

# THE PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCHNEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021



## Resurrection Truth: We Rise

By Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister

### “Still I Rise” By Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may trod me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,  
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don't you take it awful hard  
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?  
Does it come as a surprise  
That I dance like I've got diamonds  
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the  
slave.  
I rise  
I rise  
I rise.

*Maya Angelou, "Still I Rise" from And Still I Rise: A Book of Poems. Copyright © 1978 by Maya Angelou. All rights reserved.*

Throughout Lent, we have been exploring who this man named Jesus was and is. He used metaphors, packed with meaning as he tried to help his disciples (and us) understand. He is our Shepherd. He is the Light of the World. He is the Gate. He is the Bread of Life. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is the True Vine. He is the Resurrection and the Life. We began this journey on Ash Wednesday with the “Resurrection and the Life” as we considered our mortality, and now as we draw nearer to Good Friday and Easter morning, we once again remember those words - I am the Resurrection and the Life.

Jesus told his followers that he would rise, at least according to the Gospel writers he did. I don't know how they understood those words at the time. According to their responses, we don't think they understood them at all. Those poor disciples were trying to make sense of everything Jesus was teaching them, but I feel it was like drinking from a fire hose. So, on that Easter morning, as the women (or the disciples - depending on the account) approached the tomb to pay their respects, they were NOT expecting to find it empty, much less to encounter a fully ALIVE Jesus.

After all his explanations about Jesus being God the Father and that he would return, they were still surprised. Their expectations of a political overthrow and Jesus to finally be hailed as the King of Israel were turned upside down as he continued to model servant leadership and the reality of a Kingdom not on Earth. After his resurrection, you can see the disciples' eyes being opened, understanding growing in their hearts. This King who rode on a donkey, this man who washed others' feet, this Savior who took time to feed the hungry crowds, this teacher who embraced children, this prophet who spoke in parables that confounded and amazed, this friend who cried at times of grief, this Messiah who was brutally executed alongside criminals - this was truly God incarnate. “Who do you say that I am?” I wonder if after the resurrection the disciples would have unanimously answered - Our Lord, and our God!

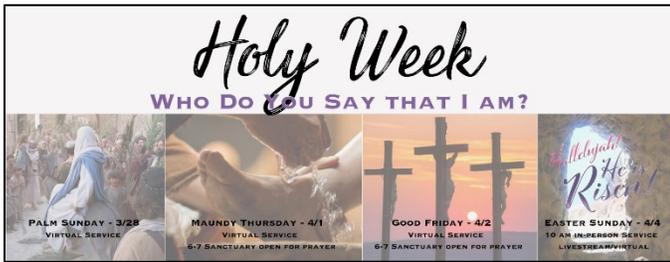
Jesus' resurrection changes things. It began the movement that became the Christian Church. It transformed the disciples into bold preachers and evangelists. And, it should change us too. Jesus rose from the dead, no matter the methods used to snuff out the Light he shone on the world. As his followers, we are filled

with the Holy Spirit to in-spire (literally breathe into us) our living. We pray that the Spirit would meld us together as Christ's body alive in the world today! That is a BOLD prayer! Christ is risen! And we rise as well, here and now!

Maya Angelou's poem speaks of strength to rise, even in spite of racism and hatred, in spite of the challenges of this world. Jesus rose, and triumphed over evil, hatred, and death itself. How are we rising? How are we living out the peace, the unity, the abundance, the purpose, the sacrificial love exemplified and poured out on that initial band of believers? Christ has risen! Christ is risen indeed - and he's here among us, inviting us to rise as well!

# WORSHIP

## ONLINE & IN-PERSON



[www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org](http://www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org)

**APRIL 1** Maundy Thursday *John 13:1-17; 31-35*  
6-7:30 pm Prayer in Sanctuary  
7:30 pm Virtual Maundy Thursday service

**APRIL 2** Good Friday *John 18:1-19:42*  
6-7:30 pm Prayer in Sanctuary  
7:30 pm Virtual Maundy Thursday service

**APRIL 4** Easter Sunday *John 20:1-18*  
10:00 am In-Person Worship  
(livestream and YouTube available)  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour

**APRIL 11** Christ is Risen: Peace *John 20:19-31*  
8:30 & 10:00 am In-Person Worship  
(livestream and YouTube available)  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour

**APRIL 18** Christ is Risen: Community *John 17:6-19*  
8:30 & 10:00 am In-Person Worship  
(livestream and YouTube available)  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour

**APRIL 25** Christ is Risen: Abundance *John 21:1-14*  
8:30 & 10:00 am In-Person Worship  
(livestream and YouTube available)  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour

**MAY 2** Christ is Risen: Purpose *John 21:15-19*  
Holy Communion & Annual Meeting  
10:00 am ONE SERVICE OUTDOORS

## COMMUNION

On Sunday, April 4, we will receive communion. If you are watching from home, please take some time before worship to gather some bread and juice or wine. If you would prefer a pre-packaged wafer and juice, we will deliver it to you, upon request! If you are joining us in person, we will have individually wrapped elements for you. We trust in the power of God's Holy Spirit to bless the ordinary elements and turn them into the extraordinary means of God's grace.

