



The Good News

Dear Sharon Faithful,

Is it too soon to declare a “post-Covid” world? I remember last fall when many of us believed that the world would soon resume the usual rhythms of pre-Covid life. However, what we’ve learned over these last years is that when the world changed, so did the way we live life. The ways we tend to our basic needs, do our jobs, care for our families, socialize and relate to our community have all shifted into new habits and rhythms.

Throughout Covid, here at the church, we have evolved through iterations of worship styles, fellowship gatherings, children’s events, programming, building management, leadership approaches and even staffing relationships in order to find what works for us today. And then “today” changes and we look for yet another way of being the church!

Yet, what hasn’t changed about the church is God’s faithfulness to us and our ability to express both our grief and gratitude to God, and bounce back from our pain.



The *Bible* is filled with people who bounced back and overcame profound adversity—including plagues! From Moses to Job to David, from Sarah to Ruth and Naomi to Esther, to Mary and Joseph, Christ’s disciples and even the risen Lord himself, the *Bible* narrates stories of struggle, misfortune, injustice and

disaster through the stories of God’s people who overcame hardship with resilience, faith, vision and devotion.

God in scripture is Almighty God who never leaves us and who is constantly gathering us to make us a people, in and for this world. In this *Good News*, you will see a number of invitations to bounce back from the disorientation and malaise of Covid-life (and perhaps out of your pajamas on Sunday morning!) and into an active church-life.

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We all know what it feels like to start-over again! We all recall how it feels to go to school for the first day! At first, it feels strange. It takes a minute to reconnect and build relationships or start anew. Maybe you have changed—a little or a lot? Yet, what hasn't changed is God's love for you and Sharon Church as your church home.

So, maybe *your story* is a biblical story. A story of hardship, struggle, estrangement and maybe even disaster... but also, a story of resilience and faith and restoration—a story of bouncing back! And as Christ's church at Sharon, we know that God is here still gathering us, growing us, and loving us all!

Becky S

RESILIENCE
is the ability
to find the inner
strength to bounce
back from a
SET-BACK OR CHALLENGE

Let's
Bounce Back

"Bounce Back" to Church!

Worship, Picnic & Fellowship

Sunday, September 18th

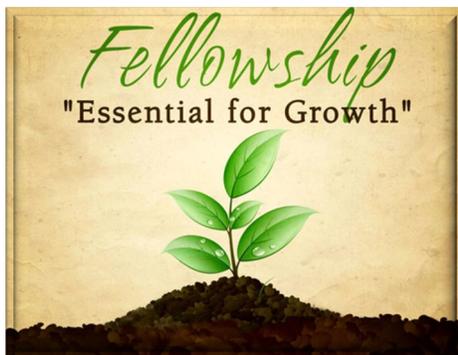
@ 10:30 a.m.



Join us **Sunday, September 18th** to kick-off the new church year for worship and fellowship.

Following church, we will gather on the SCPC Patio for pulled pork and pulled chicken sandwiches, and whichever sides and desserts you'd like to bring and share.

For the kids, we will have chicken tenders and there will be a bounce house and ball pit and a couple more surprises!



Weekly Fellowship with your church family after worship on the Portico through October

In the Winter months, Fellowship will be before worship 10-10:30 in Fellowship Hall



Christian Formation

Every Sunday @ 9:00-10:00 a.m.

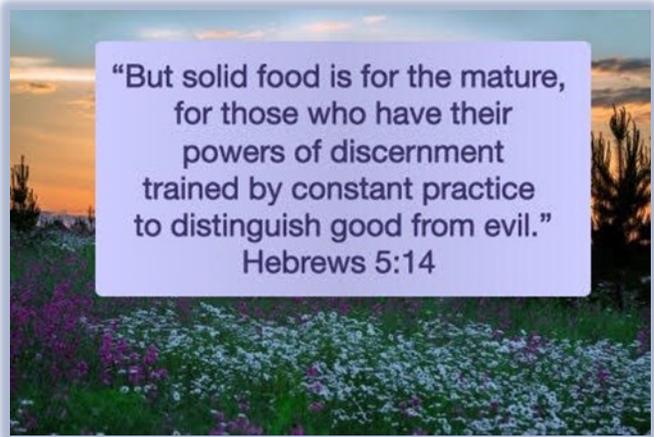
In Fellowship Hall beginning on Sept. 25th

Are you looking to grow in your faith? To further explore scripture and the traditions of the church? Deepen your relationship with the risen Jesus? Are you looking for Christian fellowship, discussion and community?

If you answered, “yes,” to any of the above questions, then please join our Christian Formation group gathering at the church before worship each week. Many of us have become

disconnected from our church family over Covid and are in critical need of spiritual edification, Christian education and community.

