

Around the Hill

The Round Hill Presbyterian Church Newsletter

"A caring community in Christ. Making Disciples for Christ. Equipped for ministry by Christ."

March 2024

Contact Information

Church Address:
2150 Round Hill Church Rd
Elizabeth, PA. 15037

Office Phone:
(412) 384-5889

Office Email:
roundhillpc@gmail.com

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:30am - 12:30pm

Pastor's Email:
RHPCMatt@comcast.net

Sunday School: 9:15AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30AM
Tuesday Recharge: 6PM

Church Website:
www.RoundHillChurch.org

Church Facebook: [Facebook.com/
RoundHillChurch](https://www.facebook.com/RoundHillChurch)

Worship and Christian Ed stream at
roundhillpres.sermon.net

Newsletter Editor Email:
Laurieferraton1@gmail.com

from the

Pastor's Pen



It's the horns that always get me. Maybe it's because I was a very mediocre French Horn player back in Middle and High School, or maybe there's some other, less obvious reason, but any time a piece of music has a big, powerful line for the brass section, I can feel my entire being—body, mind, and spirit—straining to rise up out of my chair and maybe jump up and down, or march into battle, or something. As some of you know, Mayim and I have been subscribers to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra ever since we moved here a decade ago, and in a recent concert, I really did leap to my feet at the close of Dvorak's 7th symphony, so overwhelming was the feeling. Fortunately, it was the close of the piece, since otherwise it would have been a major faux pas, but I had plenty of company, as a horn-heavy finale brought all of Heinz Hall to a standing ovation.

I strongly suspect that this kind of reaction to music is familiar to plenty of people, including many who have no more interest in attending a symphony concert than I have in going to a heavy metal show. There's something about good music—whatever "your" music may be—that grabs us where we live. We tie most of the big moments in our lives to music, don't we? Having a birthday? There's a song. Getting married? You heard the tune for the wedding march in your head before you finished reading this sentence. Music is woven into our lives from beginning to end.

Continued on page 2

from the

Pastor's Pen



Continued from page 1

It goes deeper than just having a soundtrack for our lives, though. I think there's something about *great* music that goes even further, connecting us, or maybe helping us tap into, something larger and grander than our day-to-day existence. Have you felt it? Have you found yourself transported to another place by a melody, or a chord, or a lyric? Have you maybe been singing "In Christ Alone," or some other beloved hymn, and suddenly found yourself trembling, the hairs on your arms standing up as you brush up against something mysterious and powerful? I think that when this happens, it's no accident.

I believe that music is, in some sense, part of the fabric of creation, and that, at its finest, our songs might just echo, faintly, the music of the spheres. Indeed, I suspect that humankind's infinite appetite for music is rooted in our deep sense that this is so. As the Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara (no, I can't pronounce it either) has written, "It is my belief that music is great if, at some moment, 'the listener catches a glimpse of eternity through the window of time.' This, to my mind, is the only true justification for all art." I agree.

But I would also go beyond what Rautavaara wrote, and say that music offers not only a glimpse of eternity, but actually a glimpse of our very particular eternal destiny. The people of God have always understood music to be a point of connection with God himself. When he worked wonders to rescue them from Egypt, they responded by singing a song of praise. When the Ark of the Covenant was finally brought to Jerusalem according to God's command, there was such music that King David danced like no one was watching, right out in front of everyone, in sheer joy. And what did John of Patmos see in his great vision of the heavenly kingdom come? A whole lot of music! The book of Revelation refers 9 times to songs of praise and worship that will be offered to God, when the kingdom comes, by...*everyone*:

"Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, 'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!'"

That's why we love music. Not only does it put us in touch with the joy of the Creator and the fabric of the cosmos, it also gives us a glimpse of our joyous and eternal future with the Lord and with all his saints. So the next time music makes you want to leap to your feet, or cry aloud for joy, or dance like David before the Lord, I say go for it: That's what music is for.



What's Happening at Round Hill?

