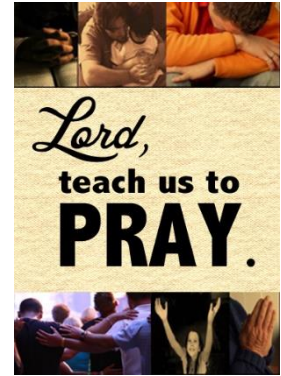


THE PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

March 2019



I have grown up as a Pastor's kid in the church for my entire life and Lent sometimes becomes second nature. Of course, I know why Lent is Lent, and of course I know that we have purple cloths that mean royalty and observe a time of fasting and praying...but sometimes it behooves us to reflect on some of the "whys" of such a holy season.

What is Lent? Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten* which means "spring." Lent is the 40-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Sundays do not count because each Sunday is considered a "little Easter" as we anticipate the resurrection. The season is 40 days, as an intentional season of preparation. 40 is an important number in scripture: Jesus was in the wilderness. Moses was in the wilderness. In Genesis the flood lasted for 40 days. Historically, Lent began a period of fasting and preparation for baptism for new converts. During this time, new Christians would study, read, pray, and prepare their hearts to live lives following Christ. (So, our new member class seems a lot easier now, right!?)

Why are the dates so random? Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring solstice...spring solstice is March 21, the first full moon after that in 2019 will be April 19 – so Easter is April 21. 40 days (not including Sundays) prior to that is Wednesday, March 6 (Ash Wednesday). During Spring, the days are getting longer, and the light is shining more brightly into the darkness. Especially as the early church was establishing celebrations, festivals, and rituals, the light and the dark factored in quite heavily.

Why Ashes? We begin this season of Lent with Ash Wednesday, which represents a "dual encounter." We confront our own mortality and spend time confessing our sins before God and community. The ashes, burned from the palm branches from the previous year, are symbols reminding us that we are finite beings, and we will all die. "From dust we were made, and to dust we shall return." While we live, however, we are invited to spend our lives in communion with God and one another. Ashes have been used in both Jewish and Christian worship services as a symbol of repentance. To me, I think the ashes provide a priority check – are we living the kind of lives we feel like we should, valuing the things that matter most, sharing and caring for others, and impacting the world for good? We pray the words of David: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10) ***This year, we will be offering a brief 15-minute Ash Wednesday service at 7 am on March 6 (so you can still catch your train), and an hour-long Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary.***


Why Prayer? Because a heavy emphasis during Lent is on praying and speaking with God, our focus at Park Ridge Community Church is going to be on praying unceasingly. We will explore different ways of praying: for others, for ourselves, for the world, for our futures, etc. We will have prayer stations set up in the Ellinger Transcept (the front right side of the sanctuary) so people can stop and pray during the week and on Sundays in between services. Sunday worship services will dive into the Lord's Prayer or the "Our Father." We pray this prayer week after week, and yet it's easy for the words to become rote. Our time during Lent will help us to understand what we are praying, and why Jesus asked his disciples to pray in this way. We will also be distributing a Lenten devotional – both in written format and electronically via Facebook. Each day, we are invited to pray together as a congregation the prayers that have been meaningful to some of our fellow PRCC members. Some of us are very comfortable praying and opening our hearts to God through words, and others of us don't know where to start. During Lent, we will have the opportunity to learn from one another different ways of connecting to God through prayer.

Lord, **teach us to**
PRAY

Wednesdays
6:30 & 7:30
Soup & Study

Sunday Worship
8:30 & 10 am

Our Lenten Series



Why Fasting? Traditionally, Christians consider a form of fasting during Lent. Some fasting included spending a day without solid foods until sundown, using the time typically spent for meals in intentional prayer. Other Christian forefathers would fast for several days. Churches have sometimes invited congregants to give up vices for all of Lent – chocolate, alcohol, gambling, or meat as a sign of our willingness to surrender our will to God’s will. Other traditions have invited congregants to add something during Lent – set an alarm and pray each day for 10 minutes in the middle of the day, make a journal and track the people and situations you are praying for, read a scripture passage each day, etc. The goal of fasting or adding a new discipline is not so that we hurt or punish ourselves, but rather that we might draw our hearts closer to God’s.

Lent has always been a holy time for me, and I have often experienced God speaking and preparing me in surprising ways. I hope and pray that this season will be a meaningful one for each of us – as individuals and as a congregation. I hope we deepen our relationships with God and one another and that we are prepared in a new way to walk together through the pain of holy week and the passion of Christ and arrive at Easter as those experiencing new life! Thank you for letting me pastor among you and minister alongside you!