Pastor Becky will be gathering and leading us back together each week, offering topical discussion and spiritual strengthening. Jesus said to us that *“where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them”* (Mt 18:19-20). So, please come and engage the presence of the living Lord!



“But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”
Hebrews 5:14

**Child care will be provided
by Ms. Sarah during this time in Room 103**

Worship News

GATHERING TOGETHER TO

Worship

Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.

Sharing Your Joys & Concerns in Worship

Over the summer, you may have noticed that the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee introduced the use of **Prayer Cards** to offer and share our prayers each week during worship. Our greeters will be passing out Prayer Cards as you enter the Narthex at church on Sundays.



Please take a prayer card or cards, and write down your joys and concerns. You may take the card with you to your seat to fill out during worship as God may place a prayer on your heart. An usher will collect your cards from the pews before the

Congregational Prayer. You

may leave your completed prayer cards with any WMA member in the Narthex prior to worship.

During the Congregational Prayer, Pastor Becky will share all of our joys and concerns.

Praying

Joys & Concerns

Ordination and Installation of Church Officers



On Sunday, August 14th, the church ordained and installed Elders and Deacons.

Elders installed were:

- **Kilee Bomgarder**
- **Doug Busch**
- **Bob Lintner**
- **Dick Shirra**

Deacons installed were:

- **Al Hiney**
- **Donna Kovatch**
- **Gladys Sanderbeck**
- **Gail Hiney** was ordained and installed as a Deacon.



Thank you to all of our church officers for answering Christ's call to service at Sharon Church and dedicating your time and talents in leading our congregation in 2022 and beyond.



Music Ministry



Thank You to Our Wonderful Musicians!

It was a blessing to have vocalist Emily Yuretich with us this summer singing with our Worship Team. We have all appreciated her beautiful voice and kind presence each week during worship. Emily, along with Alex Weibel, also did an incredible job leading our children in music during VBS weeks. They were truly a blessing. Congratulations to Emily, who began a new job as a music teacher in the Latrobe Elementary School, where we know the children will be fortunate to have her. While we are sad to see Emily go, she will be back for Christmas and special services, and we wish her all the best in Latrobe.

We'd also like to thank Dick Shirra, Alex Weibel, Hanna Chung and Rob Rucker who continue lead us in weekly worship. We have also enjoyed having George Branch-Trevathan with us on percussion and the Pick-up Choir, too. Thank you to God for blessing us with such dedicated and talented vocalists, musicians and leaders. If YOU have a musical talent, please let WMA know so you can share your gift with the church.



Introducing Lead Vocalist Claire Toomey

Claire Toomey is a classically trained vocalist who has performed both domestically and internationally in genres ranging from opera and art song to musical theater. Due to the pandemic, she left the performing arts field to pursue a career in banking where she currently spends her day to day.

Evenings she spends as much time as she can with her fiancé Justin Field and poodle puppy, Charlotte. She recently started a non-profit cabaret in Pittsburgh, the **Steel City Cabaret**, with a focus of providing performance opportunities to aspiring performers. We are excited to welcome Claire to the SCPC Worship Team!

Choir Notes

The Pick-Up Choir rehearses on **Sundays @ 10:00 a.m.** each week before worship

Beginning on **October 9th @ 11:30 a.m.** (following worship) the **Choir** will be rehearsing special music for the Advent Season & Christmas.



Come lift up your voice to God with us!

Mission & Outreach



***Where there is no vision, the people perish
Proverbs 29:18***

Over the last several months, the Mission & Outreach committee has been discerning the future and direction of our mission relationships at Sharon Church. We started out by taking a look at the many mission partners and projects we have been committed to in the past. Then we posed the question, *“Where do we see our mission efforts going in the next few months and years?”*

We quickly realized that many of our past and current mission commitments directly align with our denomination’s [Matthew 25 Initiative](#)—a mission initiative that encourages PC(USA) churches to have a more relevant presence in the world by focusing our efforts on Christ’s desire for *justice, mercy and building shalom in our communities*.

‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Mt 25:40

The [Matthew 25 Initiative](#) challenges PC(USA) churches to connect with the community, deepen our relationships with our mission partners (and with the risen Lord himself), and celebrate our mission objectives as the body of Christ. It is a mission initiative that offers us denominational support and structure for Sharon Church’s current and future missional commitments.

So, on Sunday, August 21st, the Mission & Outreach Committee presented the [Matthew 25 Initiative](#) to our Session for their approval to become a [Matthew 25 Church](#) who is committed to connect, care and celebrate our mission work—effectively prioritizing our missional efforts. The Session voted unanimously to support the Mission & Outreach Committee as we lead the congregation forward, learning and becoming a [Matthew 25 Church](#).

