

The Good News

Dear Sharon Faithful,

This summer, our session and other church leaders had the blessing and opportunity to retreat together away from the church, away from our committee responsibilities, and to think about God's church in terms of the "big picture." We revisited the long life of Sharon Church—202 years of ministry that began in a tent as a worship center and mission outpost and 202 years of God's presence and faithfulness to this community.

As we explored our church's history as a frontier church that has stood through time in a place where East met West, North met South, known met unknown, native met immigrant, rural met urban, and the past met the future, we began to unpack our church DNA a bit and get a sense of God's purpose in and through our history. And the two words that seemed to transcend Sharon Church's long history were *community* and *welcome*.

Noticing that since our inception, we have been situated in a veritable borderland where the new came in constant contact with the old, Sharon Church came into being and thrived as a *welcoming community*. Indeed, it is no coincidence that we have retained "community" in our church name. In essence, being a *welcoming community* is who God has formed us to be, it is part of our church DNA, and it is where we may find renewed strength and wisdom.

So, when we seek to answer what is God's purpose or God's will or God's calling for Sharon Church, if we are wise, we will look to who God created us to be, a *welcoming church*. A welcoming church who not only sets records taking our time to pass the peace of Christ during worship, but a church who equally embraces new people and new ideas. A welcoming church who cares for people from differing backgrounds, life-experiences, and perspectives. A welcoming church who extends the sincere love and compassion of Christ to all. God has generously bestowed upon the people of Sharon Church gifts of love, patience, kindness, hospitality, friendship, compassion, mercy, grace and generosity that reveal the Spirit of God in our welcome.

Our next step, as a church, is to embrace our calling as a *welcoming community* and allow God to lead. Mark Mizer offered wise feedback after our retreat, saying, "It is hard to have faith and let go because we're afraid everything will fall apart if we're not doing the work." It reminded him of a story about a man who was hanging off a cliff and couldn't see to the bottom. He prayed, "God, please help me! Save me!" God spoke to him, "Let go." The man thinks for a moment and then yells, "Anyone else up there?" Sometimes I think we're yelling for help and not trusting what we are hearing from God.

Continued on next page...



**Fall Worship
Schedule
Resumes on
September 8th!**

**Rally Day
kicks it off with
breakfast at
10:00 am**

**Worship
will begin at
11:00 am**

**Rally Day is a
celebration for
ALL members,
friends, and
families!
September 8th**

Our retreat this summer offered fruitful encouragement for our elders, deacons and leaders to explore our purpose and calling as a *welcoming church* and devote ourselves to becoming discerning, spiritual leaders. Yet, the leadership of Sharon *Community Church*, needs you! In the spirit of welcome, we eagerly invite the church community to exercise and offer their spiritual gifts to the church... to be a part of welcoming and building up the church... to serve with a willing and joyful heart... to actively seek the Spirit of God in all that we do... and to trust that God is working in and through our leaders, in and through our church.

The experience of God's welcome here at Sharon, truly begins with you! Our church is a place where East has met West, North has met South, known has met unknown, and old has met new. And just as God's people here at Sharon did long before us, we are called to meet and greet the future with open arms. May God bless you in all of the ways you welcome a neighbor, a stranger, a friend or even an enemy, and witness God's calling and purpose in Sharon Church.

With Open Arms, Pastor Becky

Adult Formation: 10:00—10:45 a.m. Room 202

In September, Pastor Becky will lead a discussion based on Martin Thielen's book *The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion, but Good Religion—A Guide to Good Religion for Seekers, Skeptics and Believers*. Participants are invited to purchase the book and read along each week OR simply come for conversation. We will look at the effects of increasing cultural skepticism surrounding Christianity and explore "good religion"—a gospel understanding of walking with Christ in today's world.

Sept 8: Introducing the Study: What is "Good Religion?"

Sept 15: The Answer to Judgment is Love

Sept 22: The Answer to Negativity is Hope

Sept 29: The Answer to Arrogance is Openness

Oct 6: All Church Mission Engagement—no formation classes

In October, Elder Mark Mizer welcomes us into a season of Generosity. Mark is a certified Financial Planner and will lead discussions in setting financial priorities, the four cornerstones of financial responsibility, and how a little bit can go a long way if you know how to do it and don't want to cheat your kids. As a lifetime Christian and faithful steward of the church, Mark has lived his life with the bible in one hand and a balance sheet in the other. And during October, Mark will help us deepen our understanding of money and God.

Oct 13: What Are Dreams Made Of: Providence, Good Luck or Planning?

