

THE PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020



Let's Talk about Faith: Theodicy, Omnipotence, Free Will... Oh My!

Often when people face a hardship, crisis, or trauma, big theological questions find their way into our hearts and minds. What is God trying to teach me/us? Did God cause this? If God is omnipotent, why would God allow this to happen? Does God actually care about the suffering of humanity? Does "everything happen for a reason" as in everything has a divine purpose? Does nothing happen with a divine purpose? How do you know the difference?

This sermon series "Divine Design: Unpacking Our Spiritual Gifts" walks a line that posits that yes, God has created each person on purpose and yet doesn't go as far as EVERYTHING is because of divine causation. I hold the belief that God incorporates our particular attributes, talents, personality traits, and characteristics, with our training and life experiences with an intention to impact the world for good. We are invited, but not coerced, to join God's work in the world. It's up to us to choose to use our powers for good, as it were. Does it sound like I've been watching too many movies? Maybe.

I resist the theological doctrine of original sin and instead cling to an understanding of original goodness. I believe the world complicates matters, but originally in our image-of-God status - we are good, in fact, very good (Genesis 1:31). We are given free will to choose evil, to choose selfish ambition, to lie, cheat, steal, etc. but our original heart is good. I believe we all have the capacity for evil, but we don't have to participate with the forces of evil, nor do we have to participate with the forces of goodness. We can choose = Free will/ Agency.

Because we are human and have capacity to choose evil; many have. The consequences of such choices are lasting, not because God wills humanity to suffer, but free will and choices have consequences and ripples. That's not God's doing, it's the work of humanity. I think even in the middle of life's storms, God is present, trying to soothe us, trying to open our eyes to answers and to ways to alleviate suffering. Sometimes we listen. Sometimes we don't. When we suffer, God is there, knowing our pain and crying with us. When we rejoice, God is there, knowing our joy, smiling with us.

I don't believe God caused covid-19, but I do believe God is with the researchers, scientists and doctors who are furiously working to uncover answers. I don't believe God causes hurricanes, but I believe God is with the clean-up teams that go to rebuild and recover. I don't believe God causes churches to thrive or die, but I do believe God is actively inviting us to use our gifts, time, and talents to share the Gospel and create new ministries to meet new needs. How we choose to respond is up to us, but God is persistently equipping and calling the Saints for ministry to current circumstances.

I have been so thankful for the ways this congregation has responded to current circumstances. You have figured out ways to gather online. You have launched new efforts to gather canned goods for the Food Pantry. You have offered care that has helped members feel connected and not isolated. YOU have been the church! Does God do that? Yes and no! God calls, and You have responded!

*Blessed to be in this with you,
Pastor Carol*

WORSHIP

ALL WORSHIP AVAILABLE VIA YOUTUBE AND LIVESTREAM

- May 3** Online Worship Experience
Divine Design: Called
Annual Meeting via Google Hangout
- May 10** Online Worship Experience
Divine Design: Such a Time as This
Mother's Day
- May 17** Online Worship Experience
Divine Design: One Body, Many Parts
- May 24** Online Worship Experience
Divine Design: Personality Types
- May 31** Pentecost Online Worship Experience
Divine Design: Spirit Sent, Spirit Led
Wear **RED**
Graduation Celebration

HOLY COMMUNION ELEMENTS MAY 3rd

On Sunday, May 3rd, we will partake in Holy Communion during our Online Worship Experience. We would like to once again provide these elements to you prior to Sunday Worship. Please contact the Church Office to let us know your preference of pick up or delivery OR fill out the Google Form - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewhugy8DeG5_Bh4jOF4acWEf6eh_qRI0uscOsleobgao2tA/viewform?usp=sf_link

ANNUAL MEETING

We are about to navigate a brand-new frontier: AN ONLINE ANNUAL MEETING. The Annual Meeting is the time when we gather as a church to receive reports from ministry areas through the Annual Report, we elect officers for the coming year, and we respond to any items of business requiring an all church vote. Fortunately, this is a year in which our Annual Meeting only requires votes on approval of minutes and our slate of officers. We will conduct the Online Annual Meeting with the same agenda as an in person Annual Meeting. We

will affirm a quorum, appoint a Parliamentarian, hear reports from a few leaders, announce the Eric Nelson scholarship and the Second Mile award recipients, and vote on our officers. Our Chair and Vice-Chair will preside over the meeting and the Clerk will take minutes. It will feel different not being together in person, but we will still be able to accomplish our business as a church and accommodate the requirements of our bylaws.

Schedule for the Day:

- 10:00 am – Worship together online on YouTube
11:05 am – Log onto Google Hangouts for Annual Meeting.
11:15 am – Annual Meeting called to order

Meeting Materials:

Our Annual Report will be accessed by MOST electronically, receiving the link in an email and downloading the Report. For those who prefer or are unable to get online, a paper copy of the report will be mailed. **The paper copy of the report will only be mailed UPON REQUEST.** Alternatively, if requested, a paper copy of the Annual Report and ballot can be included with your communion elements on April 30.

