
Celebrating the Life and Legacy of

SONYA-MARIE MORLEY

In Witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ



Sunday, May 19, 2024

1:30 pm • Sanctuary

 **East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**
www.ELPC.church

116 South Highland Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412.441.3800

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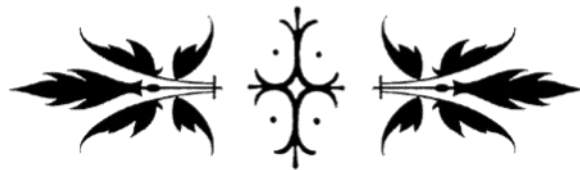
SONYA-MARIE MORLEY



OMEGA RHO CEREMONY		performed by Sigma Gamma Rho sorority sisters
PRELUDE	“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” “This Little Light of Mine”	arr. Sondra Tucker arr. Andrew Duncan ELPC Ringers
OPENING WORDS & PRAYER		The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
* OPENING HYMN (<i>lyrics projected on screens</i>)	“Joyful, Joyful”	
READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE	Proverbs 31:10, 17-20, 25-26, 29-31 Psalm 46:1; Psalm 103:13; Isaiah 66:13; Psalm 16:11 Matthew 8:1-5	Zennee Smith and Melea Johnson Matty Eisner and Laurie Thompsen Tiffany Yuille
POEMS	“When Great Trees Fall” <i>by Maya Angelou</i> “A Poem of Friendship” <i>by Nikki Giovanni</i>	Kevin Morley Angie Steele
SOLO	“His Eye is on the Sparrow”	Adrianna Cleveland, <i>soloist</i>
READING OF THE OBITUARY		Cassie Semler
REFLECTIONS OF FAMILY & FRIENDS		Cassie Semler Karen Koskoff The Rev. Shanea Leonard
SPECIAL MUSIC (<i>lyrics projected on screens</i>)	“Love Abounds”	written by Jakob Harmon Jakob Harmon, Ben Little Del and Hermione Treese <i>TYC Friends</i>
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER		The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
SCRIPTURE READINGS	2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1 Romans 8:38-39	The Rev. Schoenewolf
HOMILY		The Rev. Schoenewolf
* CLOSING HYMN (<i>lyrics projected on screens</i>)	“In Christ Alone”	
* PRAYER OF COMMENDATION & COMMITTAL		The Rev. Schoenewolf
* CHARGE & BENEDICTION		The Rev. Schoenewolf
* POSTLUDE	“Toccata from Symphony V”	Charles-Marie Widor Dr. Edward Alan Moore, <i>organ</i>

* *Indicates where to please rise in body or spirit.*

*The family would like to invite their guests to join them
for refreshments in the Social Hall (basement level).*



Participants

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Officiant

Acting Co-Pastor and Pastor for Educational Ministries

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

Acting Co-Pastor and Pastor for Mission Ministries

The Rev. Shanea Leonard

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/Music Director*

Adrianna Cleveland, *Soloist and Cantor*

ELPC Ringers

Trinity Youth Conference Friends:

Jakob Harmon

Ben Little

Del and Hermione Treese

Matty Eisner, *brother-in-law*

Melea Johnson

Karen Koskoff

Kevin Morley, *father-in-law*

Cassie Semler

Zennee Smith

Angie Steele

Laurie Thompsen, *mother-in-law*

Tiffany Yuille

Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines, *Audio/Visual Technicians*



OBITUARY

Sonya-Marie Morley

November 17, 1975 - February 2, 2024

Sonya-Marie H. Morley, formerly Hooker, 48, of Pittsburgh, PA, suddenly embarked on her heavenly journey on February 2, 2024, after a life as vibrant and heartfelt as the stories she so loved in old time radio shows. Born in Bethesda, MD, and raised in Washington, DC, she charted a path that was anything but ordinary. Sonya was an incredible wife, mother, daughter, grandchild, niece and friend. She was tragically taken from us much too soon.

Leaving behind her husband Nathaniel Morley, father Tyrone Hooker, brother Dontrell Duvall, sister Rongalyn Edwards, and many aunts, uncles, cousins and in-laws that loved her dearly. Her feline companions, Napoleon and Gypsy, will miss her warm lap and gentle touch. She joins in eternal rest her mother Cynthia Williams, her grandparents, Aunts Rita Grays, Geraldine Seymore and Esther Street and her furry angels Nala and Chenoa. She is now reunited with her and Nathaniel's sons, Nathaniel Jr. (2008) and Baby Boy Morley (2010).