Oct 20: Four Gospels, Four Cornerstones: Why Each is Critical

Oct 27: You Can Make a Difference: Being the Church Together



We have had a lot of fun this Summer in Children's Church. Most of our lessons had a "science experiment" to help us learn gospel truths. We also learned the value of true friendships. My heart for the kids is to know what the Bible says about having Godly friendships and how bad company can corrupt our character. We talked about how important it is to love everybody and to be kind, but to also guard our hearts and not be influenced by other's negative behavior. Please join me in prayer as our children begin a new school year.

Here are six verses to pray over our kids:

S ~ Self Control (1 Peter 5:8)

C ~ Courage (Joshua 1:9)

H ~ Help from the Holy Spirit (John 7:38-39)

O ~ Opportunities to do Good (Galatians 6:10)

O ~ Overcome Evil (Romans 12:21)

L ~ Love God and Others (Matthew 22:37-39)

Blessings,
Tami



Nursery: (infant—3 years old) Available 10:00 am until 12:00 pm room 106

Children's Formation & Music - 10:00 am

All children will gather with Mr. Tom for music in room 100, then go with their with their teacher to their classrooms for Sunday school:

Pre-k—2nd

3rd-5th

6th grade and up

Children's Church:

Children ages 3 years old to 4th grade are invited to participate after the children's message during worship. There will fun activities of learning, stories of the Bible, crafts, games, and fellowship time for the children. Parents may pick up their child/children after worship in room 103. Please be sure to register your child with Tami Shouse, Children's Minister, for safe pick up, drop off, necessary accommodations or emergencies. We want all children to have a joyful and meaningful experience every week at Children's Church which begins after children's time during worship service.

Children leave the sanctuary with the teachers and parents may pick their child/children up after service from room 103. (Please be sure to register your child with Tami)



Personnel Committee is Happy to Introduce Thomas “Tom” Ingui

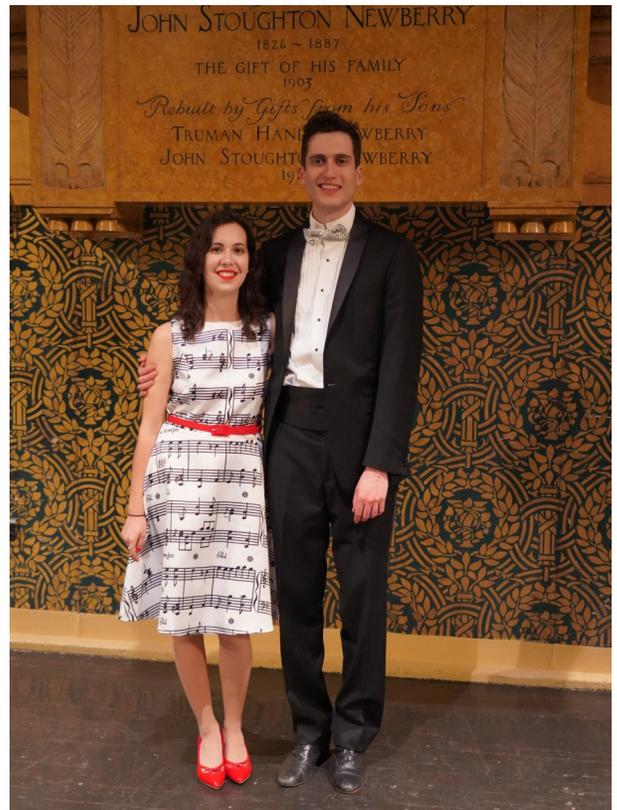
It is with great pleasure that the Personnel Committee would like to introduce Tom Ingui as Sharon Church’s new Director of Music Ministries. He is a multi-talented musician that can play the organ and piano as well as having experience in directing both choral and handbell choirs. He is also well versed in different genres of music. His official start date was August 15th and choral choir began practice on August 21st. Handbell choir will start on August 28th. Tom will also provide a music program for our children.

Tom is a Florida native who received his Bachelor’s degree in Organ Performance from Stetson University. From there he participated in the Master’s program in Organ Performance at Yale University. While at Yale he was the Interim Organist/Choirmaster at Seymour Congregational Church in Seymour, Ct. Tom, since a young age, has received numerous accolades for his ability on the organ.

Tom is currently residing in the Squirrel Hill area of Pittsburgh with his girlfriend, Katie, who is pursuing a graduate degree from Carnegie Mellon University.

Please extend Tom a warm Sharon Church welcome as he leads Sharon’s music ministry. Thanks again to my committee and others who helped bring this search to a successful conclusion.

