

The Good News

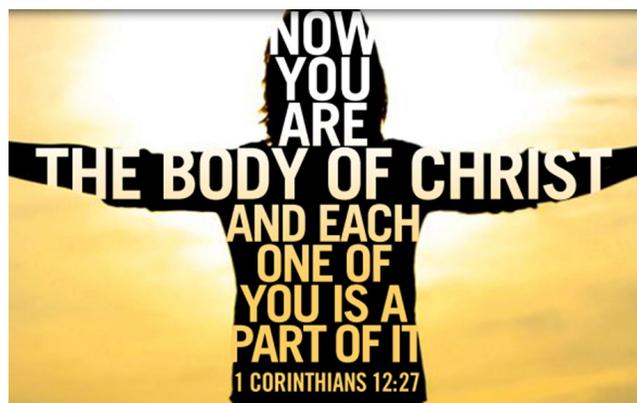
Dear Sharon Faithful,

This summer, I offered a preaching series on the mission and ministry of the apostle Paul. When I stay with one topic or one person in scripture, it is always a chance to deepen and discover new sides to an old friend—someone we've known for a while and knew that their favorite color was blue, but we never asked why it was blue? It feels so good to deeply know someone and learn of their many treasures.

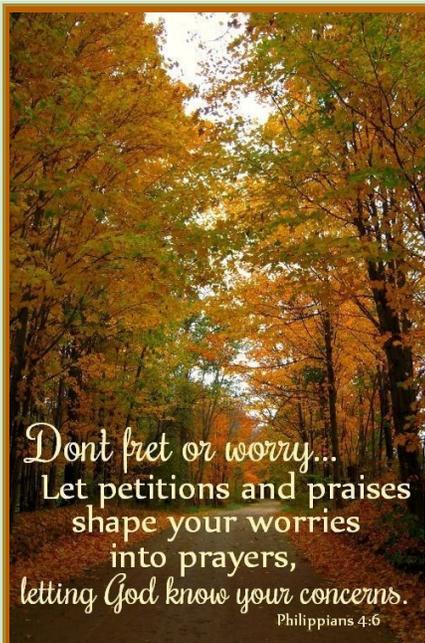
And as I re-engaged this old friend, I was drawn to Paul's "zeal" for including everyone in the love of God and the salvation of God through the risen Jesus. He uses this word himself, "zeal!" Early in his life he was "zealous for the traditions of his ancestors" (Gal 1:14) and had "zeal" as a persecutor the church (Philip 3:6). Yet, after his encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus, his zeal for condemning followers of Jesus was transformed into a zeal for spreading the good news that Jesus the Christ had come for all—not just the Jews, but the Gentiles, too!

Paul gives us the lasting metaphor of the church as the Body of Christ: where we form one body with many members and various functions, and individually we *belong* to one another (Rom 12:4-5). As Paul grew in his own faith, his zeal for the body of Christ, the church grew as well. He didn't see his personal spirituality or religiosity as the best manifestation of God in Christ or the best demonstration of God's saving grace in the world.

So, he nurtured and gathered disparate, diverse people into one Body and called them Christ's church. Believing that together we had the best chance of building-up and reflecting Christ's love in the world. Together we would be stronger. Together we would lift each other up. Together we would belong to God and belong to one another. Together we would ultimately create something larger than ourselves—a living Body that points to God's creative presence.



When our session met last month, I had in mind Paul's vision of belonging to God and each other as one Body. We shared a meal for the first time in well over a year, and for our formation time, we walked our prayer labyrinth together, centering our thoughts on *belonging*.



Don't fret or worry...
Let petitions and praises
shape your worries
into prayers,
letting God know your concerns.
Philippians 4:6

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Staff Update

Now, the purpose of a walking meditation is to give God lots of room to speak, and as our elders walked the labyrinth and opened their hearts and minds up to God’s voice, here are some of the things God said...

