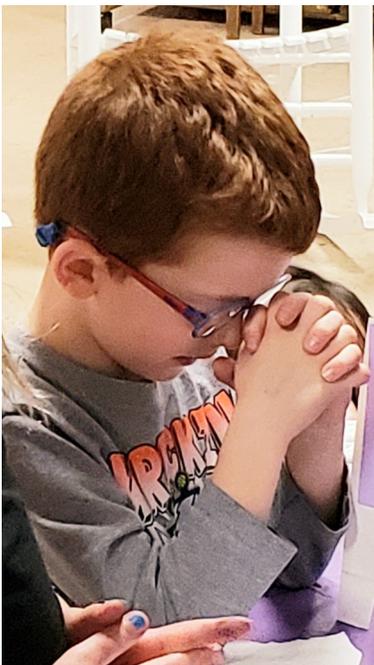
The Gospel of Luke invites us into Lent each year with the story of the Temptation of Christ (Luke 4:1-13). The passage begins, “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.” Many of us recall this story as a triumph for Jesus and for all of humankind: Jesus tempted by the devil, remains focused on serving only what God has called him to do and does not succumb to the temptations of pride, envy, wrath or greed.

We might be tempted ourselves to read this story with a touch of envy—if only we could stand up to the temptations of evil like Jesus did. If only we had an ounce of Jesus’ focus and faith. If only we had the wisdom and self-control of Christ, perhaps we could better manage our own sinful instincts.

Yet, Jesus teaches us in this passage that God has given us everything we need to grow in our faithfulness and turn from sin, the Holy Spirit. If we return to the very beginning of the story, it says, “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit... was led by the Spirit in the wilderness.” It is a reminder that even in the wilderness—in the worst moments of our lives—we are not alone.

It is the Holy Spirit of God who fills us with courage and hope, and leads us in the wilderness. We might imagine the dark corners of the world or our relationships as being places marked by the absence of God, but Christ shows us the opposite. Christ shows us that in all places, the Holy Spirit is there, leading and strengthening.

So, as we embark on our Lenten journey together—40 days and 40 nights of repentance, fasting, prayer and turning to God—like Jesus, we will be led and strengthened by the Holy Spirit. As our eyes are lifted up to the Lord and our hearts are connected in prayer, may our Lenten journey be one of unity, as Christ’s church, and faithfulness, as



Sunday Worship

11:00 AM

Fellowship Rocks

10:00 AM Fellowship Hall

Christian Nurture

10:00 AM

Evergreens #202

Willows #208

Kids 3-5 yrs. #108

K-4th Grade #101

5th Grade & Older #105

Music #100

Children’s Church #103

Spring is right around the corner!

(I hope!) I love Spring because it reminds me of how God brings new life to things that seem barren or dead. I think that is why Easter is such a special time of celebration for Christians, God brings resurrection

life to that which was dead. How exciting! We are fast approaching Lent, which is the season leading up to Easter. Lent represents the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting, enduring the temptation of Satan. Traditionally, most people “give up” something for Lent or “give of themselves” during this season to draw closer to God.



Children's Church

I have a few ideas that work great with families during Lent.

1. **Give away 40 things for 40 days.** Everyday, find something in your home to donate to others in need. It could be a family that you know, a shelter, a community project, or the Salvation Army. It's a great way for your family to de-clutter and a great way to teach your child/children how much we are blessed and to focus on others less fortunate.
2. **Give Up Fast Food.** Take the money that you would have spent on fast food and put in a jar during Lent, then as a family pray about how to donate that money. This is a great way to teach our children to “die to our flesh” and to bless others at the same time!
3. **Replace 30 minutes of TV time with 30 extra minutes of devotion/prayer time.** It's crazy how much TV takes up our lives. Spend that allotted time praying for your children's classmates, friends, teachers, and family members. This will instill the value of prayer and hopefully this will also bring you closer together as a family.
4. **Plan acts of service during Lent.** This is a great way to teach our children to serve others. Plan ahead how your family can help serve someone in your church or community. It may be an elderly person who needs help around their home or yard or just would love a visit from your family! It could be serving in a soup kitchen or even picking up trash in your neighborhood. The possibilities are endless, have a family meeting to hear everyone's ideas. You may be surprised by what's on your child's heart.
5. **Make Pretzels for Lent.** Did you know that the pretzel is a traditional food for Lent? When the early Christians would pray, they would cross their arms and touch each shoulder with the opposite hand. They also fasted very strictly during Lent, making their bread with only water, flour, and salt. A monk shaped this in the form of praying arms for children and the pretzel was born!