God’s Blessings, Dick Shirra, Personnel Committee Chairperson



Upcoming Music Events

September 29th @ 3:00pm

Welcome Organ Recital - Tom Ingui

October 27th after worship

Handbell Workshop - all are welcome!

Every Wednesday:

Handbells @ 6pm and Choir @ 7pm



MUSIC MINISTRY

A Message from the Music Minister, Tom Ingui

What a delight it is to be a part of this church family — in my short time with you so far I have felt God's love shine brightly through your kind words of welcoming and encouragement. "Yes we can" will be our new motto at Sharon church! I will help push the music ensembles to "sing a new song unto the Lord" and am planning some special after church workshops to allow other members of the congregation to occasionally be involved in God's music making. Additionally, I will be playing an introductory organ recital on Sunday September 29th at 3:00pm to help raise money for the music program. Our beautiful 31 rank Bunn-Minnick Co Pipe Organ is the grand centerpiece of our music program and I will make every effort to showcase its brilliance for the congregation and the wider community. If this program is a success, I hope to start a monthly organ recital series!

For our children who are eager to make music, I plan to meet with them weekly during the first part of their children's formation time (10:00 a.m. on Sundays). The children will learn the standard Christmas tunes and other popular songs both contemporary and traditional; we will start preparing right away for this year's Christmas production! They will also have the opportunity to be involved in regular worship both singing and with handbells and other instruments. We already have a wonderful collection of instruments including 4 sets of children's bells, small drums, shakers, tambourines, triangles, cymbals, and 4 xylophones and I plan to expand this collection over the next year with recorders and African drums.

We are extremely blessed to have an extraordinary collection of handbells and chimes at our disposal — what a shame it would be if they begin to collect dust! For this reason, I will be holding occasional after-church handbell workshops for members of the congregation who have never rang bells before. The first workshop will be on October 27th following worship. We will have a brief lunch followed by a two-hour rehearsal working towards a performance during worship the following Sunday (Dedication Sunday November 3rd). Worry not: you do not need any music reading experience. The music will be taught by rote and demonstration. All you need is enthusiasm and at least one working ear! Assuming this will be a success (remember the motto: yes we can!), our second handbell workshop will be sometime mid-December with a performance during the Christmas Eve service. If you are interested please contact me or find the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

In addition to managing the music program, I am offering piano and organ lessons for all ages on Wednesdays and Sundays on the church campus. Complete beginners who wish to eventually study organ would need to start with piano for at least 6 months. I will charge special rates for Sharon members and friends and will loan music books if desired for a small deposit. Organ students and piano students without a home instrument will be able to arrange for practice time during church office hours. If you don't consider yourself a youngster but have always wanted to play do not fear! The piano is one of the most accessible instruments and within a few months you'll have enough practical skills to play Christmas carols at your next holiday party!

Again, what a pleasure it has already been worshiping with such a special group of believers. I think this year will mark the beginning of an exciting new phase of the life of our church. If we join together to make music in God's name then our wider community will surely see this and be eager to share in our joy. The handbell ensemble rehearses every Wednesday at 6:00 pm and the chancel choir meets at 7:00 pm every Wednesday — all are welcome, no music reading is required! Make a joyful noise Sharon church!

Get To Know Our Sharon Church Family

Although The Weber's are new members, they are certainly not new faces at Sharon!
However they have officially joined our church family!



Dan and Cori Weber live in Robinson Township and have a black Labrador Retriever and two kids. Dan and Cori met in 2010 and were married on January 4, 2014. They welcomed their first child, Kayleigh Emma, on October 5, 2015 and their second child, Zachery Hunter, on September 26, 2018.

Dan is a Structural Inspector for CSD Engineers and grew up in Moon Township.

Cori is a Corporate Event Planner at Thermo Fisher Scientific and grew up in Peters Township.

The Weber family is excited to become members of Sharon Church and raise their children surrounded by faith and a great congregation!



Fellowship Rocks Ministry:

The Deacons will continue Fellowship Rocks this year.

We are very encouraged by the interest and participation of the congregation.

We provide donuts and coffee along with sharing of ourselves for conversation, prayers and fellowship. Please join us at 9:45 am Sunday mornings in fellowship hall.

If anyone has not joined us on a Sunday please do!

[Rocking Chairs Provided!]

Lorna Phillips, Deacon Moderator

Many great groups of the church resume meeting the first week of September.

For more information please call the office at 412-264-7400

Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm for additional information!

Nominating Committee has received all nominations and are contacting potential nominees.

