

THE PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020



Blessed Assurance: Faith Matters

Covid-19. Businesses and Schools Shut Down. Calls for Racial Justice. Polarization of every facet of society. Isolation. Fears. Anxiety...and a Presidential Election. It's enough to have all of us calling up our therapists and scheduling some time - or wishing we had a person to call. While many of us paste on a smile and some upbeat sounding response to the question - How are you doing? I'm not sure we are coping with all that life has thrown at us in 2020! But. And. We are people of Faith. Does faith matter?

As a pastor, my lifelong career is wagering on the positive side of that argument. Yes, faith matters. Our faith should inform how we decide for whom to cast our vote and it should inform how we spend our Sundays. Faith should influence the ways we process news stories about injustice and it should give us comfort in times of grief. I believe many of us are grieving 2020. I was not the only Clergy person who thought 2020 would be a perfect year for a good 20/20 vision series...BOY, WERE WE WRONG! I'm not sure anyone is seeing clearly right now - our perspectives, our insight, our common sense is somewhat clouded by the enormity of the situations we are facing on a daily basis. Teaching children while working, waiting each day for the stock market report, watching 24-hour news cycles...it's too much! Where do we turn and how can we find our center?

...You guessed it! Our faith! As people of faith, our scriptures, our faith stories, our belief that God abides with us no matter what - should provide comfort in spite of the storms. Faith doesn't make trials and tribulations evaporate. Faith doesn't numb us or make us callous to the hardships of life. But faith should provide a compass to help us through them. Faith should remind us who we are even when we aren't sure which way is up.

*When darkness veils Jesus' lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ the Solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.*

If you've felt like you have been stuck in sinking sand or are struggling to find hope...I hope and pray that November will be a month of reorientation. Together in our preaching series and the DIY Bible Study, we will consider the ways our faith steadies us in life, how Jesus becomes our anchor, how our rootedness in faith helps us through. We serve a God who longs to give us a future with hope...and we DO find hope. In November, we will begin by celebrating our Saints, spend time reflecting on the power of faith to pull us through, give thanks to God for God's unwavering presence, and end the month preparing for HOPE incarnate - the birth of Jesus. Whether you are worshipping online or in person at 10, I pray that you will join us as we explore the Blessed Assurance of faith!

Pastor Carol

WORSHIP

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ONLINE AND IN-PERSON

November 1 All Saints Sunday

Blessed Assurance: Faith of the Saints

Isaiah 25:6-9, John 11:32-44

Holy Communion

November 8

Blessed Assurance: Rest for the Soul

Jeremiah 31:27-34, Matthew 11:28-30

November 15

Blessed Assurance: Faith in the Storm

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15, Luke 8:22-24

November 22 Thanksgiving Sunday

Blessed Assurance: Lasting Covenant

Jeremiah 42:1-12, Luke 11:5-13

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

As we enter the winter months we will be changing the services offered. There will now be ONE service at 10 am held inside of the Sanctuary. There will be an occupancy cap so reservations are REQUIRED to attend service. Sign-ups can be found [HERE](#). Please remember to wear your mask and maintain at least 6 ft between you and your neighbor. A livestream of service will still be available as well as a recorded Worship Video. If it appears that indoor, in-person worship is no longer safe, we will alert the congregation and suspend in-person services until it is safe to resume. The leadership and staff are monitoring the covid-19 cases regularly.

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. Conversations can be scheduled at your home, outside on the porch, through Zoom or phone call. 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, Friday, and Saturday from 9:30 am to noon. Thank you for your understanding as schedules continue to shift.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

On Sunday November 1st we will be offering our annual Service of Remembrance. Due to pandemic restrictions this service will be presented virtually as a time to honor the memories of loved ones within our church family who have died during the past year. The Service of Remembrance is a very comforting worship service and we want to welcome all who wish to have loved ones included. During the service, names will be shared, a candle lit, and a bell rung for our own beloved Saints, for all those whose lives have been lost to Covid, and all the Saints of God. You are invited to light a candle in your own home as you join in this service of remembrance and honoring our loved ones.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

You are invited to virtually gather with the faith community from Park Ridge in a time of worship and thanksgiving to God! The clergy from the Park Ridge Ministerial Association is creating a digital worship experience, which will feature clergy in their various settings as well as the musical pieces from Park Ridge Community Church! This service will be available on Tuesday, November 24 on PRCC's YouTube channel, Facebook page, and Livestream at 7:30 pm.

MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST

The first Sunday of Advent and our Moravian Love Feast will be held on Sunday, November 29. In order to allow for eating, drinking, and singing, we will hold this holy service virtually as we begin the season of Advent. Recipes for preparing your sweet coffee and "Love Buns" at home will be provided.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

*Ruth Naudzius
Katherine Stellini
Susan Bronson
Bruce Claire
*Alice August Reinhardt
Bruce McKenna
Beverly Nordmeyer
Denny Gawlik
Karen Musa
Claire Fox
Tracey Thanos
*Marian Stettler
Marilyn Larson
Ava Zachuruk
Mary Collentine
Mia Koslow
Virginia Polcyn
Joe Cwik
Conrad Sindt
Juanita Blackburn
George Manasian
Dick Kapolnek
Charles Johnson
Jim Sundry
Brett Siegall
Brooklyn Mengarelli
Maxine DiDomenico
*Judy Pirok
*Pauline Numrych
Doug Adams
Anna Adams
Mary Ann Mroz
Lucy Erickson
Karen Quimby*

*Karl Tangeros
Ruth Jean Rodriguez
Michael Carpenter
Jim Lego
Aileen Campbell
Robert Campbell, Sr.
Arvin Gilbert Klemme
Jim Drewganis
Mayme Francis
Troy Gilbert
Bob Clauss
Edythe Nelson
Shirley Huening
Axl Turner
*Earlene Beile
Michael McDonough
Gloria Skinner
Andrew Paul Mahler
Chris Haver
Richard Lameka
*Tina Bianchi
Erma Lee Story
Gus Cryns
Greg Cryns
*Marty Sandstrom
Shelby Reese
Bob Peters
Nancy Prestine
Gerry Biedke
Fr. Ray Ball
All victims of Covid-19*

** indicates member of PRCC*



OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

In this time of Thanksgiving we praise God and give thanks for blessings seen & unseen. We are grateful for the gift that prayer offers. Please include the following in your prayer time:

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

- Prayers for Ginny Feurer's friend Ken, whose spouse entered life in the resurrection this week.
- Gina Salamone asks for prayers for their family as they said goodbye to her brother's dog Fazzu.
- Ryan McGuffey asks for prayers for the family of his friend Eric, who was 38 years old and suffered a massive heart attack and entered life in the resurrection last week.
- Prayers for Tom and Teri Biedke, as Tom's mother Gerry entered life in the resurrection this past Tuesday, October 13.
- Please hold in your prayers the family and friends of Nancy Prestine, who entered life in the resurrection on 10/11. The Prestine family are good friends of the Sassers.
- Sandy asks us to pray for her friend Carol whose husband Bob passed away on 10/10.
- Jaclyn asks that we pray for her previous boss and friend, Father Ray Ball, who entered life in the resurrection this week. We pray for their faith community and all who are grieving the sudden death from an aggressive pancreatic cancer.

Healing and Recovery

- Prayers for Pastor Brett McCleneghan as he heals from covid and pneumonia.
- Continue to hold in our prayers: Evan Curtis, Carson, Reggie Pantazi, the Lapp/ Cryns family, the Sandstrom Family, Marty McHugh, and Ginny Feurer.
- Continue to hold Lorenzo Formosa's mother Constance in your prayers. We celebrate that she is home with her husband, but know she faces ongoing struggles.
- Luan Zoellner asked for prayers for their friend Warren, who having already suffered a number of setbacks has fallen and broken his hip.
- We celebrate the progress that Evan Curtis has made and that he is home now, but prayers continue for his treatment to continue to be successful.
- Laura Sissman asked for prayers for her mother Judy Hedberg who suffered a stroke last week and is in the hospital

recovering.

- Todd Zarn had hip replacement on Monday 10/12 and then will be moving out of state.
- Prayers for Bill Scharringhausen, who had a brief hospital visit, but is home and doing well, thankful for the prayers and love from the church.
- Bernice Zabawski asked for prayers for her friend, BeeBee Starpins who is ill at home alone and not doing well. She also requests prayers for herself as she is struggling with sciatica and struggling to walk.
- Prayers for Caroline Dase, who is facing some serious new health concerns.
- Prayers for Reggie Pantazi who has gotten settled into a new care facility. Jim is pleased with the quality of care and how close it is to their home.
- Prayers for Marty Sissman's nephew as he recovers from a car accident.
- Ginny Jacobson asks for prayers for her brother Ric who is now receiving hospice care in Glen Ellyn. Please pray for Ric, his wife Betty, son Mike and the whole family.
- Katie Reboletti asks for prayers for Arty, Keith's bother scheduled for a lung biopsy. Please pray for a successful test and clear diagnosis.
- Please pray for Pastor Mollie and her family as they care for her grandfather Emmett who is suffering from serious medical issues. (Parkensons and testing for cancer).
- Please pray for Jane Moody's sister Marilyn who has suffered another stroke and is transitioning into a care facility. Marilyn is having trouble with this new move.
- Please keep in your prayers former member Anne who recently had spinal surgery. We pray for Anne's healing as she recovers and deals with what can be a very painful journey towards full strength.
- We celebrate Andy had a successful knee replacement surgery this past Tuesday, but pray for his healing process and physical therapy.
- Please pray for Larry, as he seeks a holistic treatment plan for his ongoing health challenges following his stroke at the end of last year and more recent TIA.
- Please pray for Nancy who fell this week and has a fractured arm. Also hold George in your prayers as he cares for Nancy.
- Please keep Ed in your prayers as he heals from a fall this week as well.

