

THE PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020



Plan, Prepare, Pivot...

My dad was a really good basketball player in high school and junior college (in spite of his short stature), and in addition to being a tennis pro and coach, for many years he was also a basketball coach for a few small colleges, as well as the middle schools and high schools at which he was a teacher. It was fun to see the ways my dad studied his players' abilities and strengths and designed plays that would allow each one to contribute to the effectiveness of the team. We watched the Bulls in the 90s as a family, and dad would offer his own play by play commentary on the players and the strategies. It was exciting to experience. Part of my joy in watching *The Last Dance* documentary was to relive those moments when we were watching the Bulls from Tennessee with my family. But in any team sport, while there is a plan and there are plays to get to the goal, everyone has to prepare for the unexpected. What happens when a key player gets hurt? How do you compensate for the opposing team's strategy that plays to your weaknesses? What do you do when the crowd is so loud that you can't hear the play called? Situations arise, and even though the plans have been made, you've even prepared for a variety of situations, yin the moment you still have to...pivot.

I feel like this is helpful to consider as we have planned for this year of ministry. We know what plans would typically take place: a Pumpkin Patch that is bigger than before, Christmas Choir Dinner at the Country Club, Pasta Divine in February...and preparing for a church trip to the Holy Land....all of these plans were made, and we were preparing to welcome new members and work towards growing our church ... and then COVID has caused us to shift our game plan. All of our Ministry Areas have been radically adjusting plans, postponing

large gatherings, finding ways to gather online, creating new programs, reconsidering ways to be effective, gathering feedback on our attempts...and making more and more preparations as we think about the whole year. And, even then, we are prepared to pivot.

When Jesus sent his disciples out into ministry, he gave them assurances - the plan: heal, teach, reach out to lepers and the outcast, leave peace, feed the hungry. Then he asked them to take very few supplies, go from house to house...but be prepared some won't receive you. Shake the dust off and keep on. Pivot, but don't stop. (See Matthew 10:1-20)

As we begin our Stewardship month, we are preparing for 2021. None of us know with certainty what will come. We are not certain when we can gather with everyone again. We do not know how long we will have to hold groups online rather than together at church. BUT, we are prepared to offer ministries that provide opportunities for people of all ages to learn, grow, serve, and play! The staff and ministry leaders are busily preparing and making plans. AND - we are all ready to pivot. We are striving to serve you well. If you are in need of support, if you can't access the worship videos, if your finances have gotten to a point where you need some assistance, if you need a Stephen Minister or want a pastoral call...PLEASE let us know! We are making a big ask - that you plan and prepare for the ways you can offer your financial support to the church ministry budget, knowing that we all are planning and preparing and may need to pivot! How will we know that we are on the right track? BY OUR LOVE!!! Keep loving - God and one another!

Blessed to be on the team with YOU,
Pastor Carol



WORSHIP

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ONLINE AND IN-PERSON

October 4 **World Communion Day**
"Ministry Flows from the Heart"
Holy Communion

October 11 **Indigenous People's Day**
"Relationships Are Matters of the Heart"

October 18 **Crop Walk Sunday**
"Vision and Hope are Inspirations of the Heart"
Virtual Crop Walk

October 25 **Commitment Sunday**
"Extravagant Generosity is an Expression of Your Heart"

OCTOBER GARDEN WORSHIP

Garden Worship will continue through the end of October. We are still highly encouraging you to sign up ahead of time, sign ups can be found [HERE](#). In the event of bad weather, the 8:30 am service will be cancelled and the 10 am service will be moved inside. Please remember to wear your mask, maintain at least 6 ft between you and your neighbor, and bring your own chair or blanket. A livestream of service will still be available as well as a recorded Worship Video.

COMMUNION IN WORSHIP

We will continue to celebrate the sacrament of Communion each month on the first Sunday. For those who attend an in-person worship experience, individual servings of wafers and juice are provided. However, if you prefer to bring your own bread and juice from home, you are welcome to do so. For those joining in worship online, we hope you will gather your bread and juice prior to service. If you need a cup and wafer, let the office know, and we will arrange for a delivery or time for you to pick up your elements at the Park Place door.

How Does it work? We believe that through the Words of Institution, God's Holy Spirit transforms ordinary items (bread and juice) into a tangible means of God's grace. This transformation in the Protestant tradition is not a literal

transformation into the flesh and blood of Jesus, but rather symbols of his sacrificial, endless love. As we eat and drink together, the grace of God fills our bodies and souls. We believe that God's transformative grace is not reliant on being physically together, nor on eating of the same exact loaf. God transcends time and space and unites us by this shared meal!

CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Carol and Pastor Mollie are available for meetings/prayer time by appointment only at this time. Once school resumes, Pastor Carol will only be available for phone or in-person meetings after 3 pm as she oversees the remote education components. The Church Office is open Friday mornings, please call if you would like to stop by so that individuals are not all present at the same time. The Medical Lending Closet is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 am to noon. Thank you for your understanding as schedules continue to shift.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Join us in person or online for Commitment Sunday! We will come together on October 25th to pledge our gifts as we continue to find new ways to spread our ministry. Be on the lookout for Commitment materials in the mail.

KINDRED CONNECTIONS ARE LAUNCHED!