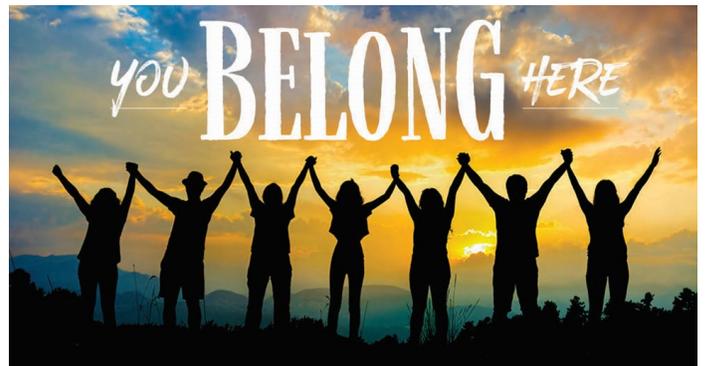
- In belonging... there is a longing for so many things.
- Belonging is a desire.
- Here I am Lord! Am I lost? Should I keep going?
- Follow your own path. Don’t get distracted. Keep going.
- Do I belong here? Yes. Am I going to get lost here? No. Am I serving you here? Yes.
- What is my purpose? Why am I here? There were visions of tunnels, many tunnels.
- I got dizzy and distracted. I got lost right from the start.
- I kept hearing, “Stay in the lines!”
- I am the resurrection and the life. Your source.
- The movement was distracting—people come and go, we move along, and don’t engage.
- You belong in this place and this time.
- I feel pulled in many directions.
- I was at ease with all of the people, better than walking alone.

As the elders shared with one another their reflections, I wondered how many of you may be feeling some of the same things—wondering where you belong, what your purpose is, feeling lost or scared or overwhelmed, reassured or affirmed or encouraged?

You are God’s people and whatever you may be feeling today, together we are the Body of Christ. Here to lift each other up, here to belong to one another in God’s name. So, if you have not been at church or in fellowship with God’s people—praying for others, learning, leading or giving to the Body—I encourage you to step out in faith and show up.

If you are going to the grocery store or on vacation, you can certainly come to church. Our Covid-19 mitigation measures create a safe, worshipful space and the opportunity to participate in the living Body of Christ. You are not alone in whatever you may be feeling—we are all in this together. So, come! Re-engage your zeal for Christ, for belonging, and for serving your church.

With Zeal,



Sunday Fellowship and Food Truck

September 19th after Worship @11 AM

Outside on the SCPC Patio

Please join us Sunday, September 19 for a Fellowship and Food Truck event on the SCPC Patio following Worship. We are excited to have **JD’s Dahntahn Dogs** here to offer lunch items including hotdogs, kiel-basa, pulled pork and homemade mac ‘n’ cheese for purchase. (Here is a link to their menu: dahntahndogs.com.) There will also be games and activities for the kids. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Stay tuned for information for another Fellowship and Food Truck event on Sunday, October 10.

Children and Family Ministry



Our Fall Schedule will begin on Sunday, September 19th, 2021. We will not be resuming Online Sunday School for the Fall. Children may attend in person during the service.

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

Stay after church to enjoy a food truck (hot dogs, kielbasa, pulled pork, etc.), activities for the kids, and fellowship!

Fall Family Events



What: **FALL FAMILY FUN NIGHT**

When: **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16TH (RAIN DATE OCTOBER 17TH)**

Time: **6 PM – 8 PM**

Where: **SCPC PATIO**

Kids (and adults) are invited to wear their costumes, paint pumpkins, enjoy a cookout, and compete in minute-to-win-it style games. There will be lots of candy, prizes, and glow-in-the-dark fun!



What: **FUNKY FELLOWSHIP**

When: **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31ST**

Time: **11 AM – 1 PM**

Where: **SCPC PORTICO**



Join us after church for some snacks, drinks, and Funky Fellowship on the portico, followed by a Spooky Scavenger Hunt!

**ScAVenGER
Hunt!**



Volunteers Needed!

