

**The Celebration of the Life
of Sally Stovall**



**Born April 16, 1949
Died May 21, 2019**

**Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church
May 25, 2019**

A Celebration

Remembrance in Pictures & Song

Words of Greeting adapted from *Never Fully Extinguished* by Patricia Shelden

In this hour of holy stillness

we gather to honor the life of Sally Stovall, daughter, sister, mother, wife/life partner, aunt, best friend, cherished member of the community of faith, ally in the struggle for peace and justice for all of creation-- the person we miss and love in so many ways.

In this hour of Holy Stillness

**we remind ourselves that the flames of life and love
are never fully extinguished.**

In this hour of Holy Stillness

we offer ourselves

for sharing the weight of each other's grief.

In this hour of Holy Stillness

**we offer the strength of our love
to help others survive their pain and grief.**

In this hour of Holy Stillness

we call forth from each of us

the power we offer out of life, out of loss, out of Love.

Gathering Hymn

"Hymn of Promise"

UMH (red) #707

A Reading for Children

"My Many Colored Days"

Dr. Seuss

Affirmation

adapted from Romans 8:35, 37-39

Who shall separate us from the love of God? Shall tribulation or distress,
Or persecution or famine, Or nakedness or peril or sword?

**No! In all things we are more than conquerors
through the One who loved us.**

We are sure that neither death nor life,

Nor angels, nor principalities,

Nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

Nor anything else in all creation,

Will be able to separate us from the love of God.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Special Music

"Turn, Turn, Turn" based on Eccles. 3: 1-8,

Pete Seeger

Performed by Dorie Blesoff

Scripture

Exodus 1: 15-21

Message of Hope**“The Sisterhood of Midwives”****Pastor Marti****Witnesses to Sally’s Life from Family and Friends**

Carol Broussard, sister & Lee Emerick, son
Seva Gandhi of the Institute of Cultural Affairs
Friends and Colleagues

Anthem**“Peace of God”****John Rutter****Memorial Prayer**

adapted from Joel Miller

Spirit of Life and Love: Under the vast spiral of time and space, surrounded by the simple blessings of a community of care and love, we carry these memories of the beloved Sally Stovall with us back to the community and life she loved. We pray:

Grant us strength, wisdom, and thanksgiving.

Give us strength to speak of our lives, so that each day yet to come we find more compassion, more understanding, more of the loving kindness that fills our world with joy and laughter.

Give us courage to cherish one another so that we use our lives to heal instead of forget and lead ourselves to the possibility of forgiveness instead of defiance.

Here and now we give thanks for Sally: her memory lives on in the great Spirit of Life that surrounds us, and her memory, cherished by us, dwells deeply throughout us because of the person she was and still is in our hearts.

In pictures and stories we have marked the cycles of life in which we all find ourselves, celebrating life at its beginning and its end, both always present among us.

Spirit of Love and Life, remind us to love life as fully as we are able. Remind us to treasure our friends and families as she treasured her friends and family. And even though we must bid her farewell, the gift of her life is a treasure that cannot be ungiven. We celebrate Sally’s life lived among us, and now her soul is at rest with you. And we miss her so very much.

Amen.**Special Music****“When I Am Frightened”****Shelly Jackson Denham****The Sending**

Lee Huebert writes, *Lighting a candle is somewhat like the beginning of life. If that is true, then perhaps extinguishing a candle is like the ending of life. But death may not be the end of us. We live on in the memories of friends and loved ones. The influence we possessed in life works on, moving persons or causes forward. Let us not forget that most candles have more than one life, and so, perhaps, may we.*

Sally Stovall has completed her check list. All the "To Do" items are done. She can do no more. But we can and we must. Let us now pick up the torch and continue the journey toward beloved community. Go to Love God, Live Green and Liberate All.

Choir Sending Forth

"Rule of Life"

John Wesley

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can,
In all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.*

The family will receive you in the parlor and invite you to share food with them in Wesley Hall. All rooms are on first floor in the southwest corner of the building.

Obituary

Sally Stovall, age 70, of Oak Park, IL, died Tuesday, May 21, 2019 unexpectedly of a massive stroke. A life well used; she was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, creator of communities, a real-life role model for living out values, helping mother earth, and connecting others to what really matters. She was born on April 16, 1949 in Eunice, Louisiana to Reverend James L. and Alice Stovall. She grew up in South Louisiana, graduated from college at SMU, and later earned her Master's degree from Loyola University, Chicago. She spent time impacting lives in Taiwan, Malaysia, Argentina, and several places across the US, before setting down roots in Oak Park in 2002. Sally's passion was the work she did to make the world a better place for future generations. After her retirement from Illinois Action for Children, she was the founding force behind Green Community Connections, which later gave birth to the One Earth Film Festival. She was committed to building resiliency for our planet and its people. Sally is survived by her loving partner Richard "Dick" Alton, her sister Carol (Pete) Broussard, her children Lee (Britt) Emerick and Teresa (Jeff) Madsen, her grandchildren Finn and Rory Madsen, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Rev. James L. and Alice Stovall, and two of her siblings, Mary Alice Ballard and James "Jim" Stovall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Sally's honor to Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church (405 S. Euclid Ave. Oak Park, IL 60302) or to Green Community Connections (www.greencommunityconnections.org).