We have launched an all new ministry at PRCC called Kindred Connections. These small groups of 8-12 people of varying ages will provide support, care, and interaction with fellow church folks (some members, some non-members) over this next ministry year. This effort is intended to help all PRCC participants feel connected and cared for by their church family. Each Kindred Connection has a facilitator, who will help shepherd the group, as needed. Our hopes:

- Each group will have an organized opportunity to connect monthly - over zoom, phone calls, through cards, or potential in-person, distant gatherings. Each group will decide what works best for them.
- Each Kindred Connection will have contact information for each of the persons in their connection and are encouraged to get to know one another and be in contact periodically. There is no obligation to reach out, but the invitation is ongoing to connect.

If you are interested in joining a Kindred Connection, please contact Liz Swanson. All are welcome! If you signed up, but are not sure which Kindred Connection you are in, ask Liz or one of our Ministers!

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

As a Christian community we realize we need each other and commit to pray for each other. Our prayers bind us together and so please hold each of the following prayer needs in your personal prayers:

Continue to include in your prayers all those on our prayer ministry list: Heather Cannon, Erika Cornelisen, Kylie Figgins, Jon Forsythe, Troy Gilbert, Edith E. Hurlburt, Tom Kapolnek, Candace Kidston, Walter and Christina Kotecki, Geri LeDuc, Lurana Nelson, Leo Netko, Dean Muenzer, Reggie Pantazi, Susan Ruth, Ann Stutts, Kathleen Weller, Joyce Wright, Bill Zoellner, Kate Zoellner.

We also keep in our prayers the following September requests:

Life in the Resurrection

- Please pray for Jennifer and Haukur Gudmunsson's neighbor, who passed away after going to the hospital and contracted covid.
- Darcy LeDuc asks for prayers for her friend Chris, who was 32 years old who died in a motorcycle accident, as well as his fiancé who is also a dear friend of Darcy's.
- Prayers for the family and loved ones of long-time PRCC member Tina Bianchi who entered life in the resurrection this week.
- Please hold the Monteleone family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of Bill, Dee's husband.
- Prayers for Teresa, whose grandfather entered life in the resurrection last week.
- Rachel asked for prayers for her and the Lapp family as they grieve the loss of her cousin Gus.
- Prayers for Bertie, whose sister Erma entered life in the resurrection this week.
- Marty Sandstrom entered Life in the Resurrection on September 23rd, please keep Sue and their family in your prayers.

Healing and Recovery

- We celebrate that Sue Cocagne's husband, Bill came home on Thursday, and we pray for his continued healing, knowing there's nothing like the TLC you get at home.
- Lorenzo Formosa asked us to keep his mother, Constance in our prayers who is continuing to recover from pneumonia.
- Prayers for Judy Artrip's friend Patti Byrne, who is recovering from neck surgery.
- We celebrate that Wellington DaSilva is home from the hospital, but pray for his continued healing from the effects of Covid. We also hold his other family members in our prayers as many were infected after a family birthday party.
- Please pray for Ryan's father Dale and mother Kathie. Dale was taken to the hospital this week with respiratory failure,

and is in critical condition.

- Prayers for Reggie Pantazi, who is going to be seeking treatment at rehab as she continues to face medical challenges.
- Please pray for Greg Sarlo's friend Lisa, whose parents were in a car accident, which killed Lisa's mother and has left her father in critical condition.
- We pray for Tom and Grace Curtis' son Evan as he begins a month-long stay at the hospital receiving treatment for leukemia.
- We've been praying for Bernice Zabawski's friend Christine, who is now home after 5 weeks. We rejoice for the healing that has transpired.
- Prayers for Pastor Carol's Grandma Carolyn, who is home after a week in the hospital.
- Prayers for Kay, who broke her hip and had surgery on 9/14. Kay is 95, so healing can be slower.
- Prayers for Ginny Feurer who fell and fractured her elbow.
- Prayers for Anita, whose foot surgery on 9/15 went well, and so begins the 6 weeks of healing.
- Pray for Luan and Bill Zoellner's friend Warren, whose recent surgery and recovery has complicated his dementia.
- The Born family ask for prayers for their neighbor Ed as he enters hospice care as well.
- Pray for Jaclyn's friend Luisa, who just found out she has stage 3 brain cancer. She has a 3-year-old son and no family in this country besides her spouse.

Birthdays/Anniversaries/Retirement/Graduation

- Happy Birthday to Andrea Goodwin (8/31); Julie Smith (9/2); Ryan McGuffey and Neal Wehman (9/3); Kyrie Nelson (9/4); Kathy Davis (9/5); Also wishing happy 10th birthdays to Jackson McGuffey and Emily Laginess! And Sue Carroll.
- Happy Birthdays to Joe Zitoli on 9/20 and Angie Weber on Wednesday Bob Tamburro & Jeanne Wells on 9/24, Robin Battaglia & Charlie Giera on 9/25 and Galie Fabisch on 9/26!
- Happy Birthdays to Kathy Chandler, Ann Siena and Kati Weber, Kathy Berry, and Laura Sissman.
- We celebrate the joy of Bill and Tricia Williams' 33rd wedding anniversary!
- Happy Anniversary to Kate and Brendan Joyce! They are celebrating their 7th wedding anniversary on 9/21.

Community

- Prayers for our church as we begin a new year, facing many challenges, and yet keenly aware of how blessed we are to have this church community.

Joys

- We were able to sponsor a meal for a church on the Southside of Chicago as they grilled out; they sent joyous thanks back to PRCC.
- We celebrate and pray for our members who are making transitions - the Davis family moving from Park Ridge to their home in Wisconsin; the Zuegels selling their home and moving to Lake Forest.
- Our hearts are full of celebration as Elizabeth Solomon and Jon Woo were married here yesterday.

