

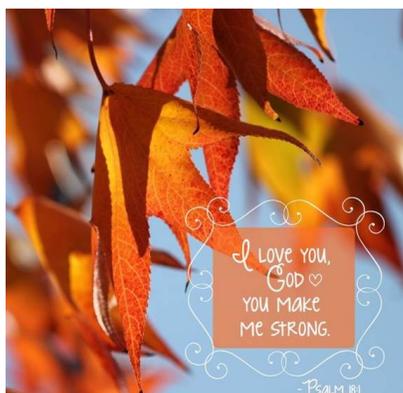
The Good News

Dear Sharon Faithful,

As the cooler air creeps in and the leaves reveal the magnificence of their hidden colors, I can't believe Thanksgiving is right around the corner! I also find it astounding that it's been nearly 21 months that we have weathered the effects of a worldwide pandemic together. For so many of us, this time seems alike a blur of problem-solving, crisis intervention, and adaptation. Very few of us are living our lives just as we were two years ago when our annual November quandary was who's coming for Thanksgiving and what shall I serve?

My son recently shared with me a stunning observation made about our collective survival being studied in scholarly circles. He shared that right now is the first time in human history that our greatest resource in a global crisis/pandemic is *not* primarily the wisdom and experience of elder generations, but the ingenuity and creativity of our youth. Now, in fairness, Ben squarely represents "the youth." However, it is an interesting observation that because of our dependency on *technology* during this pandemic, our dependency on the inventiveness and resourcefulness of our younger generations has likewise dramatically increased—apparently disproportionately increased!

We have all experienced the countless changes in *how* we live our lives that, in all likelihood, will not return to how they used to be. We now regularly use online, digital, or virtual platforms for basic communication, scheduling appointments, holding meetings, ordering groceries, managing finances, purchasing insurance, buying cars, doctor's visits, and, dare I say, even worship!



These past two weeks, while my son was very ill in England and couldn't leave his dorm, I was able to send him food and medication from my laptop, ordering and having goods delivered to his doorstep from local vendors in the U.K. And although his illness was distressing, it felt like I was able to offer a modicum of help, relief and presence through such advances in modern technology. Maybe you've had similar experiences connecting with your loved ones online or virtually across

the county, the state, the country or abroad during the pandemic, especially when travel was limited or it was necessary to take health precautions?

It seems like the way we live in the world has changed and quickly! And I wonder (and frankly worry) if some people are feeling left behind in this wave of technological advancement and dependency. While those with computers and grandchildren have support in learning how to Facetime or Skype or find the church service online, what about those who do not?



In This Issue...

Welcome New
Members...2

Music Ministry ...3

Children & Family
Ministry...4

Funky Fellowship
Operation Christmas
Child...5

Mission Committee
News...6

Inspirational Deacons'
Message
Prayer Requests...7

Generosity Update...8

Worship News
Christmas Cantata
Christmas Dedications...9

Session Contact
Information...10

Announcements and
Reminders...11

Fall Workday...Back Cover

Here at the church, we have been updating our infrastructure and expanding our digital capabilities and processes in worship and administration, laying the proverbial track as we engineer the train at the same time! And it's not unusual for someone to ask, "Why don't we have certain features or programming or services?" And my honest answer is always the same, "We don't know how!" We haven't learned a certain technology, yet, or we lack the resources, namely people with expertise or time to help.

This new, changing world is pushing us all out of our comfort zones and into the uncomfortable space of asking for help when we need it. When things don't work like they used to, we need people! We need to hear God's calling to reach out, speak up and let our friends and family and church know that we are feeling isolated or overwhelmed by something that *used to* work for us, but now does not. In this new, changing world no one has to be left behind! Just as the fall season reveals the many layers of colors in the changing leaves—the vibrant reds and yellows and oranges—I believe that we, too, were created with countless layers of strength, resilience and adaptation.



So, I wonder, as we are all hurled into this new, technological world together, what are the colors, inside of you, yet to be revealed? What are your hidden strengths and talents? How is God showing you new ways to serve and support others as the world grows and changes at lightning speed?

Perhaps you are a person with great compassion? Perhaps you have incredible courage and vision? Perhaps you are intellectually curious and a natural learner and organizer? Maybe you have the gift of gab and friendship or humor and kindness? Maybe your gift is being a steady presence? Just like the leaves, there is more in us than just one color, and, as the world changes, God gives the opportunity to reveal more of ourselves and help shape a growing world.

The entire Bible is one big monograph of change: a faithful witness of how people evolved with God and how God empowered growth through God's people in times of plenty and in times of crisis and suffering. No one human stays the same in the Bible. The goal of biblical hope and wisdom is for the faithful to stay connected with God, and dedicate our minds, bodies, souls and strength to God as God shows us *how* to change and grow—ourselves and the world around us.