~ Pastor Carol

LENT 2019

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS will be available March 6th, please take them home and share them with your friends and neighbors!

LENTEN PRAYER TIME during the Tuesday evening Stephen Ministry Supervision times. We will be reading the prayers out-loud so all are included. If you would like to have prayers added in this faithful time, please let one of the Stephen Leaders know, Ginny Feurer, Peggy Fergus, Anita Rifkind, Kate Reboletti or Liz Swanson.

SIMPLE SUPPERS every Wednesday during Lent at 6:30 pm.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday- 7:00 am and 7:30 pm

Maundy Thursday- 7:30 pm

Good Friday – 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday – 8:30 am and 10:00 am

WORSHIP

JOIN US IN MARCH FOR WORSHIP

March 3
(Food
Collection)

Transfiguration Sunday
Holy Communion
Jazz Community Big Band
One Service at 10:00 am
My Bible Class
Pancake Breakfast
Youth Group

March 6

Ash Wednesday
Services at 7:00 am and 7:30 pm
Simple Supper at 6:30 pm

March 10

First Sunday of Lent
Daylight Savings
My Bible Class
Uncle Pete's Sack Lunches

March 17

St. Patrick's Day
My Bible Class
Youth Scavenger Hunt

March 24

Third Sunday of Lent
Kid's Club
Sacrament of Baptism

- Nursery Care is available each Sunday for infants through 5 years.

ACOLYTES PROGRAM

Children 3rd-5th grade act as acolytes, lighting the candles at the beginning of 10 am worship, from February through May, with some exceptions. They're off to a great start!



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 3rd after 10:00 am Worship. Come hungry! There will be pancakes, egg-bake, fresh fruit, coffee and OJ. A gluten-free option will be available.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

March 6th at 7:00 am and 7:30 pm

SIMPLE SUPPERS

Starting March 6th through April 10th

This Lenten Season, we will once again join together for a simple meal beginning March 6th through April 10th. Join us Wednesday evening during Lent at 6:30 pm in Jordan Hall. If you are interested in hosting one of these Simple Suppers, please contact Liz Swanson.



2019 LENTEN SERIES

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 6!! We will begin the season of Lent together with two Ash Wednesday services – 7 am and 7:30 pm. All are invited to these contemplative services as we enter a season of intentional alignment with God. Our Worship and Study series during Lent will focus on the words of the Lord's Prayer, inviting us to consider the implications of this powerful prayer. We will also have the opportunity to practice different ways of praying through Prayer Stations in Ellinger Transept. We are looking forward to 40 days of meaningful challenge as we prepare ourselves for Holy Week.

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

In this preparation season of Lent, please continue to pray for all those on our prayer ministry list. Martha Bridges, Erika Cornelisen, Kylie Figgins, Jon Forsythe, Irene Ginger, Edith E. Hurlburt, Tom Kapolnek, Candace Kidston, Walter and Christina Kotecki, Gerri Le Duc, Jim Lego, Lurana Nelson, Leo Netko, Pauline Numrych, Susan Ruth, Ann Stutts, Ginny Sutton, Joyce Wright, Bill Zoellner, Kate Zoellner.

We also keep in our prayers the following February requests:

Joys

- Congratulations to the Crowley family, who celebrate the arrival of Gulliana Grace. Mother and baby are well but please keep Gulliana in your prayers as she will be in the NICU for a number of weeks.
- Charlie Giera celebrates good health after receiving positive results from medical tests.
- We celebrate an anonymous joy for the completion of radiation treatments.

Healing and Recovery

- Please continue to keep Robin Kopecky in your prayers as she recovers from emergency abdominal surgery. She is very grateful for the prayers, cards, calls, flowers, and emails. She is home in Florida recovering and enjoying the sunshine.
- Please pray for Angie Papassava's friends with two different health challenges.
- Jenny Sanderson asks for prayers for a dear friend Colin who has been diagnosed with lymphoma.
- The Douglass family are grateful for the successful surgery for John Douglass, please keep Teri and Bob in your prayers.
- Luan asks for prayers for her friend, Marge, undergoing ovarian cancer surgery this week and for Bill as his illness progresses.
- The Ginger family ask for prayers as Irene enters hospice care.
- Please continue prayers for Nancy Zuegel.
- Please keep Lisa Irwin in your prayers as she recovers at home from surgery.
- Please keep Charlie Giera's friend Ann Marie in your prayers.
- Dorothy Lehman asks for prayers as her 16-year-old granddaughter faces surgery on 2/8.
- Sasha asks for prayers for a friend hospitalized with pneumonia.
- We pray for Ginny Feurer's friend Marilyn.
- Thank you for your prayers for Larry Adams' father Matt who received promising medical news this week.
- Please continue to keep Paula Mack's parents in your prayers, her

mother is being treated for pneumonia and John is recovering from a recent fall.