- Tricia Williams let us know that her friend Kim, whom we have been praying for has responded so well to treatments her doctors consider her in remission. Kim is so appreciative of the prayers but please continue to hold Kim, her young daughters, husband and medical team in your prayers

Global

-We pray for those who are being evacuated from fires in California and those who lost their homes from a fire in the refugee camp in Greece.

CONNECTIONS AND CARE

PRCC is a connected and caring faith community. This temporary time of social distancing and sheltering in place results in a lot of physical isolation. We want to stay connected with you! Please let us know how you are and what your prayer needs might be. If you would like a phone call or need something we can help with, please call or email the church office. If you are willing to make some calls and share your cheerful voice with someone, please let Liz Swanson know. We miss being together and look forward to the time we can all be back together to serve others and worship God. In the meantime, know you are loved, valued and we are connected in Spirit!

WEEKLY GOOGLE HANGOUTS

The weekly Google Hangouts are now on Wednesdays at noon on ZOOM and we will continue to discuss the upcoming Sunday worship scriptures. Anyone and all are welcome to join in!

<https://zoom.us/j/91239346091?pwd=R3ZWSWdHWG85a1Q5b1AzbXJ6OXpjZz09>

Meeting ID: 912 3934 6091 Passcode: 62285



DISCIPLE

BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor Carol as we begin a 30-week journey through the scriptures using the Disciple Bible Study series. Have you ever thought you'd like to know about the Bible, but weren't sure where to start? Have you read these books before but would like to revisit them to see what parts you've forgotten or missed? This class is for you!

We will meet virtually using the Zoom platform. Each participant should have a Study Manual. They are \$33 from the Church office, or you may order your own online. This manual and your Bible are the only items you'll need for this study. We will watch a brief video together each Wednesday and have discussion. There are daily assigned readings, but if you cannot complete the assignments, please come to class anyway! This is an exciting and fast-paced overview of our sacred text! [CLICK HERE](#) for a full schedule.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92824720898?pwd=ZlpVUzR1Uy9wYkhTT3BvYmRXTFf3dz09>

Meeting ID: 928 2472 0898

Passcode: 789593

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,92824720898# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 928 2472 0898

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aVqn8qdOJ>

DO-IT-YOURSELF (DIY) BIBLE STUDY

To accommodate a variety of schedules and our ever-changing realities, we will offer an all new form of Bible Study this year! DIY Bible Study will correspond with our preaching series. It will include current literature, articles, and chapters of books that are informing the sermon preparation, and will include online videos featuring our very own ministers!

Pastors Carol and Mollie will record a brief 10-12 minute video each week, utilizing bible commentaries and feature additional scripture passages for your own study and questions to consider. There will be a Study Guide available online OR printed out for you (upon request). Here are a few ways you can use these materials:

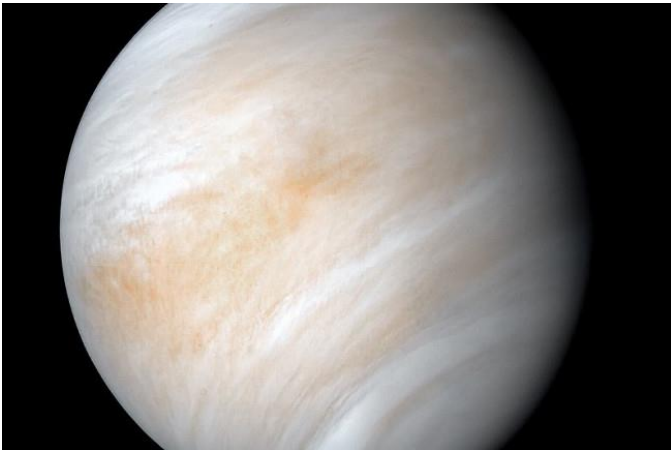
- With your spouse as a weekly devotional following the sermon
- With your Kindred Connection (all or some of the group); Watch the video separately or together and discuss the questions
- As your own personal Bible Study
- With family members in other parts of the country
- With a few of your friends from PRCC at a time that suits your schedules
- YOU DECIDE!! You can use the materials however they work best ...the idea is that each person in our church could be able to go a little deeper in their spiritual journey if they spend a little more time in the scripture. This is an easy way to do so!



Visit our website for all of your materials!

STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than (the angels),
and crowned them with glory and honor. Psalms 8:3-5 (NSRV)*



In one of those perversely enigmatic statements, almost buried in the dreadful news that is constantly thrust upon on us these days, is the finding of astrophysicists that they have discovered farts in the cloud layer above Venus. It wasn't actually reported as farts, but after doing some research I have discovered that is in fact what it is. Your 10-year-old will love it.

The discovery was reported, however, as scientists having found evidence of "life" on Venus. But as the New York Times finally confessed (link below) that wasn't precisely what they said, or found. "'We're not saying we discovered life on Venus,' Sara Seager of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said in an interview..." (The lead scientist is a woman! Your daughters will love it!)

It seems phosphine gas microbes discovered in the clouds above Venus were evidence of what on earth has feces as its only source – feces, aka poop in case you have handed this to the above-mentioned 10-year-old. The problem is, of course, that the chemistry of life on Venus (and Mars for that matter) cannot be limited to what we know about chemistry or biology on earth.

Ironically the ability to express that God's creation is beyond the limitations we humans blithely assign to it can

best be expressed by a lyricist (a Psalmist) from about 2500 years ago or a scientist from about 25 years ago – Carl Sagan (d. 1996). The Psalmist issues a warning: who do we think we are that we look out at the incredible beauty and vastness of space and presume to know our place in God's creation? Sagan said, "Each of us is a tiny being, permitted to ride on the outermost skin of one of the smaller planets for a few dozen trips around the local star."