Voting:

There will be one electronic form for each member to complete, certifying their participation in the Annual Meeting online (which will validate a quorum) and submitting votes on the minutes and nominations slate. A paper ballot will be provided to those not able or comfortable submitting the online form. Paper ballots should be mailed in the pre-stamped envelope and received at PRCC by May 1. The online or paper ballots may be completed in advance of the May 3 meeting, and only one submission per member will be recorded. Links to the Annual Report, Minutes, and Voting Form will be distributed in the next week.

BUILDING CLOSURE EXTENDED

The Church Offices and Building will remain closed through **May 30th**. You may still reach the office by email at office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org or by calling, 847-823-3164 x 21.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

If you are graduating from high school or college this year we want to celebrate you! Please reach out to Pastor Mollie at pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org and let her know about your accomplishments and future plans.



SANCTUARY WINDOW PROJECT

by Tom Klimmeck



As announced in worship on March 8, the Trustees have begun the replacement of the Sanctuary windows as a part of our continuing window replacement project. This project was initiated in 2017 and continue until most of the windows in our structure are replaced. This particular project is a component of the ongoing maintenance and capital replacement of our church. Keeping up with these investments allows for the manifold ministries, fellowship and worship that we all enjoy. We named a similar effort “Renewing God’s House” years ago and a series of capital improvements, some more visible than others, have been undertaken over the past years. Our structure is between 70 to 100 years old and the building requires an ongoing investment to continue to serve our needs.

I am pleased to be serving as the window replacement project leader assisted by a team of other PRCC members along with the outside window manufacturer, installation contractor and trustee team. We will share a series of communication pieces providing more in-depth detail regarding the many aspects of this ongoing project. Windows are a very long-lived asset and this change will positively impact our facility in many ways. The sanctuary window replacement is perhaps the most visible and impactful capital replacement in recent memory. The team has taken great care and consulted with many congregation members before deciding to proceed at this time. I will attempt to share much more detail on the window designs enumerating the trade-offs of alternatives and how the myriad detail selections were made. One overriding goal is, and will continue to be, to preserve the architectural integrity of the building recognizing the importance of our appearance in Park Ridge and our high visibility in the community.

Here is the big picture. Our building has 125 window openings (who knew?!). For a variety of reasons, we are

excluding 21 of these for replacement at this time. At the start of this effort, we focused our energy on the oldest and most deteriorated windows first. Over the past two years, all 38 of the 100-year windows in the Great Hall, Heaven, Sunday school rooms, west staircase and the Butler Place entry were replaced. Remaining are 66 windows all in the 1950 vintage sanctuary building. This current phase will include 33 window openings with 20 in the sanctuary space and others scattered around the rest of the structure. Again, we are replacing the windows showing the most wear and service issues first.

Replacing 33 windows is going to cost \$167,000. We have received one significant donation already, and the Board approved proceeding as we attempt to raise the remainder. We are currently anticipating installation in late-May. **We need your support.**