We would like to once again offer **Nursery** care on Sundays during worship for families with children ages 3 and under. We are asking for volunteers who can be available from 9:30am-11:30am.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist in **Children's Church**. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Painter at (412) 680-4228, or email children@sharoncpc.com. Be part of the fun!

A-Maze-Ing Kids Exploring the Labyrinth During Children's Church



It is our joy and delight to share the Lord's Supper together as God's people the first Sunday of every month. Communion reminds us of our calling to be the body of Christ—one unified, strong church with many and various parts—who work together to witness God's love until Christ comes again.

So, the Deacons are delivering Home Communion to all members who are unable to attend church at this time that we may be gathered and strengthened around the Lord's Table together.

The Deacons will contact you for a convenient time to deliver a Communion Kits of a packaged juice and wafer. If we are unable to reach you, we will simply leave the Home Communion on your doorstep.

If you would like receive Home Communion, but are not currently on our delivery list, please contact Anna in the front office or you may to come by the church during office hours, where we have more Communion Kits available.



Pastor Becky

Deacons 2021-22



Co-Moderators: Rhiannon Michaels and Megan Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer: Lori Painter

CLASS OF 2022

Patricia Brunette	pattyb422@yahoo.com	724-457-6137
Al Hiney	ahiney@msn.com	412-262-2911
Vikki Lukac	vikkilukac@gmail.com	412-303-4581
Lori Painter	loripainter@yahoo.com	412-299-0141
Kathy Smith	kls522@verizon.net	412-269-1382

CLASS OF 2023

Jan McGuire	pmcj210@msn.com	412-262-1781
Philip Squires	philip.squires@my.pittsburgh.chefs.edu	724 366-0621
Megan Anderson	manderson9916@gmail.com	412-596-3982
Rhiannon Michaels	rhiannon.michaels@pwc.com	412-997-8907

CLASS OF 2024

Jan Benard	janbenard@comcast.net	412-262-2237
Deb Williams	wdebbie06@gmail.com	412-269-1643
Al Zalucky		724-683-0133

Music Ministry

Thank You Rob and Amy Rucker!



It has been a pleasure and joy to work closely with Rob and Amy and we would like to wish them well in their move to Cincinnati, OH. I'm sure you share my sentiment that they have greatly blessed Sharon Church with their musical talents and gifts, and will be sorely missed.

Amy has accepted an amazing position in Cincinnati as the Principal Accompanist, College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati Youth Choirs and will continue her role as Director of Early Childhood Music Outreach, Wyoming Fine Arts Center (Wyoming OH). Rob will continue his position as Student Success Counselor at South University.

Rob will continue to work for SCPC remotely as our Music Administrator collaborating on music selection, arranging music, coaching musicians, and providing digital support. He will serve as a Music Administrator until we are able to hire a Worship/Music Leader.

Welcome Miah Sirianni

Miah Sirianni is a sophomore music education major with a concentration in voice at Duquesne University, right here in Pittsburgh! At Duquesne, Miah has sung with "Pappert Chorale" and currently sings with the "Voices of Spirit". She is also the treasurer of the American Choral Directors Association chapter at Duquesne University.

Before her time at Duquesne, Miah performed in the Disney World Candlelight Processional with celebrity narrator Whoopi Goldberg. After graduating from Duquesne, Miah hopes to become a high school choir director!



Welcome Back Alex Weibel

Alex Weibel is a Pittsburgh-based musician and educator from Robinson Township, PA. He is currently a part of Duquesne University's music education program where he is expected to receive his Bachelor's in Music Education in the spring of 2022.

Alex studies under Eric Susoeff and maintains a keen interest in jazz performance and pedagogy, as well as a focus in popular music in the general music classroom. As a performer, his work can be found particularly in musical scoring, studio recording, and within Pittsburgh's vibrant jazz scene where he acts both as a musician-for-hire and the guitarist in his own band, Milestones.

Alex maintains this career on top of a busy schedule teaching multiple students at varying skill levels across Pittsburgh, providing him with a unique performance-education balance.