Session, Deacons, Trustees, and Committees

Session Notes

On Monday, February 12th and Monday March 11th Session met and received the usual reports. They set the Memorial Priority List as 1) refurbishing the sanctuary side doors, 2) Knox box, 3) Sanctuary's ladies' room partition, 4) Vacuum for Fellowship Hall. The Session members were reminded to think about attending the General Assembly on June 18 - 20 in Memphis TN. Any elders presently serving or elders not presently serving are eligible to represent Round Hill. If interested talk with Rev. Stith or Bob Leggett. Information can be found on the EPC website (epg.org). At the March meeting the treasurer, Janice Sherman, spoke to the Session about the financial condition of the church and the need to address the low balance in the checking account. Easter services were set as follows: Maundy Thursday Communion at 7 pm, Good Friday Tenebrae at 7 pm, Easter Sunrise service at 7 am, and Easter Sunday Communion service at 10:30 am. The activities planned by the various groups will be reported either in other articles in the newsletter or the Sunday bulletin. If you have any concerns or questions, you are encouraged to speak with any member of Session. The next meeting will be Monday, April 8th.

Deacon Doings

The deacons met on February 4 for their annual day retreat at the CE building. The meeting opened with prayer and a Bible study. Old business included delivery of communion on January 14 to home church Barb Cant, Byron Harris and Janet LaFrankie. The home church list was reviewed and deacons were assigned an individual. A second soup delivery was scheduled for February 25. Plans for continuation of the card and bread ministries were made. Other topics of discussion included care bags for the homeless, care packages for college students, collaborating with other local churches and the organization of a Round Hill Church cookbook.

The deacons also met on March 3, 2024. The meeting opened with Tom Russell attending as the session representative and reporting on the church attendance study that is in process. The deacons delivered 14 soup and goody bags to the home church on February 25. Robin Lane delivered bread to a new couple who has been attending church services. Cassie Reynolds will be added to the home church list. Barb Cant's mailing address was updated to LGAR 800 Elsie St Room 108 B Turtle Creek, PA 15145. The next deacon meeting will be held April 7, 2024 at 9am.



Communion

Luke 22:19. *And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."*

Communion at Round Hill Church is usually served on the first Sunday of every month. If you are unable to attend services and would like ordained members of the congregation to extend the table to you on that day, please call the church office to request communion. (412) 384-5889

What's Happening at Round Hill? (continued)



It's that time of year again! We're excited to announce that our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Sunday, March 24th (Palm Sunday) from 2-4 PM at the church. There will be crafts, snacks, story time, and of course, the egg hunts... including a designated hunt for our "littlest bunnies" aged 3 and under.

This event has no cost, and is open to the community. RSVP's are not required, but always appreciated-- if you know you're coming, please let us know to help us plan ahead! Please RSVP through the church office at 412-384-5889 or www.RoundHillChurch.org

Needed: a Volunteer from Round Hill Church for the Elizabeth-Forward Clothes Closet. This will require one Wednesday (sort clothing and household items), and one Thursday (assist clients as they choose items), about every six weeks. You will need to spend approximately 2-3 hours when scheduled. Please call Bev Harchelroad, 412-384-4157, or the Church Office, 412-384-5889 if you are interested.



GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW DEACONS



Robin Lane

Robin Lane joined Round Hill Church last October having transferred from Grace United Church of Christ of Duquesne where she had been a member for over 50 years. During her time at Grace, Robin served as a Deacon, sang in the church choir, taught Sunday school, oversaw the preparation of the church dinners and directed the annual decorating of her church for the holidays.

Robin is the mother of two grown sons, Andrew and Mike. Her parents are Don and Pat Girt, also transferees from Grace United. Robin earned her RN from West Penn Hospital School of Nursing, a Bachelor's in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh and an MBA from Waynesburg University. Robin travels frequently throughout the United States giving presentations to healthcare providers.

Robin is currently employed by MTMC, a company which provides outside sales to approximately 100 healthcare manufacturers. She developed and manages a clinical division of the company which brings in nurses who provide training on some of the company's products. Prior to MTMC, Robin worked for UPMC for 31 years in various levels of management.

Robin recently became one of Round Hill's nine Deacons. She is looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you.

Submitted by Tom Russell



GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW DEACONS



Bob Zirkle

Bob Zirkle transitioned to Round Hill Presbyterian Church in 2018 from Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church where he belonged since childhood and previously served as Deacon for 5 years. Bob was installed as Deacon this year at Round Hill and joyfully anticipates assisting our church family in that capacity.

Bob earned his Bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Purdue University in 1992 and a Master of business administration from the University of Pittsburgh in 1999 while working for 7 years for Ashland Chemical Company in their polyester resins plants. In 2004, Bob made a major career change completing a Master's degree from Duquesne University as a physician assistant. Since then, Bob worked in neurological surgery at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh; in trauma & emergency surgery at WVU Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown; in various stints at hospital emergency rooms, MedExpress urgent care, and WorkWell occupational health clinics; and for the past most recent 9 years on inpatient hospitalist teams at Uniontown then Jefferson Hospitals.

