

# The South Side Messenger

South Side Presbyterian Church

*GOD IS AWESOME  
BEYOND OUR WORDS*

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February 28, 2025

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AT THE BUILDING AT 11:30 A.M.**

We plan to continue to provide the call-in phone conference option for any who cannot attend worship service in the building. Call around 11:25 a.m. and just wait for someone to greet you. The conference phone number is 412-307-7952. **PLEASE NOTE -- WORSHIP SERVICE NOW BEGINS AT 11:30 A.M.**

### **UPCOMING SPECIAL DATES**

March 7	World Day of Prayer
March 9	Daylight Savings Time Begins (Clocks <i>spring</i> ahead one hour before bed the evening of March 8)
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 20	First Day of Spring & open Mic Coffee House (7:30-9:00 pm – suggested donation \$5)
March 30	Members to vote on the status of the Church
April 13	Palm Sunday (Holy Week Begins)
April 17	Maudy Thursday & Open Mic Coffee House (7:30-9:00 pm – suggested donation \$5)
April 18	Good Friday
April 19	Holy Saturday
April 20	Easter Sunday and One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
April 22	Earth Day

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

Dear Members and Friends,

For those of you looking for comfort in these difficult times, South Side Presbyterian Church welcomes you! It's so good to be writing to you again. It seems like a long time, but there has been a lot to attend to and many changes. It seems fair to give you a summary.

We have made the transition to a new Session with two new Ruling Elders, Charolette Flamm and Chris Zarnich. As you probably know, the Session is our body of elected elders responsible for our church's spiritual oversight and mission. Charolette has agreed to take on the responsibility of Clerk of Session and Chris has agreed to be Treasurer, following the retirement and long and wonderfully dedicated service of Wayne Morrison. Chris has been especially gracious to take on the job of Treasurer since she has just lost her spouse and life partner of 32 years, Melanie Russell. Charlotte Taylor

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

(continued)

will continue as a Ruling Elder. A church requires a Session to function. We are very grateful to those willing to take on this responsibility.

We have also been mindful of the church's finances. Because of a generous bequest, immediate financial concerns have been lifted. We will be able to meet our five-hours per week obligations to our excellent secretary, Vicki Dusch. We have also been fortunate enough to find a new church musician since, after many years, Wayne has retired as our pianist. Wayne, a professional engineer, was willing to play for us pro bono; our new young pianist is willing to receive less than the going weekly rate. My current contract as pastor extends through the end of April; I would be more than happy to continue with you. One worrying surprise is the urgent need to attend to our stained-glass windows. We cannot afford to repair them but must at least provide plexiglass to stabilize pieces of glass so that no one is injured. We are working on estimates and are grateful, as always, for the interest and expertise of our architect friends, Fred Winkler.

Meanwhile, we serve seven groups from the community through rental space: The Brashear Association continues with us; we now have three 12-step programs; Project Pittsburgh, a young and local group interested in documentary theatre; men's basketball on Saturday morning during the winter months; and the monthly Open Mic for poets and musicians, originally a ministry of our deacons and still a vital ministry that makes a monthly contribution. The church is large enough so that we could accommodate more groups; I am always willing to meet with people who are interested.

On March 30, after Worship, members of the church will once again have a chance to vote on our way forward. Prior to the vote, Session will present its best assessment of our finances and our future and there will be time

for questions and discussion. We are always grateful for visitors and prospective members since survival depends less on money than on expanded and involved membership. Our renewed and updated website may be of help in this regard. Through the help of Charlotte Pyle, I now post a new message weekly. There you will find summaries of my sermons, prayer suggestions, and reflections on the seasons of our church year.

All this has probably sounded more like a report than a letter, but I feel that it's best for our well-wishers to know how we are doing and what kind of support we need. Please know how grateful Session and I are for all your interest, prayers, and support. Your value as an extended community cannot be overestimated. As I said in my Annual Report in January, I feel very strongly that the Holy Spirit has been holding and guiding South Side Presbyterian Church.

We are now the very last mainstream Protestant Church on the South Side. I continue to feel there is much that we are being called to offer to one another and to the community that surrounds us. As Prayer Stewards, please pray without ceasing for the future of this congregation, for this building, and for the Faith to which you have witnessed for so long.

