

THE PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021



MORE THAN A MOVIE

By Dan Smith and Sarah McCarty

Happy July everyone! We are so glad to be getting back in gear with regular gatherings and opportunities for Fellowship and Fun! Over the summer, we are hosting three movie showings under the tent. Our first one was in June and was a wonderful success with kids and adults watching the movie *Luca*, eating popcorn, and having a good time together. (*Luca* will be one of the films featured in July's sermon series that Pastor Carol and Pastor Mollie are preaching on.) We will be showing *Aladdin* on Friday, July 23 and *E.T.* on August 20, both at 7:45 pm.

We know that you have probably seen these movies before. It may be that these are your favorite movies of all time, or you might prefer a different movie genre entirely. So why come to the church lawn to watch a movie? Well, it is about more than a movie. We have missed being together as a congregation. We have missed getting to check in about life and simply connect. Being able to relax on a Friday night and watch a movie together gives us an excuse to be together, to laugh, to embrace, and to bask in the warmth of friendship. Don't get us wrong, we hope you enjoy the movie...but it's about so much more!

Over the next several months, our Fellowship Committee (formerly known as the Social Committee) will provide a variety of opportunities to gather and connect. We hope that you will take advantage of as many as you possibly can! We look forward to laughing with you, catching up, and getting back into the rhythm of simply sharing in life - while watching a movie, competing in a cornhole/bags tournament on Rally Day, or even playing a round of golf! If you have additional ideas of fun ways to be together, we'd love to hear them, and if you want to join our team - the more the merrier! At PRCC, we learn, grow, serve and PLAY together, and we are so thankful to be able to safely play once more!

Here's our Contact Info - we can't wait to hear from you!
Sarah: sarah.p.mccarty@gmail.com, 312-505-1730 (mobile)
Dan: dan.r.smith.827@gmail.com, 847-707-4345 (mobile)



July 23: *Aladdin*



August 20: *E.T.*

JUST THE RIGHT VANTAGE POINT

By Rev. Carol Hill

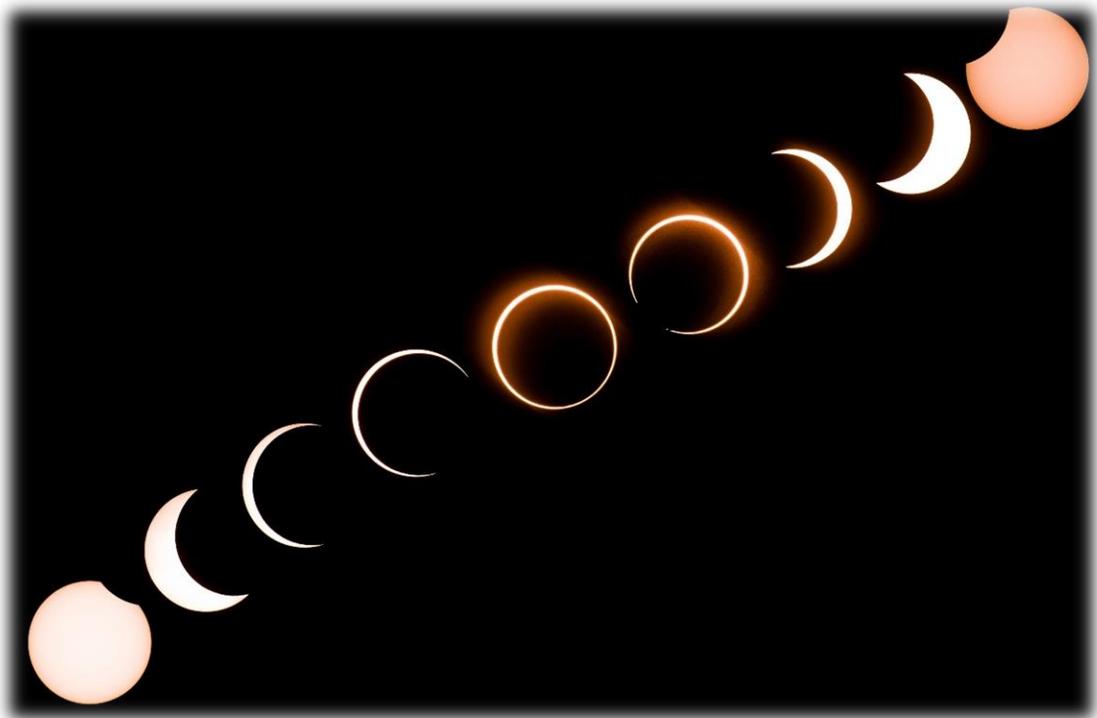
When is the last time you went outside to view an eclipse. I don't remember how old I was when we learned in school the important of using a series of papers with a hole in one in order to view the eclipse without blinding yourself. However, I can remember how cool it was when what came through the pinhole onto the paper was the clear silhouette of the sun being obscured by the moon as they crossed paths. In order to see and understand what was going on, we needed the papers to make it accessible in a way that wasn't blinding. Simple enough concept, right?