## ANNUAL MEETING

Park Ridge Community Church will celebrate our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 2 immediately following the 10 am service. The Annual Report will be available prior to the Annual Meeting, and all items to be voted on at the Annual meeting will also be available. We are currently confirming methods of voting and attending. While the meeting will be held outdoors, in person (weather permitting), there will be an option to participate virtually. More details to come.

## OFFICE HOURS:

Our Church Building is currently CLOSED to limit the spread of Covid 19. We are striving to keep our congregation members and staff healthy. If you need to come into the church building, please contact Jaclyn at [office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org) and she will coordinate someone to meet you. Jaclyn is also maintaining a log of persons who are in and out of the building just in case we need to alert individuals of a covid-positive presence.

## WAYS TO GIVE:

Your giving to Park Ridge Community Church remains vitally important to keeping our building operating, our staff paid, and our ministries active! Thank you for your ongoing support. Just a reminder of the ways you can submit your financial contributions:

- Drop off or mail a check to: 100 Courtland Ave. Park Ridge, IL 60068
- Sign up for automatic withdrawal from your bank account.
- Give through the Zelle app or Quickpay. Enter the email address: [giving@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:giving@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)
- Give electronically through [PayPal on our website](#) (FYI: the church incurs a fee with each PayPal transaction)



## SUNDAY COFFEE ZOOMS

**NEW IN APRIL: Sunday morning Coffee Zooms at 11:30 am.**

Gather with your ministers and fellow congregants as we share joys and concerns, laugh together and quickly touch base. These 30 minutes are precious as we connect.

<https://zoom.us/j/95163782426?pwd=c2kvM2xGR3pRMW5s3MzNWU1lzUGNNUT09>

Meeting ID: 951 6378 2426 Passcode: 919348

One tap mobile +13126266799,95163782426

# OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

As people of God we know that prayer is an act of worship and an act of trust that God hears us. And so we come before the Divine in faith with all that's on our hearts - celebrations and challenges - sharing God's expansive love through our prayers.

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

*We also keep in our prayers the following March requests:*

## Life in the Resurrection

- Please pray for the family and friends of Helen Mulopulos, a member of the Monday morning Bible Study who entered life in the resurrection on 2/20.
- Please hold in your prayers the family and friends of Anita and Stuart Rifkind's friend Jerry, who entered life in the Resurrection on 3/8.
- Prayers for the O'Brien family as Dave's father Jim, after a couple months in the hospital, entered life in the resurrection on 3/11.

## Healing and Recovery

- We pray for Bob Tamburrino going for testing, and his team as they develop a treatment plan for a vascular blockage.
- Sasha asks for prayers for her friend Lisa going through a very difficult battle with cancer.
- Kate Zoellner asks that we pray for her friend's son Henry, who is in the ICU at Lurie's Children's hospital with multiple health challenges. He is having trach surgery to hopefully be able to go home for continued healing and care.
- Please hold Geri LeDuc in your prayers as she navigates multiple health challenges.
- Hold Joan O'Brien, in laws of Shelley O'Brien, as she receives treatment in the hospital and transitions to a new care facility. We also pray for Joan as she grieves her husband's death in isolation.
- Please hold in your prayers Dave O'Brien's brother as he grieves the loss of his father from France.
- We pray for Grace Curtis, struggling with a frozen shoulder.
- Hold in your prayers Marty McHugh and his continued recovery from stroke and coping with isolation.

- Please pray for Amy Sacor's mother having multiple health issues.
- Ongoing Prayers for the work of the Nominating Committee as they invite members into new areas of ministry for the year ahead.
- Please join in prayer with a new community member who is watching the YouTube worship video as she goes through a difficult divorce. She prays that God will speak to her former husband's heart and for a peaceful and quick settlement to avoid further pain and difficulties.
- Please hold Bill Scharringhausen's friend and former member, Jim Fazzell in our prayers as he heals from back surgery and in rehab at Glenview Terrace.
- Please pray for Mary Biardo's friend Jim in our prayers, as he suffered a ski accident and broke his neck. He is at Shirley Ryan Rehab for ongoing care.
- Please pray for Jaclyn's mother-in-law Linda, who is facing some health challenges. Jaclyn and Todd went to Texas this week to help Linda and meet with her treatment team.

