



THE UNITED

South Avenue United Methodist Church

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



October 2020

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FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART OCTOBER 2020

We are all on a journey. We carefully map out the course of our journeys. Sometimes our efforts pay off and sometimes our life journey takes a detour and takes us in a direction we least expect.

I would like to share with you a story of a young boy's journey....

Ruth Stafford Peale tells of accompanying her husband, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, to Africa for several months where he was preaching and teaching. On more than one occasion hundreds of people would journey for mile on foot to hear Dr. Peale preach.

One of those was a teenage boy who went forward, professed his faith and was baptized. He remained in the village for several days where Dr. Peale was preaching. One day he told the couple he had to journey home to his village to help his father in the fields.

Ruth Peale said she and her husband did not expect to see the boy ever again. Several weeks passed and it was time for the Peales to return to the United States. It was December and the couple was eager to spend Christmas with their children and grandchildren.

The night before they were to leave there was a knock at the door. They were surprised to see the teenage boy. He was holding a beautiful conch shell. He had journeyed many days, again by foot, to bring the shell to them as a Christmas present.

The boy described how he spent many days combing the beach, looking for just the right shell, one with just the right iridescent hues, one with no chips or cracks, one when held to the ear produced just the right sound waves rushing to the shore.

Ruth Stafford said she felt overwhelmed that the young boy journeyed so far, all alone, just to bring them a Christmas present. But she said the young man just smiled and exclaimed, "Oh no, (in his best English) you bring me greatest gift of all; besides long journey part of gift."

This coming Sunday, Christians around the world will make a journey, some traveling long distances on foot to take their place at the Lord's Table in order to receive and experience the greatest gift ever given, the gift of God's love expressed through the Eucharist. It is at the Lord's Table where the ordinary becomes sacred.

I pray you will journey to God's church to receive the Sacrament (in a safe way), joining our brothers and sisters around the world at the Table of love and grace where all have a seat.

As you prepare for this sacred feast ,I invite all of us to ponder our own spiritual journey. For some it has been a long and dusty journey, for others not so much. The reality is we all must make our own spiritual journey, a journey that leads us to celebrate our common heritage as children of God, made in the image of our Creator.

May your journey be blessed!

Blessings,

Pastor Russel

LET'S FIGHT HUNGER CROP WALK 2020



This is the 51st year for the annual CROP Hunger Walk! Sunday October 11, 2020 is the date. We have participated for about 48 of those years. Many churches and groups in Wilkinsburg, Forest Hills, Edgewood and the eastern part of the city of Pittsburgh are involved.

We are looking for volunteers who will do a VIRTUAL walk on local streets and sponsors to support the walkers with money for the needs of people around the world. Like many other groups this year it will be a virtual walk, which means each walker will decide the route for his/her walk and do the walk sometime before October 11.

Remember 25% of the funds raised stays in the local area for Wilkinsburg Community Ministry. The remaining 75% goes to Church World Service projects in the United States and around the world.

Why do we walk? The motto of the Church World Service CROP hunger walk is "We walk because they walk." In many places in the world, people must walk to attend school, to obtain food and water, or to obtain firewood. This project raises money to help provide food and clean water for the hungry people of the world.

Walkers are strongly encouraged to register online at www.crophungerwalk.org/pittsburghpa.

In recent years this has proven to be one of the best ways to raise money from your friends and relatives. Walkers can also sign up on Sundays at the Action Table after the Service with Glenn Matteson. The walkers will then be asking the congregation to sign on as sponsors with your gifts of money. Still have questions?? Contact Glenn Matteson at 412-826-5831 for more information.

Won't you become involved either as a walker or as a sponsor of those who walk?

ORDER NOW FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Wendell August Forge ornaments will again be available this year. The cost is 12.00 for aluminum, 15.00 for bronze, 16.00 for copper. This year's deadline for orders will be November 15. Ordering through the group purchase reduces the cost.

To order, fill out the form on the Action Table or call Janet Stivanson (412-512-8852) or call the church office (412-371-7421).

MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

We plan to print our updated church directory for distribution by the end of October. SO, if you have any changes/additions/deletions, provide them to the Church Office no later than October 15th.



THANKFUL FOR GUARDIAN ANGELS

A special thank you to Josefina and Tom Morrissey for all the time and attention they have given to Ruth Nelson as she heals from her hip surgery. They have been such a blessing in her life.

Thank you -- Josefina and Tom

Carole Mapel



**PITTSBURGH DISTRICT
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**
Annual Meeting 10/24/20 via ZOOM

The theme of this year's meeting is "Self-Care, Soul Care and Caring for Others." Meeting starts at 9:30 am. At noon, Rev. Debra Flint will discuss "Trauma of the Brain" and at 1 pm Linda Thayer will lead a conversation about the "Future of UMW in Western Pennsylvania."

Register: www.wpaumc.org/UMWomen



**PLAN TO SAFELY ATTEND THESE
MEETINGS**

SAUMC CHARGE CONFERENCE
October 24, 2020 @ 10:00 am via ZOOM

DISTRICT CONFERENCE
October 25, 2020 @ 2:00 pm via ZOOM



UNITED

DEADLINE

The deadline for the November UNITED will be Monday, October 26. Leave articles in the church office or email them to Helen McAfoos at hmcafoos@comcast.net

**ALERT!
BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

Once again the box top labels have changed! Many of them now say "No more clipping, Scan your receipt and See how at BTFE.com." You will need a "smart phone" for this. If you have such a phone and purchase these products you are encouraged to follow the new procedure. Please choose the Pittsburgh Urban Christian School as the recipient. Many of these are the General Mills products, some are zip-loc bags, etc.

If you still find the older style coupons with an expiration date, mainly on General Mills products, please cut them out and bring them in to the "Box Tops for Education" shoebox located on the Action Table.

We take them to the Pittsburgh Urban Christian School (PUCS) located just down the street from the church. The school can make good use of them. This is a great way to help our neighbor here in Wilkinsburg.



ALERT FOR

ENJOY BOOKS

Enjoy Books will be arriving soon and will be available for purchase. The cost is the same as last year - \$30.00 each. Women's Ministries is once again selling these useful books to earn extra money for missions. This book is full of coupons which can be a big savings for you; check out the many offerings in the flyers that will be available in the Church office. It's not just restaurants – look for dry cleaners, florists and many more.

You may buy your new book before the old one expires on November 1 and begin using it immediately! It makes a great Birthday, Thank-you, Anniversary and/or Christmas present. How about as a hostess gift? Books will be available in the church office or call Mabel Matteson at 412-826-5831.