Birthdays/Anniversaries/Retirement/Graduation

- Wishing Happy Birthdays to Bella Gaby; Trevor and Logan Steele (10/5); Rachel Lapp (10/6); Fred Flener and Oliver Zweifel (10/8); Jim Sindt, Siri Nelson and Brandon Steele (10/9); Krissie Geye (10/14); (10/18) Cheri Carpenter; (10/19) - Cheryl DeYoung; (10/20) - Emma Tuminello; (10/22) Mike Artrip & Ali Jarvis; (10/23) - Darcy LeDuc; (10/24) - Nick Tuminello & Dan Smith. (10/25) Al Knoblauch; Rachel Holihan (10/26); Charlyn Rauch and Pastor Carol's sister Meg (10/27); Gretchen Kapolnek's birthday (10/28), Hannah Siebert (10/29); JoEllen Flener (10/30), and Liz Ewald (10/31)!

- **Wishing Happy Anniversary to** Nadya and Larry Zimmerman were married at PRCC 45 years ago on 10/4!
- Sally and Tim Mauery celebrated their 29th wedding anniversary.
- Tom and Laurie Runtz celebrated their wedding anniversary on October 7th.

Community

- Prayers for Amanda Hill's brother, Adam as he is deployed overseas, and for his wife and children as they adjust to life without him for a while.

Joys

- It is a joy to celebrate World Communion Sunday with the Christian Community all around the world, finding unity through this holy meal.

- Teri Biedke celebrating her niece's daughter's baptism and the miracle of family.
- We celebrate the success of a recent blood drive, the Pumpkin patch, and Kindred Connections.
- Prayers for Leena Swanson as she enters the last few weeks of pregnancy.
- We celebrate that Eric Biedke was nominated for National Merit Semifinalist at Maine South. We are proud of you, Eric!
- Crop Walk Success! We are grateful for all those supporting the needs of those in our community and beyond. This was a very different but successful Crop Walk event with more churches participating and \$10,000 raised.

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 HANGOUTS

The weekly 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

RIBBONS OF REMEMBRANCE

November 1 is "All Saints Day" in the Christian tradition. This day originally honored those who were martyred for their faith and evolved into a day of remembering not only the officially recognized Saints of the Church, but also honoring everyday Saints in our lives. Through practices of naming, ringing a bell, lighting candles, and praying, we reaffirm the holy connection between the living Saints with the heavenly Saints. Together, we are still one body of Christ. Every time we join in Holy Communion, we are reminded that our feast extends into heaven itself as we join our voices and share in the divine feast of Grace with all the Saints throughout the centuries.

In addition to honoring the Saints who are members or loved ones of members at PRCC, this year we are also commemorating the Saints who have lost their lives to the Covid pandemic. Understanding that the numbers of people who have died around the world is over one million. Every single individual deserves to be remembered and honored. At PRCC, we wish to visually remember those Saints who have died in Illinois. Currently, that number is 9,522. Included in that number are children, parents, grandparents, doctors, nurses, teachers, and more. Each one is a beloved child of God. We grieve their deaths and pray for their loved ones. We continue to pray for a cure and practice responsible distancing and masking for the safety of our communities, especially those who are most vulnerable. As you see the ribbons surrounding our church, know that each ribbon represents 10 people, as we are only planning on hanging 950 ribbons. They surround our church, just as our prayers surround each family and every community, not just in Illinois but all around the planet as we all yearn for sustainable solutions for the health and wholeness of all humankind.



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

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end...

Ecclesiastes 3:9-11 (NSRV)



Are you having trouble keeping track of the time? I know I am. How can it be November already? With our lives so circumscribed, shouldn't the days pass by more slowly than they do? And yet, the weeks flash by in a blur, leaving behind only the questions – How much longer must we endure? Is it worth the risk just to see and touch our loved ones? What is the point of any of this?

I suspect that like me you search for consolation and strength to carry on during these painful days, and those that will inevitably follow between now and the end of the 2020, between now and when a vaccine is finally approved by scientists and disseminated by a functioning government.

I've been getting by with a little help from my friends. One of my virtual friends is an author of fiction and a psychiatrist — not necessarily in that order. She paddleboards everywhere she can along the western side of Canada. She posted pictures the other day of a sunset over the ocean.

It did my heart a lot of good to be reminded of the glory of God's creation.

And a monk friend sends me his homilies, information on saints, words of encouragement, and the occasional humorous internet video. For St. John Henry Cardinal

Newman's Feast day, my friend's homily included this mediation written by Newman. (He was canonized in 2019 in case it comes a surprise that he has a feast day.)

