



The Lily Pad



“I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.”

Solomon 2:1

93 DAYS OF SUMMER

Good morning Fifth Avenue Friends & Family,

Hurray! The school year is officially over and the family can breathe a sigh of relief. Congratulations to our 2017 graduates! We celebrate your achievements and honor your commitment to education excellence.

Each of us need and deserve a summer break! As church Friends & Families head out on extended tropical vacations and weekend family trips, summers usually lead to sporadic church attendance for a few months. Things even slow down here at the church, so our calendar is more open for various and exciting outreach opportunities and connectional experiences. But unfortunately, our church's financial obligations won't be taking any vacations.

Thank you, Friends & Family, for all your stewardship and generosity! Your generosity of sharing your time, talents, and monies helps to secure our financial future and the resources for our ministries and mission plans for the coming year. So please accept my warm and grateful thanks to you for your part in this wonderful, generous commitment. Your prompt response to fulfilling your stewardship pledge and giving in grace will be a source of fruitful blessing for you. This generous giving will do so much more than balance our budget for the coming year. Your support helps make us financially secure and we can grow both new and existing areas of ministry and mission inside and outside the church and will encourage others in our church as they make their own stewardship response.

You can be very confident that your giving is making a positive and impactful difference to people's lives in your church, community, and globally.

Once again thank you for your generosity, support, encouragement, and partnership in all our ministries and missions through Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church. It is greatly appreciated and never taken for granted. If you would like to discuss any aspect of generosity stewardship or the ministries and missions of our church please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have you prepared for your summer giving? Church Finance is available to give you various options that will allow you to give – whether you're in the front pew or floating on an inner tube in The Dells, you can still give your pledge contributions and weekly offering. Give Church Finance a call – they're skilled to help you maximize your giving opportunities. Biblical stewardship - where the concepts of faith, work, and economics intersect as our call to serve continues through the **93 DAYS OF SUMMER!**

Go forth, go into the world!

Go into these warm days of summer.

Enjoy God's creation and all that God provides.

Celebrate the summertime of the earth where life is enhanced by rain and long days of sunshine.

Go forth sharing, witnessing, and living the Good News.

Stay plugged in – there's a lot going on at your church! When you are local, please make sure to be a

part of our services and activities. Summer doesn't have to be a slump; it can be a time of incredible growth! Fifth Avenue UMC will welcome children for our FREE Vacation Bible School - *Surf Shack- "Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love"* - July 13, 14, & 15 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – volunteers are needed and welcomed. Our outdoor worship service, July 23, 2017, 10:00 a.m. at Regner Park will allow us to be immerse in and encounter nature, to realize and experience the holy outside of the sacred space of the sanctuary, and to connect worship with God's Creation. Volunteers needed and welcomed!

When you're not in your home church, Fifth Avenue UMC, attend church elsewhere, modeling faithfulness by worshiping with another body of God. If they're doing something that excites and inspires you, bring that idea back home and let's do something with it!

For families with children and youth, please keep us informed of their summer activities so we can be supportive through attendance, encouragement, and prayer. Make sure your children and youth enjoy incredible opportunities this summer to connect and worship God with their friends at Fifth Avenue UMC. Also, volunteer or say yes when you are recruited for liturgist, greeter, or other church leadership roles. The summer will be an intense time and we need all of you to make it a success!

Did you clean your home a month ago? How many of you are planning to clean it again this week? Does it seem like all you do sometimes is cook, clean the house, wash the dishes and do laundry? Would someone please tell me why you have to do this constant cleaning?



A simple answer - we need to constantly clean the house because as we live in our homes things get disorganized. Cleaning the church is a service of ministry and a clean and tidy environment makes for an enthusiastic and productive attitude among the church and its members

Everyone is invited to join the Beautification ministry of Fifth Avenue UMC as we make the house of God an appealing place to worship and serve by volunteering your time, talents, and gifts in our sanctuary and its surrounding grounds. It's so convenient. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come in as his or her schedule permits to lend a helping hand. Cleaning projects will be posted on the bulletin board and throughout the church. Your assistance is valued and needed during this **93 DAYS OF SUMMER!**



I returned several weeks ago from a stupendous and **"Toadly"** awesome Southern Hospitality visit home – Georgia *"oh, how you have been on my mind!"* As my loving family and friends gathered to celebrate the passionate, exciting, and blessed season of my Aunt Benda and my new Uncle, Amos White, Sr. From the angelic voice of my Aunt Zealine and the soulful timbre voice of my Brother-Cousin Willie Farrell, Jr. to the delectable Southern cuisine of my Sister, Janice. What an amazingly blessed celebration – walking down memory lane with my Nieces and Nephew, Sister-Cousins, Cousins Kelsey and Tash, Cousin Luree, Uncle Jimmy & Aunt Mary and many loving family& friends, sharing the joys of serving my church family, Fifth Avenue UMC, and remembering, reminiscing, and honoring the cloud of witnesses at our family cemetery (I love and miss you, Mother, Rissa & Daddy).

We wish you all a blessed 93 DAYS OF SUMMER & the PRESENCE AND POWER OF PENTECOST.

Pastor Clarissa & Martin

Gardening God's Way



Plant three rows of peas:

Peas of mind; Peas of heart; Peas of soul.



Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip; Squash indifference; Squash grumbling;
Squash selfishness.



Plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful; Lettuce be kind; Lettuce be obedient;
Lettuce really love one another.



No garden without turnips:

Turnip for meetings; Turnip for service;
Turnip to help one another.



Water freely with patience and cultivate with love:

There is much fruit in your garden;
Because you reap what you sow.



To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

Thyme for God; Thyme for study; Thyme for prayer.

Author Unknown