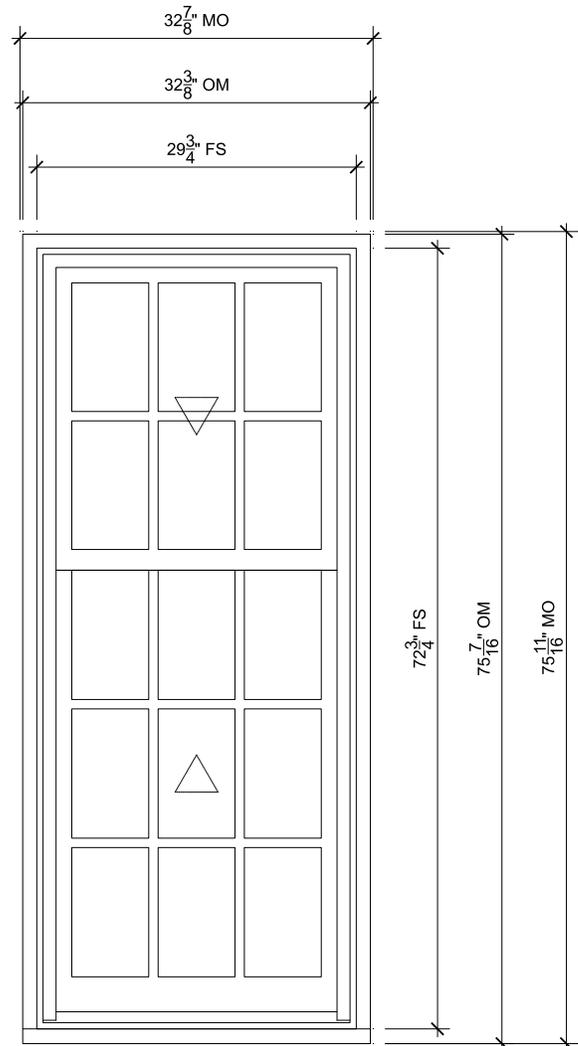
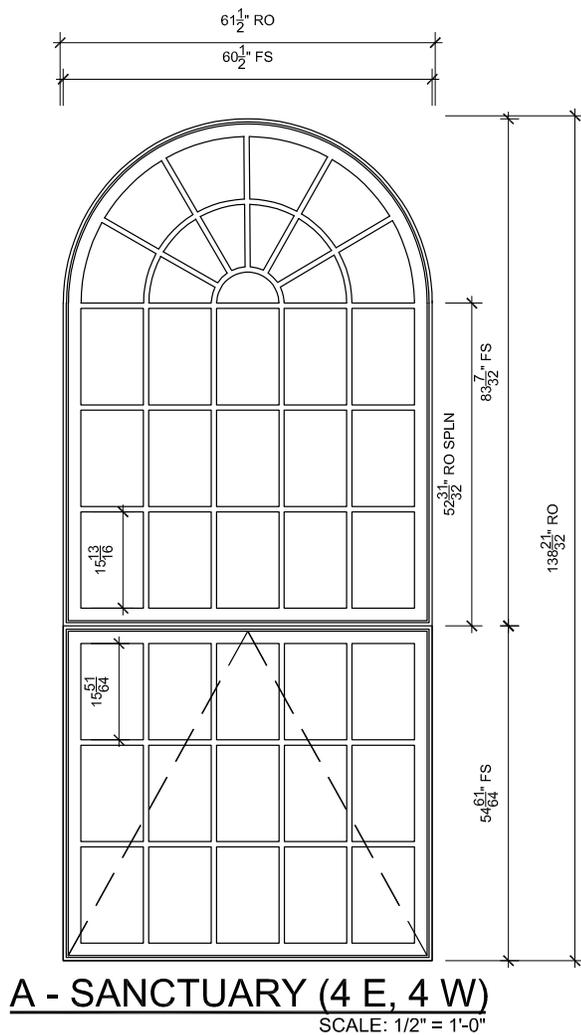
Here are a few ways:

- Sponsor one of the 8 large sanctuary windows (a plaque will be installed to commemorate this gift) \$12,500.
- Sponsor one of the 10 smaller windows in Ellinger Transept or Crego Chapel (a plaque will be installed to commemorate this gift) \$2,400
- Contribute any amount to “Renewing God’s House: Window Phase” and be a part of ensuring our structure stands for generations to come!

In 1920, following a world war, following the global pandemic of the Spanish flu, our forefathers and foremothers raised funds to build the structure that became PRCC’s Great Hall. One hundred years later, we are also facing a global pandemic and many uncertainties. Yet, I am inspired to step out in faith. We WILL be able to worship in our sanctuary again, and our children’s children’s children shall too. Let us be a part of leaving the lasting heritage for them to journey in their own faith and with this beautiful community.

Please contact me at ktklimmeck@gmail.com or via mobile 312-286-6712, and I will attempt to answer all of your questions or concerns.

RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE: WINDOW PHASE



The Renewing God's House: Window project that was begun in 2017 has already seen the replacement of the windows in the Great Hall and Sunday School portion of our building.

This next phase will include 33 windows, including the 8 large Sanctuary windows (see above drawing) and 10 smaller windows in Ellinger Transept and Crego Chapel (see drawing to the right), as well as windows on the front of the building, in closets off the narthex, and several of the most dire basement windows.

At the conclusion of this phase, there will be another future phase (hopeful completion in 2022-2023) to replace the windows in the offices, choir room, and remaining windows in the basement.

The product selected will retain the look of existing windows, while providing 100 years of UV protection, easy opening/closing, and insulating our building from the elements. Our existing windows have served the church well, but they have surpassed their life expectancy, with both the hardware and wood failing.

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

Our prayer life and practices might be different as we social distance from one another but we are still Divinely connected and loved. Your celebrations and challenges matter to us. Let us join in those moments of your life by sharing your prayer needs with us. It is a privilege to pray for and with you.

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

We also keep in our prayers the following April requests:

Life in the Resurrection

- Janet asked for prayers for her friend Pam's minister who entered Life in the Resurrection.
- Kim & Charlie ask for prayers for the family & friends of Lori who entered Life in the Resurrection.
- Hannah asked for prayers for the friends and family of her sorority sister Brooklyn who tragically entered Life in the Resurrection on 4/9.
- Dianne asked for prayers for her friends Jay and Alyn whose son who entered Life in the Resurrection in Florida and they won't be able to attend a funeral for him.

