

THE PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020



Stories of Our Faith Stories of Our Lives

www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org

I used to love going to summer camp as a child and youth. As an adult, I still love a retreat to spaces where I can be outdoors in creation, relax under a night's sky, and gather with friends and loved ones around a fire. There's something surreal that happens around many bonfires. With low lighting, a kind of magic takes over. The coolness that might hang in the evening air is overcome by the warmth emanating from the fire. The weight that we otherwise carry around during the day is overcome by the easy rhythm of flickering flames. Somehow between the warmth and light and intimacy of being made one by the fire, walls come down and hearts open up. Stories are often shared, some real, some fantasy. Laughter rings into the nighttime abyss. Sometimes tears are shed. Hands held. Songs sung. It can be a powerful time.

We each have powerful stories and too rarely have an opportunity to share them. Perhaps, the frenzied pace of life demands we quickly move on to the next thing rather than savor the moment or spend time reflecting. Well, summer may be a little different this year, and what is usually a time for slowing down has already slowed way down. Our June sermon series and spiritual journey will focus on stories. Jesus used stories, or parables, to help reveal deep truth to his followers. These stories revealed deep truths about God, about God's people, and about God's Kingdom. Grace, love, forgiveness, and the expansive nature of God were more easily conveyed in a story than a long lecture or sermon. (What!?)

In June, we will not only take a closer look at Jesus' stories and some of the stories of our faith in the Bible, we will also consider the ways God's truths are reflected in our lives. We will have opportunities to share stories with each other, keeping them about 5 minutes long. You'll be invited to video-record your story (which may mean writing it down or practicing beforehand) or simply to respond to a prompt with a paragraph. When you tell a story, don't forget to include details - what was the day like, what was the feeling in the air, who was present, why was this moment one that you'll remember? Stories can be joy-filled - like graduations, weddings, births, and they can be "ordinary" learning to ride a bike, baking with great-grandma, or getting in your first car accident. Stories can be sad - losing a friend, moving, a loved one dying.

These stories make us who we are. These stories have opened our eyes to who God is, and sometimes OUR stories can be a blessing to someone else who needs to understand there's someone else who has felt that too. God has been present throughout history, revealing God's self to people - people like the Disciples, people like Elijah and Isaiah, people like Esther and Ruth...people like you and me. I look forward to storytelling times in June...what's your story?

Pastor Carol

WORSHIP

ALL WORSHIP AVAILABLE VIA YOUTUBE AND LIVESTREAM

- June 5** **Pick up our have your communion elements delivered**
- June 7** **Online Worship Experience**
Communion Sunday
Stories of our Faith...Stories of our Lives-
Lost Things
Luke 15:4-32
- June 14** **Online Worship Experience**
Celebrating Leadership
Stories of our Faith...Stories of our Lives-
Leaders
Luke 18:9-14
- June 21** **Online Worship Experience**
Father's Day
Stories of our Faith...Stories of our Lives-
Baking Lessons
Matthew 13:33
- June 28** **Online Worship Experience**
Stories of our Faith...Stories of our Lives-
Get What You Get
Matthew 20:1-16

YOUTUBE CHANNEL:

www.youtube.com/c/ParkRidgeCommunityChurchPRCC

STORIES OF FAITH SERMON SERIES

This Sermon series will utilize the scholarship of Amy-Jill Levine and her book *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*. If you would like to read

along - you can buy a copy from
Cokesbury <https://www.cokesbury.com/Short-Stories-by-Jesus-1?refq=short%20stories%20by%20jesus> or
Amazon https://smile.amazon.com/Short-Stories-Jesus-Enigmatic-Controversial-ebook/dp/B00DB32QQY/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3J0AN51L8LKLD&dc_hild=1&keywords=short+stories+by+jesus+by+amy-jill+levine&qid=1590099927&sprefix=short+stories+by+%2Caps%2C225&sr=8-1

LOOKING AHEAD:

Looking Ahead: In July, our worship will focus on Everyday Heroes - in Scripture and the World. If you have a story of a hero in your life, please write it out, send it (and a photo) in to PastorCarol@parkridgecommunitychurch.org. We'd love to include stories of some of our heroes in July's CC News.

HOLY COMMUNION ELEMENTS JUNE 7th

On Sunday, June 7th, we will partake in Holy Communion during our Online Worship Experience. We would like to once again provide these elements to you prior to Sunday Worship. Please contact the Church Office to let us know your preference of pick up or delivery OR fill out the Google Form - <https://forms.gle/T7eNaQETsaz2THYw5>.

OUTDOOR OFFICE - Joy in June!

Come and meet with Pastor Carol outside PRCC. Pastor Carol will set up an outdoor "office" on Mondays and Wednesdays (weather permitting) from 10 am - 1 pm. There will be a chair that gets wiped down after "visits". All are welcome to come and pray, chat, catch up, or just say hello. Please wear your mask as we continue to keep each other safe!

Outdoor Office Joy in June (10 am - 1 pm)

June 1 and 3

June 8 and 10

June 15 and 17

June 22 and 24

If you would prefer or need, Pastor Carol can come to you! She will stand outside your house with a mask at an appropriate distance, and you can catch up that way. Call or email to schedule a time and day that works for you!

SEND IN YOUR STORIES!

We would like to give everyone practice telling and listening to one another's stories. EVERYONE is invited to participate - children, adults, youth, men, women, come one and all! You can video your story or write it out. It can be as brief as 5-7 sentences or as long as 5-7 minutes. You can choose if you'd like your story to be read with an anonymous author or attributed to you. Here are a few prompts - respond to one or all:

Week of May 31:

- Describe a time when you lost something and found it. What did that feel like?
- Describe a time when you lost something and never found it.
- Tell of a time when you were lost.