God has created me to do Him some definite service;
He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission - I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told of it in the next.

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.
He has not created me for nothing.

I shall do good; I shall do His work.

I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it -

if only I keep His Commandments.

Therefore, I will trust Him.

Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away.

If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him;

in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him;

if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.

He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is doing.

He may take away my friends.

He may throw me among strangers.

He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink,

hide my future from me -

still He knows what He is doing.

These words reminded me of Ecclesiastes 3, which begins with the famous "For everything there is a season..." litany of oppositional experiences: birth v. death, planting v. sowing, wounding v. healing, embracing v. refraining from embracing (this last one particularly poignant these days) and so on. These are followed with a Job-like lament in verses 9-11, which clearly resonated with Newman.

I am comforted and strengthened by these friends, by the assurance that God's glory still shines through these darkening days and desolate moments, by the knowledge that all of our lives — even the achingly painful times — are not for nothing.

I pray you will be comforted and strengthened by these assurances as well.

But perhaps you need a bit more. Perhaps you are frightened as the virus spreads. Perhaps you are struggling to come terms with the prospect of having Thanksgiving and Christmas alone. Please don't struggle alone.

Be thankful this month that you belong to a community of faith that says (for nearly 30 years now) — we are your friends and family. We will support you, listen to your heart, share your tears. All you need do is ask. Contact Pastor Carol or Liz Swanson at [847-823-3164](tel:847-823-3164), or Ginny Feurer at [847-840-7082](tel:847-840-7082).

- Anita Rifkind



BOARD NEWS

BOARD UPDATE

By Tom Goodwin, Chair and Naomi Siebert, Vice-Chair

While the Board of Directors had hoped the weather would accommodate an in-person Board meeting, we were forced by the cooler temperatures to gather over Zoom on Tuesday, October 20.

Tom Goodwin, Chair of the Congregation, asked to be invited to church meetings for an introduction to help facilitate connections throughout the congregation. Naomi Siebert, Vice-Chair, has been working diligently with the staff and Finance Team to get the Stewardship campaign under way in October. Consecration Sunday was held on October 25, but pledges will continue to be received into November so that the 2021 Budget can be prepared. This is the first year that online pledge forms were available.

Sasha proposed a Christmas concert idea to help raise some funds for PRCC to cover any shortfall for 2020, with Kent Wehman's ensemble providing music for a masked, socially distant event. There was widespread support, in collaboration with the Fellowship Committee as well as energy from those who were thinking about Pasta Divine 2021. New ideas started emerging and a team is forming to put these ideas and more into action. The Board was heartily thankful for an opportunity to have added support for our Congregation's Mission and Ministry, as well as something to look forward to during the Christmas/ Winter season.

Pastor Mollie reported that the Pumpkin Patch was going well, and every available slot for "at-risk private shopping at the Patch" was taken, which demonstrated how much that met a need. The Youth Committee looks forward to reporting proceeds from this year, which featured some new sponsorships, high levels of youth involvement, and lots of fun! The pandemic did not limit the fun or the fundraising efforts of the Patch!

Pastor Carol reminded the Board of our already approved plan regarding worshipping indoors in Phase 4. This phase allows us to gather up to 50 persons indoors, wearing masks and at a distance. If our region goes backwards to Phase 3, we would suspend in-person activities and return to online only. The staff and Lay Leadership closely monitor the numbers, seeking to keep our congregation and community safe. In the meantime, everyone is encouraged to be creative in how we engage the members of our congregation and beyond!

Eric Johnson, Treasurer, gave our Financial report for October, which showed a much leaner September than we had hoped for, considering that September is usually a strong giving month at PRCC. While expenses have been less than anticipated, so have receipts. We are hoping that October,

November, and December will be generous months of giving to overcome our current deficit. Statements for the third quarter will be mailed out soon so that those who are behind on their annual pledge might be encouraged to catch up. Committees and Staff will be asked to submit their 2021 Budget requests soon.

The Outreach Committee updated the Board. There WILL be a toy and coat drive this Christmas, but no Giving Tree. However, people are encouraged to donate gift cards, which could be utilized by local organizations, including our church to give to those in need.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

On Sunday, October 25, 2020, we celebrated Stewardship Sunday, but the weather prevented us from gathering outside to consecrate our gifts to God.

Because not everyone is comfortable being inside and due to limited capacity, we also offered the opportunity for church members to Drive By and Drop Off their commitment cards into our Consecration Sunday Giving Box, so they could participate in this meaningful day in the life of our congregation.

Our sincerest thank you if you have already turned in your 2021 Stewardship Commitment Cards. Because this is such a unique time in our church and our world, we know that not everyone has had an opportunity to submit their commitment cards.

