

Glad Tidings

PO Box 2316, Arusha, Tanzania
<https://acc.or.tz/>

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Arusha
Community
Church

Letter From the Council - Susan Simonson



After my mother-in-law, Eunie Simonson, died, I sorted through the books in the house. Dave Simonson had a significant library of theology books. Of course, I did not get very far, as I kept opening the books to have a look - and a quick read. One that caught my eye was a book by Helmut Thielicke, a German theologian born in 1908. He was known for being able to share theological perception and depth, expressed in the language and imagery of ordinary life. One story he tells is of two sisters, both wanting to be the best they could be. One sister devoted her life to others; the other sister devoted her life to self-improvement. At the end of their lives, it was the one only seeking self-improvement who seemed "dried up and one-sided" compared with the other who had forgotten herself and lived for others.

He also tells the story of an elderly couple who radiated a tremendous happiness. "The wife especially, who was almost unable to move because of old age and illness, and in whose kind old face the joys and sufferings of many years had etched a hundred runes, was filled with such gratitude for life". He wondered what could be the source of this old woman's radiance? Then he saw how her husband related to her, and he realized that it was because this woman was dearly loved. "It was as if she were like a stone that has been lying in the sun for years and years, absorbing all its radiant warmth and now was reflecting back cheerfulness and warmth and serenity." Pastor Thielicke continues: "Let me express it this way. It was not because she was a cheerful and pleasant person that she was loved by her husband all those years. It was probably the other way around. Because she was so loved, she became the person I now saw before me."

One who does not love and serve others becomes withered and dead inside. One who does not allow oneself to be loved, dries up too.

Thielicke commented, "And it is exactly the same with our relation to God". We hear many a sermon about how we should love and serve God, and love and serve other people. How many sermons have we heard about allowing God to love us?

God DOES love us, yet when was the last time we allowed ourselves to be 'like a stone'; doing nothing except absorbing God's radiant love and warmth?

A relationship with God flows in both directions in a creative process; loving and being loved; allowing ourselves to love and allowing ourselves to be loved. I am glad I found this old book on my father-in-law's book shelf. I have always loved the phrase from Psalm 46:10 *Be still and know that I am God*. Now I can add: *Be still and allow Me to love you*.

As we begin 2024, may we each find ways to serve each other, perhaps through volunteering at ACC in some capacity, or joining a committee. And may we always allow ourselves to be loved by God in His amazing, infinite way.



**ACC's Annual
General Meeting**
Sunday
4th February
2024

After worship
service.

All are welcomed
and encouraged
to come.

A fellowship
meal will be
provided after
the meeting.

NEW VOTING MEMBER CLASS
20TH JANUARY 2024 - 0900 – 1100

Welcome all those who are not yet voting members.

Voting membership at ACC – what does that mean?

Everyone who walks through our doors is a member of our faith family. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to take an active part of our church life. Everyone has a voice at our Annual General Meeting. However, only those who are registered voting members can vote to elect our leadership on Council, or on key issues brought up at the AGM. To be nominated for Council also requires that a person be a registered voting member.

Voting membership confers rights and responsibilities to the member. It is a declaration of renewed and increased commitment to ACC and the needs of the church. Because of this, there are minimum requirements to become a voting member which include; to have attended ACC for at least 3 months, and intend to continue to be part of the community for at least one year; agrees with our statement of faith and are over 16 years old.

New member instruction is intended to inform people of our history, background, constitution, mission and structure of our lay-led church.

All those who wish to become voting members of ACC are therefore welcomed to a New Member class on Saturday, 20th January 2024, 0900-1100 at ACC.

If you are interested in attending, please register with Vivi in the church office.



Deuteronomy 7:13

“He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers. He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land—your grain, new wine and olive oil—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.

Mission Statement:



Arusha Community Church seeks to bring Christian praise and witness to God through worship, service and study. The congregation provides opportunity for Christian fellowship, service and witness, community outreach, personal growth and family growth. Recognizing the close link between worship and culture, Arusha Community Church has an inter-denominational ministry to the international community in Arusha.

“You crown the year
with your goodness;
your paths overflow
with rich food.”

PSALM 65:11

ACC PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request and would like members of our community to support you in prayer, contact the four key persons – if possible by SMS- and they will inform the others from the prayer chain.

Erwin Kinsey	0754 480 184
Margaret Kenyi	0754 090 078
Susan Simonson	0754 266 559
Stella Karumuna	0754 281 337

Alcoholics Anonymous

AA meets at ACC :

Monday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Tuesday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Thursday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Friday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Saturday 10:00am –
11:00am

NA (Narcotics
Anonymous) meets:

Tuesday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Thursday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Saturday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

BUT THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD
WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH.
THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES;
THEY WILL RUN AND NOT GROW WEARY,
THEY WILL WALK AND NOT BE FAINT.

ISAIAH 40:31



Check out our Facebook page:
“Arusha Community Church” for
updates and news. You can add
your words of encouragement in
the comments section.
Tupo Pamoja!



January 2024

Worship Schedule



	January 7, 2023	January 14, 2023	January 21, 2023	January 28, 2023
Church Calendar	Baptism of the Lord	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Service Type	Communion	Morning	Communion	Family
Service Leader	Sion Miraa	Moira Brehony	Susan Simonson	John Kraft
Preacher	Michael Murray	Daudi Msseemaa	Phillip Bach-Svendson	Lisa Borden
Music Leader	Neil Miller	Erwin Kinsey	Randy Stubbs	Maryng'ida Severe
Duty Elder	Andrea Thomas	Jessica Shayo	Wilson Mzirai	Sion Miraa
Zoom Host				Sion Miraa
Sound Projector	Gerald Sebastian	Tumsifu Mushi	Lawrance Menda	Andrea Thomas
Ushers	Cifachalo Cifa	Lilian Amedeus	Paul Michael	Debbie Laiser
Flowers	Gillian	Christy Miller	Doreen Marandu	Immaculate Shija
Scripture Readings	Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28



" You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

-Ephesians 4:22-24