Healing and Recovery

- We celebrate that Sue is still progressing and healing after surgery on March 23.
- We rejoice that Bill is home after a planned Valve Replacement. Surgery went well, and we pray for his continued healing, knowing that he should now experience renewed energy and strength!
- Laura celebrates that her colleague and friend is going home after several procedures and asks for prayers for continued healing.
- We pray for those who are victims of abuse, for whom this home stay has been particularly harmful. We pray for those who struggle with addiction, and pray for strength to resist the temptations which, though powerful all of the time, are especially so in times of stress.
- Please pray for protection from infection for Kathleen who is facing another infusion of treatment that will compromise her immune system.
- Please continue to pray for Axl, Janet's 4 year great nephew who started chemotherapy and is experiencing complications.
- Karen asked us to keep her niece Kerstin in prayer as Kerstin has coronavirus. Please pray for her path to be moderate and a return to full health.
- Joe, Elaine's cousin suffering with complications from heart surgery.
- Beth from the Chancel choir asks for prayers for her student's daughter Jenny. Jenny is a nurse in New Jersey and is currently receiving treatment for the virus.
- Jane's sister Marilyn had a set back after being released from the hospital, nephew Rich is starting stem cell treatments and brother Fred is in quarantine in Florida.
- Please keep Judy in prayer for health & renewed strength as she recovers from an illness.
- For Laura's friend Tim recently diagnosed with prostate cancer.
- Dick asked for prayers for his niece Amy at Northwestern hospital being treated for Covid 19 virus.
- Please pray for Pauline as she has been put into isolation and her health declines. Prayers for the whole family who are struggling with this separation from Pauline.
- Mark asks for prayers for a client who suffered a major stroke.

Birthdays/Anniversaries/Retirement

- Geri LeDuc turned 90 on April 6th and became a great grandmother to Mable Miller.
- We celebrate Steffi Beery who recently turned 80.
- Bria's 9th birthday is Friday, April 24.
- We also celebrate the birthdays of Barbara, Dave, and Greg!

Joys

- We welcomed many people last Sunday to worship over 300 views of our service, including many friends and family members from around the country - what a gift in the midst of challenge!
- We celebrate online connections, cards sent, phone calls made, and the ways you all have blessed one another!
- The Men's Breakfast group continues to email one another, offering support and connection with each other and praying for our

church. We cherish these connections and especially the ways they have cared for Larry. Prayers continue for Larry's strength and progress healing from a stroke.

- A joy to be able to see the service on Easter and It felt so good to "join my dear PRCC friends in this manner.
- We are so thankful for the Easter Bags that brought so much joy.
- We are also so thankful for the food pantry efforts and phone calls and connections on Zoom.

Global

- Ongoing prayers for all our medical professionals, especially Kathy, Colleen & Rachel and those offering care around the world to patients who are ill and those who are dying.
- We pray for the sick, those with covid-19 hoping for a cure, those with cancer diagnoses, those needing surgery, and those who are too afraid to go to the hospital.
- Prayers for Mary's niece who is home from Honduras.
- Please pray for all those we know who have been diagnosed with Covid 19 including Karryn's boyfriend Sam, Jackie's friend Janine, Teri's cousin Debbie, Mark's friend Kerri, and many others.
- We pray for the increased economic stress & impact of the shut down and especially for small businesses working to keep people employed.
- Gail asked for prayers for the refugee families she & Rick volunteer with as they struggle to re-settle in a new country during these challenging times.
- We pray for our loved ones, especially young adult children living in New York City and other areas where cluster of cases is high and for those who care for elderly parents but cannot visit them in person. Being separated from family members of all ages increases the stress and anxiety. Please pray for everyone seeking ways to manage this unique anxiety & uncertainty.
- Prayers for parents seeking to balance the multiple daily tasks of running a house, homeschooling & caring for children, working from home & caring for elderly loved ones.
- Please pray for the Stephen Ministers and our care receivers as the typical caring relations have shifted in this time of social distancing.



Hospital Staff at Jackson South Medical Center in Miami, FL.

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!

STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE

"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
Matthew 4: 6-7(NSRV)

There is a place in Jerusalem where excavations under the foundations of a convent uncovered ancient pavement which was for a time believed to be the floor of the prison of the Antonia Fortress, where Pontius Pilot lived. Some of the stones in this excavation are clearly marked with an ancient game played by jailers called the "Game of the Kings." The rules of the game parallel the Biblical description of the humiliations suffered by Jesus before his crucifixion. It was a moving experience. However, although Jesus was certainly imprisoned, it was not where we stood. The ruins had been dated to Hadrian, not Herod.

Several groups of tourists were visiting that day, October 1985. The conflicts between Islam and other "people of the Book" were just beginning. Indeed, the Achille Lauro incident occurred the day before we left for home. It was already a scary time to be traveling in the Middle East. As the tour ended, one of the larger groups noisily queued up, and put on their matching neon yellow baseball caps, emblazoned with "Protected by Jesus" in red.