Blessings for a Holy Lent

With love and Grace to you all,

Pastor Dora

### **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Please continue to keep in your prayers Sharon Ives and her sister Janet Williams, Mark Perrucci & Family, Lois Baxendell, Christine Zarnich, Charolette Flamm, Amanda Gordon, Juanita Johnson, Charlotte Taylor, Janet Frisch, Edna Czlapinski & Family, Michelle Alker, and Sandra Winer.

## NEW RULING ELDERS

**Charlotte Flamm** has been attending South Side Presbyterian Church since way back when. In those years, she could walk to church. She served as a deacon and helped run VBS. A widow since 1998, she moved to Brentwood and later to Mount Washington. She worked at Sitko's, real estate attorneys. She loves all animals, especially cats. She feeds the birds and squirrels. Twice a week, she helps "her ladies" go shopping in a van; she loves helping anyone. She also loves the Penguins and Dairy Queen. She is very pleased to be joining Session. SSPC is now her family.

**Chris Zarnich** came to this church as a member of AA. She set up the meeting every Sunday night for ten years and got to know Pastor Kathy. She then worked as a file clerk with Pastor Kathy. She started out at her father's accordion studio in the South Side at 17 and then moved on to the PPG paints arena. Her happiest job was as an elevator operator when she retired from UPMC Health Plan in 2010. In between she worked at Pitt in their International Studies office and at a bank in their International banking office. She has been caring for her spouse Melanie, whom she has known for 32 years, and who was diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia in 2021. She loves this church. Because she loves to paint, she has painted all its rooms!

## FROM WAYNE MORRISON, WHOM WE CONTINUE TO MISS

Dear Friends, with a heavy heart and with mixed emotions, I am announcing my retirement from serving as a ruling elder, treasurer, and musician. I am not going away, however. I hope to see you in church from time to time in the coming months and will be assisting in the transition to those fulfilling my duties in 2025. The friendships with you and with those who have passed are and have been important to me. I have particularly enjoyed

playing music for worship, Youth Club, and Vacation bible School. Peace be with, Wayne.

## INTRODUCING ESTELLA CARMINE

My name is Estella. I am in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and I go to Capa High School to play the piano and the flute. I've been going to CAPA since the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and I love it there. I started playing the piano at the wee age of 5 and I plan to keep playing for the rest of my life. I spend most of my time with my two dogs, cat, and my mom, mingling with various arts, and practicing piano. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to play at the South Side Presbyterian Church. I could hardly wait for my first day!

## KITCHEN KORNER

### Cheesy Potatoes: For a Meatless Season From Ronda Kopchak

1 large bag frozen hash browns  
1 stick margarine or butter  
¾ lb. Velveeta cheese  
1 pint Half & Half  
In saucepan, combine margarine, cheese, and half & half, stirring often until  
All cheese and butter is melted.  
Place frozen hash browns in 9 x 13 baking dish, pour margarine, cheese, and half & half over hash browns. Bake at 350 degrees uncovered for 60 minutes!



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**PROJECT PITTSBURGH** is a collective of six theatre artists, aged 22-25, who are creating a piece that celebrates the legacy of Pittsburgh. They started with nothing but a shared love for the city and its stories. They feel that communities' stories belong on stage. Their director is **Matthew Alan Craig**. Together they are weaving together voices from the past and present to show Pittsburgh's transformation from steel boom to its current ongoing reinvention. They draw upon interviews, research, and collaboraton. Stay connected through their website [www.Project-Pittsburgh.com](http://www.Project-Pittsburgh.com) or Instagram [@ProjectPittsburgh](https://www.instagram.com/ProjectPittsburgh).

**Lenten Verse to Remember:**

“Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rent your hearts and not your clothing.” Joel 2.13-14a

**Melanie Russell Obituary**

Melanie, age 81, passed away on Saturday, February 22. While at Mt. Union College in Ohio, she began going to Rehoboth where her ashes will be spread. With a master's degree in social work from Pitt, she became an advocate for children. She will be sorely missed. You may plant a tree in her memory.

**Dorothy Perrucci Obituary**

A long-time and much beloved member of SSPC, Dorothy passed away on Tuesday, February 25, at the age of 93. A prayer service, conducted by Pastor Dora and Pastor Kathy Hamilton-Vargo, will be held at Thomas J. Gmitter Funeral Home, on March 22, at 6:30; hours from 5 to 7. Dorothy is survived by her three sons, Mark, Eric, and Kirk. The family is requesting a tree planted in her memory.