



# THE UNITED

## *South Avenue United Methodist Church*

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



**November 2023**

733 South Avenue  
Pittsburgh PA 15221

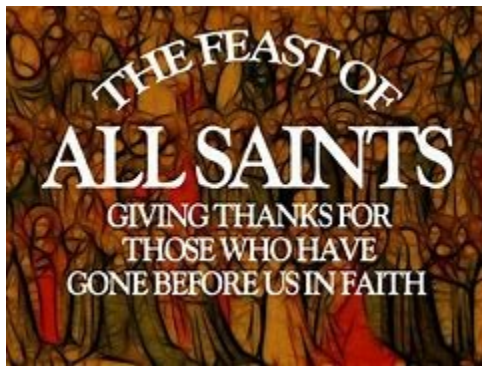
Phone: 412-371-7421

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

#### NOVEMBER 2023



After three years of fighting the parkway traffic travelling to the churches I finally discovered a more convenient route. (I guess I am a slow learner.) This new route takes me past a funeral home conveniently located next to the road. The funeral home has one of those fancy electronic signs that you cannot help but notice. Some days the sign has a picture of the funeral director and his family. Most other days the sign will display the name and picture of a recently deceased individual that is being buried from the funeral home. Some of the photos are professional pictures that had been taken at some point in the person's life. Others were candid photos. One I recall was a woman standing in her kitchen (or someone's kitchen). Others are rather whimsical catching the individual mid laughter.

I am not sure how I feel about this kind of advertisement but I must confess I have come to give intentional pause as I pass the funeral home. I deliberately slow down as I approach the home so that I might see the name and picture on display. I lift up a little prayer of God's comfort and peace for the family of the deceased. And even though I do not know the individual who has died, I also offer a prayer of thanksgiving for his or her life. As I offer the prayer of thanksgiving I can't help but wonder.... I wonder about their life story. Each and every life had a story to tell.

Sunday, November 5 we will celebrate the Feast of All Saint's Sunday. It is a combined service at South Avenue UMC at 10:30 A.M. in the sanctuary. On this holy day we will remember: Fred T. Arbogast, Allen Bankson, Jake Blaker, Carol Brown, Jack Anton Martz, Dr. Jack Allen Morrow, Phyllis A. Penwell, Wendy sue Perrot, Amanda Petronio and Charlene Phillips. Each of these 'saints' had a life story. Some of the stories we may know and others we do not. It matters little if we do not know their story for God knows their story. God knows each of these individuals by name, loves them unconditionally and has ushered them home into God's Kingdom.

On All Saint's Sunday we will come with memories of all those we love but see no more. We remember and cherish each and every life story... a story of love and laughter and of heartache and struggles. We remember and give thanks for we were privileged to be a part of their stories and they a part of our stories.

We will also gather to tell God's love story. We will give thanks that each life story did not end with their death. Each and every 'saint' has a story that lives on through God's love and grace for all eternity in God's heavenly realm.

I look forward to celebrating this holy day with you.

Blessings,  
Pastor Russel

#### **ALL SAINT'S LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP**



All are invited to lunch and a time of fellowship following the All Saint's service. The lunch will be in the Wesley Room.

## JOIN IN THE ALL SAINTS DAY CELEBRATION

On All Saints Day, Sunday, November 5, we will remember and honor those persons who have and continue to touch and influence our lives on our faith journey. We will remember those members of our church who have died during this past year and joined the church triumphant. Combined SAUMC and Mifflin Avenue service will be held at South Avenue at 10:30 am with lunch following the service.



AND



Sunday, November 12, 2023 a combined Thanksgiving worship service with a Thanksgiving lunch to follow will be held at the Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church at 10:30 A.M. All are welcome!

## MINISTRY COUNCIL

The Ministry council will meet via Zoom on Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 pm.

## OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 23, 2023.

## COMMITMENT CARDS

The "intent to give" campaign at South Avenue is under way for 2024. You may have received a letter and card in the mail and, if so, please consider participating for the coming year (it helps us prepare the budget). You can either put your card in the offering plate on a Sunday morning or mail it to the Church. Your continued support of the Church is greatly appreciated. Additional cards are located at the Action Table or in the narthex at the back of the Church. We would like to have cards returned by November 13.

## UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY NOVEMBER 26, 2023

United Methodist Student Day is one of six church wide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. United Methodist Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The special offering provides scholarships for qualified United Methodist applicants.

## TOYS FOR TOTS

The Christmas Mission Opportunity will be to collect NEW unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. Mifflin Avenue has been approved as a local drop off location for the area. Deadline to bring in your toy donations to South Avenue is Sunday, December 3rd. Please ask your friends, family and neighbors to donate toys for the children. Children in the Wilkesburg area will receive toys from this collection.