Sagan was both visionary and scientist. He posited back in 1967 that there was life out there in the vast reaches of space. He believed that life could even be as close as in the clouds of Venus where conditions were less inhospitable in terms of atmospheric pressures and high temperatures than on the planet itself – temperatures even as low as 40 degrees (F) in some places. And now it seems that he could be correct.

Both the Psalmist and Carl Sagan express the wonder of it all equally well. We mortals are crowned with glory and honor by the God of all creation. However, because we live under the terrible weight of mortality, and the daily burden of fear of the unpredictable and unknowable, we may become jaded in our search for the evidence of God's glory and honor in our fellow human beings. Sagan said, "Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known." We, perhaps, tire of waiting, tire of feeling small and powerless.

Yet as people of faith we know we must push ahead. Indeed, because of our faith, we continue to risk disappointment in our search and in our wait. We remember with the poet of 2500 years ago that we were created only slightly lower than the angels, and with a visionary of less than 25 years ago, that "For small creatures such as we the vastness is bearable only through love."

While Sagan did not consider himself a Christian, there is only one Source of love in the universe. And it is that Love that motivates us as people of faith. Stephen Ministers believe that we conquer fear, and loneliness, and division, and darkness through Love. It doesn't matter whether we agree with each other or not: we are called to love one another as Jesus loves us. Even Sagan understood that. "Every one of us is, in the cosmic perspective, precious. If a human disagrees with you, let him live. In a hundred billion galaxies, you will not find another."

Do you need a little Love in your life? A little reassurance that you matter in the vastness of the universe? Let Pastor Carol or Liz Swanson know, at 847-823-3164, or Ginny Feurer at 847-840-7082. Or talk to any of the new Stephen Ministers: Carrie Plach, Colleen Moriarty, Karen Webster, Naomi Siebert, or John Sasser. Any of us will be happy to be with you as you attempt to keep on trudging through the phosphine gas microbes emanating from 2020. (And yes that was a joke.)

To read the latest on life on Venus:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/19/science/venus-planets-microbes-life.html>

- Anita Rifkind

NEWLY COMMISSIONED STEPHEN MINISTERS

Stephen Ministry equips people to provide confidential, Christian care to individuals who are experiencing challenges in their lives. Could you benefit from confidential, one to one care and support of a Stephen Minister? If the answer is yes or if you need more information about Stephen Ministry please talk with a staff member or Stephen Leader, Ginny Feurer, Anita Rifkind, Peggy Fergus or Katie Reboletti.



Carrie Plach

Becoming a Stephen Minister is very important to me. I'm very passionate in my love for Christ and excited to have gone through the Stephen Ministry training. I'm pleased to have the knowledge and skill necessary as I strive to help others. I look forward to listening and holding the hand of anyone in need.



Naomi Siebert

I am so grateful to be a part of this ministry and to be able to walk alongside someone who is in need of love and support as they journey through life. I am humbled at this opportunity and blessed to be a part of this caring outreach.



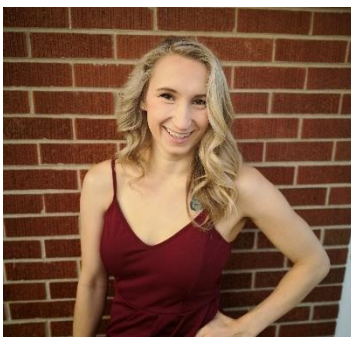
Colleen Moriarty

Stephen Ministry means listening and allowing someone that is hurting to heal through God's grace. Everyone has been there at one time or another. I think right now, people need to be heard and to find peace more than ever. I feel so blessed to have been part of this Stephen Ministry group.



John Sasser

Several years ago, I experienced a difficult situation that left me with confusing and overwhelming emotions. I was able to connect with a Stephen Minister who listened and encouraged me as I worked through clarifying the emotions so I could see a path forward. Now, with the training and the support of our Stephen Ministry team, I look forward to being able to support others as they cope with life's challenges.



Sarah Odeshoo

I became involved with Stephen Ministry because I want to help people when they are experiencing challenges in their life and need someone to provide them with Christian focused care, concern and support. Through compassionate listening and being there to comfort and support them, they will be better able to work through their difficulties.



Karen Webster

Leaning on God, finding comfort in the Holy Spirit, has served me well as I faced life's curve balls. Becoming a Stephen's Minister is an opportunity to walk with another in their journey.



FALL NEWS

SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM UPDATE

Our Social Justice team continues to learn and grow with one another and with our congregation. Members of the team have contributed to the discussions about racial justice in September as we've considered the movies "13th" and "A Class Divided." (If you missed these films and discussions, "13th" is available to watch on Netflix and "A Class Divided" is available to watch at

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/class-divided/>.) Over 20 individuals from our PRCC congregation joined in these conversations. Here are a few of the take-aways and highlights:

- "I was surprised by the statistics - that the US with 5% of the world's population, imprisons 25% of total prison population; that the exception to the abolishment of slavery applies only to those who are incarcerated, which helped rebuild the South's economy after the Civil War; that the numbers of people in prison has grown dramatically through efforts of both Republicans and Democrats to be "hard on crime"; and that 1 in 17 white males end up in prison while 1 in 3 of Black males end up in prison."
- "I was discouraged to learn about the story of Kalief Browder, who was wrongfully charged, refused to take a plea, served time, was eventually exonerated, but died by suicide after suffering immensely at Rikers jail."
- "Discussing how we can be involved with Stateville and the "Church Inside" reminds me of our efforts to connect with Epworth, giving PRCC a chance to be in relationship with friends of color and hear their stories instead of just sending a check."
- Rev. Cheryl Lynn, Pastor at North Park Seminary and Pastor at Church of the Good Shepherd in Joliet shared ways that our language matters. Instead of thinking of our relationship with Stateville as "a project," we can refer to it as "a partnership." Instead of referring to our incarcerated friends as prisoners, we can identify them as the members of the Church Inside vs. the Church Outside. Nobody wants their identity to be based on the worst things they've ever done.