Bob is a very active volunteer first responder performing the whole gamut of firefighting, rescue, and emergency medical duties at the Blaine Hill Fire Company where he holds the rank of Captain. Bob is also a member of the Allegheny County Hazardous Materials Medical Response Team. Prior to Blaine Hill, he volunteered fervently aboard ambulances in Jefferson Hills, Pleasant Hills, West Mifflin, Clairton, Glassport, Bruceton Mills WV, and Rossville IN—a passion of caring for others in their critical time of need that started in 1991. Bob and several close high school friends remain life-long enthusiasts enjoying amateur BMW and Ford Mustang auto racing at many renowned race tracks across the country.

Submitted by Tom Russell



March Birthdays



April Birthdays

NAME	DATE
Joram Stith	5
Janet LaFrankie	9
Lisa Moffa	9
Dorothy Wycoff	11
Joanna Richardson	18
Marilyn Christenson	27

NAME	DATE
Nolan Napoli	8
Joann Mayhugh	12
Janice Sherman	14
Joselyn DeCarlo	15
Bill Harchelroad	22
Gary Napoli Sr.	22

March Anniversaries

April Anniversaries



NAME	DATE
Bill & Bev Harchelroad	8
Tom & Eileen Russell	23

NAME	DATE
Paul & Linda Miller	7
Jeremy & Lisa Jackson	28

EASTER SERVICES

March 21 Maundy Thursday 7pm

March 22 Good Friday 7pm

Sonrise Service 7am





Round Hill History

(a continuing series)

Submitted by Bev Harchelroad

Written by Rosella Leggett for the 225th anniversary

Rev. J.B. McCool came here in 1890 and resigned in 1894. Dr. Robert Aukerman was called in 1895 and stayed four years followed by stated supply M. Noah H. Fife for three months in 1899.

Rev. Franklin G. Schloter came in 1900. He married a local resident, Josephine McKown who was a member of Round Hill. The Schloters are buried in Round Hill Cemetery.

In 1905 Rev. Kenneth MacLeod was installed and stayed for seven years. The Women's Missionary Society was formed October 16, 1908 and held their final meeting in 1958 when the women formed Circles, now Presbyterian Women.

Rev. H.C. Calhoun served here from 1913 to 1918 and Rev. W.W. McKinney served from 1919 to 1928.

In order to grow, roots must reach deep
Down into the good soil, knowing
That the number of leaves upon a tree
Are not all that means it's growing.

In 1919 the Sanctuary was repaired and rededicated; and October 2, 1926, the 148th anniversary was celebrated. Walter B. Scott gave the church history he had written especially for this service. At this time Round Hill was known locally as the "Farmer's Church". In 1928 the first electric lights were installed, replacing the old gaslights and the Sanctuary was painted for the 150th anniversary.

Rev. Robert H. Kirk served the pulpit from 1928 to 1936. Rev. Kirk suffered a broken hip and was bed-ridden for about 18 months at which time we secured the services of Rev. Walter Purnell as a stated supply. He and his wife and six children were very active with the congregation even though they had to travel from Imperial to be with us.

In 1938, Rev. Raymond J. Salchi came and stayed until early 1941. In the summer of 1942, Rev. William R. Johnston was called. During his pastorate the 165th anniversary was celebrated on November 12, 1943. Rev. Clarence E. McCartney, D.D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh gave the address: "Our Presbyterian Heritage".

Rev. Edgar F. Lawrence was called in 1946. A new organ was dedicated as a World War II Memorial during his pastorate. In October 1948, the 170th anniversary was celebrated. Rev. Lawrence was called to active duty in the Naval Chaplaincy for the Korean Conflict and Rev. H.R. Crummy served as interim pastor for 18 months.

TO BE CONTINUED

Around the Hill Dedication

The cost of this month's *Around the Hill* has been paid for by Round Hill Church. If you are interested in subsidizing a monthly issue of the newsletter, in full or in part, the monthly cost is \$53. You can put your donation in the offering plate marked "ATH." To electronically submit your donation, put "ATH" in the memo line. Please make sure to email or text Laurie with dedication or memorial note at laurieferraton1@gmail.com or (724)600-6420.

For submissions, questions, or comments, contact Laurie at the above email address or mobile number.



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2150 Round Hill Church Rd
Elizabeth, PA 15037

Address Label