- Please continue prayers for Cindy Klimmeck who is recovering from knee surgery on 2/7.
- Keep Mike Artrip in prayer as he faces hip replacement surgery on 2/18.

Birthdays/Anniversaries

- 2/3 – Eugene Jarvis
- Congratulations to Judy and Mike Artip who celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary on 1/30.
- Happy 94th birthday to Bernice Zabawski on February 3rd.
- Happy 16th birthday to Kevin Plach!
- We celebrated Teri Biedke's birthday on 2/7.
- Prayers of joy for Sean's birthday on 2/13 and Meredith and Tara turning 18 on 2/18.
- The Scharringhausen's celebrated 62 years of marriage on 2/23!

For Strength and Guidance

- Janet Johnson asks for prayers for her family in Texas.
- We pray for an anonymous family facing an intervention with an adult child.
- Larry Zimmerman asks for prayers for his uncle in the end stages of his life.
- Please pray for Angie Papassava's friend making difficult medical treatment decisions.
- Please keep Pastor Carol in your prayers as she travels on 2/23 to the United Methodist Church Annual Conference.

Life in the Resurrection

- Please keep the family and friends of Lynn Nelson, sister-in-law of Bruce and Karen Nelson, in your prayers as they grieve the loss of Lynn.
- Sasha asks for prayers for the family of a faculty member at North-Eastern who passed away last week.
- Please pray for the family of Mel Pirok as they grieve his loss.
- Prayers for the Nelson family as they grieve the loss of Scott's mother, Doris Seigel.
- Luan Zoellner asks for prayers for the family and friends of Jody Baty whose memorial service was 2/8.
- Please keep Sharon Kemerer in your prayers as she grieves the loss of her cousin Mary Alice Dixon who entered Life in the Resurrection on 2/9.
- Elaine Zabawski asks for prayers for Celia Sciurba who entered Life in the Resurrection in January.

A memorial Service for Mel Pirok will be held on March 2nd at 10:00 am here at PRCC.

A memorial Service for Doris Seigel will be held on March 23rd at 1:30 pm here at PRCC.

STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE

by Anita Rifkind

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Luke 4: 1-2 (NSRV)

Ever wonder why Lent is 40 days long? The easy answer is because Matthew, Mark, and Luke describe the temptations of Jesus to have either been part of, or to have followed a 40-period of fasting he undertook at the start of his ministry. But again, why 40 days? Was it literally 40 days?

Like a lot of numbers in the Bible, 40 days is symbolic – symbolic of a long period of testing, and trial. Maybe a more modern way to look at such a time would be a time of re-examination of conscience, a time of questioning of our faith, or a time of upheaval – personal or societal. The first Biblical example was the great flood that followed 40 days and nights of rain (Genesis 7:4). Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai with God (Exodus 24:18). The Hebrew people wandered 40 years in the desert before they could enter the Promised Land (Numbers 14:33). Elijah spent 40 days and nights walking to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8). Jonah gave the city of Nineveh 40 days to repent or be destroyed (Jonah 3:4).

So we don't really know how long Jesus was away praying and fasting in the wilderness. But we do know it was a long time. And we know what he was thinking about while he was there.

We are told that Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. One can assume that he was hungry – after all he was fasting. But again, this is symbolic. Would Jesus chose to use his power to meet his own need for material comforts? For wealth? He responds to the temptation by saying, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

The second temptation was to throw himself from one of the highest points of the temple in Jerusalem, as proof of his

authority to command the angels as promised in Psalm 21. With the temple situated on the top of a mountain, the act would have been spectacular evidence of his lineage, and an ego boost. Jesus' response was "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'"

Finally, Jesus understood that he could establish his "kingdom" in a political sense. He had at his disposal sufficient power and authority to achieve that goal, the end very much justifying the means no matter the cost in human suffering and oppression. Jesus was confronted with a very real alternative to a leadership model exemplified by selflessness and servanthood. Jesus' response was to say "You shall worship the Lord your God and only him shall you serve."

There are sometimes in our lives when the darkness and despair, trials and tribulations, crises and upheavals with which we are confronted feel interminable. We'd be happy to settle for a mere 40 days, particularly if we could but know there was a definable end to it. But 40 is a symbolic number; there is no telling how long some nightmares can last.

