



THE UNITED

South Avenue United Methodist Church

A UNION OF CHRIST, ROSS AVENUE AND SOUTH AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES



FEBRUARY 2019

733 South Avenue
Pittsburgh PA 15221

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Conference web site: www.wpaumc.org

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Remnant

God has always had a remnant. The church has always had a remnant. A few people left who gathered together after God scattered them into exile.

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be the name."

John and Charles Wesley preached the Word of God and wanted to save all people. To John, "social holiness" was the way to do that. The societies he established were to feed the hungry, check greed, establish and promote justice and end slavery. Wesley sent missionaries from England to New York and Philadelphia to organize societies in America. The New York missionaries brought a Black servant with them. Betty was a tithe paying member from the beginning. She and other Blacks, free or enslaved, worshipped alongside white society members. Blacks were a part of the Methodist Church in the United States since its inception. During the late 1700's, slavery was a major issue in the church and America. Richard Allen and Absalom Jones, itinerant preachers, were forcibly removed from their seats on the main floor of the church, during prayers. They would not immediately move to seats in the new balcony built for Blacks while they were gone. Some Blacks left the Methodist Evangelical Church and formed the African Methodist Evangelical Church. A remnant stayed in spite of mistreatment.

"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."

Slavery was a major issue in North America and the Methodist Church. It caused division, separation and war during the 1800's. Wesley declared slavery, as practiced in the United States, as "vile".. He also said it was an abomination to God. John wrote a tract titled, "Thoughts on Slavery". It was published and distributed. Inhumanity and cruelty reigned in American slavery. Pastors and other members of the church participated in these practices. The remnants of Blacks who chose to remain in The Methodist Evangelical Church held fast to the teachings of John Wesley. They trusted in God, not man, to see them through.

Slavery may have been abolished, but prejudice and injustice still existed in the secular and sacred world. The Central Jurisdiction was formed in 1939. All people of color regardless of geographic location were considered members of this jurisdiction. Liberia was included. This separate but not so equal treatment of African American members of the Methodist Church lasted until 1968. Still, African American membership grew. We fought for equal and civil rights. Thank you, faithful and believing remnant!!

While all is not well in the church or the world, we seem to be on a downward spiral now. We are still here, a part of The Church. The story is in the details, not a summary. This is not just my history or Black History, but it is YOUR HISTORY, OUR HISTORY. Instead of waiting for me to tell you some important previously ignored accomplishment of a Black person, do some research yourself. When you do the work the information stays with you. Black History is Church History!

Black History is American History!

Black History is World History!

Black History is His Story! Learn it! Love it! Believe it! God has always had a remnant of people in difficult situations and circumstances.

"For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever". AMEN.

GIVING STATEMENTS FOR 2018

The Giving Statements for 2018 have been distributed. If you did not receive your Statement or if you have questions about your Statement, please contact the Church Office, 412-371-7421.

UNITED DEADLINE

The deadline for the March United will be Monday, February 25th. Leave articles in the church office or email them to Helen McAfoos at hmcafoos@comcast.net.

OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 18th in observance of President's Day.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

We are glad to report that the Christmas Offering campaign resulted in total receipts of \$625.00. This amount has been divided between the Church's General Fund and Wilkinsburg Community Ministry. Thanks to all who participated and were so generous with their contributions.

2019 ALTAR FLOWERS

There are many open dates to reserve a Sunday for altar flowers for 2019. Forms are available at the Action Table for your requests in honor and/or memory of a loved one or in recognition of a special event in the life of your family. During the week, you may also call the Church Office to make your requests. The flowers are ordered from James Floral in Wilkinsburg. A one-sided centerpiece is \$16.00; the full-side centerpiece is \$25.00.



To South Avenue United Methodist Church:

Many thanks to my thoughtful Church Family for the flowers, cards, notes, visits and beautiful Christmas poinsettia. All these things mean so much when one's spirits are low.

Another boost was a delightful visit from Pastor Kelly during my rehab.

How fortunate I am to be a member of South Avenue Church!

Sincerely,

Pat Hamilton



ENJOY BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MEALS

On Sunday, February 17, we will serve breakfast at 9:00 am. On Sunday, February 24, we will serve brunch at 11:15 am. These meals are offered to the community to ease tight budgets at the end of the month. Church members are invited to mingle with our neighbors and make them feel welcome.

Members are also invited to help with preparation, setup and cleanup. It's fun and a great way to get to know fellow church members.

If you are enjoying the meals, please also consider donating something to help pay for them. We don't collect money during the meal to avoid discouraging neighbors from attending. You can place a check in the collection plate at any time. The check should be made out to SAUMC with "end-of-month meals" on the memo line.

UPPER ROOM

The McLaughlin Memorial Fund provides the opportunity for you to have the UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL booklet. You may obtain a copy of the March/April issue in the Narthex or at the literature rack by the Action Table after February 16th.

FOND MEMORIES

To those of us who remember June Strunk, there is a letter posted on the bulletin board behind the Action Table that you might enjoy reading. It is from her daughter, Babs.



Concert, February 24; 3:00 p.m.

*Music at South Avenue
presents
"A Concert for Black History Month"*

Music by African-American composers

*Catherine Bomstein, soprano
Stephanie Swoveland, violin
Rise Kostilnik, oboe
Patricia Deleonibus, flute
Janet Stivanson, piano*

This is a free concert, open to all.....



LOOKING FORWARD

**February 6th
Women's Ministry Board Meeting**

**February 14th
Valentine's Day
Longwood Circle**

The Longwood Circle will meet Thursday, February 14 at Longwood of Oakmont. After lunch in the grill, the topic of the meeting will be "Current Issues – The United Methodist Stance."

All women are welcome to join in lunch and discussion.

**February 24th
Concert**

**February 26th
Sarah Circle Meeting—12:30
Annual Book Share**

All women are invited to attend. Bring a sandwich or whatever you choose; dessert and beverages will be provided. Also, bring with you books you would like to share, or thoughts about interesting books you can recommend.

**March 6th
Ash Wednesday**

**March 31st
UMCOR Sunday Offering**

2019 February

South Avenue United Methodist



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	Jan 31	1	2
10:00 AM Communion 10:00 AM Worship/Sunday School	4	5	6	7	8	9
			10:00 AM Staff Meeting; Pastor's office 1:00 PM Womens Ministry Board Meeting-112	7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	Office Closed	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 AM Worship/Sunday School				Valentine's Day 12:00 AM Longwood Circle @ Longwood 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	Office Closed	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 AM Hospitality Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship/Sunday School	Presidents' Day (regional holiday) OFFICE CLOSED			7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	Office Closed	
24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2
10:00 AM Worship/Sunday School 11:00 AM Hospitality Brunch 12:00 PM Concert for Black History Month-112	12:30 PM Sarah Circle Meeting-112			7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal		
3	4	Notes				