When Jesus was trying to point towards the Kingdom of God, he realized that his followers were going to need a device to help make the understanding more concrete, more accessible, and easier to grasp. So, he told them parables. He even explained that the parables were to help them perceive the magnitude of the truths he was teaching. (Read Matthew 13:10-17)

As we engage in the world, we have the opportunity to use everyday examples to make the tenets of our faith come to life as well. Sometimes hearing biblical truths with familiar metaphors enables deeper understanding. So - in July, we will draw some new metaphors, new on-ramps to uncovering spiritual ideals...those on-ramps? Disney movies!!

I was recently discussing with Chief Kaminski the magic of Disney (he vacations with his family regularly at Disney), and when we suspend our disbelief while we watch movies...the suspension of disbelief can feel a lot like faith. The quieting of the cynicism and listening to possibilities allows our minds to go new places...whole new worlds! In Peter Pan, the children learn that a little bit of faith, trust, and Pixie Dust can allow them to fly, and in the next few weeks, we will consider what Faith, Trust, and God's love can do to open our minds and hearts to understand what God is doing in our lives and in the world around us!

So, as we get back into the rhythms of learning about God and exploring what it means to put faith in action and become dedicated followers of Jesus...we are all invited to go to the movies and see what themes come up! You might be surprised! Pastor Mollie and I are eager to join you on this adventure of exploring our faith in new ways and having some fun along the way!



WORSHIP

ONLINE & IN-PERSON

www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE WILL REMAIN ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM UNDER THE TENT. In case of poor weather, the service will move into the sanctuary.

July 4 - *Mulan: Honor, Allegiance, and Identity*

Psalm 59:1-10; Luke 14:1, 7-14
Holy Communion

July 11 - *Luca: Losing Ourselves*

Psalm 26; Luke 15:11-32

July 18 - *Bambi: Caring for God's Gifts*

Psalm 8; Matthew 25:14-30
Baptism of Rose Catherine Marzullo

July 25 - *Aladdin: Status, Wealth, and the Kin-dom of God*

Psalm 14; Luke 16:19-31

WAYS TO WORSHIP

You are invited to worship with us online via our Livestream Service or in-person at 10 am. The Livestream service will be accessible on the church website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel for viewing live or anytime thereafter. Many thanks to everyone for participating in the worship survey. We discovered strong support for having one service for everyone to gather together outside.

COMMUNION

On Sunday, July 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 anticipate using the pre-packaged individual servings of communion for the foreseeable future.*



OFFICE HOURS AND BUILDING UPDATE:

We are continuing to strive to keep our congregation members and staff healthy. **Mask policy:** Masks are required for anyone unvaccinated that enters the building. **Building use:** If you need to come into the church building or would like to have a meeting, please contact Jaclyn at office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org and she will coordinate someone to meet you and maintain 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. **New Office Hours:** The Office will be open part time: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 am to 4 pm. **Tent use:** The tent is also opened for church group use, please reach out to Jaclyn to ensure it is not already in use by another event. **Jaclyn will be out of town July 2nd – 11th.**

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
- Give electronically through [PayPal on our website](#) (FYI: the church incurs a fee with each PayPal transaction)

PASTOR CAROL ON VACATION

Pastor Carol and her family will be taking their summer vacation to New Hampshire July 19 - August 1. Pastor Mollie will provide pastoral care and coverage during that time. While she is away, Pastor Carol will not be checking emails or phone messages in order to fully relax and allow her spirit time to rest. Thanks for all the ways our church supports the care for all of our staff as they experience time of work and time of rest! We hope each and every person finds time over the summer to allow God to replenish your soul!

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer is an act of faith and practice in trusting that God hears us. This month we discover God in unexpected places knowing that God is always available to us. In your personal prayer time, no matter when or where you are, please include the following celebrations and challenges.

