

## Letter From the Council:



### “Out of Hiding”

Every month, someone on Council is designated to write the Letter from Council. The main intent of this “letter” is to be a way of communicating to the congregation about what is happening in Council as we serve you. When I agreed to do this for February I asked if anyone could suggest a theme. “Out of hiding” was the thought given. It has been a full three years since the world first became aware of a newly mutated coronavirus, COVID 19, which was very contagious and could cause death or long-term disability, especially to the most vulnerable. Even while spreading worldwide, we thought it would be over in just a short while: before the realization began to hit that this was a long-haul problem, not something that would quickly disappear. Despite complete lock-downs in many parts of the world, a very conservative estimate of the death toll from covid is 6.74 million. We, at ACC, closed our church for a time before cautiously starting some things up again.

Now 3 years later, are we “coming out of hiding”? Were we ever “in hiding” or were we rather “sheltering in place”? I believe we were all encouraged and supported through reading the Bible and verses such as Joshua 1:9 *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified: do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.* Or Psalm 91: *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

At our Council meetings, the topic of COVID has been on our agenda every month for three years. And for the past many months, the minutes say “no changes to health protocols needed”. We are coming out from under God’s sheltering wing for this particular hazard. All our worship services and programs have resumed. Things are returning to “normal”, including, hopefully, generating enough offering income so that we can give more externally to those most in need.

Normal means ‘conforming to a type, standard or regular pattern: characterized by that which is considered usual, typical or routine’. So often, especially in 2021, I read commentaries and editorials hoping that as we went back to ‘normal’, that it would be a different, better ‘normal’. That the long periods of separation from others would give us time as individuals and communities and countries to be more self-evaluating, reflective and contemplative. That this would force us to reconsider who we are and what we value, and in the long run, rediscover the better version of ourselves. That we would be far more aware of our interdependency and interconnectedness as a global society; and that our encroachment and destruction of God’s natural world has far-reaching and devastating consequences. That the world would be a kinder, gentler place; and we, a kinder gentle people. Looking worldwide, I am not so sure that this is the case.

So, we need to look at ourselves, and our own church. We should ask ourselves as we return to 'normal': Are we a kinder, gentler church? Are we more inclusive and inviting and interconnected; more forgiving and giving; more hopeful and helpful; more grateful and generous? Are we more open to sharing God's grace and peace, and more willing to speak to others about our own experiences of God's love, trustworthiness and faithfulness? Are we? With God's grace through Christ Jesus and with the power of the Holy Spirit, I pray we are.

~ Susan Simonson

**ACC's Annual  
General Meeting**  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February  
2023

After worship service.  
Please do come.  
A fellowship meal will  
be provided after the  
meeting.



Our ACC Ash Wednesday service is on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
February, starting at 6:30 pm  
**All are welcome!**

**John 17:5**

"And now, O  
Father, glorify Me  
together with  
Yourself, with the  
glory which I had  
with You  
before the  
world was."

**TEACHERS and  
ASSISTANTS NEEDED**



Teachers and assistants really are needed for the Sunday School program. Things to remember:

- As a teacher, you stand in an important tradition. One of the commonly used names for Jesus was *rabbi*, which means teacher of master.
- Your teaching carries with it all the power of God's good news and is done through the strength of the Holy Spirit.
- Your gifts, skills and talents ARE more than adequate. Your resources are rich and overflowing.
- You don't have to pattern your teaching after anyone else. You have had many good teachers. Take what you admire from each one, but relax and be yourself.
- Other people can help you. Ask for help from church leaders, more experienced teachers and those you feel are good teachers.
- You will be surprised and delighted to discover how much YOUR faith will grow as you teach.



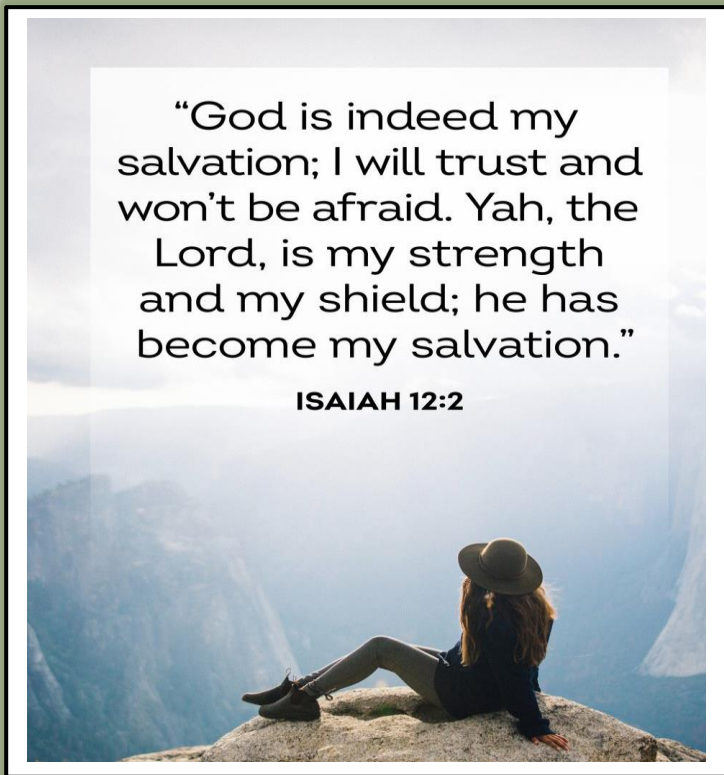
**Mission Statement:**

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.