## Joys

- We are celebrating all of our March birthdays!
- We celebrate the 42<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Bill and Sue Cocagne on 3/10!
- We celebrate the 44<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Mary and Mike Hannon on 3/12!
- We celebrate with Sandy Bowen that her fracture is healing, that she received her 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine, and will be proctoring AP Tests at Maine East in the Spring.
- We celebrate that Kate Zoellner received her vaccine, and we are celebrating the many folks from PRCC who have been vaccinated, including both ministers and most of our staff team.
- We celebrate the ONA Panel and the honest conversations that are happening around our church about what it means to be an inclusive and welcoming congregation.
- We celebrate Bingo Day, hosted by our Fellowship Committee!
- We celebrate with Lauren and Tommy Kleingers, as they recently purchased a new home in Ohio, closer to Tommy's family, and they are pleased to share that they are expecting! Our prayers surround Lauren through this pregnancy and move, as well as with Keith and Katie.
- We celebrate that Pastor Carol's grandparents are recovering well from her grandmother's broken ankle, and grandfather's covid illness and subsequent depression.

## Global

- We pray for those marriages and partnerships that are under strain during this time of working from home and social isolation.
- We pray for all those in unhealthy and unsafe home situations, victims of domestic abuse and violence, and all those who are suffering in silence.

## 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 NOONTIME 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! Pastor Mollie guides our time together. Participants can eat lunch and engage as you like!

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

Meeting ID: 912 3934 6091 Passcode: 62285

## DIY BIBLE STUDY

This is a year of trying new things! We have tried a new way of Bible Studying together while apart called Do-It-Yourself Bible Study. You can download, print, and view the Study Guide through the PRCC Website and watch short videos on our YouTube channel. Participants can engage in this Bible Study, which ties directly into the sermon series as individuals or with a self-selected group of study companions! Find videos for the Do-It-Yourself Bible Study at [www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org/diybiblestudy/](http://www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org/diybiblestudy/)

## BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Evening Disciple Bible Study at 7:30 pm

Wednesday night *Disciple I* Bible Study meets each week on Zoom from 7:30 – 9 pm. *Disciple I* is a study through the scriptures covering Genesis through Revelation. All are welcome to participate! Each week builds on other week's, but each week can also stand alone. Attend at much or as little as your schedule permits!

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 928 2472 0898 Passcode: 789593

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

We celebrate and pray God's blessing upon these birthdays...

- 4/4 Janice Cannon
- 4/5 Barbara Madro
- 4/5 Hali Sobor
- 4/6 Bill Barsanti
- 4/7 Donald Walsh
- 4/8 Stephanie Beery
- 4/16 Marilyn Andersen
- 4/16 Harry Brown
- 4/16 Bennett Smith
- 4/17 Martha Douglass Pietsch
- 4/17 Clark Simpson
- 4/19 Barbara Scharringhausen
- 4/19 Marilyn Webster
- 4/20 Lynne Duffy
- 4/20 Scott Hollingsworth
- 4/21 Lara Zimmerman
- 4/21 Charlie Leach
- 4/22 Nathan Tumminello
- 4/24 Lyle Clapper
- 4/24 David Swanson
- 4/24 Bria Sanderson
- 4/27 Anita Rifkind
- 4/27 Matt Holihan
- 4/27 Jillian Blackburn
- 4/29 Jocelyn Wind
- 4/30 Gary Beckner

If please contact the church office so we can include you in our Sunday joys!

# STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

*Why are you so far from helping me,  
from the words of my groaning?*

*O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night, but find no rest.*

Psalm 22: 1-2 NSRV

Because we are human, we have a tendency to rush from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday spending as little time as possible on the events described in the Gospels as having taken place on Thursday evening and Friday. Indeed, even the Gospels are entirely silent about what happened on Friday night and Saturday. After Jesus' body is hurriedly laid to rest in a borrowed tomb, the narrative ends. It was clear from all the reports included in the Gospels that the burial was rushed because nothing could happen after sunset, the start of the Sabbath. Even Jesus' death was rushed.

What scant reports there are indicate a large group of women gathered around the place of crucifixion. Obviously, there must have been men there as well. John particularly makes his own presence known, as well as Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.

Some of the women must have followed the body to the tomb, because they knew where to go Sunday morning. In fact, they were clearly in communication because they arranged to meet back at the tomb with embalming spices.