Soft Pretzel Recipe

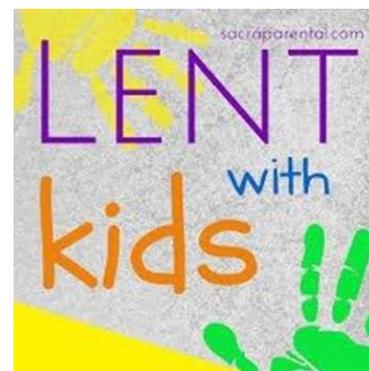
- *1 package yeast
- *1 ½ Cups of warm water
- *1 Tablespoon sugar
- *1 Tablespoon salt
- *4 Cups flour
- *1 Egg

Mix your yeast, water, sugar and salt in a large bowl. Stir in the flour and knead until the dough is smooth. Shape into the form of arms crossed in prayer and place it on a baking sheet. Brush the dough with a beaten egg to give it a shiny finish. Sprinkle the top with salt and bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes. Enjoy!

I hope that you try out some of these Lent ideas with your family. This is a special time to teach our children about the sacrifices Jesus made for all of us. I pray blessings over your family during this Lenten season.

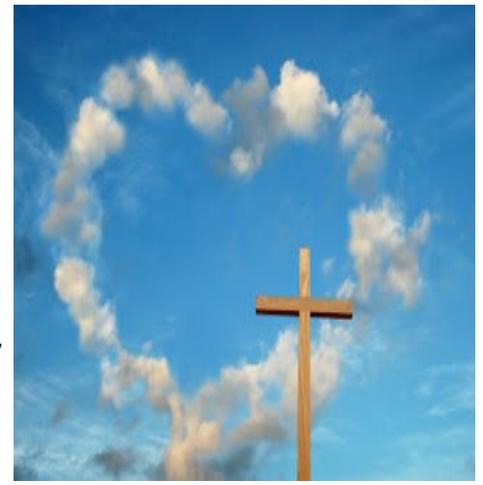
Serving Him,

Ms. Tami



Christian Formation Committee

In preparation for this season of Lent, the Christian Formation Committee (CFC) has mailed out packets to each family to help parents teach their children about the sacrifice that Jesus made for all of us on Good Friday and prepare us for His glorious resurrection on Easter. The materials we sent give a **very short** scripture each day and a message to reflect upon. A time of daily family devotion is a great habit to start in honor of Lent! If you haven't received a packet, please send us an email! scpcchildren@sharoncpc.com



The CFC will also host an Easter egg hunt for the smaller children as well as a **NEW** activity to challenge the older kids this year. Please note that we will provide bags for the kids to use for the Easter egg hunt! Please join us after breakfast from 10:00 - 10:45!