In our times of trouble, we are confronted with the same choices Jesus faced in the wilderness. Will we put our own material needs first and foremost, regardless of the cost to others? Will we blame God and/or make demands that God "fix" things, and then despair if God does not respond as we desire? Will we use whatever means necessary to control the situation regardless of who or what we become in the process?

Or we can say with Jesus that in difficult times we need to feed our souls with God's word and worry less about our creature comforts. We can acknowledge that by its very definition faith requires humility, steadfastness, and trust. We can chose to serve God regardless of the circumstances.

No matter whether your time in the wilderness has lasted 40 minutes, or 40 days, or 40 months, the Stephen Ministry program wants to support your Lenten journey. First, we will be available for one on one prayer after church from 3/10 – 4/14.. Second, the Stephen Ministers will be praying during our Tuesday evening supervision times for each joy and concern offered at worship services. Or if you would like prayers for anything that is troubling you, or to share prays of celebration, please let any Stephen Leader know. Finally, as always, if you are interested in walking with a Stephen Minister, no matter how long or how far you must travel, please contact Pastor Carol (847-823-3164) or Ginny Feurer to discuss it further.



WINTER NEWS

KINDRED SPIRITS CAFÉ

Join us Tuesdays after Chair Yoga with your sack lunch between 11:45 and 1:00 p.m. and we will provide a delicious dessert and beverages. If you need more information or have questions, please talk to Liz Swanson.

- 3/5 – Fat Tuesday and March Birthday Celebrations
- 3/12- St. Patrick's Day Party – Food Free for All
- 3/19 – Blessing Bags
- 3/26 – BINGO



Kindred Spirits Café assembled college care packages on 2/19. Thank one and all for caring for our students off to college!

KNITTING KNIGHTS

The Knitting Knights have some fun, new projects!! Please help us make washcloths to include in the Outreach Blessing Bags as well as adorable ice cream cones to celebrate our upcoming ice cream social this spring. Patterns and yarn are available for take home projects. Join the knitting and crochet group on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. in Jordan Hall; March 4th and March 18th. Please contact Debbie Deitke, Liz Swanson or any of the crafters for more information.



WOMEN'S EVENT



All women of the church are invited to an afternoon gathering on Sunday, April 7th from 2 pm to 5 pm to learn about the ties that bind us together as God's beloved women. We will be learning about the history of Women's Circles at PRCC and invite new circles to form so all can be included!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

We met for the first time on February 10 after the 10 AM service. There are a number of areas within our church that members can consider volunteering to serve. Won't you prayerfully consider serving? Here's an idea of some of the many committees you can serve on:

Social Committee Chair
Membership Committee Chair
Christian Outreach Chair
Deacons
and more!

Take your time and listen to see where you might be called to serve our church and its' members.

If you are interested in finding out more about any of these church positions or any other ways to serve PRCC, please feel free to contact any of the members on the Nominating Committee at the email addresses below. More detailed information is available and the people serving in these positions currently are all ready and willing to answer questions about what is involved.

Blessings,

Pastor Carol, PastorCarol@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Dave Kapolnek - kapodave@sbcglobal.net

Sarah McCarty - sarah.p.mccarty@gmail.com

Karen Nelson - knelsonmusic@gmail.com

Naomi Siebert - naomi.siebert@gmail.com

Jan Steiner - jansteiner27@gmail.com

Tricia Williams -

tricia.williams@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

MINISTRY INFORMATION FORM

We want to help our members find service opportunities that coincide with their natural talents and gifts. Please fill out the form on the next page and return it to the Church Office. *God will remember the work that you do for His people.* Hebrews 6:10