Recently, the news has been full of churches who are trying to exercise their religious freedom to congregate despite the health risks such meetings/services represent not only to themselves, but to the society as a whole. I haven't seen any yellow baseball caps, but the church leaders make no secret of their belief that God will protect them. At least one such minister has since contracted the virus and died. I don't know that anyone has numbers on how many parishioners have died. And we have seen anti-quarantine protestors wielding "Protected by Jesus" signs (as well as large guns.)

Of course, the corollary to this is those who will take this pandemic as God's judgement on a sinful world, or as an indicator that God does not exist: If there is a God, why is this happening?

This question is an echo of the Israelites complaining to Moses in the desert, "Why would God lead us out of Egypt only to let us die of thirst?" and "Is God among us or not?" Moses went

to God and in Exodus 17 he says, "What am I to do with these people?"

In fact, that specific incident is the one Jesus references when he is urged by the devil to throw himself down from the highest point of the temple. In a battle of dueling Bible verses, the devil quotes Psalm 91; God promises to protect those who find rest and shelter in God's love. Jesus answers the devil with these words from Deuteronomy 6:16: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Actually, that verse ends with "as you tested him at Massa." The Israelites did not believe that God would be with them in the tough days they were facing. They wanted proof, a sign that God would save them. They put God to the test: fix this or else we will not believe in you. They got their miracle, but the incident revealed both their lack of understanding of, and faith in their God.

Some of you may remember Wilma MacAllister. She was a "brittle" Type 1 diabetic who lost her vision in childhood. She struggled as an adult to understand why her prayers to God to restore her sight went unanswered. When I met her, she had just given birth to a healthy baby girl. Wilma's pregnancy had been discouraged as too dangerous by her doctors, but she came through without a hitch. Our Bible study group finally managed to show her that she had gotten her miracle – albeit not exactly the one she had prayed for. We teased her, "How many miracles do you want?"

The good news of Easter, the good news of our faith, is that miracles do happen. God, however, is not on call and should not be "put to the test." We have no guarantee that the miracle we want will be the action that God takes. But that does not mean we, like Job, can't have questions. In fact, Jesus himself had questions – asked for the cup to be taken from him, felt abandonment on the cross. And yet, God loved him, as God loved Job, as God loves us.

We are not promised that we will not have pain, physical or psychological. Nor are we promised miracles. What we are promised is that God hears our prayers, and understands our questions. We are promised that darkness will not have the ultimate victory. We are promised God's grace. We are promised God's never-ending presence.

In these difficult times, you are promised all of this and a bit more. Your family of faith will never let you forget that you are loved, will never let you be alone in your grief and pain. Call Pastor Carol (847-823-3164 x14) or Ginny Feurer (847-840-7082) to talk about how a Stephen Minister or other support from PRCC can help you while you wait to discover how God is working in your life!

But if what you really want is one of those yellow baseball caps, I'd suggest Etsy.

- Anita Rifkind

BOARD NEWS



by Laura Sissman and Thom Goodwin

Questions? Email or call us!

laura.sissman@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Thom.Goodwin@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

The Board of Directors met virtually on Tuesday, April 21. This meeting focused on preparing for the Annual Meeting and hearing the progress of the Nominations Committee. Pastor Carol updated the Board on process and conversations regarding the continuation of the suspension of in-person worship and ongoing updates from governmental officials, as well as meeting with the Ministerial Association. While everyone misses being together for worship, our top priority is keeping everyone safe and healthy. The Board celebrated the success of virtual worship and online gatherings. Our current closure of building and suspension of in-person worship will continue through May 30. This congregation is remarkable and is coming together in some significant ways.

The Finance Committee shared that PRCC has successfully applied for and received a SBA loan in the amount of \$50,100 as a part of the CARES Act passed by Congress. This “loan” will be forgiven as long as we retain our employees for the period of 8 weeks following receipt of funds. Churches were included as small businesses in this piece of legislation, with the intention of helping businesses continue the employment of staff, and thus not adding to the high numbers of individuals seeking unemployment benefits. Many thanks to Eric Johnson, Mark Holihan, the Finance Team and Executive Committee for quick attention and action on procuring these funds.

Our Finance Committee also updated the Board that they are finding additional methods of giving. In addition to checks and automatic withdrawal, an account has been set up to receive Zelle/Quickpay and PayPal donations. The Committee shared they are also seeking to add Facebook donations.

Tricia reported on the work of the Nominating Committee, which has been working hard to invite persons into new roles of leadership at PRCC, including reactivating members who have stepped aside for a bit, engaging new members, and finding ways to align individuals’ gifts with places of ministry. They are pleased with the work thus far in preparation for the Annual Meeting.

Lastly, Board Members were invited to complete an online vote for the Second Mile award, which will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT

Park Ridge Community Church has had a long-standing commitment to helping those in need. Many years ago, a fund was established called the Minister’s Discretionary Fund for the Minister to be able to offer support to those in need. Additionally, PRCC participates with the Ministerial Association to provide a Community fund, administered through the Social Worker at the Park Ridge Police Department. If individuals come to PRCC needing grocery support, gas money, or other care, they are directed to the Police Station, where such requests are both accommodated and tracked. The PRPD reports to the Ministerial Association annually and is in contact when the fund is depleted.