So what happened to the disciples between sunset on Friday and Sunday morning? It's almost as if time was suspended. We know it was the Sabbath, traditionally a family time. One of the women reported to be in the group at Golgotha was the mother (likely named Salome) of the sons of Zebedee, the Apostle John, and James the Elder. Surely that family would have been staying together. Peter and Andrew were brothers; it seems likely they would have also been together. No one would have traveled on the Sabbath.

Nevertheless, by Sunday morning, Luke reports that all eleven of the core group of disciples were together. I suspect it was rather like a Board of Directors meeting; all of them trying to figure out if it made any

sense to go on without their leader – the man they thought was the Messiah, having been sent directly to them by God – now gone. And sometime after Jesus' body had been reported missing, disciples had begun already heading home, taking the road to Emmaus. Luke describes them as “downcast.”

Maybe because of the feelings of loss and loneliness in the past year, the difficult delays between deaths this year and the burial services/services of remembrance, I think we may have a new sense of what the disciples were going through during this “lost” time. It must have been a roller coaster of emotions. Peter certainly must have mourned his actions in betraying Jesus' friendship and leadership. They all must have known of Judas' actions and suicide by then, and wondered what they might have done differently. Hopelessness. Despair. Guilt. Fear.

In truth, we are all looking ahead into the second quarter of 2021 with some of these same feelings. We are afraid to let down our guard, even if we have personally had the Covid vaccine. Another disappointment, another setback would be very difficult to face. We want to move past this awful sense of the suspension of time. But it isn't easy. We carry wounds, a kind of PTSD, comprised of losses and regrets and fears...

The Stephen Ministry program knows that lots of us have been avoiding dealing with our pain. The flyer from the Stephen Ministry leadership and included in the PRCC newsletter this month reminds each of us that it may be necessary for us to look back at what we have through in order to move forward. You are invited to take advantage of having a fellow disciple on the road who will take your hand and say, “It is true! The Lord is risen.” Contact Pastor Carol, Liz Swanson (847-823-3164,) or Ginny Feurer (847-840-7082.)

*- Anita Rifkind*

# ARE YOU EXPERIENCING PANDEMIC FATIGUE?



Are you feeling exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges like . . .

- ISOLATION AND LONELINESS
- ANXIETY OVER HEALTH
- GRIEF DUE TO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF LOSSES
- TENSION FROM JUGGLING WORK, CHILDCARE, AND SCHOOLING
- FINANCIAL STRAIN OR JOB LOSS
- UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE
- OTHER UNEXPECTED LIFE CHALLENGES?



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

If so, you don't have to face it alone. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately—by phone, by video chat, or, if safely possible, in person—to offer care and support. It's free and completely confidential. For more information, call our church office.

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*  
Matthew 11:28

# BOARD NEWS



**By Tom Goodwin and Naomi Siebert**

The Board of Directors met twice in March! We gathered for the first of a two-part virtual retreat on Saturday, March 13 from 9-11:30 am, guided by Kathy Chandler. During our time together, we shared lessons learned in the past year, discussed what hopes we bring for this current year, and received a proposal from the Structure team on a potential new design of the Church governing bodies. Our second half of this Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 10.

Then, the regular business of the Board was discussed at our regular Board meeting on Tuesday, March 16. Here are a few updates:

**Reopening.** We are preparing for in-person worship to resume in April, gathering outside on Easter and in the sanctuary for the rest of the month. Congregants will be asked to pre-register their attendance for indoor worship, and whether outside or in, everyone will wear masks and maintain social distance. We anticipate being outside for May (weather permitting), and we hope ministry groups can resume in-person, outdoor meetings in May as well. Virtual worship (livestream and Youtube) services will continue to be available.

**Pastor Mollie Foster being recommended as a Member in Discernment.** At the Board meeting, a recommendation was brought from the PRCC's Discernment Committee, which has begun meeting with Pastor Mollie. This Discernment Committee will continue to meet with Pastor Mollie throughout her ordination process. The Board, following their recommendation, has recommended to the Chicago Metropolitan Association that Pastor Mollie be received as a Member in Discernment, to formally begin her ordination process through the United Church of Christ. This process will take at least two years, including written papers, interviews with Church and Ministry teams, and recommendations from her current ministry setting.

**Seminary Student approved for 2021-2022.** Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary student Angie Do will join our team for the 2021-2022 ministry year. Angie is completing her Master of Arts degree with a concentration in Christian Education. She has worked in the medical profession as well as serving as a Children's Minister in Korean Church settings. She brings a passion for children and youth ministry and is excited to get to know this beautiful congregation.