Week of June 7:

- Describe when you experienced good leadership - what did that look/feel like?
- Describe when you experienced poor leadership - what did that look/feel like?
- Have you been given a position of leadership when it seemed like a good fit? A bad fit? Why?

Week of June 14:

- When/ How did you learn to bake or cook?
- Tell about a time when you experienced a baking mishap.
- What is the funniest thing to ever happen in the kitchen?

Week of June 21:

- Tell about a time when you got exactly what you deserved?
- Tell about a time when you did NOT get what you deserved?
- When have you forgiven someone for something big?

Other questions:

- What is your happy place and why?
- Tell about your most embarrassing moment.
- Have you ever seen a ghost?
- Who is the most influential person in your life who was not related to you by blood?
- When was the last time you laughed until your belly hurt/you cried?
- How did you know you were in love?
- When did you experience God moving in your life?

How to Write a Short Story in 5 Steps by Neil

Gaiman <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-write-a-great-short-story-writing-tips-and-exercises-for-story-ideas#how-to-write-a-short-story-in-5-steps>

Follow this step-by-step guide to writing a great short story.

- Pick the mood you want to evoke. This is the feeling or emotion you want to give to your readers, and what all the elements in your short story will work together to achieve. What kind of story do you want to tell—and why?
- Start with a strong opening. Because of the restrictions of the short story format, you won't have a lot of room for exposition. To get around this, consider starting your story in medias res—a writerly practice that means opening in the middle of the action and filling in details later. This takes you straight to your important scene.
- Build your story, remembering that you only have a certain number of words. Don't waste time and space. Everything in the short story needs to be vital. Read and re-read every sentence and ask yourself: does it really need to be there? Does it serve the higher purpose of illuminating your story's mood? As Edgar Allan Poe once said: "A short story must have a single mood and every sentence must build toward it."
- Land the ending. Everything has been building up to this key moment. When writing the ending of your short story, focus on the mood you're trying to create and ask yourself: what would be the most satisfying way for the ending to capture this mood? Remember, a short story is still a story, which means the plot has to make sense, and nothing should be too obvious. Does the ending follow naturally from where the story began? Does it make sense?
- Edit, edit, edit. Spend some time away from your story and go back later with a pair of fresh eyes. Once again, keep in mind the key mood you're trying to express. Read your short story back at least three times, paying attention to how plot, characters, dialogue, scenes and settings all work together toward one common goal. Note any inconsistencies and fix them—or get rid of them. Strike anything which feels superfluous or slows down the pace.



DIVINE DESIGN: Renewing God's House

Windows, Painting, and Drainage - OH MY!

A Trustee Update by Bill Williams

While our building has not been filled on Sundays, there has still been much activity taking place on the outside and inside of our building. Here are a few important updates on what's been going on.

INSIDE

Our Trustees and Parish Coordinator, Jaclyn, have been working with our Janitorial staff to ensure the thorough cleaning of the entire facility. The kitchen and auxiliary kitchen have been deep-cleaned, including the removal of all pots, dishes, and utensils for every surface to be sanitized. The pews have each had all items removed and have been individually dusted and sanitized. While only a few persons are inside the building at any given time, all the light switches, doorknobs, and bathrooms are getting frequent cleanings as well, to prevent the spread of germs.

We have worked with Dan Smith and others to problem solve some leaks on the Western wall in the hallway. Al Knoblauch and Bill Williams have been systematically turning off boilers to discover which section of pipes could be leaking, requiring frequent refilling of the water that heats the building. This is an ongoing challenge that has not been yet resolved.

DRAINAGE

Recent floods have resulted in water in the nursery, but it has not been an issue in Jordan Hall or other parts of the church. We believe we have discovered the reason for the nursery water issues, and we have contracted with Mid-City to do some drainage work in late May, which we hope will permanently resolve this problem. In the meantime, we have continued to monitor and clean up any water that has come into the nursery.

PAINTING

The exterior of the building was in sore need of repainting. The doorways, eaves, steeple, pillars and trim were all badly peeling. As of the end of May, all of the exterior will have been repainted, with the exception of the windows that are being replaced. We are grateful for the work of Piatek, Inc. for doing such a good job painting our church, protecting the wood exteriors and preventing future damage.

WINDOWS

Many thanks to Tom Klimmeck for coordinating our window project "Phase 6." In this Phase, which is scheduled to begin installation May 25, thirty-three windows will be replaced, including the large 8 Sanctuary windows, windows in Ellinger Transept and Crego Chapel, and some additional windows around the building. Marvin has produced our window order using Aqua-lite, dual paned, Low E3 coated, insulated glass. These windows will be installed by Revisions, which is the company that replaced the windows in the Great Hall. Donations have been coming in, and we are grateful! We still need your support to meet our goal of \$167K. Here's how you can donate:

- Mail a check to the church with memo: Window Donation
- Use Zelle app to electronically transfer an amount with note: Window Donation
- Donate through PayPal with a credit card or PayPal account with note: Window Donation

If you are interested in sponsoring one of the 5 remaining Sanctuary windows, the cost is \$12,500. If you are interested in sponsoring a one of the remaining 2 Chapel windows or 3 Ellinger Transept windows, the cost is \$2,400. You don't have to sponsor an entire window to participate - all contributions are welcome and will be commemorated on a final listing of all persons and families who helped with this project.

If you prefer to have your donation kept anonymous, please mail a check with attn. Receipts Treasurer, Mark Holihan, who will record your donation and only alert the Trustees of the amount received, not the name of the giver. If you do not specify your preference to be kept anonymous, your name will be shared on the final listing of everyone who participated. (PayPal and Zelle donations can be kept confidential, but do not offer the same level of anonymity as a check).