Bring NEW unwrapped toy/toys to the church on Sunday morning or during the week to the church office. Sharon will deliver them to Mifflin UMC. If you would like to make a monetary donation and have Sharon shop for you, make your check payable to SAUMC and write "Toys for Tots" in the memo line of your check or on your envelope. Put in Sunday's offering or mail to the church.





## SARA CIRCLE

Sara Circle will meet at the church on October 30 at 12:30. Bring your lunch. A beverage will be provided. The program will be "Sharing books we have read or listened to." All women are invited.

Nancy Patterson, Chairperson

## LONGWOOD CIRCLE

The Longwood Circle will meet Thursday, November 9, at 12:30, at Longwood. After lunch together, the program will be "Celebrating Christmas in Difficult Times." Visitors are always welcome (lunch is self-pay, but extremely reasonable!).

Janet Stivanson, chairperson



## GET IN THE SPIRIT

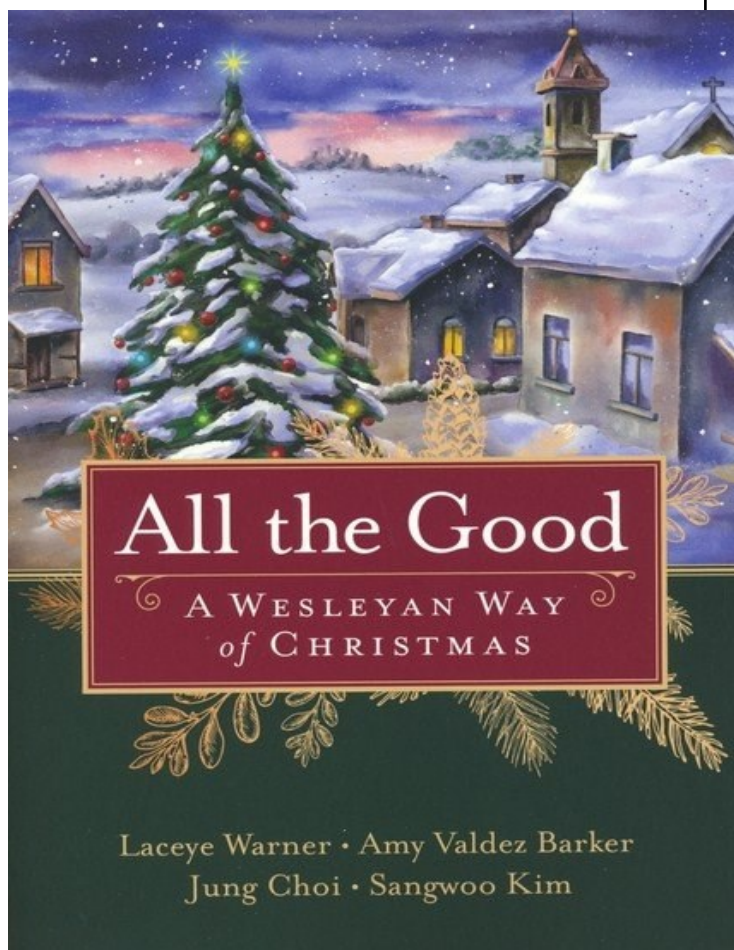
Get in the spirit of the Christmas season by joining others to decorate the sanctuary and Wesley Room on Thursday, November 30 at 9:30am. With Bud's help, we are done quickly.

## ANNUAL FORGE ORNAMENT



It's time again . . . . If you are interested in purchasing the annual ornament from Wendell August Forge, please sign the order sheet on the action table, or phone the church office. Aluminum ornaments are 14.00; bronze are 18.00. Deadline for ordering will be November 19.

## ADVENT BIBLE STUDY



A four week Advent Bible Study, 'All the Good' - a Wesleyan Way of Christmas, will be held on Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom (Nov. 29, Dec. 6, Dec. 13, and Dec. 20). You may purchase the book by calling the church office and we will place the order for you. The cost is approximately \$13.00. You do not need the book to participate.

## ENJOY BOOKS ARRIVED!

You may buy your new Enjoy book before the old one expires on November 1 and begin using it immediately! Books will be available in the church office or call Mabel Matteson at 412-826-5831.

## NEXT DEADLINE

The deadline for the combined December/January issue will be Monday, November 27, 2023. Please leave articles in the church office or email them to Helen McAfoos at [hmcafoos@comcast.net](mailto:hmcafoos@comcast.net).



**SOUTH AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
733 SOUTH AVENUE, WILKINSBURG, PA 15221**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

**MONDAY**

**9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM**

**TUESDAY**

**9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM**

**WEDNESDAY**

**12:00 NOON TO 3:00 PM**

**THURSDAY**

**9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM**

**FRIDAY**

**CLOSED**