Beloved, there are layers of gifts and strengths and colors inside of you. And as the seasons change, may we find inspiration in the colors of the leaves as we are mindful that God is always changing and growing us. Thanks be to God!

In Faith, In Christ,

Becky



I cannot express how happy we are to join Sharon Church with our daughter. Everything was just perfect and brought tears to my eyes while we were standing up there. To be greeted and remembered by some of the members from when I was younger really made me feel welcomed!

We will see you again soon and thank you for everything!

~ Lee and Courtney Gass (with baby Embree)

Music Ministry



Welcome Kaylee Allmond, Worship Co-Leader and Vocalist

Kaylee Allmond is a Musician and Actress who hails from the Asheville, North Carolina area. Her training comes from UNC Chapel Hill in Dramatic Art and Western Carolina University in Music. She came to Pittsburgh to pursue her Master of Music in Vocal Performance and Master of Business Administration from Duquesne University.

In her free time, she teaches Guitar and Piano to young musicians at New Groove Music Studio. She currently serves as the Voice Area Assistant at Duquesne University's Mary Pappert School of Music. Recently she began serving as a Student Ambassador for Pittsburgh Opera and Sharon Church's worship vocalist and co-leader.



Reintroducing Dick Shirra, Worship Vocalist

Dick Shirra is no stranger to most of you at Sharon Church. He and his wife Sally have been members since they moved here in 1979 as a result of a steel company merger. Because of the blessings of genetics, on his mother's side, Dick has a beautiful tenor voice and the first thing he did was to join Sharon's Chancel Choir. This is something that he is passionate about, having been singing in church choirs since his mother took him to the Methodist Church Choir since the age of 10. His feeling is that this is the gift God gave him and he should use it to the fullest.

The other passion in Dick's life is his family. Anytime he can get together with his girls, their spouses and his grandkids it is a good day. Usually a part of these festivities, involves something else which Dick enjoys. A good bottle of wine (preferably dry and red). He also enjoys University of Pittsburgh sports.



Because of Covid, the music program at Sharon Church has had to make adjustments, but Dick is really enjoying singing with the young professionals who compose our music team.

Children and Family Ministry

Our families had a spooktacular night on October 16th

Everyone enjoyed the food, games, crafts, costumes, goodies, and, most importantly, the fellowship.

Thank you to everyone who attended and for all the help making this event a success!



Fall Family Cookout and Fun Night!



CHILDREN'S Ministry



Children's Church is for ages 4 and up during the worship hour (10am–11am). Children will sit with their parents until dismissed after the children's message.

Nursery care is available for ages 3 and under upon request. Please contact Sarah Painter children@sharoncpc.com or (412) 680-4228 to arrange for nursery care.

FUNKY FELLOWSHIP AND SPOOKY SCAVENGER HUNT

Sunday October 31st after worship on the SCPC Patio

After church everyone is invited to gather on the Patio to share in some fall treats. The children will be led in an outdoor scavenger hunt by Ms. Sarah Painter.

The Deacons will be providing cookies, cider and other refreshments.



Operation Christmas Child

National Collection Week is November 15th–22nd

This year's goal is to bless **50** children all around the world! Here's how you can participate in this rewarding experience:



- ◆ Pick up your shoebox, labels, and directions in the narthex beginning on Sunday, November 7th.
- ◆ Fill your shoebox with suggested items, secure with a rubber band, and attach the label.
- ◆ Return your shoebox to the church with \$9 (cash or check made out to Sharon Community Presbyterian Church) to cover shipping no later than Sunday, November 21st.
- ◆ *Build a Shoebox Online* is available for \$25 (shipping included). You get to select the items for the shoebox, add a personalized greeting, and track your shoebox all the way to its destination. For details, visit www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child

More information will be coming soon including a website link to our church's **Shoebox Goal Page** - pack 50 boxes by Sunday, November 21st!

Mission Committee News

Support the West Hills Food Pantry Families

During the month of November, the Mission Committee will be collecting donations of \$20 for the clients of West Hills Food Pantry.



The Food Pantry uses these donations to purchase gift cards for their clients.

Gift cards allow the people the dignity of purchasing their own gifts for their families. Cash donations allow the West Hills Food Pantry more flexibility in providing the gift cards.

If you would like to make a donation:

1. Please write: “*Mission Committee Food Pantry Gift Card Donation*” on an envelope.
2. Place \$20 cash or check made payable to *Sharon Community Presbyterian Church* with “Food Pantry Gift Card” written on the memo line in the envelope.
3. Place the envelope the offering plate in the narthex, or send it to the church office or put them in the mail slot at the office entrance to the church.
4. If you opt to make a cash donation, please donation be sure to include your name.