Our Goal is to have everyone in the church take part in this project with some contribution, no matter the size! These new windows should serve this congregation for the next 100 years. When our children and grandchildren ask what we did in 2020 in the middle of the pandemic, we will be able to say - well, one thing we did was help replace all the windows in our church sanctuary! Thank you for taking part in this endeavor - it takes all of us working together to accomplish something so grand, and we are thankful!

If you have questions about the windows themselves, about ways to contribute, or timing - please contact Tom Klimmeck at ktklimmeck@gmail.com.



OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

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

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

We also keep in our prayers the following May requests:

Life in the Resurrection

- Candace asks for prayers for a friend Meredith, whose husband Rich entered Life in the Resurrection, leaving his wife and high school son and daughter. We pray for this family as they grieve.
- We have been praying for friends of Tricia's, and Baby Leo who entered Life in the Resurrection. Our prayers are with Bekah and Derek and all who loved and grieve the loss of this child.
- John asks for prayers for his friend recently came home to find his young adult son deceased and is trying to relocate aging parents with medical concerns.
- Please continue to pray for the family and friends of Judy Pirok who entered Life in the Resurrection on 4/29.
- Please continue to pray for the family and friends of Pauline Numrych who entered Life in the Resurrection on 4/30.
- Prayers for Anita Rifkind whose mother entered Life in the Resurrection on 4/24.
- Prayers for Maris, Madden, and Macy on the death of their grandmother after a year filled with grief.
- Prayers for Fred, whose mother Mary entered Life in the resurrection on May 13th.

Healing and Recovery

- We pray for friends of Jaclyn, Dena and Jake as they face some challenges.
- We pray for all those who are sick with Covid: including Jackie's friend Janine; Teri's cousin Debbie, some members of our congregation, some family members, some friends, and many strangers. And we pray for those caring for the sick.
- Prayers for Rita, whose husband Jerry is in the hospital with heart issues and pneumonia.
- Prayers for Elaine's cousin Joe experiencing complications from heart surgery.
- Prayers for those living and working at The Summit.
- We keep Katie's sister Rose in our prayers as she faces chronic health issues.
- Please continue to pray for Dick's niece Amy suffering from Covid.
- Pastor Carol's cousin Kelsey in very serious auto accident, on life support.
- A member of the congregation had a procedure Monday to receive a pace maker, please pray for continued healing and recovery.
- Pray for Kathy's niece Kiera in Seattle recently diagnosed with juvenile diabetes.
- Pray for Winnie's cousin Harry, recently diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Pray for Pastor Carol's grandpa Alex who had a heart procedure.
- Pray for Pastor Carol's grandparents who have covid-19.
- Pray for Kim's hip, which has been bothering her.
- Pray for Judy Hedberg, who fell and is recovering from hip surgery.
- Pray for Marty McHugh, who suffered a stroke on 5/13 and is in rehab .
- Pray for Judy Artrip, who had spinal surgery on 5/20 and is healing.
- Pray for Jennifer Gudmusson's 99 year old grandmother Ruth, recently moved into hospice care.
- Pray for Laura's sister in law Susan who had recent surgery .
- Pray for Sue Cocagne's mother Gloria, facing some health challenges.
- Pray for Fred Siebert's mother Betty, who had a procedure recently.

Birthdays/Anniversaries/Retirement

- We pray for Kim, whose mom's birthday was last month and she's been sad to not be together.
- We celebrate these May birthdays: Dave Swanson, Nancy Lynch, Mary McHugh, Carol Longman, Kate Joyce, Mark Holihan, Zaryn Alice Gaby, Reese McGuffey, John Weber, Bill Williams, Judy Artrip, Layla Chacko, Sarah McCarty, Theresa Egan, Sarah Young, Henry

Born, Chris Pomeroy, Andi Taglia, Maris and Madden Muellner, Rose, and Katie Reboletti.

- Happy Birthday to Charlie's brother Johnny.
- We celebrate the anniversaries of Andi and Carmen Taglia and Hunter and Krissie Geye!
- We celebrate the retirement of Dave Swanson on May 1.

Joys

- We celebrate all the ways church continues including our new Bible Study & the involvement of some folks who couldn't participate but now can.
- We also celebrate all the work on the Nominations Committee and the preparations that have been made for our Annual Meeting.
- It is a joy to hear that Charlie got a good health report and got set up to join the virtual groups at church.
- Mark celebrates that his friend Kerri is finally recovering from Covid.
- Siri is a joy as she delivers cookies bringing joy and love.
- Jenny shares joy through her Hope Project, sharing pictures and words of HOPE.
- On behalf of the ministers and all our staff - know that we feel it is a joy to be a part of this community of faith. We are so blessed by you and serving in ministry along with YOU is a gift.
- We have a very exciting joy to share the Sue and Dave's daughter Martha, who lives in Houston with her family, welcomed their son Micah David into the world on April 20.
- We celebrate that Bill has returned home from the hospital.
- Thank you to all of those that helped us to assemble soap sacks for the Bridge Project.
- Thank you to ALL of the PRCC leaders and volunteers who have jumped right in to help us continue our ministries.
- It's a great joy for Ginny to be finished with radiation treatments.
- Dorothy's grandson Ryan is beginning his residency in Pittsburgh; congratulations Dr. Ryan Hill!
- A joy to begin the Window project and exterior painting to the church.
- We Celebrate with Josh and Kenna Sissman as they buy their first home.
- We celebrate that Jerry is healing and that granddaughter Elyse received her master's degree.
- We Celebrate all our graduates and confirmation students

Global

- We pray for our entire global community and leadership as they seek to find ways to work together to fight this pandemic.
- We pray for those who are hungry, those without jobs, those who are struggling with teaching children and working from home, those who are homeless, those in senior living, those who are alone - all who feel helpless and at a loss.