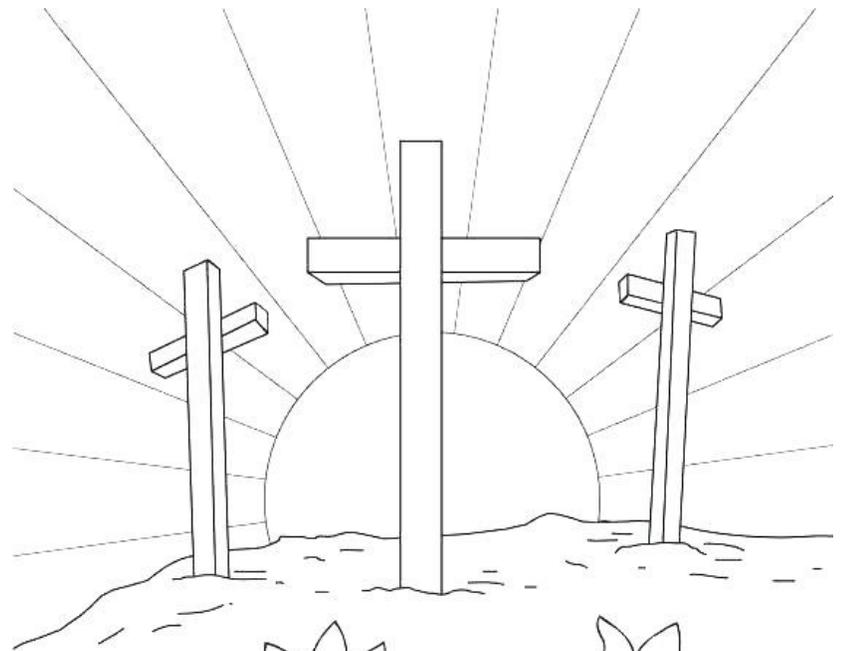
Easter Word Hunt

C H I C K L I L Y D H
N C J N E G G S L Y R
F G H E F W V U Z E R
B R I S P R I N G F A
U A D T A L C D R L B
N S E A R C H A W O B
N S W P A L M Y Q W I
Y F I N D B A S K E T
L A M B E A S T E R S
D H U N T U L I P S I

BASKET
BUNNY
CHICK
DYE
EASTER
EGGS
FIND

FLOWERS
GRASS
HIDE
HUNT
LAMB
LILY
NEST

PALM
PARADE
RABBIT
SEARCH
SPRING
SUNDAY
TULIPS



Jesus
Is Risen

Ice skating, pizza, and fellowship with the children of the church took place on February 23rd. It was a great time for the kids and young at heart! These are the types of activities we'd love to provide for our members of all ages.

Through fellowship we develop deeper relationships with each other and grow as a community.



Get To Know Our Sharon Church Family!

The Roberts family is made up of Joe, Shanna, Leighann, and Adaline (Addie). All are originally from the greater Pittsburgh area. Joe was born in Ohio Valley Hospital, Shanna in St Clair and both girls in Sewickley Hospital. Both Joe and Shanna graduated from Moon Area High School, Joe in 1999 and Shanna in 2001. The family currently resides in Hopewell. You may not know that Joe lived in Georgia for a bit as a child and Shanna grew up riding horses. Leighann is a member of Girl Scout Troop 10165 and Addie attends Beaver Valley Montessori School in Beaver.



DEACONS

The Deacons have begun a new and exciting ministry for 2019. We are filled with hope and joy to serve our Sharon family. Fellowship Rocks welcomes everyone to join us for fellowship, prayer, sharing and love. Join us Sundays at 10am in Fellowship Hall, Please share your time, joys and concerns. We will do the same plus delicious doughnuts and coffee! The Deacons have turned our main focus to our congregation, those both at home and present at church. Please notify us if you know someone at Sharon that would benefit from our care. I have personally witnessed the compassion and concern between individuals during Fellowship Rocks. What a beautiful gift we can give each other.