All donations must be received by November 28th

Thank You

for helping to make the holidays more cheerful for the food pantry clients.

Save the Date! Christmas Cookie Outreach



The Mission Committee and Christian Formation Committee are joining forces to sponsor a Christmas Cookie Outreach event:

When: Sunday, December 5th

Where: Fellowship Hall

What: At 11 AM You are invited to help fill the cookie bags and take a bag of cookies to our homebound members, friends and neighbors in need of Christ’s love this Christmas.

Please join us after worship to get bags to deliver to people!

Refreshments will be available in Fellowship Hall.

Inspirational Words from the Deacons

As Thanksgiving quickly approaches, we know that this is a time when we focus on thankfulness, togetherness, family, gratitude, and so much more. Last year was difficult for many of us because the gatherings we usually participate in were quite different due to Covid. A lot of people felt an emotional void from the lack of physical togetherness and fellowship with people closest to our heart.

This November we recognize that it is even more special to gather together because we were not able to last year. The silver lining is that we are drawn even closer to our Lord, and closer to the ones we hold dear. We are so grateful this year that we have each other, and have a fresh outlook on how very special that is.



For Thanksgiving this year we will all be mindful of how thankful we are to our Lord for being able to celebrate together and express gratitude in a way that we are most familiar with. Let that warm our hearts this Holiday Season, and be even more grateful that we have each other in our lives.

Upcoming Dates:

- † Next Deacons' Meeting: **November 14th**
- † Advent begins: **Sunday, November 28th**
- † Delivery of Bread to the At Home and Concerns List: **November 28th**
- † Home Communion Delivery for December and January: **November 28th**



- ◆ Judy Nicastro
- ◆ Sally Shirra
- ◆ Miriam Wolf
- ◆ Clyde and Ruth Meanor
- ◆ Arla Gracey
- ◆ Amy Rucker
- ◆ Barb Cain
- ◆ Pam Weiland
- ◆ Joe Sharkey
- ◆ John Yeck
- ◆ Ben Branch-Trevathan
- ◆ Sarah Painter
- ◆ Abby and Joyce Zalucky
- ◆ Homebound members of the church
- ◆ Friends suffering from effects of Covid-19
- ◆ Distribution of the Covid-19 Vaccine

Email your prayer requests to:
sharonprayerchain@sharoncpc.com
or call 412-264-7400.



It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of the *second* year of COVID. Who would have thought?

In June of this year, many of us thought COVID was going to fizzle out in no time at all. We thought we were in the final stretch, only to have another wave of this seemingly never-ending pandemic. If you are tired, disappointed, maybe even disillusioned, you are not alone.

The bible is full of stories of tired, disappointed, and disillusioned people. They yell at God and one another. They stomp their feet, they tear their clothes, sometimes they even make bad decisions. But the one constant in our sacred story is God and God's benevolence toward us. We must remember that God's love is steadfast and that God's faithfulness endures forever.



Because God's love is steadfast, we, Sharon Church, have made our way even in the middle of a global pandemic that is tearing at almost every corner of the fabric of our lives. In the midst of all the turmoil we have seen in our lives that has caused us to be tired, disappointed, and disillusioned, God is still here, and so are we. That might be the very best, most truthful, gratitude we can offer this year. But that means a

lot, and maybe, just maybe, we can give thanks for the fact that we're still here, 'hanging in.'

I hope you'll take a moment to consider what it means that you're still here. Maybe, just maybe, we can give thanks for the fact that we are all here because "God's faithfulness endures forever." Praise be to God, because that's enough.

As we approach Thanksgiving, this is the perfect time to thank you all so very much for your generous financial support of Sharon Church through these challenging times. Your ongoing willingness to share a portion of your gifts from God has allowed Sharon Church to do both in-person and online worship each week, continuing our important ministry and mission in our community.

May you all have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving!

~ Todd Carter

Please note that for 2022, you may see a change in the Offering Envelope number assigned to you.

As we continue to work to be good stewards of the gifts we receive, we have discovered that many folks are now opting to give on-line, or to send an auto-donation to the church. Therefore, we have decided to reduce the number of boxes of Giving Envelopes we order. In doing so, the church saves money and eliminates waste.

However, this also means we have reduced the range of giving numbers, so you may discover that you have been assigned a new number for 2022.

We don't want you to be surprised when the new envelopes are available later in the year!



Worship News

The Worship, Music & Arts Committee will meet Monday November 22nd at 10 AM to decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. We would love to have more volunteers join us. All of the supplies are already at the church; just bring yourself!

Please contact Chira Cratsley (chira.cratsley@gmail.com; 412.956.7489) or Bob Lintner (blintner401@gmail.com; 724.457.8054) for more information.