CONNECTIONS AND CARE

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



STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

A friend posted this recently on Facebook – “They will know we are Christians by our face masks.” Of course, this post was a send-off of the actual hymn we sang a couple of Sundays ago. “They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love!” It’s a simple hymn, with a very complex message.

It wasn’t so very long ago at PRCC that women were not included on usher teams; the man who had been the Usher Chairman for literally decades refused to allow it. People knew it was wrong, but most dismissed it as meaningless. (Their very fox and grapes-equus justification usually ended with, “Why would a woman want to be an usher anyway?”)

I wasn’t the first woman to be the Vice-Chairman of the Congregation; however, I was the first Boomer woman to be Vice-Chairman. This blatant remnant of misogyny grated at me, and a few others. So, when it came time for me to take over as Chairman and fill Board positions, I went to the Head Usher and said, “You hold an appointed position. I am theologically as well as politically opposed to having only men as ushers. Although I understand you have been Head Usher a long time, I can only reappoint you if you agree to allow women on the teams.” He agreed to my terms. I should have been suspicious.

In the way of things, church operations were all consuming, I had a young family, a demanding job, and held a local political office. To say I was busy is an understatement. So, I didn’t notice whether there had been any usher vacancies, or how they had been filled. Further, I assumed the man would be as good as his word.

The year swiftly rolled around, and there still weren’t any female ushers when it came time to reconstitute the Board of Directors. I checked around a bit, and discovered that although a few men had retired from the teams, they hadn’t been replaced. I stopped the Head Usher after church and asked, “Will you be filling the vacancies with women?” He said, “There aren’t any who want the job.” I told him I’d find some, and if he didn’t appoint them, I’d have to find another person to fill his position. He scowled and walked away.

His wife called me. (Yes, I was appalled.) She begged me to reconsider. “He isn’t against women; some of his best friends are women.” And she proceeded to give me several good excuses for his behavior. My favorite was that he just didn’t think women would maintain proper decorum. (I assume some of you are laughing at that – especially ushers.) “What?” I said. She explained that her husband thought it inappropriate for women to wear anything but dresses – especially in church. Being part of the pantsuit generation, I was unmoved. Then she ended with a plea for me to understand that heading the ushers was a job he valued, one that earned him the respect he needed, and allowed him to serve the church he loved.

And with those few words, in the last 15 seconds of a 20-minute phone call, I was thrown into days and weeks of spiritual angst. What does it mean to love someone who shares your faith and your church but whose opinions you find abhorrent? HOW do you love someone whose actions you find duplicitous? What do you say in love to someone who has disappointed you? What do you DO?

I have no idea what you would choose to do. Nor do I represent that what I did was the right choice. I talked to some compassionate men of his generation who knew him. I fretted, I prayed, I complained, and I forgave him. Ultimately, I told him I was reappointing him, and I also told him why.

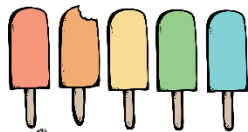
Jesus said, “As I have loved you...” We know how Jesus loves us: unstintingly; unendingly; with mercy, and forgiveness. Jesus’ compassion was not dependent on a “right” theology, or on belonging to the “right” political party. God doesn’t love any one of us more than any other, and God forgives us “seventy times seven” times. (Not a specific number, but one that is uncountable.)

With lots of women now serving as ushers, me among them, the whole issue seems an inexplicable relic of a by-gone era. Nevertheless, the spiritual dilemma of loving each other is with us still – is likely to be with us always. Can we love people who support a political leader we detest? How do we love people who are willing to risk our health for their own agenda or economic profits? What issues have confronted you that have left you wondering what a loving Christian response is? What has a fellow Christian, or a loved one said or done that has left you wondering how to continue on? What do you do?

A Stephen Minister won’t have an easy answer to those questions, but will be with you as sort out what the right decisions might be for you. A Stephen Minister won’t care what your theology is or what your politics are; each of us tries as hard as we can to love you as we are loved. So, whether you need help with these issues – or consolation in these days of grief and loss, Pastor Carol (847-823-3164) or Ginny Feurer (847-840-7082) can give you more information on how we can be with you.

- Anita Rifkind

BOARD NEWS



By Laura Sissman and Thom Goodwin

We celebrate a successful Annual Meeting on May 3, 2020. With minor edits to the minutes, the Annual Report was prepared and approved, as was the slate of leaders proposed by the Nominations Committee. Eric Johnson gave a Finance Update. Bill Williams gave a Trustees Update, and Laura Sissman delivered her final Chair of the Congregation Report. We had around 100 members on the Google hangout, both using video and phone call to participate. We received 13 paper ballots in the church office and 104 online responses. We are so pleased and impressed that this congregation was able to navigate holding business in this new format with so few hiccups! Thank you for your patience as we were muting and unmuting, receiving reports, and celebrating another year of vibrant ministry! This is a remarkable congregation, and we are so blessed!

We celebrate that Kendall Battaglia, graduating Senior from Maine South High School, received the Eric Nelson scholarship. Kendall has been involved teaching Sunday school, participating in youth group, joining in the work of the Associate Search Committee, helping with the Junior Choir, and singing in the Angeli Choir. She has blessed our church and will go on to bless the world with her gifts and kind heart! Our prayers and congratulations go with her!