BOLO
"Be on the look out"

Be On The Look Out!
Sharon Church will be working on an updated directory. Be on the look out for a form in the bulletin or in the narthex in early September. Please help us keep our membership information updated by completing the form.

Chancel Flowers still needed for Sundays this Fall. Please sign up on the calendar in the Narthex. Closer to your chosen date, you will receive a form to complete with dedication information (In honor or in memory of). One week prior to your date, return the form and a check to the church office.

Any questions, call Joan Hubler 412-264-1894

Dates still available! November 24th, December 1st, and 8th



Session Highlights

The Retreat

On August 10th your Session gathered in the Faith House of the Sewickley Presbyterian Church for our 2019 Session Retreat. Our leader and facilitator was Dr. Graham Standish who is the Director of Samaritan Counseling Center.

We began by looking into the past of the church to make sure we were connected to our history as a place of worship as well as a physical place where people from the old Carnot area of Moon Township gathered as a community. From there the Session examined where we are now and how we can drive into the future with hope and strength to serve our membership and neighbors. He asked us to think about what we saw as the most vibrant time in our history as a church, think about challenges and obstacles and what could be facilitating these. As always Dr. Standish was quite engaging and used his sense of humor to energize all present.

Our Session Meeting

Your Session also had a called meeting. The Elders accepted two new members into our church family, Cori and Dan Weber, who we all know, and also approved having the Finance Committee, explore ways and means to air condition the sanctuary and fellowship hall, and, repave the parking lot for the whole Sharon Campus.

Please keep the Session and our pastor in your prayers.

The next scheduled meeting for your Elders is September 24th.

Grace and Peace.

Your Clerk, Mark Mizer

Generosity

Summer is quickly coming to a close and soon we will all be getting into our normal routines of work and school. There is something sad about saying goodbye to summer months, knowing less than kind weather will soon be here. But, there is also something re-assuring about having our lives back in order with our 'normal' activities.

Our church functions much the same way. We break for summer with early worship and putting our Holy Formation Hour on hold. In summertime we are a little less formal. The Generosity team is planning several things this October and November. First, we kick-off our Generosity campaign on October 13th with a luncheon after worship. The Finance Committee and I will be introducing our financial plans for 2020 and will give all of us a chance to see and participate in shaping the future of our congregation and worshipping community. I will be participating in Holy Formation the same morning introducing financial planning ideas anyone can use for their personal benefit.

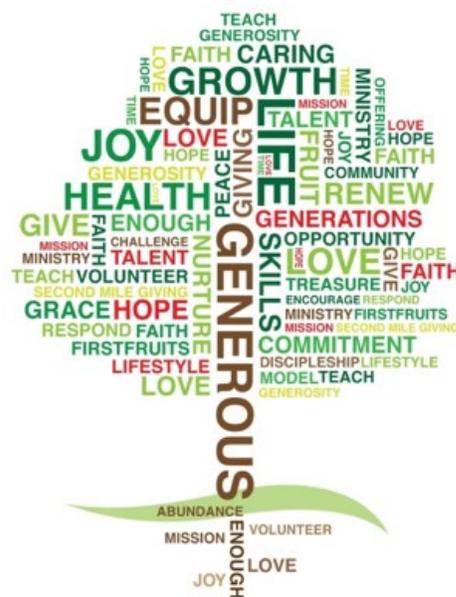
On October 20th and 27th I will continue my presentations on intelligent planning during the Formation hour, including ways you can manage your finances in ways to also benefit our church and its mission. All of this will be done in the framework of the Gospel of John, chapter 21:17, where Jesus commands Peter to feed his sheep.

In a broad sense this is our church's mission, to feed God's sheep. And not in a physical way, although we do feed people with our donations to the West Hills Food Pantry and feeding the homeless at the men's shelter on Pittsburgh's North side. But, a bigger and more difficult mission is to feed our community with our spiritual gifts. We cannot do this without our church, its members, and our pastor. It is incumbent on all of us, working together to be a light of hope here in Moon Township and respective communities. Our command to feed God's sheep, people who are not in our pews on Sunday morning, is critical. More people than we can count are seriously malnourished spiritually. We can make a difference.

I ask for your prayers for this year's campaign where we focus on being a mission of goodness for ourselves and others. I ask you to pray for our church, our members and our pastor.

I look forward to being engaged with you in helping to feed God's sheep.