It is not too late to send your cards into the church office or another even easier way to pledge is to complete this confidential online commitment form via the links here.

♥ Children Online Form:

<https://forms.gle/v2JXWf31gaExykP67>

♥ Youth Online Form:

<https://forms.gle/oaZhu4n19Xjrhvw7A>

♥ Adult Online Form:

<https://forms.gle/1wxtGU58Bu372Dkr7>

Thank you for your willingness to Give from the Heart that we might further God's kingdom here on earth.

Grateful for each of you,

Naomi Siebert

Vice Chair of the Congregation / Finance Committee Chair



FALL NEWS

SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

Our newly formed Social Justice Team continues to seek to provide opportunities for our community to put faith into action. We have a number of hopes as we seek to address the injustice in our world, but we hope to serve God and this congregation in ways that are attainable and accessible to all the members of our community. Pastor Carol has been inviting conversations, and we would do the same. If you have comments, questions, or suggestions about any of our initiatives, please reach out!

Co-Chairs:

Anita Rifkind - anitar@att.net

Gregory Sarlo - dr.gregorysarlo@gmail.com

OPEN AND AFFIRMING (ONA) PROCESS

Thank you to everyone who submitted their input through the ONA survey! This initiative through the Social Justice Team was intended to get a current read on where Park Ridge Community Church is at as a congregation in terms of full inclusion of LGBTQ persons. The full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and other non-gender conforming persons has been a part of the ministry of the United Church of Christ since its inception in 1957. In fact, the UCC was integral in responding with love, compassion, and advocacy during the HIV/AIDS crisis.

Currently, PRCC has not officially adopted a statement of inclusion or affirmation, nor have we joined the UCC group of Open and Affirming congregations. We celebrate that we have many persons who identify as LGBTQIA+ among us. We celebrate that a broad welcome has been a key piece of PRCC's identity. The Social Justice Team has a small group that is learning about the Open and Affirming (ONA) process and considering what steps we could take over the next few years to consider officially becoming an Open and Affirming Congregation. We thank all of our congregation members for taking the time to submit responses to our survey as we begin this journey. If you have questions about the ONA process, feel free to reach out to any of those members on the team: Anita Rifkind, Ginny Feurer, Sarah McCarty, Adrian Hill, Shelley O'Brien, Molly O'Brien, Gregory Sarlo, Luan Zoellner, Rick Graham, Liz Swanson, Fred Siebert, Cindy Klimmeck, Sarah Chacko, and Sasha Gerritson.

YARD SIGNS ARE AVAILABLE!

Social Justice Yard Signs Have Arrived!

Unique, Colorful, Social Justice Lawn Signs

Featuring wording from Micah 6:8

Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly.



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.



a just world for all
ucc.org

FALL NEWS



KINDRED SPIRITS CAFÉ AND BEYOND!

Tuesday Virtual Connections and Thursday In-Person Visits

Join us on Zoom on Tuesdays at noon or come to Park Place Room on Thursdays 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 Liz Swanson. 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 November as follows:

11/3 - Celebrating birthdays with Sasha singing.

11/10 Pastor Carol will join us to share all the PRCC news.

11/17 Give Thanks with shared recipes and Thanksgiving traditions.

11/24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING WEEK – No Kindred Spirits Cafe

<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. Would you 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. We have been knitting and crocheting outside but the cool weather has us inside now. We will meet on Zoom on Monday 11/16 at 7:00 pm. Let Liz Swanson know if you'd like to join us.

NEWS FROM THE CREATION CARE TEAM

COVID-19 has changed a lot for all of us. Some changes are:

1. We can't use our reusable coffee cups or water bottles, grocery shopping bags and so much more.
2. Less people are dining out and more are getting carry-out meals from restaurants.

Both of these things are to protect us and employees from the spread of the coronavirus.

But you can still do your part. Here's some ideas of what you CAN do:

1. If you don't want to use grocery store plastic bags, you can just put items back into your cart and then bag them from the cart in your own bag when you get to your car.
2. If you're ordering carry-out and eating at home, you can tell them you don't need plastic utensils.
3. If you find yourself using a lot of hand sanitizer in small bottles, buy a large bottle and refill your smaller, pocket sized bottles when needed.
4. Wear reusable cloth masks. They are safe, come in fun patterns and prevent you from throwing away a non-fabric mask.

Most importantly, don't let what you can't control overwhelm you. Just do what you can.



FALL NEWS



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Welcome/Membership Committee encourages you to share our online service link to neighbors and friends who might be interested in worshipping with us. For those of you who are considering joining our PRCC family, we can welcome you into membership on a schedule that works best for you! Contact Pastor Carol or one of us for more information.

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, Yoga Nidra – Thursday at 8:30 pm, Meditation – Friday at 9 am.