As deacons, one of our major responsibilities is caring for our “At Home” members. This has also been the most rewarding part of being a deacon. Deacons regularly send cards, make phone calls and visit the “At Home” members. At Easter time we deliver flowers, home baked bread at Thanksgiving and poinsettias at Christmastime. Deacons also supply communion to local “At Home” members four times a year, if they wish to receive it. These folks are mostly local, have a long history with SCPC, but for various reasons are unable to attend church. They are interested in the “goings on” at SCPC. Many of them watch the cablecasts, read the Good News, communicate regularly with the church office and keep in touch with other active members. I am sure I can speak for most deacons when I say that when they made their first visit they were nervous and didn’t know exactly what to expect. But what we found, is that these wonderful people welcome us into their homes, tell us stories of their history with Sharon Church, and share their lives and faith with us. At our meetings, we share our stories of home visits to encourage and support new deacons. Being a deacon, visiting our “At Home” members, I have made new friends and connections with an amazing part of our



Do you know someone in need of medical supplies?
Please call Joe Sharkey
412-264-8847

DEACONS BEREAVEMENT

The sheaf of wheat that the Deacons present to the family of a deceased member of Sharon Church is the representative of the body and the life everlasting. The wheat is often placed in the casket and is one way the Deacons reach out to our church families with care and love. A sympathy card is also sent to let the families know that our church family is here for them in their time of sorrow.



Sadly, the church family lost 8 members during 2018. Our prayers and support continue for their families.

Did You Know?

Did you know that there are many ways to volunteer at Sharon Church?

- 1) You can count the offering on Sunday mornings. There are teams of four who serve about every six weeks. It takes less than 30 minutes after worship. Contact Mark Killmeyer
- 2) You can join donate to the West Hills Community Food Bank. Place non-perishables in the container in the narthex.
- 3) You can help operate the screens during worship.



The following online programs offer various daily Bible reading programs through the internet. Most of these program options are free and you may select how you would like to read the Bible, either chronological/historical or Genesis to Revelation (cover to cover). Please take a look and find one that works for you.

Blueletterbible.com—click on *Devotionals*, then *Daily Bible Reading Program*

Biblestudytools.com—click on *Read*, then *Reading Program*

Bible.org

Backtothebible.org

Theconnectpoint.com/biblereadingprogram

Biblica.com—365 Day Reading Plan

On your **phone** you may download the following programs:

Daily Audio Bible:

Dailyaudiobible.com - \$.99 for the iPhone

GENEROSITY COMMITTEE, BY MARK MIZER

Last year I was asked to serve on the Executive Committee for the Pittsburgh Presbytery. I am a believer in the credo, if you are asked to serve; you should, if at all possible and reasonable. (I realize this cannot always be the case.) To me it is part of an unofficial Presbyterian motto: Everything happens for a reason. (This is not necessarily Presbyterian theology, but, it sounds good!) I figured there was a reason I was asked, so, I said yes.

I attended my first meeting on February 5th in the Presbytery office on the Northside of town. As usual, whenever a person does anything Presbytery he or she will always run into very interesting people, laic and clergy, alike.

One of the people on staff in our Presbytery is Brian Wallace who is the assistant to our General Pastor, Sheldon Sorge. During our meeting we were talking in general about the value of our churches in our respective communities. Brian said, "Think about it, no organization does for young families what the church does." There was some light laughter, not knowing he was being very serious. He continued, "The church provides all kind of acceptance and support to families. Kids want to play soccer, but, if they miss a practice, they don't play. If they play basketball or football and miss practice they sit on the bench or don't even make the team. Think about school band. A lot of kids would like to play an instrument in the band but aren't good enough, so they are left out. Those kids become the unacceptable ones who get passed over. But, the church doesn't

do that. Our kids are always welcomed and valued." There was a palpable quiet as it became obvious to everyone there that he was right, joyfully right.

One of the most enjoyable times of our worship service for me is Children's Time when Pastor Becky talks with the kids. Pastor Becky is not afraid to let the kids be themselves and they know they feel at home. They know they are loved and accepted regardless of what happens in school or any other day of the week. They know if they miss a week because they don't feel well or the family has other obligations that particular Sunday, they will be welcomed back the following week. They don't get penalized. They do not have to audition or try-out to determine whether they are 'good' enough to belong. They know they belong. They know they are loved by Pastor Becky and everyone else in our church family.