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, 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 June requests:

Life in the Resurrection

- Prayers for strength and peace for Dan Pietroske and family as they grieve the unexpected loss of their son Shannon.
- We hold the Milburn family in our prayers, Sue Milburn, a member of PRCC from many years ago entered life in the resurrection on October 26, and her services will be held on Saturday, June 26 here at PRCC.
- Please hold the Hohmann family in your prayers, member Sheila Hohmann entered life in the resurrection in May, and services are being planned in Niles in August.
- Please hold the Dase family in your prayers, as Caroline entered life in the resurrection this past Monday. Our prayers surround Tom, Emma, and Eddy.

Healing and Recovery

- Please hold Kym Dohnke in your prayers as she continues to recover from almost being hit on her bike.
- Please hold Pastor Carol's Grandma Carolyn in your prayers as she recovers from a hospital stay.
- We received word that Sue Sandstrom was in Lutheran General this week.
- Mary Biardo asks for prayers for her friends Jim & Marty's 2 year old granddaughter diagnosed with an inoperable tumor on her brain stem.
- Continue to pray for little Henry who is home and in need of much medical attention. Also Erica C. as she has a pause in her cancer treatment while she gathers strength for the next round of chemo.
- Paula Mack asks us to continue to pray for her sister Laura as Lara struggles with ongoing health concerns.
- Dave and Sue Douglass's great niece Vivian was born yesterday, which was eight weeks early. We pray for baby

Vivian, who will be in the NICU for a bit and her mother Amber as they both recover and build their strength.

- Dave K is grateful for the prayers on behalf of his brother Tom who just finished his stem cell transplant and all went smoothly. Now we pray for good results from the transplant.
- We hold in our prayers those struggling with addictions, those in the first steps of treatment and those maintaining long term recovery as well as all those working in the addiction field.
- Prayers for Scott N, who tore his Achilles tendon and will have surgery upcoming with a time of healing and recovery.
- Elaine Z asks us to pray for her friend Krissy & family who are going through a number of stressful situations and especially for Krissy's nephew who recently suffered a gunshot wound to the head. Her nephew is recovering from surgery but the long-term effects are still uncertain.
- We pray for this family whom we know has suffered the tragic effects of gun violence and all those who have suffered from the trauma brought on by gun violence.
- Please pray for Paul R, who recently received his third pacemaker.

Joys

- Happy Anniversary to Adrian and Rev. Carol Hill on 6/11 as well as Suzy & Scott Hollinsworth.
- Congratulations to Sarah Hibbard and Bob Ecklund who were married on 6/3.
- Sue and Dave Douglass share the joyful news of the birth of grandson Grady Joseph, born 6/3. The happy family are all doing well.
- Tricia Williams celebrates that her friend Bonnie's son Dan came his back surgery in May very well and is recovering well.
- Tricia Williams let us know that after her friend Kim got the preliminary good news from her biopsy, more testing revealed a recurrence of her cancer. Please pray for her as she starts a new series of treatments. She truly appreciates the prayers as do her husband and two young daughters.
- The outreach team is grateful for all the many contributions to the Maryville Crisis Nursey. Donations continued to be reached and all was take to Maryville this last week.
- We celebrate the joy of Vacation Bible School, and the ways that God's light has shone through our children and adults!
- Ed and Robin Kopecky, celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 26. Ed and Robin were married at the Methodist Evangelical Church in Mahomet Illinois on June 26, 1971.
- Gail Benedetto is celebrating the progress made after many weeks of pain in the nerves of her tongue. She credits the faithful prayers that she is experiencing the beginning of relief. She and Rick are in CA visiting with their son and daughter in law, and asks for continued prayers for baby Luca, who we already know has some heart issues, which will require surgery soon after he is born.
- Please hold the Zuegels in your prayers as they move from their condo in Park Ridge to a retirement facility in Lake Forest near their daughter Carol.
- Kym Dohnke celebrates her special friendship with Kayleigh

and the joy that comes from community.

- We celebrated the baptism of Isaac Blocker on June 27th!
- We celebrate Dean Whitford was able to gather with his family last week.
- Charlie Giera celebrates a clean bill of health from his doctor.
- Please hold Judy and Mike A in your prayers as they move to their new home in Wheaton.

Upcoming Memorial Services

The life of Bill Zoellner will be celebrated here at PRCC on **Saturday, July 17th at 11 am** with a lunch to follow. Luan and her children invite you to join them as they gather together in memory of Bill.