We celebrate that Marty McHugh was the recipient of this year's Second Mile Award. Marty is a deacon; an usher; a kitchen helper for Pancake Breakfast, Pasta Divine and Jazz in January; a recruit for sponsors for the Pumpkin Patch; volunteer with the Crop Walk; a one-person marketing machine; and our webmaster, creating content and ways of outreach through our online participation. Marty has been integral in making our transition to online worship so smooth! We celebrate these and many more ways Marty has blessed our church, going above and beyond! Marty, you have our deepest gratitude and admiration for all you do and who you are!

June is our time of transition when new leadership takes on their new roles and those who are completing their terms of service step down. On Sunday, June 14, we will celebrate and bless both the outgoing and incoming leaders. The time, energy, thoughts, prayers, and attention to detail that each of these servant leaders has given can never truly be counted...but know we are celebrating and giving thanks for all you have done for our church family!

Our thanks for those who have concluded their term of service:

Laura Sissman, Chair of the Congregation
Lonn Naudzius, Clerk

Dave Swanson, Contingency Fund Manager
Beth Parsch, Co-Chair of Senior Contact
Charlie Giera, Deacon
Gretchen Kapolnek, Deacon
Dan Smith, Deacon
Reggie Pantazi, Trustee
Mary Biardo, Trustee
Scott Collins, Trustee
Paul Rauch, Usher
Fred Flener, Usher

Our blessing and gratitude for those assuming new roles:

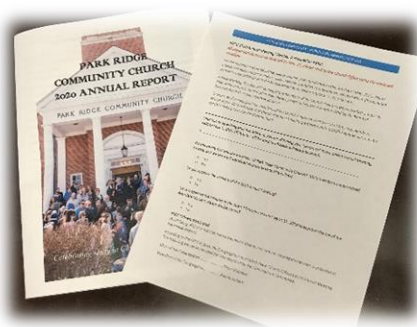
Thom Goodwin, Chair of the Congregation
Naomi Siebert, Vice-Chair of the Congregation
Kate Joyce, Clerk
Tim Mauery, Contingency Fund Manager
Michael Proue, Co-Chair of Senior Contact
Sally Mauery, Deacon
Mike Laginess, Deacon
Laurie Runtz, Deacon
Eileen Riley, Fellowship Committee Member
John Sasser, Staff Parish Relations Committee Chairperson
Paula Mack, Trustee
Bruce Webster, Trustee
Lonn Naudzius, Trustee,
Tricia Williams, Creation Care Team Chairperson
Kati Weber, Usher
Lisa Irwin, Senior Contact Committee Member

Change is always difficult, especially in precarious moments, but we give thanks for the leadership and new insights that will inevitably be shared as new persons contribute in new committees. Many thanks for all that has been and all that will be! **Join us on Sunday, June 14 at 11:30 am, as we raise a glass to those who are concluding a role. We will "meet" via Google Hangouts - meet.google.com/qru-zeex-ufh.**

Our next Board meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, June 9, as we transition from former members to new members. We will celebrate this transition and anticipate all that is to come!

ANNUAL REPORT


The full report is available on our website as well as a video of the online meeting.



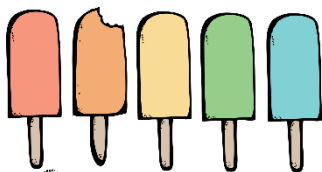
PHASED REOPENING

The Leadership of PRCC is striving to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic with care and concern for our congregation. Keeping our congregation connected, engaged, having spiritual needs tended to, while also keeping everyone safe, has been the highest priority. Our staff have worked tirelessly to create online worship experiences so that even while we are apart, we can worship together. We are eager to resume gathering in person, but we are not willing to risk making one another sick. We have created the following plan to help everyone understand what to expect as our State moves along through the phases outlined by Governor Pritzker. As difficult as it is to imagine, our worship services will continue to be impacted until such time as the virus is eliminated or there is a readily available vaccine. We have studied guidance from other church bodies, other local churches, and lessons from around the country. Evidence has shown that churches can be particularly dangerous places to gather because of the large groups (50% of cases of Covid-19 are transmitted from someone who is asymptomatic) and the activity of singing, which distributes the virus very effectively over a large area.

When we ARE able to gather, we will ask that everyone wear a mask, everyone sanitize their hands, only a couple people sing into a microphone, only the prescribed number of persons attend any service (and we will offer additional service times to keep groups small) and that we maintain social distance while we are together. We will not be having coffee hour or having Sunday School or nursery care because of the risks these activities pose. There will be time when we can safely gather and embrace, pass the peace, and sing to our heart's content...but it will likely be a while. Can you be patient? Will you continue to send in your offerings so we can keep ministry going? We need everyone's support. We need everyone's commitment. We want to keep our pastors, our staff, and our congregation safe and healthy and we appreciate your ongoing commitment in this endeavor! Here's our plan:

<div>  <h2>Park Ridge Community Church</h2> <h3>Phased Reopening Plan</h3> </div>					
	PHASE 1 RAPID SPREAD Strict stay at home and social distance guidelines; only essential businesses are open	PHASE 2 FLATTENING Slowing of new case growth; testing capacity increasing	PHASE 3 RECOVERY 4 weeks no increase in hospital admissions with Covid Cases, widespread testing, gatherings <10	PHASE 4 REVITALIZATION Continued declining Covid Cases, gatherings <50; outdoor recreation allowed	PHASE 5 ILL RESTORED Vaccine developed and available; gatherings of 50+ allowed
Recommendations for High Risk Persons	Stay Home, Stay Healthy.	Stay Home, Stay Healthy.	Stay Home, Stay Healthy.	Stay Home, Stay Healthy.	Resume public interactions with good hygiene practices.
Sanctuary Worship	ONLINE ONLY	ONLINE ONLY	ONLINE ONLY	Online offered. Pre-registration for worship services, all wear masks, no more than 50 people including leaders, no singing, no shared items (offering plates, hymnals); thorough cleaning between services	Online offered. Worship services resume with typical routines. Singing, offering plates, passing the peace, Children's Message included in worship
Outdoor Worship	NONE	NONE	NONE	Grid yard, allowing maximum distance, all wear masks, no singing, no shared items	Resume typical outdoor worship setup and seating
Weddings/Funerals	NONE	Discouraged; Online gathering; in person group <10 with masks & social distance	Online gathering; in person group <10 with masks & social distance	In person group <50 with masks & social distance	Resume typical wedding/funeral gatherings
Nursery/Sunday School	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	Resume typical schedule
Coffee Hour	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	Resume typical schedule
Medical Lending Closet	CLOSED	CLOSED	by Appointment only	Social Distance measures observed	Resume typical schedule
Groups/Teams/Meeting	ONLINE ONLY	ONLINE ONLY	In-person gathering <10 possible with social distancing, virtual gatherings preferred	Gatherings allowed, observing social distance, <50 persons.	Gatherings allowed, physical and virtual
Office	Closed. Staff work remotely.	Closed. Staff allowed to work alone in their office one day per week, but not required. Virtual Staff Meetings.	Closed. Staff able to work from home or office. Virtual Staff Meetings.	Closed. Available for Scheduled Appointments only. Staff able to work from home or office. Virtual Staff Meetings	Open. Staff expected to work in the building. Staff meetings in person, with virtual options available.

JUNE NEWS



EMERGENCY SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

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



KINDRED SPIRITS CAFÉ

Kindred Spirits Café is just one of the ways the long-term members of our congregation connect with each other. And how we love being connected! During this time of social distancing the connections are different but we still find ways to connect. We continue to reach out to each other in calls, notes and emails as well as safe celebrations of milestones such as Rose's 91st birthday. Annette reports that those who attend Tuesday Bible Study wanted to do something special for Rose so plans were made for a Car Parade past her house on the big day. Her daughter said she would have Rose sitting out front so when 2 Park Ridge police cars and 11 other cars drove by, she would see them. There were balloons and posters on the cars and the police had a lovely "Birthday" sign they put in front of Rose's house. The cars circled back, everyone parked, got out of the cars (all wore masks of course) and sang Happy Birthday to Rose. She was so surprised and so happy! At Kindred Spirits Café, we celebrate all the birthdays of that month on the first Tuesday with cupcakes and singing to each of our birthday people. We look forward to those in person celebrations when we can get back together again!

Happy Birthday to all our Kindred Spirits friends including Rose 5/14, Dolores 6/7, Jane 6/22, Herb 6/23, Nancy Ady 6/26 and Pastor Carol 6/29. Enjoy an extra piece of cake this year!!



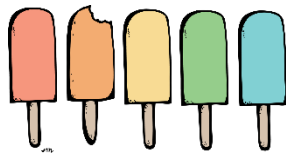
KNITTING KNIGHTS

The Knitting Knights are continuing to craft while we keep separate and safe. We met virtually in May and will continue to connect virtually to share what we are working on. The soap sacks were such a big hit, we will continue to make those.

If you sew and can make fabric face masks at home or share this request with others who sew, that would be great. If you crochet and would like a simple pattern of a face mask back strap, just let Liz Swanson know. Those that wear face masks all day, really appreciate these ear savers!

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





JUNE NEWS

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome New Members!

Kim Dohnke



Mike and Stephanie Laginess, and their children: Emily, Noah, and Nicholas.



When we gather in person, we will celebrate the membership of Kim, Mike, and Stephanie, but we didn't want to wait another day to officially welcome them as members. Please take some time to reach out and welcome and get to know each of these wonderful people as the newest members of PRCC!

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

sara.born@hotmail.com

suedouglass@hotmail.com

PRCC DIRECTORY

Instant Church Directory offers names, photos, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses! If you haven't accessed Instant Church Directory before, contact Jaclyn at office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

There are many people who volunteer their time to our church and we are so grateful for each and every one of them. Our Volunteer Spotlight is a way of saying thank you to them and also letting members and newcomers know what our "generous stewards of God's gifts" are doing here at PRCC. *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* Peter 4:10

This month we recognize Mark Holihan in the Volunteer Spotlight.

Mark Holihan has been a PRCC member for quite some time.

You probably recognize him for the gift of music that he shares with us, sometimes on Sundays playing guitar at the 10 AM service, but also at fundraising events for PRCC outside of church when he plays with the "Wall of Sound" PRCC musicians.

What you might not know about Mark is that he has been a member of the PRCC Board of Directors since 2016 when he agreed to serve as Receipts Treasure and took over from Bill Scharringhausen. And those were some mighty big shoes to fill since Bill had been serving in that role for 19 years! As Receipts Treasurer, Mark serves on the Finance Team and is responsible for tracking any and all donations that you, our members, make to PRCC. Mark counts the money from the Sunday collection and gets it ready to be deposited at the bank and he sends out quarterly statements to members.

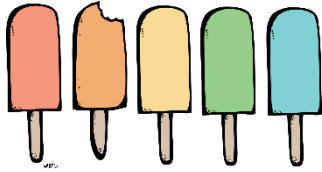
In the most recent past, Mark has served on the Interim Pastor Search Committee providing input and guidance while we were searching for someone to fill the need when our Senior Minister retired. His deep faith and thoughtfulness was helpful in pointing our congregation in the right direction.

In addition to sharing his musical talents, Mark shares his professional expertise by serving as the insurance agent for PRCC. And his business is always one that supports events at church financially, whether that is the Pumpkin Patch, Jazz in January, Crop Walk, golf outings or any other event that is looking for support from local businesses.