**Tent or no Tent?** Our leadership is in conversation with the City about approving the placement of a large tent in our

church lawn for the summer, to assist with our outdoor worship and enable a variety of other activities. We hope to hear soon about whether such a tent would be allowed by the City to ease our transition into in-person worship, following Covid-precautions. The Board approved using Special Gifts funds received and have assigned a taskforce to iron out the logistical challenges.

**Electronic Giving Options - Equal?** Our Finance team is so grateful for the number of individuals utilizing electronic giving options. However, they have learned that not all electronic giving is equal. When individuals use Zelle or automatic withdrawal, the entire amount donated is received by PRCC. However, Paypal takes a cut. So, if possible, we are encouraged to use Zelle or by automatic withdrawal instead of Paypal.

**Trustee Update.** The stained glass window from Ellinger Transept is scheduled to have its restoration complete in April. Once completed, it will be reinstalled in Ellinger transept. Ranalli Studios has been restoring the windows, as a part of the Phase 6 Window replacement in the sanctuary. Additional window replacement may be considered later in 2021 or 2022.

**Finance Update.** Our expenses for Snow removal in 2021 were understandably quite high and thus overbudget. Our giving has remained steady, for which we are thankful. There was a generous gift given at the end of 2020, and ministry areas are coming up with proposals for how those funds could be utilized for the ministries and outreach of our church.

**Nominating Committee** is hard at work to prepare a slate of candidates to the Annual Meeting on May 2. Everyone in our congregation is invited to consider how God may be calling you in this next year. As we prepare for reigniting our ministries, each person has an important role to play - how can we help you get plugged in?

**PRCC to join United Power Organization.** The Board approved joining the United Power group that focuses on regional social justice initiatives. The Board was invited to read material and meet with representatives on Saturday, February 20. The Social Justice team will assign a liaison to share communications back and forth as we get involved.

**Youth Committee.** Our confirmation students will be Confirmed in worship on May 23 at our outdoor service. Youth activities will resume on Sundays in April from 3-4:30 pm outdoors, meeting on the Carriage House driveway. Weekly Sunday School lessons and Confirmation classes are ongoing with the support of our amazing volunteers and Pastor Mollie. The youth will have an opportunity to participate in a local mission week this summer, staying local to help out! Applications are being accepted for this year's Eric Nelson Scholarship, which will be awarded at the Annual Meeting on May 2.

# SPRING NEWS



## KINDRED SPIRITS CAFÉ AND BEYOND!

### Tuesday Virtual Connections

Kindred Spirits Café Continues – We are connecting virtually each Tuesday. Join the Zoom call to “see” each other and catch up on all that’s going on. If you are not able to join with your computer, you can call in to hear all the happenings. Here is the April schedule:

4/6 – Celebrating April birthdays with Sasha singing.

4/13 – Paula Mack will join us and give us an update on all the outreach projects.

4/20 – Learn more about sustainability as we recognize Earth Day.

4/27 - Bingo

<https://zoom.us/j/92014175334?pwd=Njd2UXpkN0pMV0dSYTdScWhnankxdz09>

Meeting ID: 920 1417 5334

Passcode: 994443

Dial in: +1 312 626 6799 US



## KNITTING KNIGHTS

The Knitting Knights has stayed busy this winter making hats for those in need, prayer squares for our homebound and Easter items for the kids of our congregation. We have also been busy making baby items. Are you looking for a handcrafted gift for a new baby? If so, the Knitting Knights have a great selection. Talk with Liz Swanson for more information or join our Zoom call on 4/12 at 7:00 to get to know us. We are happy to share some stories with you and would love to have all crafters, those currently crocheting or knitting, those who used to craft or those who dream of making things with yarn.



## CREATION CARE TEAM

Faith in Place is an organization that empowers Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth, providing resources to educate, connect and advocate for healthier communities.

Their vision is to help diverse people of all faiths to share the commitment to care for the Earth.

This year to celebrate Earth Day events, they will be hosting a multi-faith Earth Day Sunset Vigil from 6-7:30 pm CT on April 8th. The night will celebrate our “common home” through education about Earth Day, storytelling, a gallery of eco-art from the community, inspiring reflections from different faith traditions and a candlelight vigil. This will be a virtual event.

[Register today to join!](#)







# SPRING NEWS

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As we begin worshipping together in person outside, phone a neighbor or a friend and encourage them to join us!

If you not an official member of the PRCC family and would like to join in the upcoming months, please reach out to the church office and we will be happy to welcome you into membership.