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

Anyone and all are welcome to join in Wednesday at noon! Pastor Mollie guides our time together. Participants can eat lunch and engage as you like!

July Meetings:

7/7: Meet via Zoom

7/14: Meet via Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 912 3934 6091 Passcode: 62285

WALKING VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers needed to lend an arm to anyone who might need a little support walking across the grass to the tent. We have a few members who find walking across the grass a bit difficult and would appreciate having a supportive presence next to them as they make their way to the worship area under the tent. Some might like an arm to hold on to or help carrying their chair. Others come without chairs so help setting out some chairs is also appreciated.

If you are available and able to help, please gather at the garage at 9:45 am to set up 6 folding chairs with arms. Then wait on the concrete next to the parking lot to be on the lookout for anyone who might appreciate someone to walk with. Please also check in with them after the service to walk them back to solid ground. If you have any questions, just reach out to Liz Swanson.

Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094BAEAB2DA4FB6-walking>

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

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

7/1 Lois Zitoli

7/3 Michael Kusibab; Lukas Naudzius; Eleanor Naudzius

7/4 Sandy Bowen

7/5 Michael Pachowicz

7/6 Elizabeth Upton

7/7 Jackie Tilles

7/9 Char Kenzel; Sasha Gerritson

7/10 Nancy Skoog; Wayne Tumminello; Claire Kallen

7/11 Scott Nelson

7/13 Richard Lenke; Laura Lapp; Joan Huening

7/16 Joshua Sissman

7/17 Drake Gudmundsson

7/18 Ginny Jacobson

7/19 Elizabeth DuSold; Mark Biedke; Evan Simpson

7/20 Alena Goodwin

7/23 Dorothy Lehman

7/25 Sara Born

7/29 Kaitlyn McKenna; Devon Williams

7/30 Zachary Pomeroy

7/31 Karen Nelson

If you or a loved one has a birthday that we have missed, please contact the church office so we can include you in our Sunday joys!

BOARD UPDATE

By Tom Goodwin and Naomi Siebert

In June, we were delighted to gather under the tent as we welcomed new members of the Board and gave thanks for the service of those rotating off the Board. While the agenda was informal, we described best practices like using Google Drive and submitting monthly reports. We also shared a time of open conversation around collaboration, future planning, and hopes for the coming year of ministry! We recapped some of the Tent Talk Conversations and how we are reaching out to members of our congregation. We give thanks that God is inspiring us all in new ways as we consider ministry with fresh perspectives. The summer gives us a slightly different rhythm, during which many committees are dreaming, planning, and preparing for all that is to come! We hold one another in prayer as plans become realized.

Speaking of Tent Talks, we have one more planned "Tent Talk" on Saturday, July 17 from 4-5 pm. The first of our talks focused on receiving feedback from the past, the second talk focused on the future, and this talk will be an opportunity to consider "Where have you seen God at work?" Join us on this Saturday afternoon to share your hearts and dreams and reflect on ways God is moving in our midst.

As Chair and Vice Chair, we also want to thank everyone who worked together to lead such a spectacular Vacation Bible School experience! With 30 children, 20 adults, and 10 youth, it was a collaborative effort, during which God's love shone brightly! We both spent time volunteering, and were amazed at how smoothly all the parts came together to create an incredible experience for all! We definitely experienced God on the move at VBS.

Our finances are a little bit behind, and we encourage everyone to consider your financial support of our church. Our shared commitment to supporting the ministries of this church is what keeps the grass mowed, our staff paid, our building cared for, and programming and worship for all possible. If you've fallen behind on your pledge, please consider making an additional donation to catch up. If you are on track but have the ability to give the church a boost, know that your generosity will make a big difference. Remember, you can sign up for automatic withdrawal so whether you are out of town or not, the donation is received, mail a check, or give online through PayPal or Zelle. All our ministry areas are revving up now that we are back, and we thank you for your continued financial support!

Our Building is partially open and mask guidelines have shifted, in accordance with CDC guidelines and state opening. Some of our church groups have resumed meeting in the building, and our gym is getting much use. We ask all unvaccinated individuals to wear masks while inside the building. While outside at worship or attending other gatherings, masks are optional. Of course, vaccinated persons may choose to wear a mask as well, according to your preference. We know that most of our members who are eligible have been vaccinated, but children under 12 remain vulnerable. We celebrate the progress made, and look forward to the day when everyone has been able to receive their vaccinations and everyone is safe!