Our generosity with our church spills over to our kids who can have a pretty difficult time adjusting to all the competitiveness they have in school and with their friends and classmates. Our generosity with our church provides a safe place for our youngsters to be themselves with no secret codes of conduct to follow. Our generosity with our church can be a life changer for kids in making wise and moral decisions that will benefit them for a lifetime. Our generosity with our church can help our kids do for their kids in the future what we are doing for them now.

Thank-you, Brian Wallace, for helping me see the obvious. Everything



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

The 2019 Flowers Calendar is now in the Narthex. If you are interested in having flowers for the Chancel, please sign up. Closer to your chosen time, you will receive form to complete with dedication information.

One week prior to your date, return the form and a check to the church office.

Any questions, call Joan Hubler 412-264-1894

Where is Have you noticed a dear member of our congregation or friend has not been in worship lately?

**Please let Deb Prostko know
412-269-1908 or deborahprostko@yahoo.com**



Goodies

Goodies Needed! Willing Workers will be making 70 small "Easter Bags" for the children of the Food Pantry clients. Donation boxes can be found in the narthex, fellowship hall, and the church office.

Willing Workers - April meeting will be Tuesday the 9th at 9:30AM. Don't forget it's our "in house" auction.

Megan's Life With Little's is a feel good, easy read blog about real mom life. This blog is dedicated to exploring all aspects and experiences of motherhood. Here, you will find advice on how to feel happiness, comfort and confidence during motherhood. Yes, you can ward off those overwhelming and exhausted feelings, and enjoy those kiddos even more! It's comforting to have a community of other moms that are going through the same experiences in the journey of motherhood! Some topics we cover are parenting and family, self care, family finance, organization and much more!

**Follow
My Blog**

You can find the blog www.meganslifewithlittles.com

Thanks for reading!

Mission Opportunities:

FAMILY PROMISE DAY OF SUPPORT
WEDNESDAY, March 13, 2019
AT
ALL SAINTS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
CARNEGIE, PA.



We again have the opportunity to share Christ's love with families who are experiencing a temporary period of homelessness. This mission requires so little time and asks only for talents that most of us have. We need people to prepare and two people to serve a simple evening meal. We need two people to be evening hosts interacting and talking with the guests. We need people to stay overnight. We need two people to drive the van one on the afternoon of March 13th and one in the morning of March 14th. COOK, SERVE, TALK, SLEEP AND DRIVE – if you can do any of these things, God needs you to be his messenger of love to these families in crisis. Please pray about this and contact Stacy Ford at swoody@ksu.edu or sign up on the sheet in the narthex. As you pray consider this, after Paul tells us that we are saved through the gift of faith, he goes on to say that,

Ephesians 2:10, "FOR WE ARE GOD'S WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR US TO DO."

Big
change
starts
small



Pocket Change for Haiti.... May 19th, 2019

Have you been saving your pocket
change?

I'm sure you have heard about the unrest and demonstrations in
Haiti the last two weeks.

Because of this, Deep Springs International had to shut down its
manufacturing facilities.

As a result, hundreds of families will not be getting the chemicals
needed to treat their water.

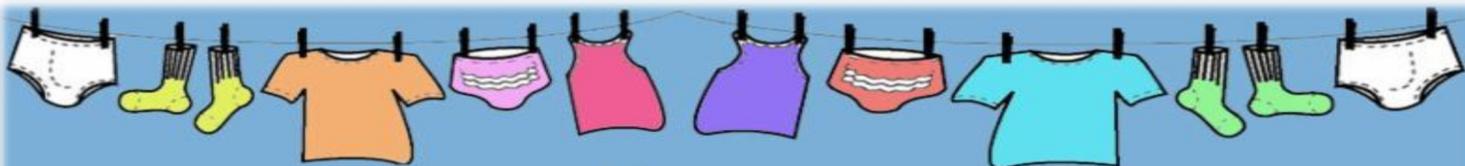
Pray that they will be able to startup soon.