Calling All Singers

On the third week of Advent, the SCPC Choir will be presenting George Frederic Handel's *Messiah* arranged by Hal Hopson. This Cantata will be offered in worship during the 10:00 a.m. church service on December 12th. All those who love to sing are invited to participate!

For the safety of our singers and congregation, participants are required to wear masks in rehearsals as well as in worship and will be

reasonably distanced from one another. If anyone already has a "singer's mask," these are welcomed.

We are still actively seeking singers from the congregation and welcome any who might want to join us from elsewhere!

No audition is required, all are welcomed—even those with no musical experience.



Cantata Rehearsals:



- Begin on October 31st and run through December 5th.
- Take place following the church service in the sanctuary.
- Will run from 11 AM to 12/12:30 PM.

CHRISTMAS DEDICATIONS

Poinsettias are available at a cost of \$8.50 each if you'd like to purchase one or more poinsettias in memory and/or or in honor of a loved one.

Orders must be received by the church office no later than Friday, December 3rd.

Please see the order form insert in this issue of the *Good News* for details.

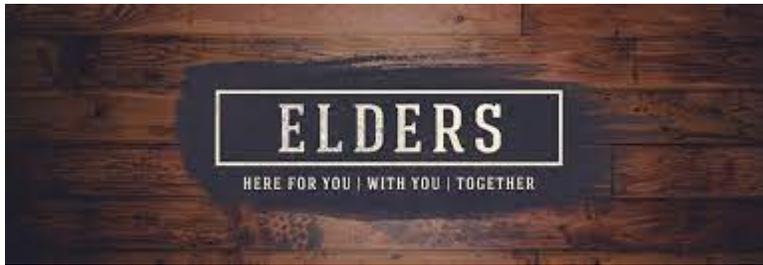


Session Contact Information

Rev. Becky Branch-Trevathan, Moderator
407-949-2816
pastorbecky@sharoncpc.com

Todd Carter, Clerk of Session
thcarter702@gmail.com 412-269-0780

Mark Killmeyer, Treasurer
mark.a.killmeyer@peoples-gas.com 412-262-2028



CLASS OF 2022

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Sarah Painter	children@sharoncpc.com	412-680-4228
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Lorna Phillips	ljp106p@gmail.com	412-331-0916

Announcements and Reminders



Congratulations to Mark and Karen Killmeyer who welcomed their second grandchild: Harper Rayne Carvalho, daughter of Julian and Jamie (Killmeyer) Carvalho and sister to Grady Thomas Carvalho. Harper was born in the morning on September 25th, was 20 inches long and weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz.



Ruth and Clyde Meanor have moved to a new place at the Apple Blossom. Their new address is:

125 Apple Blossom Way
Room 229
Moon Twp., PA 15108

Their new phone number is:
(412) 375-8400

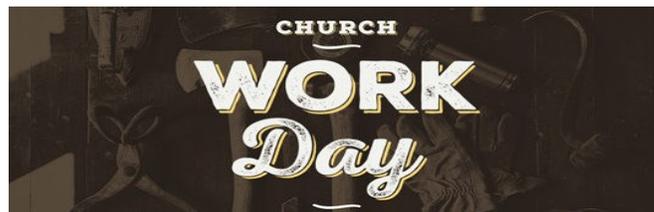
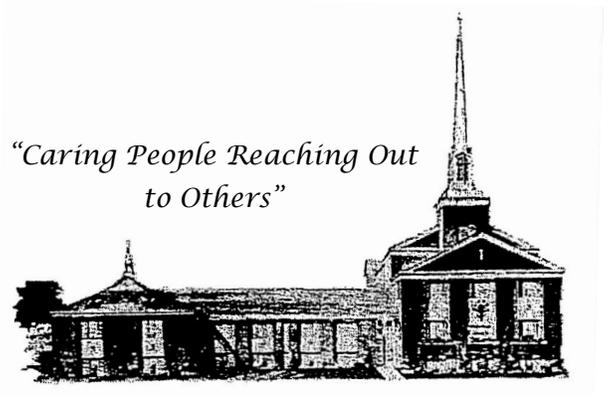


The Good News

Sharon Community Presbyterian Church

522 Carnot Road

Moon Township, PA 15108-2317



Sharon Church is blessed with many beautiful trees and flower beds - now it's time for the Annual Fall Clean-Up of the Sharon Church grounds! We encourage everyone who can participate to help on Saturday, November 20th from 8 AM to Noon.

We need help raking leaves, fertilizing the lawn, trimming bushes, and doing general clean-up outside around the church. Please bring a rake if you have one. Juice and doughnuts will be served.

You do not have to come for the full four hours, come whenever you can, for as long as you can.

Questions? Call Rob Hamsher: 412-913-5252.