- ☐ Altar Guild, *help prepare candles, paraments, and worship decor for Sundays and special services*
- ☐ Bible and/or Book Studies, *participate or help lead short and/or long term Bible Studies*
- ☐ Christian Outreach Committee, *partner with others to plan and implement service and outreach projects*
- ☐ Confirmation Leader, *assist with students weekly sessions to learn about and practice their faith*
- ☐ Crop Hunger Walk, *walk and/or fundraise in annual October event to help end hunger*
- ☐ Deacon, *prepare, set-up, and serve alongside clergy for Sacraments, serve at church-wide events/activities*
- ☐ Dinner Groups, *join in fellowship with other PRCC friends - in homes or at local establishments*
- ☐ Event Logistics; ie. set up, take down, etc., *be on-call to help with behind-the-scenes preparations*
- ☐ Fellowship of Families, *gather with families to engage in service, fellowship, and other events*
- ☐ Fund-raising events ie., *Bunco, golf outings, music nights, Pasta Divine, Pumpkin Patch, Trivia night, etc.*
- ☐ Gardening Ministry, *work with a team to beautify our outdoor church property*
- ☐ Kindred Spirits, *this Bring-your-own-lunch group gathers on Tuesdays at 11:30 am to eat, learn, and play together*
- ☐ Knitting Knights, *knit or crochet along with friends to provide ministry to those needing a loving touch*
- ☐ Lincoln Park Shelter meals ministry, *help prepare and/or serve meals on the first Wed. or Thurs. of the month*
- ☐ Marketing/Publicity, *help develop and implement plans to publicize the ministry of PRCC in the community*
- ☐ Photographer, *take pictures of events and people for publicity*
- ☐ Medical Lending Closet, *volunteer to assist with providing medical equipment to those in need*
- ☐ Men's Breakfast, *meet at church on Wed at 7am for fellowship and discussion*
- ☐ Music Ministry, *Angeli Choir, Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, Junior Choir, Wall of Sound*
- ☐ Office Substitute, *be on call to work in the office when parish administrator is on vacation, holiday or sick*
- ☐ PRCC Youth, *Adult Helpers/Chaperones for Middle School and High School youth*
- ☐ Sunday School teacher or helper, *using prepared materials, teach or assist with Sunday morning classes for kids*
- ☐ Sunday Morning Coffee Hour and Fellowship Host, *bring items, make coffee, and offer the gift of hospitality*
- ☐ Sunday Morning Lector, *help lead worship by reading the scripture lesson on Sunday morning 10 am worship*
- ☐ Sunday Morning Greeter, *welcome congregants to worship, assist with name tag location, bathrooms/nursery*
- ☐ Sunday Night Suppers at St. Luke's in Park Ridge, *volunteer to help cook or serve this Sunday evening outreach*
- ☐ Social Committee, *help plan, organize, and set up social events and church functions*
- ☐ Social Media, *assist in promoting PRCC events and news through Facebook, website, and other social media platforms*
- ☐ Stephen Ministry, *become trained to serve as an active listener and spiritual companion to an individual*
- ☐ Sustainability/Green Team, *help find ways for our Church and community to be ecologically responsible*
- ☐ Trustee, *consider and respond to the needs of our buildings and facilities*
- ☐ Usher, *serve on Sundays during worship handing out bulletins, collecting offering and prayer requests, on a rotation*
- ☐ Vacation Bible School, *teach, prepare crafts, snacks, play games, and more at our weeklong, summertime event for kids*
- ☐ Women's Circle, *join with other women for fellowship and projects as determined by the group*

What type of work energizes you? _____

What activities do you enjoy? _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Email address _____



WINTER NEWS

CIRCLE 10 NEWS

SAVE THE DATE

Le Cheap Boutique

Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 9 AM-1 PM in the Great Hall
Sunday, April 28, 2019 from 9:15-11:30 AM in the Great Hall

Le Cheap Boutique is an accessory resale event supporting Circle 10 benevolence ministry and other outreach efforts. You'll find gently used or new jewelry, hats, gloves, scarves, belts, handbags, etc. for sale.

Donations of items can be made on Sunday mornings in the Park Place room between 9:15- 10 AM on March 10, March 17, March 24, April 7 and April 14. Donations can also be made during the week in the church office starting March 11.

Questions? Contact Jamie Knoblauch
at jlknoblauch@gmail.com or Tricia Williams
at tricia.williams@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

LENTEN PRAYER TIME

During the Lenten season, the Stephen Ministers will be praying for the needs of the church as well as requests from Sunday morning during the Tuesday evening Supervision times. We will be reading the prayers out-loud so all are included. If you would like to have prayers added in this faithful time, please let one of the Stephen Leaders know, Ginny Feurer, Peggy Fergus, Anita Rifkind, Kate Reboletti or Liz Swanson. **"At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18"**

MENTAL HEALTH SERIES FOLLOW UP

We are grateful to all those who attended the NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness presentation on 2/20 and to the speakers who shared their stories and many resources available at NAMI CCNS. If you would like more information

please check their website: namiccns.org or phone the NAMI office at (847)716-2252 and ask for Gary, Brian or Kathy. Don't miss the next presentation on Wednesday 2/27 at 7:30 pm with Dr. William Rhoades offering a medical understanding on depression, anxiety and mental health issues.

PASTA DIVINE THANK YOU

If you helped out with cooking, cleaning, decorating, serving: THANK YOU!

If you came and ate, bid on an auction, donated an auction prize: THANK YOU!