CALENDARING DAY: August 7 from 1-3 pm

In an effort to align our ministries, programs, and events over the next year, as well as inspire potential collaboration, our staff will host a Calendaring day! Board members, Committee Chairs, and any interested members are welcome to come and bring your calendars! We will meet in Jordan Hall on Saturday, August 7 from 1-3 pm and will cover August 2021 - August 2022, highlighting holidays, fundraisers, and ideas for new events.

OPEN & AFFIRMING UPDATES AND TIMELINE



By Greg Sarlo and Sarah McCarty

For nearly a year, the Social Justice Team has been encouraging discussions and providing information concerning what it would mean for PRCC to adopt a covenant joining our congregation to others that are considered Open and Affirming (ONA) with the United Church of Christ. From an initial survey to panel presentations, movie discussions, devotional materials, a dance presentation, a sermon series, and other opportunities for greater understanding of the process itself, the SJT has been trying to make sure that everyone is clear about what being ONA means, and what difference it could make.

Tom Goodwin and Naomi Siebert hosted a congregational conversation in June, at which questions were asked and answered about the process and implications, as well as perspectives shared on how members of our congregation felt about this direction. The comments were overwhelmingly positive. We do want to share an update on some of the next steps and timing.

- On Saturday, August 7 at 7:00 pm, all are invited to attend a presentation of “Nothing More”, the dance production of some of the stories shared in the “God’s Expansive Love” devotional. Tickets are \$15 and available in the church office.
- On Sunday, August 15 following the 10:00 service, the SJT will host a discussion featuring Lisa Campbell, a lay leader from a congregation similar to PRCC who adopted an ONA position a few years ago, and Rev. Kimberly Wood, Acting Associate UCC Conference Minister, (Eastern Association and Fox Valley Associations). Both will be asked to discuss what the designation has meant to congregations in their experience, and will be available to answer any questions. Feel free to send questions in advance. At this discussion, and via email, the SJT will share samples of covenants that have been adopted by a variety of churches as they have become publicly Open and Affirming (or other denominational equivalents).
- On Saturday, August 28, from 9:30 - 11:30 am, Kathy Chandler will lead a “World Café” event to allow the congregation to collaboratively develop a draft covenant, reflecting the values, language, and content that we believe PRCC should adopt. The Social Justice Team, Board of Directors, and Staff may offer additional input or editorial suggestions before a final draft is presented to the Board of Directors in the fall.
- The Board of Directors will then consider the remaining steps: clarifying the amount of support needed to adopt an ONA covenant; discern the best timing for a congregational vote; and call a special congregational meeting to discuss the covenant and take the official vote. The timing and process remains in the purview of the Board of Directors.

We are so grateful for the honest and heartfelt conversations held thus far. Thank you for sharing your stories and perspectives. We have heard from so many individuals how the inclusive welcome over the years at PRCC has been vitally important, and there seems to be much support for making that welcome more official. If you have any questions or want to talk further about what the Open and Affirming designation means to you or for PRCC, we are delighted to chat on the phone, meet for a cup of coffee, or sit under the tent - whatever you’d like! Feel free to reach out anytime!

Greg Sarlo - dr.gregorysarlo@gmail.com Sarah McCarty - sarah.p.mccarty@gmail.com

STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE

"I called to the Lord out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. Jonah 2:2-3 NSRV

As a result of the Cape Cod lobster fisherman who was swallowed (sort of) and then spit out (definitely) by a humpback whale a few weeks ago, I got to thinking about whales swallowing people.

It appears that our fisherman was in no real danger; although a humpback's mouth is about 10 feet long, the humpback's throat is only about 15 inches in diameter. In other words, the whale was likely as upset about the incident as the fisherman. (It would be the functional equivalent of finding yourself with an entire lemon in your mouth; although it would fit, swallowing it whole wouldn't be your first choice.)

Sperm whales, on the other hand, are a horse of an entirely different color. (Erm. I should probably rewrite that.) Such whales regularly swallow giant squids whole. And there is an 1891 report of a whaler named James Bartley being swallowed whole by a sperm whale. As the story goes, after the rest of the crew caught the whale, it was butchered the next day, and Bartley was discovered unconscious in its stomach. Everyone who could have verified this story at the time refuted it. Moreover, the biology of the whale mitigates against it; the first chamber of the whale's stomach is essentially a car crusher.(c.f. the giant squid.) Nevertheless, it was a widely circulated tale, and Bartley was dubbed the "Modern Jonah."

