

Abolition on the Fourth of July

Frederick Douglass once spoke and reflected on the 4th of July, and within that speech, he said these words:

"I am not included within the pale of this glorious anniversary! Your high independence only reveals the immeasurable distance between us. The blessings in which you, this day, rejoice, are not enjoyed in common. The rich inheritance of justice, liberty, prosperity and independence, bequeathed by your fathers, is shared by you, not by me. The sunlight that brought life and healing to you, has brought stripes and death to me. This Fourth July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn."

"I must mourn" words spoken over 200 years ago have turned into, we must mourn, because justice and freedom and equality still fall short on the landscape of our society. As a nation we celebrate its freedom, sadly there is a still an underlying, a backdrop, a shadow that hangs over our country and for that we mourn.

We mourn because history hasn't taught us the lessons we should have learned. History and time seemingly have not brought us together but has separated us along political lines. But that doesn't have to be the end of the story. We can do better; we can come together and make the Spirit of the 4th ring true for all, but until then, we will mourn and continue the good work of Frederick Douglass as he spoke on the two-sided story of freedom in this country.

~Pastor Henra



FIRST SUNDAY

7/7/24: COMMUNION SUNDAY
Pastor Keyanna preaches
Pastor Darci serves the kids

SECOND SUNDAY

7/14/24: Rev. Dr. Keith
Menhinick preaches
Pastor Keyanna serves the kids

THIRD SUNDAY

7/21/24: Pastor Henra preaches
Pastor Darci serves the kids

FOURTH SUNDAY

7/28/24: CHURCH WORKDAY
Rev. Matt accompanies the kids



JULY'S CONGREGATIONAL HYMN IS:
BLESSED ASSURANCE
BY: FANNY CROSBY

Blessed Assurance is a reminder that we are firmly held by Jesus, our savior, through all of life's trials. While we can never be sure of what life holds, we can certainly be sure that Jesus is with us through it all. We can rejoice in the midst of the storm because we know that we are not alone, and that God will truly take care of us.

VERSE: 1

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

VERSE: 2

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

CHORUS:

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

VERSE: 3

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

NEWSLETTER CONTINUED...



MONTHLY RYTHMNS OF OUR COMMUNITY

July 3, 17 & 31, 2024

As the Sanctuary Community at Park Ave. continues to change and grow, we have decided to provide more community-building opportunities. We will gather to share a meal in the 3rd space on several Wednesdays a month. This month it will be July 3rd, 17th & 31st. Community members and organizations are welcome to attend as well.

July 7, 2024

The Park Avenue Liturgy for the Lord's Supper affirms this food for the struggle for justice; it affirms that Jesus shared it with his chosen family. When we offer the bread and juice we say simply "God Loves You" & "May you know your own wholeness." This sacrament is meant to be shared among everyone. All can serve and all can be served, no exceptions.



Community of MANY

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

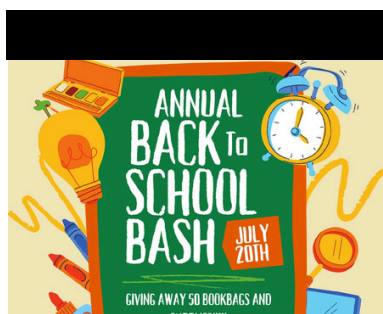


FRIDAY, JULY 5

Jewish Voice for Peace Shabbat

Jewish Voice for Peace is providing refuge and ritual to Jewish people who oppose the actions of Israel's war. We are is a community partner. JVP hosts a monthly shabbat dinner at PABC on the first Friday.

Park Avenue is an Anti-Apartheid Community. Ask us why?!



SATURDAY, JULY 20

Give Away 50 Backpacks

Offer donations of backpacks and supplies, so we can meet our goal. Backpacks can include markers, pencils, sharpeners, notebooks, crayons.

Join us on Saturday, July 20 from 11am to 2pm at Park Avenue Fellowship Hall. Help serve and bring community who are in need.



OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

July 28 Church Workday

Each month we take one Sunday and worship in a different way. It is informal and takes the shape of acts of service to the community that is in respite here at Park Ave.

Sometimes we organize, build hygiene kits, paint or clean the kitchen, but we put our bodies to the service in love. Join us!

Interested in helping more in the life of the community? Let us know! Your gifts are welcome here.

NEWSLETTER CONTINUED...



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED OUT

NEXT Henra's Barbershop- August 25

We are already planning the next Henra's Barbershop! On August 25 we will have 2 stylists and offer lunch, showers, clothing, free store, toiletries and fellowship with our neighbors in need.

We will also have health screenings and so we are offering more holistic help to those in need. Please pick up flyers to give out during the month.

Henra's Barbershop Success

We want to offer a HUGE thank you to PAD, who allowed us to use 2 of the PAD vehicles to bring people in need of showers to Henra's Barbershop. Cameron Johnson, MDiv. drove one van and Pastor Darci drove the other. Both work for Policing Alternatives and Diversion. This month we served over 20 people! Also add those who are currently staying at the respite sanctuary at Park Ave. We are truly making a difference in our community!



More July Events

COMMUNITY OF ABUNDANCE...



SATURDAY, JULY 13

Kids Weelaunee Field Day

Join the Weelaunee collective for a kid-oriented event with games & play. We will rally and craft. There will be snacks! Bring books to swap!

Don't forget your water bottle, kids books & dress in red, green & black to show our Palestinian support.



SATURDAY, JULY 20

Annual Children's Book Festival

The Happy Black parent is hosting the 3rd Annual Children's Book Festival on July 20 at Pittsburgh Yards from 10am to 6pm.

We are accepting \$\$ for little abolitionist giveaway & looking for volunteers & activity collaborators. Email Pastor Darci to get involved.



SUNDAY, JULY 21

Parents Need to Know

What are my rights? Legal support questions? RSVP only to this event to get answers to these important questions. <http://eepurl.com/g0jPPF>

This event is part of a Summer of Resistance parent conversation series.



SANCTUARY INSTALLATION

Abolition is a building up

The sanctuary at Park Avenue now hosts the visions of the abolitionists who have been gathering information about what the community truly wants instead of a Military training facility.

Come study these important documents and participate in the building of beloved community.