If you enjoyed yourself, told a friend, and plan to come again next time: THANK YOU!

We had a great evening of food, fun and fellowship. In addition to that, together, we were able to raise close to \$15,000 for PRCC's ministries and for our designated charity: "Avenues to Independence."

We thank you for your support! The PRCC Deacons.



WE'RE ONLINE!

Have you visited the [Worship Archive](#) page on the church website? You can find copies of past Sunday bulletins, manuscripts of sermons, and, soon, audio recordings of sermons!

WHOLENESS CHALLENGE RE-CAP

We had 35 participants in the Wednesday evening Wholeness Bible Study with Pastor Carol. It was a time of meaningful learning, fellowship, and discussion! On Sunday, March 3rd, we will announce our online Wholeness challenge winner! Thank you to ALL that participated in living whole lives!



BOARD NEWS

The Board of Directors at PRCC works hard to make sure our ministries are thriving, our communication is open, and we are growing as a congregation. We take seriously our mission: Celebrating unity in Christ, diversity in faith in our worship by learning, growing, serving, and playing! Laura Sissman, Chair of our Congregation alongside Acting Vice-Chair Bill Williams, are helping lead the way as we continue to dream big AND tend to the minutia. Here are a few updates from our Board of Directors:

- Associate Minister Search Team: We have formed an Associate Minister Search team, which is working hard at posting our opening for an associate minister. Along with alumni from previous search teams and staff, our search team has created the job description and posting. When it is done, it will be posted and the team will begin considering resumes, hopefully very soon!

- Board Adopts Covenant: In order to facilitate productive and focused meeting times and clarify what the role of the Board of Directors actually is, our Board adopted a new Covenant to guide our work together.

- Structure Team Continues: Our Structure team is busily working on revising our Bylaws and creating policies for children's protection and more. Pastor David provided much framework to build from, and our team is steadily working to ensure policies presented to the Board reflect the culture and context of PRCC.

- Nominations Begins: The Nominating Committee is working diligently to confirm those who will fill open positions for Chairs of our ministry teams. The Board also authorized the creation of a new Human Relations/Personnel committee to be called the "Staff Parish Relations Committee." This new committee will evaluate the staff, provide support to our clergy and staff, refine job descriptions, and give feedback on staff structure possibilities.

- Finance Report: Finance has presented, and the Board has passed the budget for 2019 to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Finance was pleased with the level of pledge support from the congregation and hopes that generosity and joy will continue as we live into expanding ministries throughout our congregational life.

- Board Retreat: We had a wonderful retreat in February. A recap is provided below. One immediate outcome was a

sizable donation from one member because of the optimism, faith, and passion experienced by the Board thinking about and planning for the future. This donation was made in support of our Christian Outreach initiatives.

It is an honor to serve this congregation and be in ministry together with each of you! If you have ideas, comments, or suggestions, do not hesitate to reach out to us!

In Christ,

Laura Sissman, Chair

Bill Williams, Acting Vice-Chair

BOARD RETREAT RECAP

February 2nd

The PRCC leadership team has made a commitment to be intentional about long-term planning for our family of faith. This includes caring for each other in the way Jesus modeled as well as being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. One of the ways this is done is by periodic gatherings of the board, leadership and staff of the congregation. The most recent one was held Saturday morning, 2/2. A number of key themes came out of this meeting, many of which reflect our values of Celebrating unity in Christ, diversity in faith in our worship by learning, growing, serving and playing. There are a number of specific areas identified to focus on such as sustained membership, mentoring leadership into roles, facility's needs, targeted program areas like youth, renewed community presence all while being Christ Centered and Active in Faith. This is not just leadership work. This is full congregational work and so your input is needed. Be on the lookout for coffee hour conversations and small group ways to communicate more about all this. If you have questions or ideas, please talk with Pastor Carol, Laura Sissman or any staff or board member. Thank you for your place at PRCC.





MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Save the Dates!

- Coffee with Pastor Carol in the parlor on March 17 at noon.
 - New Member Information session, April 8 from 7-8:15 pm
 - New Member Sunday, April 28 at the 10 am service.
- * Information folders for newcomers are in the Narthex as well as "All are Welcome" brochure and small post-it note pads. Feel free to hand one out if you meet someone new on Sunday.

