

## **November Rose in Pittsburgh**

by [Sally Witt, CSJ](#) in the [November 2022](#) issue

In the tiny front yard  
at the house  
of a neighbor dead three years,  
flowers are left uncared for.

Yet they have been faithful to their yearly blooming.  
White iris, pink azalea, yellow rose  
have taken steadfast turns  
each spring and summer.

Today, in late November,  
I pause to see a rose in bloom.

It whispers someone loved the soil here,  
once cared for roots and stems so thoroughly  
they persist even in neglect,  
while temperatures,

having lost their ties to seasons,  
cannot enforce  
the time a rose must rest  
or stay its blooming.