We appreciate the time and talent that Mark shares to enrich our congregation.



JUNE NEWS



FEELING GRATEFUL THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

Pastor Carol preached on Sunday about how essential God's love is in our lives. I have been thinking since the pandemic hit all of us about how many people at PRCC have reached out in love to our parishioners who are in isolation. Many of us are in retirement



communities, and we are in isolation. I have witnessed and heard about the wonderful things that our church members are doing to help out. I have had young families stop by with banners, and then they sing to those of us who are downstairs. I have seen older people (not as old as me) who stop by to make faces and make me laugh. Others bring homemade soup, cookies, cake, bread. Others shop for groceries and drop off the bags, and the list goes on. I have heard of many young families who are grocery shopping for their parents so the parents can stay home and be safe. Those of you who are doing these things make many people happy, and grateful, just knowing that people care.

God is working through many people, teaching us how to love others. Since I am in isolation, I can't do most of what all of you are doing. But I can pay that love forward to others who are living alone and have no one to talk with. I can give them a call just to check up on them and give them a chance to talk with someone. That is a simple gesture, but it can really perk someone up and make them feel that someone cares.

Yes, God's love is key, and God is teaching us how to reach out to others. Many have found that gift of love, and I think it will last, way beyond the pandemic. Reaching out to others in love not only makes someone else feel good because of our gestures, it also makes us feel good. And we are using that gift every day. Thank you, God, for teaching us in new ways I have always said that our PRCC family is the best. I say it again.

Thank you, PRCC members. I love you all
Ginny Feurer

FACE MASKS

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

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study on Wednesdays with Pastor Carol will be on hiatus over the summer, we will resume in September.

STAYING CONNECTED – GOOGLE HANGUTS

Our Connect with PRCC Google Hangouts on Tuesday and Thursday will move to once a week on Wednesday at noon. We will still follow the scriptures of the upcoming Sunday. Please reach out to Pastor Mollie with any questions.

FLAT JESUS

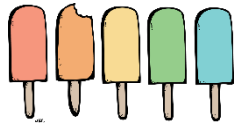
You may remember Pastor Mollie had a visit from Jesus in a recent Children's Message. As you conquer this new normal, bring Jesus along with you and snap a picture! We would love to see you doing an activity or playing outside, or enjoying a nice meal, with Jesus included. Just print him out and snap a picture; send pictures to the Church Office and we will share them on our PRCC Congregation Facebook Page!



JOIN IN ON WORSHIP!

Want to be included on the worship video for PRCC next Sunday? Well, simply use your phone - turn it sideways and film a short video clip. Join in saying "May the peace of Christ be with you" or "And Also with you" or "Welcome to Park Ridge Community Church" or "Thank you for supporting PRCC!"...then send in those video clips...you can text it to Pastor Carol or email them in! If you are interested in special music or being a liturgist - email Sasha! *if you send in your video, you are implying consent for us to use it in our broadcast, which will be public*

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



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

GRADUATION BLESSINGS

We in Sunday school offer special graduation blessings to two of our Sunday school teachers: the unbeatable team of kindergarten teachers and Maine South graduates, Bela Brown and Kendall Battaglia! We hope their experiences at PRCC have helped them develop their dreams, and we promise to prayerfully support them as they pursue those dreams in the coming years. Congratulations to them both!



SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTREACH PROJECTS – Cards for Outreach

Sunday school students made cards or drawings for Center of Concern care receivers. Their creations were sent to the homes of recipients by the PRCC Outreach team. Thank you!



AT HOME VBS

Plans are in the works for a different kind of VBS, which will keep us all safe while we enjoy lessons and activities. Stay tuned!

SHARE THE JOYS YOU CAN FIND

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

THANK YOU, Sunday School Teachers & Support Staff

We are so thankful for the many contributions of this year's Sunday school teachers and assistants, music leaders, and nursery staff! We had more children than ever in our program this year, and you all made each child feel welcome and inspired. Thank you to nursery staffers Vicki, Kyrie and sub Stefinie; music leaders Andrew and Angie; teachers Sheila, Magda, Bela, Kendall, Justin, Nikki, Julie, Candace, Andrea, Natalie, Nicole, Susie, Chris & Rick. Looking forward to working with many of you again next year!



PRCC Youth News

WEEKLY GOOGLE HANGOUTS

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

During the May 31st worship service we recognized all graduates of 2020! Again, we would like to congratulate you on all of your accomplishments and our prayers go with you as you step into the next adventure of your life! PRCC is proud of you!

LUNCH ON THE LAWN

Youth can sign up for Lunch on the Lawn this summer with Pastor Mollie on Tuesdays at noon for the months of June and July! Up to five youth can come with their own lunch and blanket and enjoy lunch together while being spatially and safely distanced. Contact Pastor Mollie for more information.

CONFIRMATION

We wrapped up this year's Confirmation Class on Wednesday, May 27th. It has been a remarkable year with the 15 students and adult mentors! When we are safely able to gather together, we will confirm the following five students: Clark, Johnathan, Lydia, Sam, and Seamus.