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

Meeting ID: 967 160 2932

New password to enter – 227332

CROP WALK 2020 RESULTS

THANK YOU to everyone that contributed and walked this year, it looked very different, but it was very successful! PRCC contributed 36 walkers and our total raised as of October 22nd is \$10,805! Thank you for your support and love!



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

The Smith Family

in the Volunteer Spotlight.

This month Julie and Dan Smith are in the Volunteer Spotlight



Julie and Dan and their two young sons, Owen and Bennett, are wonderful examples of a family that shares their time and talent with all of us at PRCC.

Julie is currently, and has been for quite a few years, a very active member of what was the Membership Committee and is now the Welcoming Committee. As a member of this committee, Julie helps visitors and new members feel welcome and connected at PRCC, promotes the use of the online membership directory, helps to organize new member classes but most of all she's always a smiling and friendly face on Sundays for visitors and members alike. Julie was helping out in the Sunday School wing (before COVID-19) as a Sunday School teacher and she has always reached out to other families with young children about what's going on at church.

Dan just finished his second term as a Deacon this past May and so is taking a break from that duty. But he still is busy with other activities at church. Dan is one of the co-chairs of the

Social Committee and hopefully someday we will be able to be an active social church again. But for now, masks and social distance are the norm. Dan is serving on the Structure Committee as work continues on guiding church staff and lay leaders in evaluating and improving the nuts and bolts of church operations. Dan was also an asset to the trustees when the Board of Directors approved the new roof and windows. His professional expertise in this area earned him grateful

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Dear God,

I am so thankful! I am thankful for the warmth I find in my coat and mittens, snuggled up in my bed, and in a cup of hot chocolate! Help me to remember these warm moments are reflections of the warmth of your Holy Hugs! I am so thankful for my family, my friends, my church, my home, my teachers, and all those who love me! Help me to love and care for others through my words and my actions. I am thankful for kindness, for laughter, for tickles and giggles! Help me to find joy in the small things. God, sometimes I am sad and lonely. Be with me and reassure me. Most of all, I am thankful for you, God! I love you so much and am so glad that you love me! Amen.

VIRTUAL PK-5 SUNDAY SCHOOL

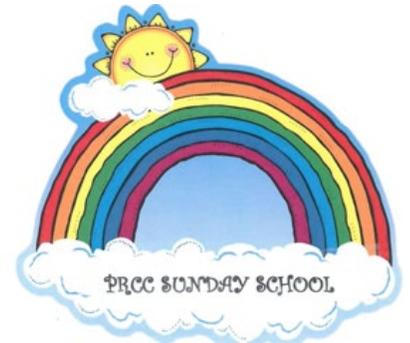
During this time as we are not able to meet in person, we would still like the kids to have their own Sunday School time to learn and grow in their faith. Each week, look for an email from me that will have a video. Each video will be a short lesson, music, and an activity the kids might choose to do. 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. Starting in November, some Sunday School teachers and some of the members of the church will be joining in to add to the videos. Please contact Shelley if your family would like to help in a weekly video lesson.

We will be doing some in person, distanced activities as we are able. We were not able to do the Pumpkin Decorating day due to weather, so we'll have to try again next month. On November 22, at 11:15, after worship, we will have an activity and craft for the kids to do. Look for details about that coming soon!

thanks from the trustees. He also served on the Senior Minister Search Committee that called Pastor Carol to PRCC!

Owen and Bennett are active Sunday School, VBS and Christmas pageant participants.

The Smith Family are joyful and giving volunteers and members and PRCC is blessed and thankful for their presence.



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 AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS DRIVE

PRCC will be providing gift bags to those who are experiencing homelessness this Christmas season. The Sunday School and Youth families with be assembling these bags and we could use your donations of men's large and extra-large t-shirts, face masks and hand/feet warmers. Please bring your donations to the Park Place Room.



Save The Date



Putting the Thanks into Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 22

This Thanksgiving season, as we give thanks for all the blessings we have received, let's also take time to give to others.

Who: Everyone

What: A socially distant activity and outreach time. We will be making art activities for Thanksgiving. We will also be decorating and filling gift bags with winter essentials such as handcrafted hats, socks, etc as well as toiletries to deliver to Lincoln Park Shelter and the Bridge Project.

When: November 22. Sign up for an hour 11-12, 12-1, 3-4, or 4-5.