However, when an individual from our congregation or connected to our congregation in some way is in need of something different – a medical bill that they cannot afford, funeral expenses covered, or some other situation, that individual speaks in confidence with the Minister and arrangements are made using the Discretionary Fund. This fund continues to have donations made and requests made – this goes on behind the scenes in confidence and with discretion.

Because the Covid-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc on individuals’ lives, resulting in illness, job loss, and economic instability, our commitment to providing emergency support, not only endures but is strengthened.

If you would like and are able to contribute to the Discretionary Fund, perhaps consider donating a portion of your stimulus payment, please do so. You may give electronically or via check and note: “Discretionary Fund.”

If you or someone you know, is in need of emergency support, please contact Pastor Carol. There is a brief application, which ensures accountability as well as confidentiality.

APRIL NEWS



KINDRED SPIRITS CAFÉ

We love being together each Tuesday at noon but will continue to follow the social distancing recommendations to help keep each other healthy. Kindred Spirits Café will continue our break at least through May and June. We look forward to resuming once it is safe to gather back together. In the meantime, let us know how you are doing! This is also a great time to stay connected with phone calls and cards to each other. Reach out to Liz Swanson if there is anything you need.

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 – Monday and Friday at 9 am.

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

Meeting ID: 967 160 2932

New password to enter - 227332

TO THE KNITTING KNIGHTS AND ALL THAT SEW!

THANK YOU for all the Easter adorables! So many Sunday School families sent in messages of appreciation as well as pictures. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!!



THANK YOU for all the soap sacks! They will be assembled and distributed with disposable face masks in May. Thank you to Debbie Deitke and Janet Johnson for getting this project completed and to those who need them.

THANK YOU FOR THE FACE MASKS! Thank you to Mary Johnson, Ann Swindell and others for making

well over a hundred face masks for our congregation, UIC medical center and Central Baptist nursing home!! Thanks for

the donations to this effort as well as all those distributing and helping with this vital community service.

As we continue to do a variety of projects from home, let me know if you any yarn or supplies. I'm happy to drop them off to you.

Please help with sewing face masks for nurses at UIC. If you sew and can make some at home or share this request with others who sew, that would be great! Sewing instructions are in the below link: <https://www.craftpassion.com/face-mask-sewing-pattern/>

FACE MASKS

Fabric face masks are available. Please contact the Church Office or Liz Swanson to request one to be mailed or safely dropped off to you.



HELP US WELCOME FLAT JESUS!

Included with your May Communion Elements, you will find Flat Jesus! As we continue through Eastertide to Pentecost, help us celebrate Jesus by sharing pictures of him with you and your family sheltering safe at home. Pictures can be sent to the Church Office or shared on the PRCC Congregation Facebook Page.





APRIL NEWS

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Perhaps you are an existing member who wants to find new ways of being involved? Perhaps you are curious what membership means? Perhaps you are ready to make a commitment and become a member?

The Membership and Welcoming Committee would love to help you! At PRCC, the Membership and Welcoming Committee works diligently to find ways of welcoming newcomers and helping all members become more involved in the life of the congregation.

We are looking forward to hosting a New Member Information Session and a New Member Sunday...as soon as we are back together. BUT – you don't have to wait until then to have your questions answered! We are here for you!

Contact Sara Born or Sue Douglass, co-Chairs of the Membership and Welcoming Committee.

sara.born@hotmail.com

suedouglass@hotmail.com

NOMINATION COMMITTEE NEWS

During these uncertain times with more time at home I hope we are listening as well. The nominating committee is meeting and will be reaching out to members to ask where you might be feeling called to serve our church. There are many positions that need new leaders and the opportunities for service at PRCC are plentiful. With extra time to think and reflect we hope you will answer when we call you. Or you can call one of us. We ask for your prayers as we work faithfully to find willing servants prior to the May 3rd Annual meeting.

Tricia Williams tricia.williams@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Sarah McCarty sarah.p.mccarty@gmail.com

Jan Steiner jansteiner27@gmail.com

Naomi Siebert naomi.siebert@gmail.com

Dave Kapolnek kapodave@sbcglobal.net

Rachel Lapp rachel.lapp@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Pastor Carol Hill pastorcarol@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

CHOIR NEWS

Our Chancel, Junior, and Angeli Choirs are meeting electronically. Join in our weekly ZOOM meetings, where we check-in, support each other, and even "practice." Sasha has provided some online warm-ups and rehearsal music as well to ensure we are ready to sing whenever we return to worshipping together!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

There are many 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 letting members and newcomers know 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 Jamie and Al Knoblauch in the Volunteer Spotlight.