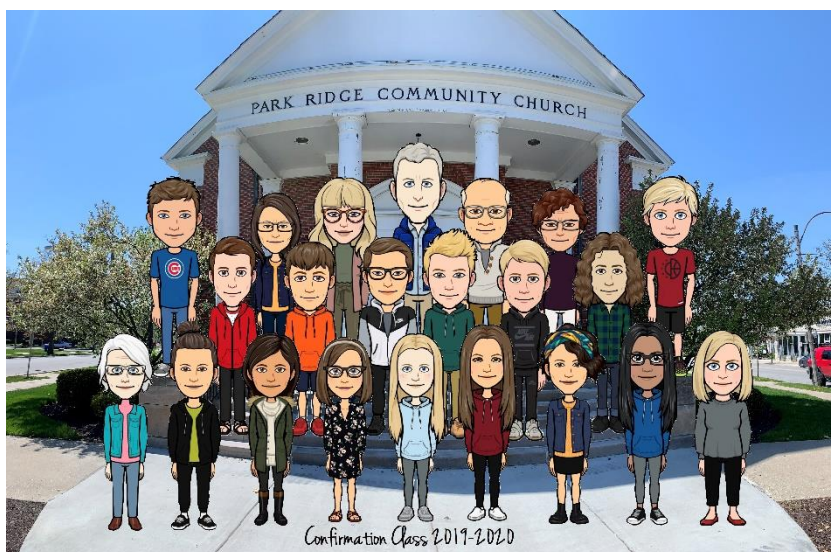
A special shout out to the mentors who walked alongside the students: Ann Swindell, Bob Mack, Jim Pantazi, Paula Mack, Sandy Bowen, and Siri Nelson.

Check out our "group" photo for 2019-2020

Front (left to right): Ann, Keira, Kenna, Aria, Sydney, Alena, Lydia, Katie, Pastor Mollie

Middle (left to right): Seamus, Eli, Eddy, Clark, Johnathan, Logan

Back (left to right): Sam, Siri, Paula, Bob, Jim, Sandy, Cooper





OUTREACH NEWS

MAINE TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY

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

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

Naomi and Fred Siebert
132 W. Kathleen, Des Plaines

Mary and Eric Johnson
1119 S. Home PR

Barbara and Bill Scharringhausen
19 N. Seminary PR

Paula and Bob Mack
740 Forestview PR

Cindy and Tom Klimmeck
316 N. Ashland PR

Laura and Tim Lapp
1 Glenlake PR

Robin and Ed Kopecky
1013 S. Prospect PR

Judy and Mike Artrip
715 Vine PR

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

- Macaroni & Cheese
- Cereal
- Juice, Juice Boxes, Kool Aid
- Canned Tuna, Chicken, or Salmon
- Plain Rice, Rice-A-Roni
- Canned Fruit, Apple Sauce
- Crackers
- Instant Potatoes, Canned White Potatoes
- Prepared Meals – Canned Pasta Meals, Boxed Meals
- Desserts – Cake, Cookie, & Brownie Mixes, Jell-O, Pudding, Cookies, Frosting
- Condiments – Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Mustard, Pickles
- Beverages – Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa
- Cooking Supplies – Flour, Sugar, Oil, Salt, Pepper
- Cleaning Products – Laundry Soap, Dish Soap
- Paper Products – Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Kleenex

- Peanut Butter, Jelly (18 oz. maximum size)
- Bisquick, Pancake Mix, Syrup
- Storage Products – Tin Foil, Plastic Wrap
- Personal Hygiene Products – Shampoo, Toothpaste, Bath Soap

SHOPPERS NEEDED

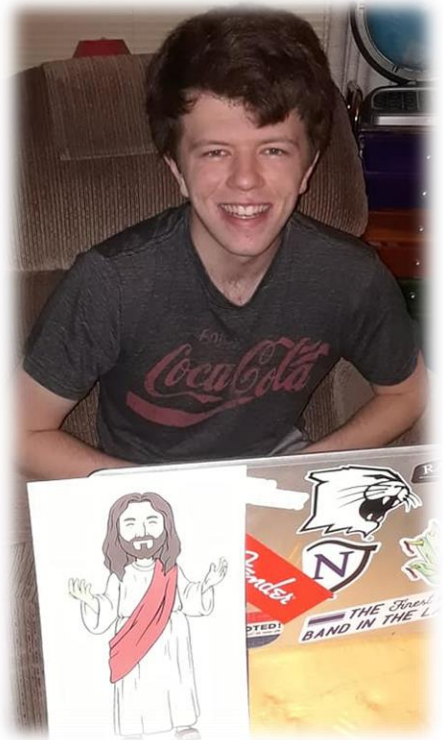
If you are interested in shopping for others, please let the Church Office know. We have two different options:

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



MAY SNAPSHOTS

FLAT JESUS



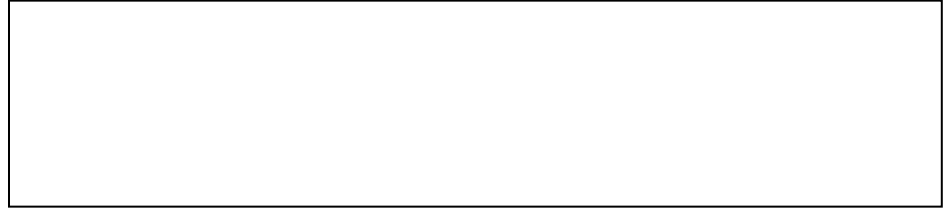




100 S. Courtland Ave
Park Ridge, IL 60068

**First-class
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Leave a lasting legacy at Park Ridge Community Church

All are invited to consider

~sponsoring a Sanctuary Window (\$12,500);

~sponsoring a Chapel Window (\$2,400);

~or giving what you can (Any Amount)

to support the overall effort to
renew God's House with new windows!

Ways to Give (please note: PRCC WINDOWS):

Mail a Check

Zelle/Paypal to giving@parkridgecommunitychurch.org



Contact Us:

847-823-3164

office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Like us on Facebook!

Our Staff:

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister

Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister

Teri Biedke, Director of Children's Ministries

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries

Shelley O'Brien, Director of Children's Ministries

Liz Swanson, Director of Pastoral Services

Jaclyn Weir, Parish Coordinator