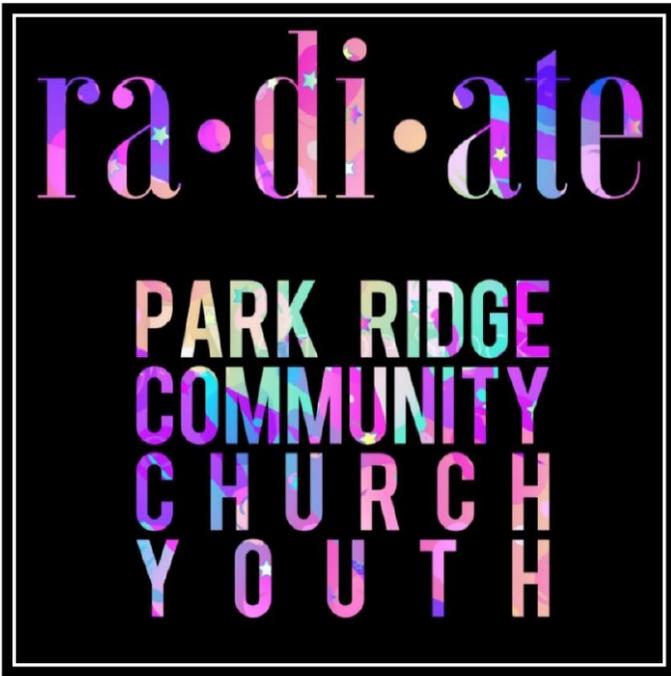
Look for a Sign Up Genius email the week of November 8.

Where: The Great Hall. We will be spread out. You will work with your family group or other members you have been with.

Masks need to be worn, areas will be kept clean, temperature checks when you come in.

Why: Because that's what we do at PRCC. We care for others!





Youth Group: SAVE THE DATES

Nov 1:

Patch Take Down @ 11 am

Nov 4:

Confirmation Class on the driveway: 6-7:30 pm

Nov 8:

Youth Movie-Chat Series in the Great Hall: 4-6 pm
Clouds

Nov 11:

Confirmation Class on the driveway: 6-7:30 pm

Nov 15:

Youth Movie-Chat Series in the Great Hall: 4-6 pm
The Hate U Give



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

PATCH MISSION:

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



THANKS TO YOU – THE PATCH MISSION CAME TO LIFE!

Thanks to all our volunteers, sponsors, planners and patrons, the PRCC Youth Pumpkin Patch not only met, but exceeded its mission! Marking its 18th Year, it has truly been a remarkable year for this important fundraiser. Since opening day, through careful planning, The Patch was able to provide a very safe and fun outreach opportunity for multi-generations to serve alongside one another in support of the church, its youth ministry, and the Maine Township Food Pantry!

Over a 14 day period, PRCC core values of learning, serving, playing and growing together came alive! A remarkable 88 youth and adults covered 31 work shifts, filled over 215 volunteer slots, and worked close to 500 hours of service. This enthusiasm resulted in a speedy sell out of 1 semi-truck full of approx. 25 pallets of pumpkins and 25 boxes of gourds, 30+ Decorations (Bats, Crows, Candy Corn). This dedication and hard work brought record gross sales and sponsorship fundraising dollars to over \$24,000.00.

Our volunteers not only helped with sales but devoted time to patch set up, pumpkin unload, decorating and lighting, the creation of decorations, crafts, dog treats and supplying taffy apples for sale. We were additionally blessed by wonderful musicians filling the patch and community with joyful music!!

Special thanks to the 25 community businesses and families that provided Patch Sponsorship! Your giving provided much needed funds, and for this we are extremely grateful!

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:11

During these challenging days, it was truly life giving to see the PRCC church family, the youth and community come together, sharing time, talent and treasures so generously - supporting the Patch in these remarkable ways. This was truly a gift and we are grateful!

All Praise and Glory be to God!

The Patch Committee
PRCC Youth Committee



OUTREACH NEWS

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

Park Ridge Community church,
We would like to thank all of you for your strong support of the Blood Drive and Food Pantry Collection last Sunday. It was our most successful event yet and it would not have been possible without the strong support of The Park Ridge Community Church..

We wanted to share the below results with all of you.

Blood Donor Goal: 35 people

Actual Blood Donors: 46

Whole Blood Units: 37

Power Red units: 9

Deferred: 3

QNS (Quantity Not Sufficient): 0

First Time Donors: 18

Type O Donors Collected: 11

Next year's event is already on the calendar for October 3, 2021!

~ Carter and Noah Collins

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Toy Drive – Unwrapped Gifts Needed (Toy Drive Logo)

Toys for children and gifts for teenagers will be collected for The Fraternal Notre Dame. Starting in November through Saturday, December 12th, place unwrapped gifts in the Christmas box located in the Sanctuary. **We will deliver all gifts on the afternoon of December 12th.** Let the office know if you would like to be part of the delivery team or wrapping team. Every gift is welcome; however, they struggle with gifts for teenagers.

Gift Ideas for Teens:

craft kit

board game

cool socks

necklace or bracelet

drawing or painting supplies

deck of cards

purse or backpack

hair barrettes, hairbrush, Chapstick



Please no guns, makeup or monsters!

The Fraternal Notre Dame, which operates a religious and humanitarian mission in Chicago's Austin neighborhood, serves the poor through a daily soup kitchen, food pantry, an afterschool program and other ways. In December, they serve a Christmas meal to 1000 people and give a gift to every child.