Upcoming Opportunities

To prepare for upcoming conversations around human sexuality and an opportunity for PRCC to join those UCC churches who are designated as "Open and Affirming," the SJT will gather congregational input on a survey in late September/October.

- To amplify the conversation of racial justice and tie it together with our scriptural imperative to do justice, the SJT is ordering yard signs that say "Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly." These signs will be available to members and friends who wish for a donation of \$15.
- Our Movie and Discussion Series will continue through October on Sunday nights. We will consider the movies "No Place to Live" and "The Color Tax"

YARD SIGNS

Social Justice Yard Signs Have Arrived!

Unique, Colorful, Social Justice Lawn Signs

Featuring wording from Micah 6:8

Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly
are now available.



The colorful, double sided 24 x 18 inch signs come with a sturdy stand. They can be picked up after church on Sundays, or on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays from 9:30 to 12:00 in the Park Place Room. The suggested donation is \$15 and can be paid through Zelle (be sure to indicate that it's for a SJ Signs), or if you are paying by check or cash, it can be slipped under the church office door when picking up your sign. If you need further assistance, please contact Luan Zoellner at lzoellner@ameritech.net.

VIDEO DISCUSSION SERIES

Sunday evening, October 11th, at 7:00 pm.

[No Place to Live](#) and The Color Tax

2002 Documentary about the need for affordable housing in Chicago's suburbs.
The documentary includes a ten-minute look back in history on how the problem was created.

<https://zoom.us/j/96779109957>

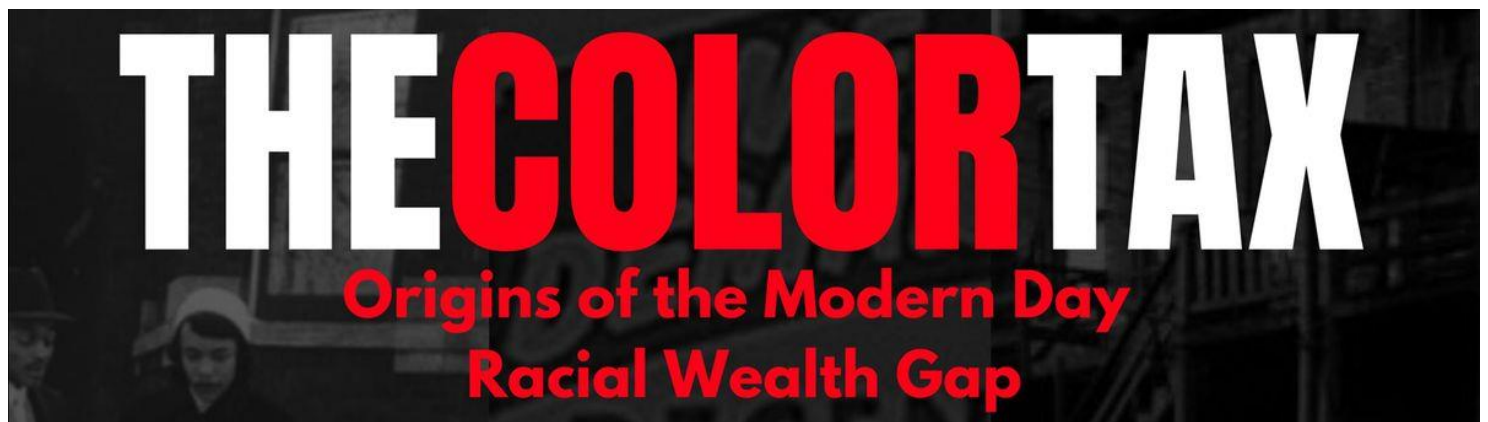
Meeting ID: 967 7910 9957

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,96779109957# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US



WELCOME THE ONA TEAM!

Greetings Members and Friends of PRCC,
For several years, our Board of Directors, church leadership, and congregation members have expressed the desire for PRCC to become an Open and Affirming Congregation. We would like to invite you to help us gather some input as we move toward being an Open & Affirming Congregation. Open and Affirming faith communities have made a commitment to affirm lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people and welcome them fully into their congregations and ministries.

As we begin our journey through the Open and Affirming process, we need to conduct some research to see what is of the greatest need and interest to our community; your input is critical in helping us with this task!

The survey in the link below is designed to provide us with insights regarding our demographics, current programming, attitudes, education and goals related to LGBTQ people, our needs and concerns, and our hopes and dreams for our congregation's outreach and commitments.

By analyzing these responses, we will develop a resource guide addressing both the needs expressed by survey participants and broader issues of social justice.

Would you please take a few minutes to respond to the survey within the next week? [CLICK HERE](#).
Thank you very much for your assistance with this task and endeavor.

Anita and Gregory



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

FALL NEWS



KINDRED SPIRITS CAFÉ AND BEYOND! New Tuesday 12:00 to 12:30 pm Virtual Connection!