Jamie and Al have been PRCC members for a long time. In fact, they were married here and their children attended Sunday School and youth group too. Jamie is an active Circle 10 member and she's been instrumental in organizing and planning Spirit of Christmas events as well as Le Cheap Boutique over the years. Jamie has most recently served on the Interim Pastor Search Committee, the 175th PRCC Anniversary yearlong celebration events and then again on the Associate Pastor Search Committee which called Pastor Mollie to PRCC.



Al is in his second year of service as a Trustee. Trustees are responsible for the care and maintenance of the church property. Al helped to make sure that the Carriage House was ready before Pastor Mollie arrived and he continues to be a resource for any Carriage House issues. Along with the other trustees, he can be found at church often...checking the boiler, mopping up water in the nursery after a storm, changing light bulbs and lots of other fun chores. Al is also an avid golfer, and he has organized and helped with our Park Ridge Community Church Golf Outings. Al and Jim won best score in the 2019 Golf Outing.

Al and Jamie are both frequent Sunday Night Supper volunteers, Pasta Divine and other church event helpers. We so appreciate all they do sharing their time and talents at PRCC.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Dear God,
You know all and know what we are dealing with these days. All these things happening in the world are not in my control. Please help me to accept what I can't change. Help me to do my best to do the things I can. Help me to bring peace to my home and to find some joy. I can be helpful and cooperative around my home. Please strengthen those going through tough situations and illness right now. Help me to remember that you always love me and are always there for me. I give you my sadness, my frustrations, my disappointments, and worries. I ask for your Peace.
Amen.

SHARE THE JOYS YOU CAN FIND

Email sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org a joy to share in our communications! Are you happy to see the green grass peeking through? Excited to connect with your teacher and classmates? Glad to have your parents' home to play a game with you? Let us know!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

While we are not able to be together in person, we want to stay connected in different ways. We will email the Spark Story Bible lesson of the week, with activity ideas for different age groups. Feel free to look up the story in your home children's Bible as well! If you haven't received the emails or have questions, contact Shelley or Teri: sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org.

REACHING OUT TO OUR PRCC FRIENDS

Remember, if you want to reach out to your Prayer Buddy, or connect with people you've spent time with at coffee hour, **Instant Church Directory** offers names, photos, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses! Families are encouraged to scroll through the thumbnails with children and reach out to those familiar names and faces in whichever ways work for you. If you haven't accessed Instant Church Directory before, contact Jaclyn at office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTREACH PROJECTS – PRCC Sunday School invited to make cards for Outreach

Sunday school students of any age are invited to make cards or drawings for Center of Concern care receivers. A simple drawing or card can be dropped off in the receptacle attached to the Park Place door. The messages will then be sent to those in need of connection. If you include an envelope, please do not write on it; envelopes will be addressed and sent out by the PRCC Outreach team. Thank you!

RESURRECTION EGG VIDEOS

Thank you so much to all who contributed to the Resurrection Egg videos. They were shared with our congregation during Holy Week to help us all understand the symbols of the events of Holy week, such as a donkey for Palm Sunday and a cup for the Lord's Supper. Our congregation loved seeing the faces of our children!

EASTER BAGS

70 of our youngest Sunday school children received an Easter surprise! Ann Swindell made bags and butterfly finger puppets, while Knitting Knights contributed adorable Easter eggs or bunnies. Children also received Easter stickers and jelly bean packets with a Jelly Bean Prayer attached, and more. We hope the special delivery from our church helped the children celebrate Easter!





PRCC Youth News

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

PRCC Youth Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/186470241436674/>

PRCC Youth Instagram: [prccyouthgroup](#)

GROUP TEXT

Pastor Mollie has set up a PRCC Youth Text Group for the youth! If you feel comfortable with your youth being a part of this group text, please send their name and number via email or by text to Pastor Mollie:

Email: pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Cell: 913-683-2321

HEY YOUTH!

Do you love to skateboard? Bake? Play a musical instrument?

Youth can simply record themselves teaching a hobby or sharing one of their many gifts. It can be serious or hilarious! No need to edit or make it fancy! Leave that to me!

Here's a few steps to follow:

1. Introduce themselves
2. Introduce the topic--What are they showing/teaching us?
3. Why? What is the significance to them?
4. Show us their gift!

Send videos to Pastor Mollie via text or email anytime between now and May 24th (sooner the better). Cell: 913-683-2321

Email: pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

All Confirmation Youth and Mentors are invited to check in to a Google Hangout on Wednesdays at 7:00pm for a 10-15-minute discussion. Youth can download the Google Hangout app on their phone for free or use a computer. Click on the link below or on the calendar invitation sent to parents of Confirmation Youth.

Confirmation Google Hangout Link:

[Join Hangouts Meet](#)

meet.google.com/xfn-yhxr-avh



Youth in Mission



ON HOLD

Calling all middle school youth!