<http://www.deepspringsinternational.org>

— Wayne Schuliger



DEEP
SPRINGS
INTERNATIONAL



Undie Sunday

Please bring new unopened underwear and socks to Formation hour and worship on
April 7, 2019

This is something most of us take for granted but is one of the most needed items. (Any age, size, or gender)



SOLES

SOULS Coming June 2nd

Details coming in May



There are many ways to contribute to the church. You don't have to be on a committee to have ideas, suggestions, or volunteer. Talk to an Elder, a Deacon, or Becky

Easter Memorials

*During March we will once again be offering
Easter flowers or donations to the
West Hills Food Pantry in
memory or honor of loved ones.
Forms are in your bulletins
or on the counter in the Narthex.
They are due by Sunday, March 31st.*



The Deacons will be visiting and delivering Easter Flowers to our home bound and care facility members. We look forward to visiting and catching up with them. ~Gladys



Maundy Thursday

4/18/19

A soup supper and intergenerational worship with communion will be held in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM

Easter

4/21/19

9:30 – 10:30 AM - **Breakfast**

(casseroles, quiches, fruit, sweet rolls, doughnuts, coffee, tea, and juice)

10:00 – 10:45 AM Easter Egg Hunt/Activity for Older Children

The younger kids will do an egg hunt (with candy/stickers/small toys) and the older kids will do an egg hunt that is part of a cooperative activity.

11:00 AM – Worship Service





Save the Date:

Saturday, April 27th 8:00 am-noon

The Boy Scouts will be joining us to spruce up the church.

Church Directory Updates Needed!

Have you moved? Changed your phone number? Changed your email address? If so, please let the church office know secy@sharoncpc.com or 412-264-7400. We would like the most up to date information prior to making directories for the congregation.



Judy Haluka will host a CPR/AED refresher class Saturday May 11th.

Please mark your calendar.

You never know when you might save a life!

This is a very informative class with a great instructor with years of experience and stories.



The Sounds of Pittsburgh has rescheduled their free concert for us and the community for

Monday May 13th.

Please watch for further details and feel free to invite a friend or neighbor or both.

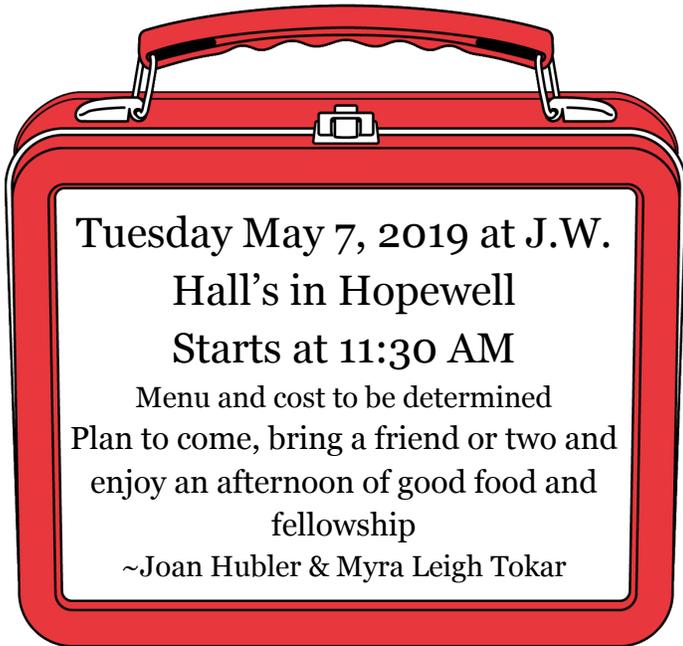
The Membership Committee will be sponsoring the annual church picnic on

Sunday, August 11, 2019

We will be asking all "professional picnickers" to help out. Contact Deb Prostko 412-269-1908



*Willing Workers
Spring Luncheon*



The Good News

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*"Caring People Reaching
Out To Others"*