TUESDAY CONNECTIONS from 11:00 to 12:30

Have you been missing your Kindred Spirits Café friends? I miss you! Come see me in the Park Place Room on Tuesdays from 11:00 until 12:00. You can browse the book cart, pick out a jigsaw puzzle, drop off food for the pantry or just social distant visit with me.

We are also connected with weekly emails or mailings to your home. They include updates on church news, scripture reading & reflection as well as a puzzle page. If you haven't received these, please let Liz Swanson know.

Let's meet virtually! We have an exciting schedule for October as follows:

10/6 - Celebrating birthdays with Sasha singing.

10/13 Pastor Mollie will join us to share what's going on with youth and the Pumpkin Patch.

10/20 Virtual BINGO with actual prizes.

10/27 ILLINOIS WOMEN WIN THE RIGHT TO VOTE Buffalo Grove Museum Curator Debbie Fandrie will do a presentation to mark the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. This is a non-partisan story of the key players, historical issues and some fun stuff along the way.

<https://zoom.us/j/92014175334?pwd=Njd2UXpkN0pMV0dsYTdScWhnankxdz09>

Meeting ID: 920 1417 5334

Passcode: 994443

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US

KNITTING KNIGHTS

The Knitting and Crocheting Group continues to make up beautiful and helpful items in this pandemic time. Are you a secret crocheter or knitter and would like some patterns and yarn? Have you always wanted to learn how to knit or crochet but didn't want to invest in the yarn & supplies? We are happy to share our abundance with you! Just let Liz Swanson know and I'm happy to drop off supplies to you.

All are welcome to join us in a crafting circle on Saturday, 10/10 and 10/26, weather permitting from 11:00 to 12:00 in the church field under the tent.



SENIOR PALS

Make a Generational Connection by being a Senior Pal

It's not too late to be a "Senior Pal"! As we celebrate the joy that comes from multi-generational relationships, consider being a Pal with one of the senior members of our congregation. This is a great way to build bonds between people of all ages. If you would like to connect regularly with someone, please call or email the church office or [follow the link](#). If you need more information about this please talk with Liz Swanson before the end of the month.

RALLY DAY DEACON DOGS AT HOME!

Thank you to everyone that participated this year, we hope you had as much fun eating as you did assembling them! **A huge congratulations to Hannah Siebert for BEST PRESENTATION and Julie Smith for MOST CREATIVE TOPPINGS!**



FALL NEWS



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Welcome/Membership Committee will be holding an online Information Meeting on **Monday, Oct. 5 at 7:30 p.m.** If you are interested in joining our PRCC family or finding out more information about our church, contact the church office, Pastor Carol, or one of us and we will provide you with the link!

And to our congregation: Continue to share the online service link with family, friends, and neighbors who might be interested in checking out Park Ridge Community Church!

Sara Born (sara.born@hotmail.com)

Sue Douglass (suedouglass@hotmail.com)

MEDITATION AND YOGA

Cindy Klimmeck is offering mediation and yoga classes on ZOOM. Yoga – Monday at 7 pm, Chair Yoga – Tuesday at 10:15 am, Meditation – Friday at 9 am.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9671602932>

Meeting ID: 967 160 2932

New password to enter – 227332

CROP WALK 2020

We are inviting individuals, families and small groups to participate in the 29th Annual Crop Walk on October 18th. You might choose a creative way to walk virtually from your home. You might choose to walk as an individual, a family or a small group, choosing your own time and route. Maybe you'd like to participate as a Spirit Walker! Whatever your choice, please register on-line and, if possible, solicit donations on-line also. Remember 25% of the money raised goes directly to the Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry who is currently supporting over 900 families each month. You can also support the walk by getting a meal at **Graziano's on October 7th.**



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

So many members and friends volunteer their time to our beloved church. We are grateful for each and every one of them. Some people we see and hear about all the time but there are others behind the scenes and we don't always know about all that they do.

Each month in our Volunteer Spotlight we say thank you to an individual, couple or group for sharing their time and talents. This also gives us the opportunity to share with members and newcomers a little bit of information about what our "generous stewards of God's gifts" are doing here at PRCC.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." Peter 4:10

This month we recognize

Anita Rifkind

in the Volunteer Spotlight.

This month Anita Rifkind is in the Volunteer Spotlight



Anita has served in all kinds of ways over the many years that she has been a member at PRCC. She's held many leadership positions and has even served as the Chair of the Congregation which means she has served as the Vice-Chair as well.

Anita is one of the Stephen Ministry training leaders and if you get the CC News you know that she writes a monthly Stephen Ministry column for the newsletter. Along with Gregory Sarlo, Anita serves as one of the co-leaders of the newly formed social justice committee. She's also been instrumental in getting PRCC involved with the North Park Seminary Ministry project at Statesville Prison. A few years ago, when we were in search of a chair or co-chair for the Faith Development committee, Anita graciously stepped up to fill the role of co-chair with Shelley O'Brien for a few years.

And if all that is not enough, Anita currently serves as an Usher and Chairperson of the Memorial Gifts Committee. As Chair of Memorial Gifts, she sits on the Board of Directors and the Finance Committee.

Wow! Anita truly puts her heart and spirit into so many areas of the life of PRCC. We all appreciate everything she does to lead and inspire us as Christians on our own faith journeys.

SAVE THE DATE

Our next Stephen Ministry continuing education session will be on October 27th!



The Walk is
VIRTUAL,
but the
NEEDS
could not be more
REAL.