NAME TAGS

We started using permanent name tags in February and it's going great. There are two boards with name tags - one at the top of the stairs at the Park Place entrance and one in the Narthex. If you don't have a name tag yet, please fill out this form: [CLICK HERE](#). You don't have to be a member of the membership committee to greet and welcome newcomers. You can be on the look-out each Sunday for newcomers or people you don't know. Introduce yourself, wear a name tag, sign in on the "Who's in the Pews" sheet and encourage others to sign in as well.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed the following new members of PRCC on February 10th; Cathy Thompson, Sue and Marty Sandstrom, Jeanne Klemme, Ewald Weiss, Adrian Hill, Liz, Evan, Lucas, and Brandon Bayley and Jill and Rick Wendorf.



Our new members are listed in the online church directory with a photograph. Are you?
[CLICK HERE](#) to access the online directory for the first time!

On Sunday March 3, membership committee members will be available to take your photo for the directory and/or show you how to access the online directory.

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour fellowship is growing! Volunteers are needed to host on Sunday mornings. Please contact Lauren Kleingers at lauren.kleingers@gmail.com to sign up.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

PRCC has a large number of people who volunteer their time to our church and we are so grateful for each and every one of them. Our Volunteer Spotlight is a way of saying thank you to them and also giving members and newcomers an idea of 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 Andrea and Thom Goodwin are in the volunteer spotlight. Andrea

and Thom and their children Alena and Luke have been members of PRCC for about 4 years. You've probably seen them around because they do A LOT!

Andrea is the Sunday School teacher for 4th and 5th grade. She never taught before and wasn't sure if it would be something she would be good at or enjoy and she discovered that the kids are awesome and quite often she learns something from them! Andrea went through the Stephen Minister training last year and is a dedicated and caring Stephen Minister. Andrea has assisted with many aspects of the Stephen Ministry program and is always ready to listen and walk alongside someone in need. Thom is currently in his second year serving as a Trustee and is finishing up his term as a Deacon. In addition to this, he served on the Website Development Team last year when a group worked to update the entire church website. Check out the website if you haven't taken a look at it recently. Thom has also been working on helping to get church committees trained in using google docs and google drive to facilitate communication between committees.

Thom served on the Interim Search Committee that brought Pastor David to our church last year and Andrea is currently serving on the Associate Pastor Search Committee.

You may have seen Thom performing in church on harmonica or singing with the Wall of Sound. He's multi-talented! Both Alena and Luke are in Junior Choir and serve as Acolytes.

The Goodwin family often join in the Fellowship of Families group and work on service projects together with other PRCC families. We appreciate all the things that Andrea and Thom and their children do to serve our church family!





OUTREACH NEWS



YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, March 3rd - Youth Group Truth Series

Middle school and high school students should gather at church for dinner at 6 pm. After dinner, we will continue our exploration of truth in the Bible.

Sunday, March 17th - Photo Scavenger Hunt

Wear your walking shoes because you'll be searching Uptown on foot for some unique photo opportunities. This is a multi-church event, but we will all meet at PRCC at 6 pm.

STAY CONNECTED!

If you haven't already, please do the following so you can stay up to date on all current Youth Group events:

1. Add youth@parkridgecommunitychurch.org to your address book.
2. Like and Follow [Park Ridge Community Church](#) on Facebook and join the [PRCC Youth Group](#) group page- we use Facebook to promote events.
3. Follow the PRCC Youth group on instagram at [prccyouthgroup](#).



FAITH IN ACTION by Cooking, Serving and Supporting!

3/3 Cooking and Serving the Sunday Supper at St. Luke's. Please link to the Sign Up Genius [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up!

3/7 Serving at Lincoln Park Shelter. Please sign up on the bulletin board or talk with Luan, Debbie or Liz

4/4 **Save the Date** for serving at Lincoln Park in April.



CONTINUING COLLECTION

Looking for a good home for your extra cosmetic bags and travel size toiletries? Blessing Bags for those in need will be assembled and distributed in March. Your help with supporting this new outreach is greatly appreciated!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

March 2019

- Sun. March 3: Transfiguration; Sun. school; My Bible class; pancake breakfast
- Wed. March 6: Ash Wednesday; simple supper 6:30 pm; worship 7:30 pm
- Sun. March 10: Uncle Pete's; Sun. school; My Bible class (daylight savings time)
- Sun. March 17: Sun. school; My Bible class
- Sun. March 24: Kids' Club; no Sunday school; no My Bible class
- Sun. March 31: Sun. school; My Bible class
- Sun. April 7: Sun. school; My Bible class
- Sun. April 14: Palm Sunday! Kids sing & wave palms; My Bible presentation in 10 am worship; Sun. school

Preschool through high school children are invited to Sunday school. Please fill out a registration form for contact and allergy info. Our typical schedule:

- 10:00-10:15 All gather in the sanctuary to begin worship with family members. Pastor Carol dismisses children to Sunday school.
- 10:15-10:30 Preschool to 3rd grade children ~ music time in SS wing
- 10:30-11:15 Preschool to 3rd grade children in classrooms in SS wing
- 10:15-11:15 4th grade to high school go down to class from sanctuary
- 11:15 classes end; parents pick up young children from classrooms

Nursery care is available each Sunday 8:30-11:15 am for infants through 5 years of age on the lower level, next to Jordan Hall. Three- through five-year-olds are welcome to attend Sunday school or remain in the nursery, as their families decide.