That, of course, led me to re-read Jonah's brief and somewhat inexplicable story and to wonder why on earth such a fish tale was included in the Bible. (If you have a Bible handy, it will take you all of five minutes to read it.) The Sunday School version is Jonah was being punished by God for his failure to undertake the mission God sent him on, and then forgiven and released when he decided that obeying God was better than living inside a whale any longer. It's way more complex than that. Jonah refused God's mission to preach to the residents of the city of Nineveh because Jonah didn't like them (with some reason I should add), and he didn't really want God to forgive them, which Jonah knew God would do if the citizens repented of their evil ways.

When Jonah thanks God for rescuing him from Sheol, aka the hell he was living in, he is thanking God for not abandoning him, and for changing his heart.

We have been through our own version of hell in the last 18 months: the isolation and misery of the pandemic; the horror of seeing the results of social injustice before our eyes; the disintegration of the democracy we thought was inviolate. For women, this time has been even more difficult. The vast majority of the increased stress fell to moms and grandmas for nurturing and educating and holding families together. That's not to say that men didn't step up too, but rather than the impact has fallen more heavily on women. (While there are lots of sources I could cite, I'm not going to. You and I both know the truth of it.)

The problem is, for many women going back to "normal" isn't really possible. Some of us are just simply physically and emotionally exhausted. At the same time, our own needs and the needs of our loved ones may have changed a bit post-vaccine but have not disappeared. How do we go on? How do we keep from becoming frustrated, angry, and dispirited?

All this whale talk reminded of the Shel Silverstein poem:

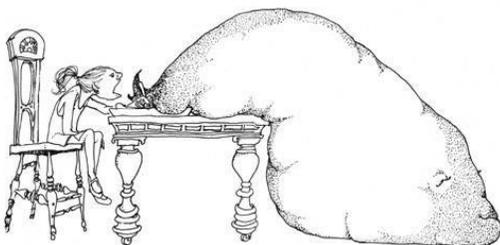
Have you heard of tiny Melinda Mae,
Who ate a monstrous whale?
She thought she could,
She said she would,
So she started in right at the tail.

We too have to start someplace.

Jonah found “t(T)he waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped around my head ...” Then he says he prayed. “As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the Lord; and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.” (Jonah 2: 5,7)

So with Jonah, remember the Lord, and remember that in the “holy temple” that is PRCC, you are heard. There are those who want to support you, to show you that you are not alone. Please let any Stephen Minister, or any Stephen Leader know how you are and what you need. (Or you can contact Pastor Carol or Liz Swanson at 847-823-3164, or Ginny Feurer at 847-840-7082.)

- Anita Rifkind



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

**RICK
BENEDETTO!**



Rick goes about helping out in a lot of different ways at PRCC. Rick and his wife, Gail, travel a lot - at least they did before COVID-19 shut down travel. But when he's in town, Rick regularly attends Sunday services and often Gail joins him. Rick goes about quietly helping where he sees the need and if you don't know Rick you definitely want to! Rick is super helpful in so many ways at PRCC.

On Sunday mornings in the summer, Rick can often be found helping to set up and take apart the sound system for the outdoor service. He also grabs chairs from the garage and sets them up for others.

During the school year, Rick is one of the Sunday School teachers for the middle and high school youth and he also is a Confirmation Leader serving as a mentor for our middle school youth.

Rick regularly attends the 7AM Wednesday Men's breakfast meetings at church taking time to connect with other men from PRCC. If you want more information about the men's breakfast, feel free to ask Rick and he can fill you in.

Rick works with other volunteers and Jaclyn in the office to keep the kitchen stocked with needed supplies, like paper towels, coffee, lemonade, dish soap, etc.

He's also a regular volunteer at many PRCC events and we are grateful for the variety of ways that Rick serves all of us at PRCC.