The Welcome/Membership Committee

Sara Born ([sara.born@hotmail.com](mailto:sara.born@hotmail.com))

Sue Douglass ([suedouglass@hotmail.com](mailto:suedouglass@hotmail.com))

## MEDITATION AND YOGA

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

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

**Meeting ID:** 967 160 2932

**New password to enter – 227332**

Yoga Nidra is now available 24/7 via a recorded link!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/dpj5scF8taGoSxK2pTcQ9u6mUGamhPskzEUsAtK83yCNqZQFVbjv3YH4pO5tdO4.xPp1cnobOAKBVVXv> Passcode: UdY.c1E5

## 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:

## Marylynn and Dick Collentine!

Marylynn and Dick have been

worshipping at PRCC for a long time and even were married in our sanctuary. They have both been active servants in many ways.

Marylynn is currently a member of the Christian Outreach Committee and she is our key leader responsible for our outreach efforts working with the Chicago Bridge Project, which is an organization that builds community by sharing warm food and clothing with our most vulnerable neighbors. In the past, Marylynn has served as a Deacon and also Co-Chair of the Social Committee. Marylynn is also a member of Women's Circle 10 group.

Dick, despite not actually being an "official" member of PRCC has served as a Lector, beautifully reading Scripture- even on Zoom! All are welcome to participate and serve at PRCC whether you're a member or not. But don't think you won't be asked more than once if you'd like to make it official! He's been on the Pumpkin Patch team since it started, providing the beautiful orange lights around the fencing that are so decorative but also driving to Wisconsin to pick up hay bales and corn stalks so our patch looks festive and welcoming.

Marylynn and Dick are also regular volunteers for the Sunday Night Suppers, Jazz in January, Pasta Divine and are always ready to cheerfully lend a helping hand. Their home at 906 Rowe, is one of five drop off locations for our Cans of Care outreach which delivers donated food items to the Maine Township Food Pantry. The Cans of Care outreach began because we weren't meeting in person at church so our monthly food donation to the Maine Township Food Pantry ended.

We appreciate all the ways that Marylynn and Dick serve at PRCC and around the community.

# Celebration OF HOPE

Virtual Benefit  
APRIL 15, 2021  
7-8 pm CST

**Celebrate what God is doing through life-changing  
refugee and volunteer connections.**

Join the Christian community from across Chicagoland—and the country!—for this powerful multimedia event. Hear inspirational testimonies of refugees who are rebuilding their lives after fleeing war or persecution, and the volunteers who welcome and befriend them.

Learn how the year ahead will bring many new opportunities to walk alongside refugees!

**Register now at [exodusworldservice.org](https://www.exodusworldservice.org).**



**EXODUS**  
world service

Questions? Contact [info@exodusworldservice.org](mailto:info@exodusworldservice.org) or 630.307.1400 x0.

Rick and Gail Benedetto have been helping local refugees for several years. They invite you to join them for a virtual 1-hour Celebration of Hope by Exodus World Service of Park Ridge on Thursday, April 15 from 7-8 pm CST. When registering please choose Gail Benedetto from the drop-down box under "host".

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



*God of Spring Surprises, we celebrate the sunshine and the raindrops that nurture green grass, flowers, and new life! Thank you for the joy that we find in Easter, knowing that Jesus is stronger than death! Thank you for sending your Son to show us how to love one another. I promise to do my best to share Jesus' love with others – my family, my friends, my neighbors, my church, and even strangers! Help me to grow in body, mind, and wisdom just like Jesus! Amen.*

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. The lessons will be related to the sermon series in hopes that families will be able to talk, share, and feel God's presence each week.

I was so glad to have connected with those kids who were able to make it to our Zoom Coffee hour. It was so great to see your faces and catch up! I am looking forward to being able to see each other in person as the weather begins to get better.

I am so excited for our Easter Egg hunt! This year, we will be sending out clues on March 26th, so make sure to check email for them. Once you get them, you will try to figure out which business in Park Ridge the clue is talking about. When you figure it out, go to that business. They will either have a picture of an egg in the window that you can take a selfie next to, or someone working inside will give you a paper egg that you keep with you. See how many you can collect and hold on to them. On April 3rd from 11 - 12 at the Park Place door, or on Easter Sunday from 11-12 on the carriage house driveway, come and show me how many eggs and pictures you

have. I will give you a prize for each one! Bring friends and family. It will be fun for all!

## **Outreach:**

Please continue to check the outreach page to see what is needed in our community.

<https://www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org/currentdo-nationneeds>

We are a congregation that gives and it's so important to model that and involve the kids in these very important outreach ministries.