Blessings,
Mark Mizer





Autumn is approaching! It's that time of year where everything seems to come back into order. The lazy days of Summer are ending and the routine of school and structure begins again. This is my favorite time of year! I love the crisp air, the beautiful colored leaves, the Autumn smells and cozy evenings. All these things make me think of **Harvestfest!**

Please mark your calendars for

Sunday, October 20th from 6-8pm and plan on joining us this year! We are planning a bonfire, hot dogs, apple cider, a scavenger hunt, games, and lots of fun for kids of all ages! We hope to see you there! This is also an excellent opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to come join us for some fun and fellowship!

Sharon Community Presbyterian Church

enjoyed the **annual picnic on Sunday, August 11th.**

The congregation joined in both celebrating both our new members, Cori, Dan, Kayleigh and Zachary Weber and

Janet McGuire and Harry Kammerer who reached their 50th year of membership.

Everyone enjoyed food and fellowship and games on a day with perfect picnic weather. Special thank you go to Shanna and Joey Roberts, Ann Mizer, Jim Prostko, Harry Kammerer, Tami Shouse and to the many other who helped with both set up and clean up.



Missions in the Church

Reuel E. Johnson Scholarship Special Offering will be Sunday, September 15th.

Oct 6: All Church Mission Engagement—no formation classes
Everyone is welcome to Fellowship Hall to learn more about Mission engagement opportunities at Sharon Community.

Operation Christmas Child is being held again this year. **Additional boxes will be assembled during the November 3rd congregational formation hour.** Please watch for information in the weekly bulletins and weekly E-Newsletter.



Next date: October 30th

Volunteer roles:

Afternoon van driver: 1 volunteer, approximately 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Dinner hosts: 2 - 3 volunteers, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

If you can cook, someone else can serve! There are ways to be involved no matter your time availability! Make it a group effort.

Evening hosts: 1 - 2 Volunteers, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

After dinner you play with children, help with homework, chat with adults, or simply watch a movie.

Overnight host(s): 1 - 2 Volunteers, 9:00 pm - 6:30 am

The overnight host is the go-to person in case of an emergency.

Morning van driver: 1 volunteer, approximately 5:00 am to 7:00 am

Everyone that has helped with Family Promise is more than willing to act as a mentor if you'd like to participate, but are apprehensive about your first time.

Ongoing Mission Opportunities

Feeding Dinner at the Men's Shelter:

Looking to get involved?

We still have 1 date left!

October 11th is still

available to any group who would like to get involved or work as a team with another group to provide Ministry from our church!

Thank you to all that have participated!

Although it may seem small it has a huge impact.

Please see below...



Matthew 25:33-40, ".....WHEN YOU SAW ME HUNGRY, YOU FED ME....

FOR WHATEVER YOU DID FOR THE LEAST OF THESE MY BROTHERS, YOU DID FOR ME."

A Moment of Reflection from Hands-on Ministry

On August 6th, five members of Sharon Church cooked and served dinner at Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter.

We have partnered with this mission many times before but this time was a special opportunity.

There was great sadness at the shelter on this evening because the funeral service for their beloved staff member, the Rev. Sheldon "Sarge" Stoudemire, had been held earlier that day. He was murdered while working the over night shift at the shelter.

As the SCPC members were serving dinner, one staff member asked, "Have you heard about our troubles?" One of our Sharon members responded, "Indeed, we have and we have been very concerned about you and our congregation has been praying for you."

This is why we do hands on mission - to be present with God's people and to be Christ's heart, hands and feet on this side of Heaven.

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



September 8th
10:00 a.m.

Has summer wiped you out?

Summer is a time when we are often pulled away from our normal routines - we take vacations, we celebrate weddings and graduations, and many of us take multiple trips away from our home base. While we are excited to spend time with our families outside our normal routines, summer can be physically, emotionally, financially, and spiritually draining. While we may have good intentions of attending worship and reading our bibles, the reality is that summer is the time when we fall short in matters of the spirit.

Hence **RALLY DAY !!!**

On Sunday September 8th we will seek the Holy Spirit to energize us and renew in us a sense of purpose and fellowship as a congregation! During the 10:00 Formation Hour we will enjoy a light breakfast together hosted by the Deacons in Fellowship Hall, then children and their parents can visit their Sunday school classrooms and meet their teachers.

Worship will begin at 11:00 as we switch back to our regular church schedule.

Rally Day is a celebration for ALL the members for Sharon Church – NOT just families with children! It's also a great day to invite someone to come to church with you! So please join us for breakfast at 10:00!

The Good News

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522 Carnot Road Moon Township, PA 15108-2317

(412) 264-7400

*"Caring People Reaching
Out To Others"*