COUPLES RETREAT

October 1-3



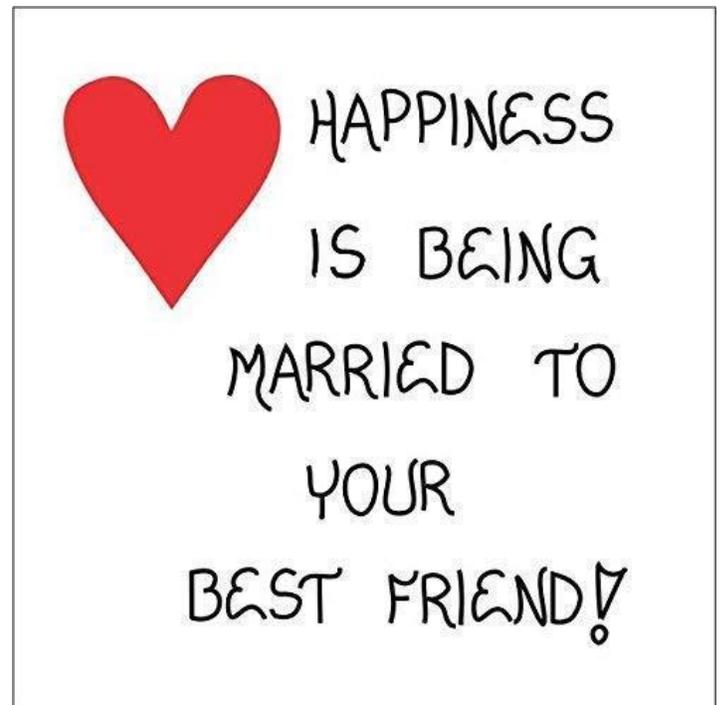
Calling all couples! Whether you are still considering marriage or have been married for 50 years, you will not want to miss this opportunity to enrich your relationship, spend time relaxing with your beloved, and enjoy fellowship with other couples from PRCC. This weekend retreat will blend large and small group conversations, time to relax and reconnect with your partner, and culminate with a worship service with recommittal. Couples may choose to complete an online assessment and schedule a 30-minute session with Pastor Carol to highlight areas of strength and potential areas for growth. The Abbey at Lake Delavan provides a perfect setting for quiet walks by the lake, cute restaurants to share a bite to eat, and full spa to receive massages or just relax by the atrium pool. Check in on Friday begins at 4 pm, and our first session will begin at 7 pm, followed by a bonfire. Saturday morning, there will be a session at 9:30 am, with much of the afternoon open for couple assessment, time at the spa, or just hanging with your partner. Saturday evening will include a dinner buffet and another group session, and Sunday morning, we will experience a service of recommitment at an outdoor gazebo with check-out at 11 am, though you may stay and enjoy the spa all day!

Costs for the Retreat

For the first 10 couples who register, the cost will be \$300, payable to PRCC (so we can use our tax exemption). After that, the cost goes up to \$325 per couple, which includes the two-night stay at the Abbey, retreat materials, and dinner on Saturday night. Additional meals, beverages and appointments in the spa are the responsibility of the

couple. If you would like to participate in the online assessment and debrief, that will be an additional \$40, payable when you log-in. Couples Retreat participants receive 20% off spa services on Friday and Sunday, and by purchasing a spa service, you are entitled to use the spa facilities, pool, sauna, and whirlpool. Spa Services must be scheduled in advance (2 months recommended) with Lisa Colbert, Colbert@theabbeyresort.com or 262.275.1860. Meals and beverages can be ordered and delivered at the spa, if desired.

Couples may choose to participate in Saturday only for \$60, payable to PRCC, which includes the dinner buffet and retreat materials. If choosing this option, there is a "day pass" payable at the spa of \$25 per person if you would like.



SPRING NEWS



KINDRED SPIRITS CAFÉ AND BEYOND!

Kindred Spirits Café is open to anyone who has an hour free on Tuesday's at noon. We have different opportunities for programs in person and virtually. Join us in June in the following ways:

7/6 – HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY! No Kindred Spirits Café

7/13 – Celebrating our July birthday friends (Zooming only)

7/20 – Pastor Mollie joining us on a tour of the youth projects around the yard (In-Person Only)

7/27 – Bingo (In-Person Only)

<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 are busy using up a large supply of donated yarn. Are you looking for a handcrafted gift for a new baby? If so, the Knitting Knights have a great selection of items made with love. Please talk with Liz Swanson if you are a crafter looking for yarn, patterns or inspiration for your next project or if you'd like to show the baby gift items.

MEDICAL LENDING CLOSET

WANTED: Medical Loan Closet volunteer

Short hours - 9:30 am to noon, two to three times a month, on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday

Enjoy a rewarding experience helping to pick out medical equipment for those in need. Each year over 800 people come to us for all types of things. We have a vast inventory of equipment to lend out free of charge. Be a part of a wonderful cadre of members of our congregation who give of their time for this wonderful ministry of our church. Retirees welcome.