Virtual CROP Hunger Walk Mantra

Niles/ Park Ridge CROP Walk
October 18, 2020





FALL NEWS

A NEW HOME FOR THE MEDALLIONS

Arts and Decor wishes to thank Tom Klimmeck for restoration and the display of the medallions previously hanging in the gym and then the chapel. Also, thank you to Ed Kopecky who assisted with the hanging of the medallions. The new chapel windows do not allow anything to be hung on them so the antique medallions are now part of our sanctuary. Take a moment to look at them as the sun comes through our new windows. They look stunning!

These stained-glass medallions were part of the original 1925 leaded glass windows in our Great Hall. Now they are a permanent addition to our sanctuary. There is a framed picture in the chapel which explains each medallion and the meaning of each design. Enjoy them!

Robin Kopecky
Arts and Decor



DEPRESSION & GRIEVING IN THE TIME OF COVID

October 27th at 7:30 pm

For several years, Stephen Ministry has taken note of the fact that October is mental health month. In this difficult time when we are all feeling isolation, depression, and grief, we are taking advantage of having Dr. Gregory Sarlo as a member of our congregation. Dr. Gregory Sarlo is a clinical psychologist who deals with these issues on a daily basis. He is going to share with us what he knows about coping with these feelings. Please feel free to join the Stephen ministers as we learn more about how to care for ourselves and each other.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82980487971?pwd=NEJlYWJueUxnaDZmNjdjbjVHbjBVdz09>

Meeting ID: 829 8048 7971

Passcode: 908852

NEWSFROM THE CREATION CARE TEAM

Psalm 24:1 *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."*

Hello! We hope you are well, wearing your masks and practicing social distancing. At our last virtual meeting we talked about wanting to share ideas and information that we all could use right now while we are mostly staying home. So here's a tip from our team:

If you are ordering take-out food from a restaurant, tell them when you order that you don't need plastic silverware, napkins, straws, etc. That way you don't end up with it at your home and having to throw it away.

Over the next month, we'll be adding information to a currently being developed Creation Care webpage link on the PRCC website. You'll be able to go there for information about things like recycling, composting, rain barrels, butterflies, food and textile waste and much more related to environmental sustainability and the impact on our Earth and its' people.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



God and pumpkins and colorful leaves, Thank you for the changing seasons and the cooler air. Thank you for fun times with my family and friends! Thank you for my teachers and lessons that I'm learning in school. Help me to keep learning! Fill me with your wisdom! Help me think thoughts that are like your thoughts. Ease my fears. When I get nervous, help me to turn to you. Use my actions and my words to make the world a better place. I love you God, Amen.

VIRTUAL PK-5 SUNDAY SCHOOL

During this time as we are not able to meet in person, we would still like the kids to have their own Sunday School time to learn and grow in their faith. Each week, look for an email from me that will have a video. Each video will be a short lesson, music, and an activity the kids might choose to do. The lessons will be related to sermon series in hopes that families will be able to talk, share, and feel God's presence each week. We will be doing some in person, distanced activities as the weather allows. The next activity will be decorating in the patch in October. Look for details about that coming soon. Please know the Sunday School teachers and I all miss the kids and look forward to when we can be together in the classrooms again.



If you have not received emails from the Sunday School and would like to be added to the list, please contact Shelley.

Shelley O'Brien

sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER MEETING

Thursday, October 1st at 6 pm

Zoom option available, please reach out to Shelley for details!

Join by Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/94437683638> Meeting ID:

944 3768 3638 One tap mobile

+13126266799,,94437683638# US (Chicago)

+13017158592,,94437683638# US (Germantown) Dial by
your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)





Youth Group: SAVE THE DATES

OCT 4:

HIGH SCHOOL, 1pm:

Hiking/Fishing with Bob & Chris

MIDDLE SCHOOL, 2:30-4pm:

Patch Construction (assemble/paint signs and such for the patch!) @ Carriage House Garage

OCT 10-30:

SIGN UP FOR PUMPKIN PATCH SHIFTS

OCT 30:

ALL YOUTH HALLOWEEN COSUTUME PARTY ON THE LAWN, 6:30-8pm:

Theme: FOOD or MOOD

(dress as your favorite food or mood emoji!)



CONFIRMATION CLASS

WEDNESDAYS, 6:00-7:30PM on the Carriage House Driveway

Youth in 6th-8th grades learn and explore their own beliefs and faith alongside their peers and adult mentors! This year, we will take virtual field trips to other congregations, campus ministries, and non-profit organizations!

We have 16 youth participants and there is always room for more! It's not too late to join us! Contact Pastor Mollie for more info.



YOUTH VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Each week, Youth are encouraged to watch a short video and submit a simple and short reflection to Pastor Mollie or Chris. It can be a drawing, photo, a couple sentences! When they do, their name will be entered into the weekly drawing for a donut delivery to their front door! Reflections must be submitted by Wednesday each week! Youth can find the video lesson on the church website under the "youth" tab!



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUTH MINISTRIES, CONTACT PASTOR MOLLIE:
pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org



Park Ridge Community Church



PUMPKIN PATCH

OCTOBER 10TH-30TH

Mon-Tues
By Appointment

Wed-Fri
4pm-7pm

Sat
9am-7pm

Sun
11am-7pm

Covid Precautions Taken · Masks Required at all Times · Contactless Pay · Sanitizer Available
Appointments can be made for those with high risk conditions by email:
pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org



PATCH SET-UP: SEPT 26 @ 9AM UNLOAD PUMPKINS: OCT 10 @ 9AM

The Park Ridge Community Church Youth Pumpkin Patch empowers youth and cultivates multi-generational congregational community building through embodying the PRCC values of learn, serve, play, and grow. The Patch provides community outreach while offering a festive space for individuals, families, and neighbors to gather.