Introducing Dr. Hanna Chung



A native of South Korea, Hanna Chung is a classically trained pianist. Growing up as a daughter of Methodist Pastor, she has been praising God's glory through her musical talent. She served as a church pianist for more than 20 years.

She holds Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Collaborative Piano from University of Texas at Austin and Master of Music degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music from Eastman School of Music.

Hanna recently relocated to Neshanock Township from Texas to start her new job as an Adjunct Faculty of School of Music at Westminster College. In her free time, she likes to cook.



- ◆ Al and Gail Hiney, who recently lost Gail's sister Lois to cancer
- ◆ Clyde and Ruth Meanor
- ◆ Arla Gracey
- ◆ Barb Cain
- ◆ Pam Weiland
- ◆ Cindy Roberts
- ◆ Joe Sharkey
- ◆ All students and teachers who are returning to school, as well as all parents
- ◆ Homebound members of the church
- ◆ Friends suffering from effects of Covid-19
- ◆ Distribution of the Covid-19 Vaccine

- † John Taylor, who passed away on May 24.
- † Phyllis Rucker, Rob Rucker's mother, who passed away on June 3.
- † Jerry Campbell, who passed away on August 4.
- † Kathy Castanza, who passed away on Monday, August 16.
- † Rick Stellfox, Cori Weber's father, who passed away Saturday, August 21.

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

Worship News

HELP WANTED!



The Worship, Music, and Arts Committee would like to send a huge thank you to our dedicated Worship Team: Chira Cratsley, Tom Capkovic, Todd Carter, and Mark Killmeyer, who make worship possible in the sanctuary and online each week! We are so grateful for your time and talents!

Are YOU looking for an opportunity to serve Sharon Church? We would love to have more volunteers to help run the behind-the-scenes of worship on Sundays. Please consider joining the Worship Team and sharing your skills with us. No prior experience is required as Tom, Todd, and Mark are happy to train all volunteers!

Contact Chira Cratsley (chira.cratsley@gmail.com or 412.956.748) if you are willing to give it a try! Thank you!



Chira, Mark, Tom and Todd
(Volunteers from left to right)



Following CDC guidelines for COVID-19 mitigation, SCPC returned to masking in worship and on the church campus. The staff, church members and all outside groups using the church campus are asked to wear masks while in indoor spaces *regardless of vaccination status*.

When the COVID-19 virus spreads, the virus mutates into new versions or variants of the virus that are able to infect new populations of people. Currently, the Delta variant of COVID-19 has proven to “break-through” or infect and transmit through even vaccinated people.

Therefore, the CDC recommends that **all people** (vaccinated and unvaccinated) should mask indoors when COVID-19 transmission rates are “substantial” or “high.” Allegheny County and all surrounding counties are now designated in the “high” transmission or spread rate.

The COVID-19 vaccine is available for anyone ages 12 and older in the U.S. and has proven to reduce the severity of the virus and decrease hospitalizations. Children under the age of 12 are still *not* eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. If you or anyone you know has been hesitant to be vaccinated, please be encouraged to speak with a doctor about getting it for your safety and to slow the spread and mutation of the virus itself.

Our goal is to continue to gather and worship in person together safely. So, WMA asks that we follow the guidance of the ushers for seating and practice appropriate spacing in sanctuary and narthex. We plan to continue fellowship on the Portico and the SCPC Patio, and ask everyone to observe social distancing. When transmission rates decline in our area, we will lift precautions.

For those unable to attend worship, we will continue broadcasting our services live online Sunday mornings at 10 AM through the SCPC website <https://www.sharoncpc.com/>. Thank you for your role in maintaining a safe and healthy worship environment at SCPC!

~ Your Worship, Music & Arts Committee

Welcome Back Willing Workers!

After a very long hiatus, the Willing Workers are meeting again at Sharon Church! They enjoyed their first time of fellowship on Tuesday, September 7th in Fellowship Hall.