Christmas Gift Bags – Donations Needed of t-shirts, face masks, hand/feet warming packets. This year Christmas Gift Bags will be delivered to Lincoln Park Community Shelter and the Bridge Project. Bags will include socks donated from the men’s breakfast group, hats made by the Knitting Knights and your donations of t-shirts (men’s sizes extra large), disposable face masks and hand and feet warming packets. Your donations can be left in the Park Place Room in the designated box. Bags will be decorated and assembled on Sunday 11/22. (Shelley’s information here)



The Bridge Project– Special Winter Collection. Our masks and 100 soap sacks were delivered to The Bridge Project. They were very grateful. The Bridge Project provides monthly meals, toiletries and cold weather gear to residents of tent cities.

This winter they need: • **gently used adult coats** • **gloves** • **hats** • **blankets**
 Collection Information: Please drop off donations in the designated box in the Park Place Room before/after Sunday services or during Medical Lending Closet hours from 9:30 am - 12:00 noon M-W-F. Or on Saturday, November 21st from 9 - 11 am, there will also be curbside drop off at the Park Place Room entrance.

OPPORTUNITIES TO DONATE



CANS OF CARE

Please continue to support the *Maine Township Food Pantry* through donations of food items.

View the [Food Pantry Wish List](#).

Collection Information: Drop off your food donation directly at the Maine Township Hall, 1700 Ballard Rd., Park Ridge (hours are 10-3 M-F) or any of these PRCC members’ homes listed below, all located in Park Ridge. Each house has a large, labeled Cans For Care bin in front.

Laura & Tim Lapp
1 Glenlake Av.

Paula & Bob Mack
740 Forestview Av.

Marylynn & Dick Collentine
936 Rowe Av.

BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Maryville Academy needs help with 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 need **backpacks and school supplies**.



School Supplies:

- notebook paper (wide & college rule)
- pocket folders
- construction paper
- pens (black, blue, red)
- colored pencils
- pencil cases
- journals

- spiral notebooks
- 3-ring binders
- blunt tip scissors
- pencils and erasers (regular, mechanical)
- crayons
- ruled index cards

PERSONAL CARE TOILETRIES & HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES



Maryville Crisis Nursery provides short-term care for children of families who have experienced a severe disruptive crisis and/or are challenged with an urgent family matter. Children ages newborn through six years are provided with round-the-clock care in a safe, nurturing environment designed to protect them from experiences and environments that might harm them. The families supported there need everything from baby clothes and diapers to personal toiletries and household supplies, such as:

Personal Care Toiletries - deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, baby wipes, hand sanitizer, diapers ages 2+

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

Collection Information: To donate directly to the *Maryville Crisis Nursery*, click on their online [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 drop off donations at the PRCC members’ homes listed under **Cans Of Care** above: Lapp, Mack & Collentine.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

MEAL PREPARATIONS

Lincoln Park Community Services is open for volunteer meal assistance. We will not go in person to serve dinners, but can deliver home cooked meals to the shelter. Because the PRCC kitchen remains closed, we hope that a few members/families would be willing to cook various parts of the meal in their homes.



We need individuals/families to prepare one of the following meal components to feed 25 people. (CHOOSE ONE):

- salad
- vegetable
- starch
- meat entree
- dessert

This is a wonderful opportunity to get the whole family involved in showing God's love to those often forgotten in this world. If you are interested in helping with future dinners, please contact outreach@parkridgecommunitychurch.org.

SUNDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

PRCC will be a part of *Sunday Night Suppers*, but with different procedures due to Covid-19. Until health guidelines change, we will provide 85 pre-packaged meals from a restaurant or caterer, 85 individual drinks (juice or milk), and 85 pre-packaged individual desserts from a store (sorry, no homemade items allowed).

PRCC assigned dates are:

2020 - November 22 2021 - February 28, April 25, May 16



Volunteer Requirements - Limited to three (3) people total to assist with to-go meal distribution curbside

- Two (2) volunteers will assemble to-go meals at a table inside PR Presbyterian Church
- One (1) additional volunteer will be stationed at the curb to advise the assembly team the number of meals needed and be the "runner" to bring meals out as guests' cars arrive.
- Volunteers must bring and wear their own mask the entire time they are on site at Park Ridge Presbyterian Church and wear gloves while assembling to-go meals.

The time commitment is from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. each date. Please sign up through *Sign Up Genius* at [Sunday Suppers](#). Thank you for considering to help provide meals for local families in need.

Questions about any of these outreach opportunities can be directed to outreach@parkridgecommunitychurch.org.

OCTOBER SNAPSHOTS





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

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries

Shelley O'Brien, Director of Children's Ministries

Liz Swanson, Director of Pastoral Services

Jaclyn Weir, Parish Coordinator