The fundraising efforts of the PRCC Youth Pumpkin Patch support the PRCC Youth Ministries annual budget and the PRCC General Budget. A financial contribution is given to a local not for profit organization, designated each year by the PRCC Youth.

The weeks of "The Patch" have always been a wonderful time in the life of our church and the community. Things may look a little different this year, but see Park Ridge come alive when the pumpkins arrive! And if able, give of your time in support of this important PRCC Youth Fundraiser. Volunteering to ensure the Pumpkin Patch will be a safe, fun and successful event is easy...

just click >> [Sign Up](#)

** Please note - All necessary precautions are being made as mandatory Covid safety guidelines will be enforced while in Patch.

You're invited to an

Evening in the Patch

Featuring the Wehman Band!

Join us as we enjoy great music while raising money for a good cause! Don't forget your chairs and your mask! We will practice social distancing while having a great time! A \$10 donation is suggested.

Where: The Carriage House Lawn

When: October 16th

Time: 6:00 pm



OUTREACH NEWS



OPPORTUNITIES TO DONATE

CANS of CARE

Please continue to support the **Maine Township Food Pantry** through weekly donations of food items. You can drop your donation at the Maine Township Food Pantry (hours are 10-3, M-F), or any of these member homes: Each house will have a large bin, labeled Cans of Care.

[Items needed for donation](#)

BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We are partnering again with **Maryville Academy** and they need your help supporting families and students in their care. The [Jen School](#) serves children in Maryville's residential programs and students from the community with complex emotional, behavioral and learning disabilities. The children there need backpacks and school supplies.

Backpacks

Notebook paper (wide & college ruled), spiral notebooks, pocket folders, 3 ring binders, construction paper pens (black, blue, red), pencils and erasers (regular and mechanical), colored pencils, crayons, pencil cases note cards (ruled), journals, blunt tip scissors



PERSONAL CARE TOILETRIES & HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES



The **Maryville Crisis Nursery** provides temporary emergency shelter for newborns through age six. The families supported here need everything from baby clothes to personal toiletries and household supplies.

Personal Care Toiletries - Deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, baby wipes, hand sanitizer

Household Supplies - Clorox wipes, bleach, laundry detergent, fabric softener

To directly donate to the Crisis Nursery you can click on their [Amazon Wish List](#). (And if you choose PRCC as your charity of choice via the Amazon Smile program, you can support us as well!) Or see below for where to drop off donations.

We continue to collect toiletries for the **Chicago Bridge Project**. Supplies needed to include in toiletry kits are *travel size shampoos and toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, and hand sanitizers/wipes*.

Please open your hearts (and wallets) and donate what you are able. You can drop off your donations at PRCC on Sundays (a bin will be placed in the Park Place Room), or drop off any/all donations listed above any time at the following members' homes:

Laura & Tim Lapp, 1 Glenlake Ave, Park Ridge

Paula & Bob Mack, 740 Forestview Ave, Park Ridge

Marylynn & Dick Collentine, 936 Rowe Ave, Park Ridge

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

MEAL PREPARATIONS

Lincoln Park Community Services has reopened for volunteer meal assistance. Since the pandemic began, they had requested that all food coming into the facility be from certified kitchens. We were able, with the support of Sunrise Grill, to send nutritious meals to the shelter from April through August. Now that they have opened up, while we won't be going in person to serve dinners, we are able to deliver home cooked meals to the shelter. PRCC remains closed for the foreseeable future, so we're hoping that a few of our members would be willing to cook various parts of the meals from their homes. The number of residents at Lincoln Park Community Services has decreased to accommodate social distancing, so we will prepare dinner for approximately 25. **We need individuals/families to prepare either a salad, a vegetable, a starch, a meat entree, or a dessert for the October 1st and November 5th dinners.**



If you would like to help please contact Luan Zoellner (lzoellner@ameritech.net or (847) 525-8353 for further details. This is a wonderful opportunity to get the whole family involved in showing God's love to those often forgotten in this world.



SUNDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

PRCC will once again be a part of **Sunday Night Suppers** starting this fall; however, the procedures will be very different due to Covid-19. Until or unless health guidelines change, we will provide 85 pre-packaged meals from a restaurant or caterer, individual drinks, and pre-packaged desserts from a store (no homemade items allowed).

PRCC assigned dates are:

2020 - November 22 **2021** - February 28, April 25 (@ St. Mary's Episcopal Church), May 16

Volunteer Requirements

- Limited to three (3) volunteers to assist with to-go meal distribution curbside on each date
- Two volunteers will assemble to-go meals at a table inside PR Presbyterian Church.
- One additional volunteer will be stationed at the curb to tell the team inside how many meals to bring out as guests' cars arrive.
- Volunteers must bring their own mask and wear it the entire time they are on site at Park Ridge Presbyterian Church and wear gloves while assembling to-go meals.

The time commitment will be 1.5 hours, from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. on our assigned dates.

Thank you for considering to help provide meals for local families in need.

Please sign up at <https://www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org/sunday-suppers>

SEPTEMBER SNAPSHOTS





100 S. Courtland Ave
Park Ridge, IL 60068

**First-class
Postage
Required**

**Place Stamp
Here**



Crop Walk
Fundraiser
October 11th
4-8 pm



Contact Us:

847-823-3164

office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Like us on Facebook!

Our Staff:

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister

Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries

Shelley O'Brien, Director of Children's Ministries

Liz Swanson, Director of Pastoral Services

Jaclyn Weir, Parish Coordinator