**“But you, Lord! Don’t be far away! You are my strength! Come quick and help me!”**

**PSALM 22:19**



**“God is indeed my salvation; I will trust and won’t be afraid. Yah, the Lord, is my strength and my shield; he has become my salvation.”**

**ISAIAH 12:2**

**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.**

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

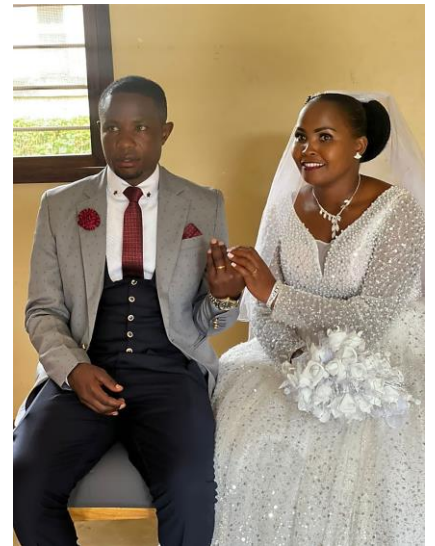


# DECEMBER WEDDINGS



**Samwel Athanas Kiula  
&  
Josephine Severini Shayo,**

**Wedded on the 17<sup>th</sup> Dec  
2022**



**Ephesians 4:2.**

"Be completely humble  
and gentle; be patient,  
bearing with one  
another in love."



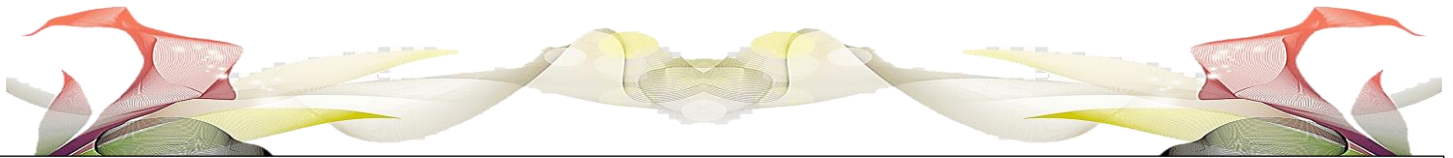
**Joshua Eliyuko Mbagu & Glory Selikoki Jumbe  
Wedded on the 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022**



**Baptism of  
Abriela  
Malaika Eliel**

**Galatians 3:26-27**

"So in Christ Jesus  
you are all children of  
God through faith, for  
all of you who were  
baptized into Christ  
have clothed  
yourselves with  
Christ."



### TITHES AND OFFERINGS AT ACC:

Your OFFERINGS are important. It is easier for accounting purposes, and without charges, if offerings are deposited directly into our Exim Bank Account (please see details below). While the MPESA number remains available for receiving offerings, please consider making a deposit directly into our bank.

#### ACC BANK DETAILS:

For anyone who wishes or needs to transfer funds via bank deposit to ACC please find the following details here:

##### EXIM BANK

**TSH: ACCOUNT NUMBER 00 300 23 252**  
**USD: ACCOUNT NUMBER 0030035020**

#### ACC MOBILE MONEY ACCOUNT DETAILS:

For anyone who wishes or needs to transfer funds via mobile money to ACC please find the following details here:

**M-PESA DEPOSIT NUMBER: +255755992394**

**NAME: NASIEKU MOLLEL (Church Administrator)**

“He was pierced because of our rebellions and crushed because of our crimes. He bore the punishment that made us whole; by his wounds we are healed.”

**ISAIAH 53:5**

### Alcoholics Anonymous

AA meets at ACC :

NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meets:

Monday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Tuesday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Tuesday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Thursday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Wednesday 5:00pm

Saturday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Thursday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Friday 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am (New Comers meeting ) – 10:00am (General

### Joel 2: 12-13

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.”



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!

# February 2023

## Worship Schedule



	February 5, 2023	February 12, 2023	February 19, 2023	Feb 22, 2023	February 26, 2023
Church Calendar	5th Sunday after Epiphany	6th Sunday after Epiphany	Transfiguration Sunday	Ash Wednesday	1st Sunday in Lent
Service Type	Communion	Morning	Communion	Special	Family
Service Leader	<b>Erwin Kinsey</b>	<b>John Kraft</b>	<b>Eliel Gideon</b>	<b>Christy Rower Miller</b>	<b>Eric Mbelle</b>
Preacher	<b>Daudi Msseemmaa</b>	<b>Michael Murray</b>	<b>Fr. Oliver O'Brien</b>	<b>Randy Stubbs</b>	<b>Angelika Kinsey</b>
Musician(s)	<b>JD Park</b>	<b>Megan Ndale</b>	<b>Randy Stubbs</b>	<b>Neil Rowe Miller</b>	<b>Sion Miraa</b>
Duty Elder	Wilson Mzirai	Sion Miraa	Erwin Kinsey	Erwin Kinsey	Irene Joel
Zoom Host	Jessica Shayo		Sion Miraa		Aunsu
Sound Projector	Andrea Thomas	Tumsifu Mushi	Goodluck Jaaya	Andrea Thomas	Gerald Sebastian
Ushers	Jaqueline Njau	Jaqueline Njau	Jaqueline Njau	Jaqueline Njau	Jaqueline Njau
Flowers	Immaculate Shija	Erwin Kinsey	Doreen Marandu	Irene Joel	Rebecca Ndorosi
Scripture Readings	Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12) Psalm 112: 1-9 (10) 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12, (13-16) Mathew 5:13-20	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 <i>or</i> Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37	Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 2 Peter 1:16-21 Mathew 17:1-9	Joel 2:1-2,12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Mathew 6:1-6,16-21	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Mathew 4: 1-11

**Isaiah 58:6-7:** *"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"*