If you are not a member of Willing Workers, you are invited to join them at noon the first Tuesday of the month to experience the joy of fellowship, friendship and fun. As they will tell you, *“We are a small group who meet monthly and offer friendship and fellowship to each other, and provide small donations to worthy causes throughout the year. We would love to have you join us.”*

The next get together will be on **Tuesday, October 5th noon in Fellowship Hall**. Please bring a bagged lunch and drink.

SCPC Groups

MEN’S PRAYER GROUP

The Men’s Group is meeting weekly on Wednesday mornings in Room 208 from 8 AM—9:30 AM. Contact Wayne Schuliger (412-262-4788 or pumpkinpaxx@gmail.com) if you would like more information.



PRAYING LADIES

The Women’s Prayer Group is meeting via Zoom the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30 PM. If you would like more information, please contact Susanne Udvari (412-262-0711 or susanneudvari@gmail.com).

MONDAY SMALL GROUP

The Monday Small Group will start meeting at SCPC on Monday, October 4 from 6—7:30 PM in Room 202. If you would like more information, please contact Donna Kovatch (724-457-7714 or donnakovatch@comcast.net).

Mission Committee News

The Mission & Outreach Committee has been planning & discerning for the months ahead at SCPC, and we saw a need in our nation after several recent natural disasters. We want make you all aware of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) mission- a focus within the Presbyterian Church USA. We typically participate in giving to PDA through One Great Hour of Sharing during the Lenten Season, but due to COVID, we did not collect this offering in 2021.

Below is information about the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's goal to deliver immediate aid to those impacted by Hurricane Ida. Initial assessment suggests catastrophic destruction from the storm and widespread power outages are expected to take weeks to fully restore.

After initial needs are addressed, PDA will remain — providing emotional and spiritual care and Long-Term Recovery to address unmet needs. **If your heart feels called to give, please see the information below for more details.** Please keep those deeply affected by Hurricane Ida in your prayers.

You may also go to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's website to find out more ways to pray and donate to those in need around the world: <https://pda.pcusa.org/>

With God's Love,

Your Mission & Outreach Committee

*Kilee Bomgardner, Lorna Phillips,
Wayne Schuliger, and
Grace Peters*

God is our refuge and strength *therefore, we will not fear, though the waters roar and foam.*

(Psalm 46)

The need for the response is great.

God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP"
— Give. Act. Pray.



GIVE: Gifts can be made online via QR Code:

- by phone at (800)872-3283,
- or by sending a check to:

*Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),
P.O. Box 643700,
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700*



ACT: Learn how you and your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. Stay informed and like us on Facebook (facebook.com/PDAcares), download resources at pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources and share updates.

PRAY: Pray for those who suffered loss of family or home and for those who are working tirelessly to provide rescue, humanitarian aid, and spiritual and psychological support.



Dear Sharon Church Members,
 I wish to thank you for the many sympathy cards sent after the death of my husband, John Taylor. Due to our declining health, neither of us have been able to attend Sunday Services in several years but we have missed being with you all and taking part in church activities.

*God Bless,
 Elinor Taylor*

Dear Friends at Sharon Church.

Just a note to thank you all for the many cards and prayers. Clyde has been a member longer than any other—since he was a teenager. (He will be 96 this October!)

We miss attending church and hope things will get better soon.

*God Bless,
 Clyde and Ruth Meanor*



*Thinking
 of
 You*

Hello!

It was a great time for me when I visited you (the last Sunday in July) .to see my friends who I haven't seen in several years.

I enjoyed the service and the sermon. "Sharon Church will always be my favorite." 40 + years

*In Christ's Love,
 Roger Behm*

In August our bookkeeper, Kathy Streeter, moved to Columbus, Ohio to be closer to her family—especially her grandkids. Kathy will continue as our bookkeeper from her new home.



She will be in the office periodically to work with Anna and the Finance Committee, but will otherwise work remotely. You may continue to reach Kathy at bookkeeper@sharoncpc.com or leave her a message at the office.

If you need immediate support or have account/bookkeeping questions, you may also speak with Anna in the front office.



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

The Good News

Here I am. Send me.

Isaiah 6:8

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart
I will hold Your people in my heart