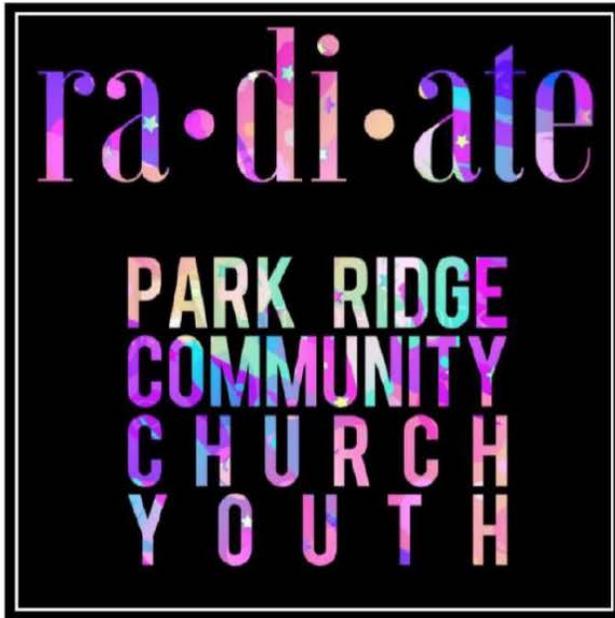
With Peace,

Shelley O'Brien

[sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)

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





## Youth Group:

### High School Seniors!

Be sure to check out the information regarding the Eric Nelson Scholarship!

**Applications due April 15!**

### Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Youth Group on the Lawn:

April 11, 18, 28

3:00-4:30

Join us as we build and create a youth garden!

Each youth will be able to plant a variety of items: produce, herbs, flowers.



### CONFIRMATION CLASS

March 24 & 31: NO Class

April 7: Class on Carriage House Driveway: 6-7:30pm

April 14: Class on CH Driveway: 6-7:30pm

April 21: Class on CH Driveway: 6-7:30pm

April 28: Class on CH Driveway: 6-7:30pm

May 5: Class on CH Driveway: 6-7:30pm

**May 12: LAST CLASS Celebration on CH Driveway! 6-7:30pm**

May 19: Rehearsal: 6-6:30pm

**May 23: CONFIRMATION SUNDAY (10am Service)**



### SUMMER MISSION EXPERIENCE: AUGUST 2021

With the uncertainty of COVID for Summer 2021, we will not be planning a traveling mission trip. HOWEVER, we WILL be planning a 3-day local mission experience for youth! Youth will have the opportunity to participate in service (assisting our elderly church members with home projects and working with local non-profits) during the daytime and social opportunities in the evening! Our three days will wrap up in collaboration with the August Sermon Series, *Happy Campers*, with a campout on the church lawn. Stay tuned for sign up and dates!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUTH MINISTRIES, CONTACT PASTOR MOLLIE:

[pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)

# ATTENTION SENIORS!

## Eric Nelson Youth Scholarship

This scholarship, given on behalf of the youth of the church, is awarded to a graduating senior that has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the mission and life of our church through their presence and service during high school. The scholarship is intended to help ease the burden of their college expenses. This scholarship was initiated to honor the generosity Eric Nelson showed our youth programs after graduating high school. Eric was in his early 20's and was starting his auto business. He pledged to contribute a portion of the proceeds from each car sold to the youth program.



Eric generously funded the scholarship for several years — It is now supported through our youth fundraisers. In previous years, Eric was named a Community Star by the Chamber of Commerce, see Tribune article.

One student will be selected to receive a \$1000.00 scholarship.

## How to Apply:

Email Jaclyn Weir at [office@parkridgecommunitychurch](mailto:office@parkridgecommunitychurch) for the application!

## Eligibility and Deadline:

All active senior youth (12th grade) are eligible to apply: both PRCC members and non-members. Applications must be received by no later than **April 15**. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the Annual Church Meeting.

# SECOND MILE

The Second Mile Award links past, present and future ministries and the individuals who have been instrumental in creating and sustaining the outreach, service, worship, fellowship, and learning that take place here and beyond the walls of our church. We are inviting the entire PRCC membership to join in the selection process.

Therefore, we are asking you to nominate an individual or couple who exemplify the genuine spirit of Christian love, fellowship, and service within the life of Park Ridge Community Church and in the living of their daily lives.

The following are the criteria used for selecting nominees:

- *Must be a member of Park Ridge Community Church*
- *Clearly deserves to be recognized*
- *Individuals or couples may be nominated*
- *Consider all aspects of the church's mission:*
  - o *Education, Outreach, Service, Ministries of the Church, Fellowship life, Church facilities, etc.*
- *Length of service to PRCC*
- *Contributions should be extensive (not monetary contributions)*
- *Not a current major office holder*
- *Not a member of the staff*

**Please email, mail, or deliver your nomination to the Church office no later than Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.** The recipient will be named at the Annual Meeting .