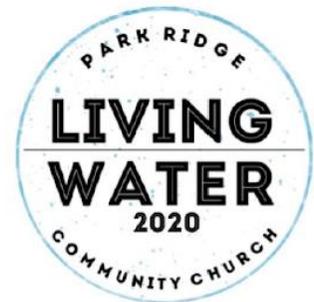
We are heading to Ypsilanti, Michigan July 20-22nd and partnering with Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Our service will include working with Habitat for Humanity, community gardening, and providing a meal to those in need! Of course, we will do "fun" stuff in our free time!

* Fun fact: Paula and Bob Mack's son-in-law is the pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran!

Honduras 2020

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our youth team will **not** be traveling to Honduras this summer.
- The PRCC-sponsored well **WILL** be drilled! The impact in the community **WILL** be felt and is needed **NOW** more than ever.
- Our youth **WILL** find ways of serving the world this summer, be we will be flexible to ensure the safety and health of our teams.



Dear PRCC Community:

It is with a sad heart, that I share we will not be traveling to Honduras this June. So, you might be wondering what this means for the well and the funds raised during our Living Water series.

Some Good News: We raised \$22k during the month of February towards this project (AMAZING!). There will be a check mailed to Living Water International for \$10k to fully sponsor a water well in the southern region of Honduras by PRCC. **The community we would have visited will still have the gift of living water!** Fortunately, no money was lost by the cancelation of our trip! In the fall, we will attempt to reschedule a trip through Living Water International for the summer of 2021. The remaining 12k raised will go towards another youth mission trip in the coming 12-18 months.

We are looking into every option possible with the funds so graciously given by you! I ask that you join me in praying for this global pandemic and the significant importance of clean water for all! I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Peace to you,
Pastor Mollie



OUTREACH NEWS

MAINE TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY



Eight families in the Park Ridge area have agreed to receive food items and deliver to the Food Pantry (hours to drop food at The Pantry are 10-3, M-F).

Choose the location most convenient for you. If you cannot drop off the food, please call the Artrips, and we would be happy to pick up your donation. Each house will have a large, labeled visible bin in which to place your food items. The drop-off locations are as follow:

Naomi and Fred Siebert
132 W. Kathleen, Des Plaines

Mary and Eric Johnson
1119 S. Home PR

Barbara and Bill Scharringhausen
19 N. Seminary PR

Paula and Bob Mack
740 Forestview PR

Cindy and Tom Klimmeck
316 N. Ashland PR

Laura and Tim Lapp
1 Glenlake PR

Robin and Ed Kopecky
1013 S. Prospect PR

Judy and Mike Artrip
715 Vine PR

Food Pantry Wish List The following is a list of items the food pantry is currently most in need of. Please do not donate large food service size cans and avoid items in glass when possible.

- Macaroni & Cheese
- Cereal
- Juice, Juice Boxes, Kool Aid
- Canned Tuna, Chicken, or Salmon
- Plain Rice, Rice-A-Roni
- Canned Fruit, Apple Sauce
- Crackers
- Instant Potatoes, Canned White Potatoes
- Peanut Butter, Jelly (18 oz. maximum size)
- Bisquick, Pancake Mix, Syrup
- Prepared Meals – Canned Pasta Meals, Boxed Meals
- Desserts – Cake, Cookie, & Brownie Mixes, Jell-O, Pudding, Cookies, Frosting
- Condiments – Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Mustard, Pickles
- Beverages – Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa
- Cooking Supplies – Flour, Sugar, Oil, Salt, Pepper
- Cleaning Products – Laundry Soap, Dish Soap
- Paper Products – Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Kleenex
- Storage Products – Tin Foil, Plastic Wrap
- Personal Hygiene Products – Shampoo, Toothpaste, Bath Soap

SHOPPERS NEEDED

If you are interested in chopping for others, please let the Church Office know. We have two different options:

1. Shopping for fellow PRCC Members that would like to donate to the pantry but cannot safely get out.
2. Shopping for Maine Township, shoppers can go out and purchase groceries, once receipt is sent to Pantry, the shopper is reimbursed.

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER

LPCS has suspended all volunteer efforts until further notice. We are still in contact with them about ways we can help, but for now we will not be taking teams to volunteer.

SUNDAY SUPPER

Sunday Night Suppers are canceled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 season due to the Coronavirus. We hope to resume Sunday Night Suppers in the Fall.

APRIL SNAPSHOTS

Happy Easter from The Klimmeck's!



Happy Easter from one of our mask makers, Ann Swindell



Easter Bag Deliveries



McGuffey family sporting their masks!



Google Hangout Meetings Continue

Sharing PRCC love with our neighbor's
courtesy of Pastor Mollie's talents!





100 S. Courtland Ave
Park Ridge, IL 60068

**First-class
Postage
Required**

**Place Stamp
Here**



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

Teri Biedke, Director of Children's Ministries

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries

Shelley O'Brien, Director of Children's Ministries

Liz Swanson, Director of Pastoral Services

Jaclyn Weir, Parish Coordinator