What’s next? What does this mean for our church?

As the M&O Committee works to discern and clarify our church’s missional commitments, we will continue to offer familiar mission engagements and opportunities for giving.

- ◆ During Christian Formation this fall, Pastor Becky will introduce the [Matthew 25 Initiative](#) as part of our church discussion and discernment process.
- ◆ We are arranging a speaker from the PC(USA) General Assembly Mission Agency to come speak about the Matthew 25 vision in January 2023.
- ◆ You are invited to learn more about the [Matthew 25 Initiative](#) at the PC(USA) denomination’s website here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>
- ◆ The M&O Committee will actively lead the congregation learning more about the [Matthew 25 Initiative](#) and becoming a “church of action.”

By committing to become a [Matthew 25 church](#), we are responding to Christ’s urgent call to be a “church of action,” where God’s love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. Our re-energized faith can unite and connect all of us for a common and holy purpose to continue the mission and ministry of Jesus in the church and in the world.

Please feel free to reach out to the M&O Committee or Pastor Becky with any questions. We are excited to officially become a [Matthew 25 Church](#).

With God’s love,

Your M&O Committee, Kilee Bomgardner, Genie Ford, Grace Peters, Wayne Schuliger

Mission & Outreach

Start Collecting!

Pocket Change for Haiti's Families

Next Spring, we will take up a "pocket change" collection for Deep Springs International. So, start collecting now.

Below is a message sent to us from Deep Springs founder, Michael Ritter:



"Over the last couple years, the country of Haiti has been hit by many political, economic, health, and security challenges. The president was assassinated in July 2021, and the security situation has deteriorated significantly since then.

The volatility of Haiti's situation has affected Deep Springs in many ways. Transportation is risky and expensive, which has hurt the reliability of our supply chain. It has also hindered the ability of our management staff to maintain and develop partnerships with NGOs and multilateral organizations like UNICEF, due to the inability to travel safely to Port-au-Prince. Increased transportation costs combined with global inflation have increased the cost of living, which makes it harder for the families we serve to afford our water treatment product, despite being priced at less than \$1 per month.



However, given our longstanding focus on making Deep Springs operation locally driven, **we have been able to continue our operations** in ways that many large international organizations have struggled to do. We focus on rural areas, where security risks are relatively lower, so we've been able to maintain contact with many of the families we serve.

Your support allows us to keep our household chlorine product at a price that vulnerable Haitian families can afford and to continue our ongoing health promotion and education services. We are so grateful for your support of Haitian families through safe water and income-generating opportunities. Your pocket change donation will provide clean water that will save children's lives."

For more information on Deep Springs International, we encourage everyone to visit their website: <https://deepspringsinternational.org/>

Children and Family Ministry Recap



We had a fun and educational VBS program this summer. The kids followed their maps to find the treasure – the One True God. We had games, crafts, snacks, bible stories, and music.

On the last Sunday of VBS the kids performed the Mystery Island theme song for the congregation, and then headed outside to enjoy more fun at our Luau.

- * **Thank you** families who participated.
- * **Thank you** volunteers who made this program possible.





Updating Our Membership Rolls in 2022

The Membership Committee and Session are beginning the process of updating the Sharon Church membership rolls. Our Church Constitution, *The Book of Order*, requires us to review our rolls every two years to verify our “Active Members” and “Other Participants.”

As we make our way out of the “Covid years,” our lives have certainly changed and the composition of Sharon Church has changed, too. So, the Membership Committee will be reaching out to every member and participant of SCPC by mailing you a membership packet in early October.

This Membership mailing will invite and encourage all members and friends of Sharon Community Presbyterian Church to review their participation in the life of our congregation. It will include a spiritual self-assessment, a review of your membership and a membership “pledge card” to return to Sharon Church—updating each member’s current contact information and commitment to active church life.

Please look for our mailing coming to you in October. Our goal is to invite and include all whom God is calling in the building up of the body of Christ here at Sharon Church to participate in the life and witness of God’s church.

Membership Chair, *Lorna Phillips, Elder*



Welcome Bags

The M&O Committee, along with a few members of our congregation, have assembled Welcome Gift Bags for visitors. They will be kept in the Narthex and handed out by our WMA welcome team. If you see a visitor and they don’t have one, please feel free to offer one.

Prayer Bead Crafting Party

Wednesday, September 21st @ 6:30 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall

Please join the Mission Committee for another Prayer Bead crafting party. All are welcomed—veteran bead makers and new bead makers alike. These prayer beads will be used in our Welcome Bags and by our Deacons and Care Team. You may also come make one for yourself or to give to someone.