Questions? Teri/Shelley
sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

OUTREACH PROJECTS

Children's weekly offerings are used for outreach projects. Students learn about those they are helping and are inspired to help in more and different ways each month. Please help children remember to bring offerings!

January offerings went toward Heifer International. We gathered \$235, and the children voted to offer far-away communities' rabbits, chicks, and even an alpaca!

On March 10, we will pack 100 lunches for Uncle Pete's Lunches. How can you help? For 100 lunches, we hope the congregation will help...Bring 100 juice boxes or mini waters, 100 snack-size bags of chips, 100 snack-size packets of cookies or candy by Sunday, March 3rd. Sign up to bring 200 hard-boiled eggs, 20 loaves of bread & 100 apples or oranges by Wednesday, March 8th. Donate toward the cost of lunch meat & any additional food needed. Gather to assemble 100 lunches on Sunday, March 10th, 9-9:50 am!

Weekly offerings in March will go to an organization called Open Heart Magic. Their motto is, "With wands in hand and magic in heart, we fill hospitals with happiness." This group sends magicians into children's hospitals to work one on one with hospitalized children performing bed-side magic and teaching some tricks to help raise spirits during their healing. For more information: www.openheartmagic.org

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation class is offered to all middle schoolers (6th through 8th grade) on **Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 pm**. Friends and community members are welcome. Eighth-grade students can make their Confirmation on May 19, 2019.

MY BIBLE CLASS

Children 3rd grade and older are invited to the My Bible class through April 7 (except March 24 for spring break). The class meets **during Sunday school time**. Children should begin in worship with family; when Pastor Carol dismisses to Sunday school, around 10:15, go to the 3rd grade classroom to learn to use this essential tool of our faith. The children will then be presented during **worship April 14** with their Bible.



FEBRUARY SNAPSHOTS



Park Ridge Community Church Women's Circle 10

Le Cheap Boutique



Saturday, April 27th

9:00-1:00

Sunday, April 28th

9:15-11:45

An accessory Resale Event Supporting
Church Programs & Outreach.

Donations of Gently used Jewelry,
Hats, Handbags, Scarves, Gloves
& Ties are now being accepted
in the Church Office, or
Park Place Room on Sundays
from 9:30 to 11:30.

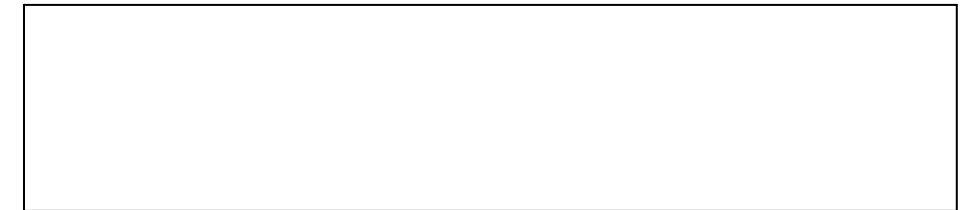
100 South Courtland, Park Ridge, Illinois Great Hall



100 S. Courtland Ave
Park Ridge, IL 60068

**First-class
Postage
Required**

**Place Stamp
Here**



JOIN US ON APRIL 7TH, 2-5PM

PRCC WOMEN'S CIRCLE RE-BOOT

**Wine. Cheese. Hugs. Coffee.
Laughs. Prayers. Stories.
Love. All Ages. All Women.**

Seek
The stories of PRCC women who run active women's circles today

Share
Ideas on what would draw you into a women's circle now

Shape
The future of how women uniquely participate in our church

Contact Us:
847-823-3164
office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org
parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Like us on Facebook!

Our Staff:

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister
Teri Biedke, Sunday School Co-Facilitator
Sasha Gerritson, Minister of Music
Rick Hagedorn, Parish Organist
Kate Joyce, Youth Group Co-Facilitator
Darcy LeDuc, Youth Group Co-Facilitator
Shelly O'Brien, Sunday School Co-Facilitator
Liz Swanson, Director of Pastoral Services
Jaclyn Weir, Parish Coordinator