



# THE UNITED

## *South Avenue United Methodist Church*

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



**July/August 2023**

733 South Avenue  
Pittsburgh PA 15221

Phone: 412-371-7421

www.SouthAvenueUMC.org  
Conference web site: www.wpaumc.org

Pastor's email: [Pastor@southavenueumc.org](mailto:Pastor@southavenueumc.org)  
National web site: www.umc.org

### FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

#### JULY/AUGUST 2023

It was well over a year ago that I received a phone call from a former parishioner asking me if I would be willing to perform the marriage ceremony for her grandson and his fiancé. Of course I said yes.

Interestingly enough, I had baptized her grandson on February 17, 1996 when he was just an infant. Suddenly I was feeling quite old. And then it got worse when I remembered that not only did I baptize this little guy but I also had performed the marriage ceremony for his parents on December 30, 1994. Suddenly old was inching its way to ancient. A friend and colleague said, "If you think you are feeling old now just wait until you marry this young couple's children!" I assured him there isn't enough time left for that.

Time is an interesting concept. We measure time by our watches: seconds, minutes and hours. We measure time by our calendars: days, weeks, months and years. Time is God's gift to each of us. How we use our time is our gift to God.

The wedding was Saturday, June 17. It was a great celebration. I couldn't help but notice the number of grandparents that were in attendance. I made mention during the ceremony how blessed they were to have all of their grandparents in attendance embracing them with their love and support. I ended the homily part of the ceremony by quoting a verse from Vince Gill's song... 'Look at Us.'

Look at us after all of these years together.  
Look at us after all that we've been through.  
Look at us still leaning on each other.  
If you wanna see how true love should be...  
Then just look at us.

I told the young bride and groom that it was my prayer that 50 years from today when you celebrate your wedding anniversary you will be able to recall this song..."Look at us after all these years together...if you wanna see how true love should be then just look at us." Don't blink too long because you will wake up sooner than you think and it will be your Golden Wedding Anniversary. Time passes us by so quickly.

I was surprised to receive a call a few days following the wedding from the same grandmother who called to ask if I would perform the wedding ceremony. She was calling to tell me the bride's maternal grandfather had died unexpectedly three days after the wedding. I had just seen him. We talked and laughed. We made a connection in the short time we were in each other's company. Jake was only 71 years old.

The bride's mother called me the following day and asked if I would be willing to preside over her father's funeral service. She said he had mentioned to her more than once how much he 'liked that preacher who married the kids.'

Nine days after the wedding I was standing in front of many of the same people who were in attendance at the wedding. We were all in shock. Life is precious. Life is fragile. Life is short.

Yes, time passes by quickly. We never know when life will end for any of us. Yes, time is God's gift to each of us. And yes, what we do with our time is our gift to God.



Blessings,

Pastor Russel

## SIX MONTH GIVING STATEMENTS

The six-month giving letters will be mailed in early July. If you do not receive one, or if you find errors or have questions, please contact the Church Office and we will get back to you.

## GENEROSITY REPORT

During the year the Church asks for donations for various local projects and special Sunday designations by the Conference. Here's a summary of the first six months' activity.

UMCOR Donations	\$2455
Native American Awareness	\$65
Peace With Justice	\$91
The Bishop's Camping Campaign	\$100

Your support as members and friends of South Ave. UMC for these requests is much appreciated.



## HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

The office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in celebration of Independence Day.

## GOOD NEWS!

One piece of good news coming out of the recent Annual Conference is that Pastor Russel has been reappointed to his current charge, including South Avenue and Mifflin Avenue, effective July 1. A reason for us to celebrate!



## MINISTRY COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held on August 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm via ZOOM.



## UPCOMING PROJECT

The Church staff is planning to update the SAUMC Directory of Members and Friends in September. If you have recently changed your address, telephone number or email address, please notify Debbi Cataldo at the Church Office (412.371.7421) so that our next directory distribution will be as up-to-date as possible.

## NEXT DEADLINE

This is a combined issue for July and August. The deadline for the September issue will be Monday, August 21 2023. Please leave articles in the church office or email them to Helen McAfoos at [hmcafoos@comcast.net](mailto:hmcafoos@comcast.net).

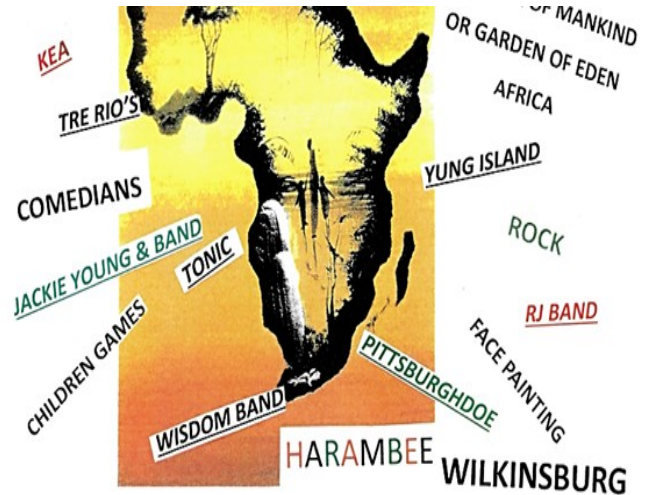
**THE 2023 WILKINSBURG THURSDAY MARKET IS OPEN!**



June to November Thu: 3:00 PM-6:30 PM

This farmers market accepts credit cards and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

**HARAMBEE FESTIVAL COMING SOON**



**"IT TAKES A WHOLE VILLAGE"**

JAZZ/AFRIKAN DRUMMERS/POETRY/GOSPEL  
RAP/R&B/PARADE/ART = ENTERTAINMENT!

ENTERTAINMENT= **TRE RIO'S MEDIA LLC**

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**HAROLD YOUNG PARKLET**

July ( 21-23 ) August ( 4th -6th ) August (11th -13th ) August ( 25th - 27th )  
WILKINSBURG HOMEWOOD EASTLIBERTY HOMESTEAD ALL



**EMPLOYMENT FOR TEENAGERS**

**HARAMBEE WILKINSBURG HARAMBEE**

JULY 21-23,2023 "HARAMBEE SOUL FEST"

**VENDORS APPLICATION**

**RETAIL = \$75.00/ FOOD = \$100.00/FOOD TRUCK VENDOR = \$150.00/INFORMATION = \$25.00**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE#: \_\_\_\_\_

RETAIL \_\_\_\_\_ FOOD \_\_\_\_\_ INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU ARE SELLING: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT: PEARLINA STORY @ 412-628-9011 AND OR ANITA DRUMMOND @ 412-654-6115**

**FOOD**  
DO YOU HAVE A PERMIT AND FROM WHOM: \_\_\_\_\_

WHICH "HARAMBEE FESTIVAL?"  
July ( 21-23 ) August ( 4th -6th ) August (11th -13th ) August ( 25th - 27th )

WILKINSBURG HOMEWOOD EASTLIBERTY HOMESTEAD ALL

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