Sonya's life was a series of well-crafted chapters, from her studious days at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington, DC ('93) and the George Washington University ('98, BA in English), to answering a higher calling with a Master of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary ('20). Her career was a testament to her versatility – from the calculative world of finance to the nurturing realms of social services. But it was the pulpit and pews where Sonya truly shone, ministering with an open heart and soulful joy at various churches, and most recently as the Children's Ministry Director for the Korean United Presbyterian Church in Ross Twp, PA.

Sonya-Marie leaves a legacy of laughter, love, and encouragement. She was always quick with a word of inspiration for anyone she came across that needed it, whether she knew them or not. Sonya had a knack for always finding the right words to help people feel encouraged. Her ability to talk to people was paralleled only by her writing skills. Anyone who has read an email from Sonya could clearly see the brilliant writer she was. “I hope this email finds you well...” She showcased those skills as a freelance journalist for the New Pittsburgh Courier for several years and had several above the fold, front page stories published. Sonya was also a charter member of the Omicron Epsilon chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc, at the George Washington University.





Sonya had a huge heart and wanted to help as many people as she could. She stood up for social justice issues, large and small. Her helping spirit continued even in death through organ donation. Her liver offered new hope to a 38-year-old woman. Her kidneys offered promise to a 62-year-old man and a 70-year-old woman. Being an organ donor was very important to Sonya.

An ardent fan of the NFL, a connoisseur of spine-tingling scary movies, a lover of music and an enthusiast of old time radio shows, Sonya knew how to blend faith with fun. She was a longtime active member and ordained deacon at East Liberty Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh and often attended Blandonia Presbyterian Church in Sanford, NC, where the hymns were surely sweeter when she raised her voice. Sonya had the honor of preaching at both churches over the past several years. One member of ELPC who is a retired pastor once commented that one of Sonya's sermons at the church was "the best" he had ever heard.

In a fitting tribute to a life spent uplifting others, donations in her memory can be made to the Trinity Youth Conference (trinityyouthconference.org). Sonya served in several capacities at TYC for several years, including as the first Black female worship leader. Please note in your donation that this is in memorium of Sonya-Marie Morley.



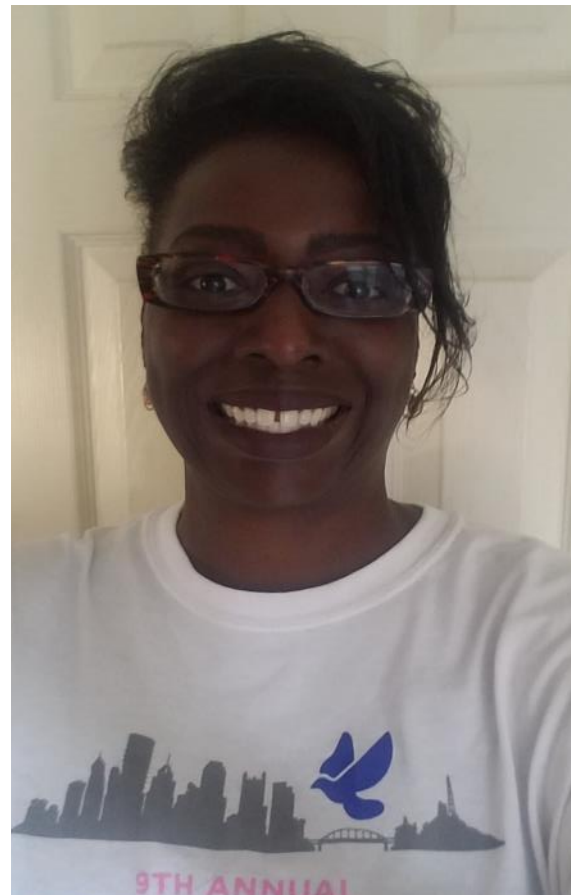




Sonya-Marie

was a
blessing to
all and much

loved



Thank You

We extend our warmest thanks and sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported and helped us through this difficult time of mourning the loss of Sonya-Marie Morley.