Congregational Care

Dear SCPC Family,

The power of prayer is such a beautiful gift that provides a sense of connection with God. Prayer helps us feel God's loving presence and also allows us to feel God's blessings. Whether we pray alone or in a group setting, prayer is powerful.

Did you know that Sharon Church has a **Prayer Chain**? We do! And we have an awesome one! My name is Megan Anderson and I am the Co-Moderator of the Deacons. I have the honor of taking over the SCPC Prayer Chain from Sara Kobak, and I am so excited for the opportunity to keep our prayers going.

What is the SCPC Prayer Chain? If you are seeking prayers for yourself or someone in need, email your prayer request to me and I will send it to a chain of faithful prayer warriors.

Simply email your prayer request to:

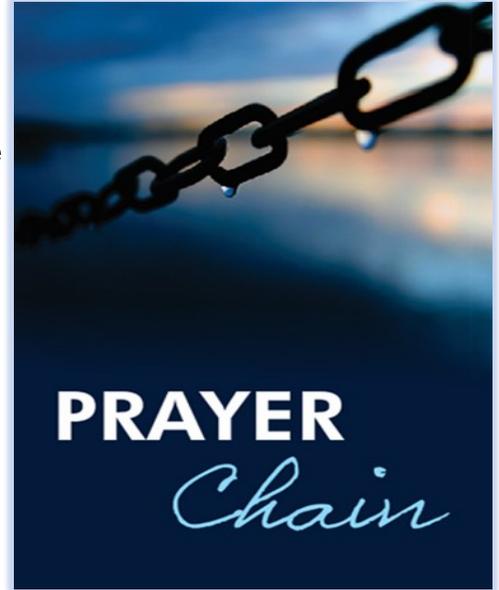
sharonprayerchain@sharoncpc.com Write *exactly* what you would like to be included in the prayer. We will not share the private information of people without their explicit permission. Then, I will email the prayer request to all of our prayer warriors on the Prayer Chain who are committed to offer their immediate prayers for you.

Oh! You'd like to be praying for those in need, but you're not on the SCPC Prayer Chain? Please send me your **name and email** and I will add you to the Prayer Chain. My email address is manderson9916@gmail.com. You may also let the front office know you'd like to participate and Anna can add you, too.

We invite everyone to become a part of our Prayer Chain.

God Bless You,

Megan Anderson, Deacon Co-Moderator



I would like to sincerely thank the congregation for their cards, phone calls and prayers during my ongoing recovery from my accident.

It's been really nice and is truly appreciated.

Thank you,

Elaine Hoffman

Dear Sharon Church,

Thank you for your prayers and cards. My head injury, concussion and brain bleed, is doing better with lots of physical therapy and prayers. Thank you for your prayers. Glad to read about all that is going on at Sharon.

In Christ's love,

Roger Behm



We are enjoying our Sundays watching on the iPad.

We will miss the lovely voice of the lady singing now {Emily}. So happy to see the choir joining in again.

Prayers for all,

Kay and Harry Schurr



Chili Cook-off & "The Big Drop"
Sunday, October 16th
After Worship on the SCPC Patio

Do you make the best chili in town? Bring your best batch of chili to share with your church family and we'll crown a Church Chili Champion on October 16th. Sign-up in the Narthex if you are making chili or bringing a dessert or side for the picnic. Bring a friend! All are welcomed!



Ms. Sarah will be hosting "The Big Drop!" after we eat. We will be dropping various items, including **pumpkins**, from atop a **fire truck** and watching them go splat.

There will also be a goody drop where the kids can catch candy and prizes. We will **drop everything for Jesus** in a fun and exciting way.

Kids are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to church or change afterward.



The Good News

Sharon Community Presbyterian Church

522 Carnot Road

Moon Township, PA 15108-2317



Pictured above is an antique Ford that belonged to Kathy Hamsher's dad, and now belongs to Mike and Joan Hubler. The Hublers drove it to church and were showing it at a car show in Moon later that afternoon.

SESSION 2022-3

SHARON COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Todd Carter, Clerk of Session
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Mark Killmeyer, Treasurer
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Lorna Phillips, Membership	ljp106p@gmail.com	412-973-6430

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Bob Lintner, WMA	blintner1@verizon.net	724-457-8054

Church Staff

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Anna Laufer, Church Administrator	admin@sharoncpc.com	412-264-7400

DEACONS 2022-3

SHARON COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Megan Anderson and Rhiannon Michaels, Co-Moderators

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