# OUTREACH NEWS

Questions about any of these outreach opportunities can be directed to [outreach@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:outreach@parkridgecommunitychurch.org).

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

### OUTREACH PARTNERS - Starting in April

As schools are resuming in-person learning, our partners have some new and specific needs. We will collect the items listed below for our outreach partners: Jeanine Schultz Memorial School in Park Ridge, Maryville Academy's Jen School in Des Plaines, and The Bridge Project. All items may be dropped off in the appropriate labeled bins in the Park Place Room.

### Clothing - New, Unopened Adult Undergarments

Men's underwear – Medium, Large and XLarge (boxers or briefs)

Men's T-shirts – Medium, Large and XLarge

Women's underwear – Medium, Large

### Cleaning Supplies

Hand Sanitizer – Large

Disinfectant Wipes

Individual Kleenex Boxes

Paper Towels

Multipurpose Cleaning Spray

Protective Gloves

### School Supplies - Middle School and High School Students

Backpacks

Ball Point Pens – Black, Blue, Red, Purple, Green

Pencils, Erasers and Sharpeners

Mechanical pencils, Colored pencils

Highlighters and Markers

Spiral notebooks and Composition books

Loose leaf paper and computer paper

Ruler - metric measurements

Pocket folders

Index cards, ruled and unruled

Calculators

### CANS OF CARE

Food donations may also be dropped off in the Park Place Room.

### Monetary Gifts

If you're unable to shop but still wish to give, we can do the shopping for you! You may U.S. mail a check\*, drop off a check\* in the mail slot on the Courtland side of PRCC, or give online through the PRCC website.

\* Please be sure to make a note on the MEMO LINE of your check: *Community Outreach*



# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

## LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES

Prepare various parts of a meal in your home that will serve 35 people at Lincoln Park Shelter and/or volunteer to deliver the meal on our assigned date. Our next assigned dates are **Thursday, April 1st (Maundy Thursday)** and **Thursday, May 6th**.

If you can help, please use the [Sign Up Genius](#) on the PRCC website to avoid duplication of efforts/food selection.

## SUNDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

We provide 85 pre-packaged meals from a restaurant or caterer, 85 individual drinks (juice or milk), and 85 pre-packaged individual desserts and helpers to assist with distributing the to-go meals.

PRCC assigned dates are: [April 25\\*](#) and [May 16](#)

3:30 - 5:00 pm

\*April 25 Sunday Supper will be served at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

We need three (3) volunteers to help with to-go meals

- Two (2) volunteers assemble to-go meals at a table inside
- One (1) volunteer is stationed at the curb to advise the assembly team the number of meals needed and bring meals to guests as their cars arrive.

Volunteers must bring and wear their own mask the entire time they are on site and wear gloves while assembling to-go meals.

Questions about any of these outreach opportunities can be directed to [outreach@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:outreach@parkridgecommunitychurch.org).



# MARCH SNAPSHOTS



**Sunday Night Suppers Park Ridge is at Park Ridge Presbyterian Church.** 👍  
 23h · Park Ridge, IL · 🌐

Thanks Park Ridge Community Church for bringing @thesunrisegrill dinners for our guests! We love serving with all of you!





100 S. Courtland Ave  
Park Ridge, IL 60068

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### April In Person Services

**APRIL 4 Easter Sunday** *John 20:1-18*

10:00 am In-Person Worship  
(livestream and YouTube available)  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour

**APRIL 11** Christ is Risen: Peace *John 20:19-31*

8:30 & 10:00 am In-Person Worship  
(livestream and YouTube available)  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour

**APRIL 18** Christ is Risen: Community *John 17:6-19*

8:30 & 10:00 am In-Person Worship  
(livestream and YouTube available)  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour

**APRIL 25** Christ is Risen: Abundance *John 21:1-14*

8:30 & 10:00 am In-Person Worship  
(livestream and YouTube available)  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour

Contact Us:

847-823-3164

[office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)

[parkridgecommunitychurch.org](http://parkridgecommunitychurch.org)

**Like us on Facebook!**

Our Staff:

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister

[pastorcarol@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:pastorcarol@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)

Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister

[pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries

[sasha@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:sasha@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)

Shelley O'Brien, Director of Children's Ministries

[sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)

Liz Swanson, Director of Pastoral Services

[liz@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:liz@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)

Jaelyn Weir, Parish Coordinator

[office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)