

*A Celebration of the Life of*  
**Samuel B. Parsons, Sr.**

**August 7, 1937 - September 21, 2024**



**Swarthmore United Methodist Church**  
**129 Park Avenue | Swarthmore, PA**

Saturday, November 9, 2024

Visitation at 1:00pm | Memorial Service at 2:00pm

Reception in the Centennial Room immediately following the Service

Rev. Ali DeLeo, Senior Pastor

Rev. Joanne Miles, Deacon

Rev. Dr. Lydia Munoz, Vocalist & previous SUMC Pastor

Brian Mueller, Piano & Organ

22 Park Avenue under the direction of Matt Matekovic

Rigby Harting & Hagan Funeral Home

## *A Celebration of Life for Sam Parsons*

### **A LIFE IN MUSIC**

22 Park Avenue Band

*Moonlight Serenade ~ Glenn Miller*

This song is one of Sam & Pat's favorite songs, and is a celebration of their 60 years romantic moonlit evenings as husband and wife.

*Pennsylvania 6-5000 ~ Jerry Gray & Carl Sigman*

With a glint in his eye and a broad smile,  
this was a song where Sam liked to "shout out"!

*Chattanooga Choo Choo ~ Mack Gordon & Harry Warren*

As a loving father, Sam would often sing this song to the girls,  
who "bounced away" in joy of this introduction to "Sam's music"

### **WORDS OF GRACE AND GREETING**

Rev. Ali DeLeo, Pastor

### **OPENING PRAYER**

### **INVOCATION (unison)**

Rev. Joanne Miles, Deacon

**Eternal God, we praise You for the great company of those who have finished their course and now rest from their labor. We praise you for Sam, a man whose enduring carried him in the joys and trials of life. We thank you that you have already graciously received him into your eternal and loving presence. As we remember Sam and celebrate his life, we thank you for the many ways Sam continues to live in our hearts and minds. Amen.**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

UMH #140

Rev. Dr Lydia Munoz, Vocalist

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

[Refrain] Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

### **PSALM READING**

Psalm 100

Rev. Joanne Miles, Deacon

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** Colossians 3:1 & 12-16

**HOMILY**

Rev. Ali DeLeo

**HYMN OF RESPONSE**

*Here I Am, Lord*

UMH #593

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

[Refrain] Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, If You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

**TRIBUTES**

Janice Ciampa  
Bill Moore  
Beth Fisher, Deb Parsons, Sam Parsons Jr.

**REMEMBRANCES**

*At this time, those who have gathered are invited to share brief remembrances,  
thanksgivings, and messages of comfort & support in memory of Sam's life with us.*

**SENDING HYMN**

*Because He Lives*

UMH #364

God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus  
He came to love, heal and forgive  
He lived and died to buy my pardon  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

[Chorus] Because He lives, I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives, all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living  
Just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby  
And feel the pride and the joy he gives  
But greater still the calm assurance  
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives. [Chorus]

And then one day, I'll cross that river  
I'll fight life's final war with pain  
And then, as death gives way to vict'ry  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns. [Chorus]

## PRAYER OF COMFORT & THANKSGIVING

Rev. Ali DeLeo

## MUSICAL SENDING FORTH WITH JOY & LOVE

22 Park Avenue Band

*1 O'clock Jump ~ Count Basie*

Sam was a big Count Basie fan, and this one was one of his favorites!

*They Can't Take That Away from Me ~ George & Ira Gershwin*

This song was the Father-Daughter dance Sam & Deb shared her wedding.

It is a fitting "send off" song, since no one can take the beautiful life  
Sam shared with all of us. May his memory be a blessing.

## BENEDICTION

Rev. Ali DeLeo

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*Thank you for remembering & celebrating Sam's life with us today.  
All are invited to a light luncheon reception in the Centennial Room.*

The family suggests that memorial donations be made to

Swarthmore United Methodist Church  
(129 Park Avenue, Swarthmore PA 19081)

or

The Brad Shoener Memorial Fund  
(Upper Darby Arts & Education Foundation, 1051 Pontiac Road #707, Drexel Hill, PA 19026)



*As we gather to celebrate Sam's life and commemorate the love he shared with Pat, we honor a tradition that defined their enduring bond: hoagies and champagne. For nearly six decades, this non-traditional pairing marked their wedding anniversaries, beginning with their first anniversary when Sam, running late from work, arrived home with hoagies and a bottle of champagne. This simple, thoughtful gesture became a cherished annual ritual, symbolizing the love and laughter they shared through the years.*

*This past November 7th, would have been their 60th wedding anniversary.*

*We invite you to join us in the Centennial Room to raise a glass and enjoy a hoagie in a heartfelt tribute to Sam's memory and the enduring love story of Sam and Pat.*