Please contact Barbara Scharringhausen at 847 825 4630 or splus14@att.net.

“NOTHING MORE” DANCE PRESENTATION coming to the PRCC stage!

Krissie Odegard Geye, member of PRCC, choreographed and produced a dance presentation using some of the stories presented in the “God’s Expansive Love” devotional. Using spoken word, pre-recorded video, and live dance movement, the stories come alive and the emotion is made palpable. This presentation was available to the public with members of the professional dance company Trifecta Dance Collective at the Dance and Music Academy in Glenview on June 18. A number of PRCC members attended that presentation and were so moved that we have decided to offer another show in the Great Hall! All are invited to come and experience this beautiful and inspiring presentation!

- **Saturday, August 7 at 7:00 pm on the Great Hall stage**
- Tickets/Reservations are available through the church office; \$15 per person, with proceeds supporting the ministries of PRCC.

MEDITATION AND YOGA

Yoga is back in person! The Monday night class will resume in the Great Hall at 7 pm with a few changes: Masks are now required on your way to and from the gym, and Yogis will be spaced out, look for the blue tape! Chair Yoga is also back, at 10:15 am in the Great Hall.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/dpj5scf8taGoSxK2pTcQ9u6mUGamhPsKzEUsAtK83yCNqZQFVbjv3YH4pO5tdO4.xPp1cnobOAKBVVXv> Passcode: UdY.c1E5

SPRING NEWS



CREATION CARE TEAM

Hello from the Creation Care Team!

Here's what we are talked about at our zoom meeting:

- 1. Switching from disposable plastic and paper products to reusable cups, plates, silverware.**
Why is this important? Petroleum-based plastic disposables do not conveniently disappear and neither does paper disposables which are often lined with petroleum-based products. They all end up in landfills where, it's estimated, they will take anywhere from 10 to 100 years to decompose. In the process, they'll release dangerous hydrocarbons. On the other hand, we have a ready supply of reusable coffee mugs, dishes, silverware, etc. that we can use instead of disposable items.
Our plan: Start meeting with small groups that meet regularly at church and explain how this would work and how they can help.
- 2. Do better separating trash and recyclables into the proper containers.**
Why is this important? Reducing waste and recycling have the following benefits:
reducing the number of natural resources we use, lowering the amount of waste we create and send to landfills, decreasing the number of ecosystems impacted by resource extraction, reducing the number of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and lowering the overall pollution of air, water, and land by not extracting new resources every time we need something.
Our plan: Create signs that help to identify what is trash and what is recyclable. Look into purchasing new trash and recycling containers. Have trash/recycling ambassadors help members know where to put trash and recycling on Sunday mornings at coffee hour.
- 3. Organize a bike/walk/carpool to church on a Sunday in September.** This helps to reduce emissions and pollutants.

Look for more information about the ways we are looking at being better stewards of God's great gift to us of this beautiful planet. Maybe you would like to be involved in the creation care team? Let us know - the more the merrier.

July 17, 2-4:00 pm Cleanup & NO Waste

Picnic

Who: Individuals, groups, families...anyone who cares about the earth!

What: Go Green park Ridge woodland clean-up event

When: Saturday, July 17 from 2-4pm, followed by a GGPR social get-together

Where: at select locations across Park Ridge (GGPR social get-together will be at Iroquois Woods immediately after)

Contact Joseph Steinfels: jpsteinfels@yahoo.com

See the attachment for details on the gathering

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Welcome and Membership Committee will be working over the coming months to determine who from our congregation is active either in-person or remotely and who we need to reach as we re-open. Please encourage your PRCC friends to return to worship if they have been disconnected over the past year! Invite someone to join you on the lawn or in the building as we are able to gather together! Our committee welcomes visitors and also supports the needs of our current membership. If you have any questions or feedback for our committee, please contact Sue Douglass or Sara Born (or the church office to reach us).



VBS CELEBRATION: ARISE & SHINE!



What a beautiful week of Vacation Bible School under the tent! Each day, our students explored what it means to shine God's light in the world. They sang new songs like "Arise and Shine Your Light has Come" and familiar songs like "This Little Light of Mine." Our kids began each day with a welcome and introduction to the day's theme with Lighthouse Keeper Carol and her Puffin friend, Beacon. Beacon invited the kids to find ways of finding the light that would never go out. By the end of the week, the kids knew the light was inside of them!

We learned about the Bible Stories of Creation (LOVE), Lost Things (JOY), Moses and the Burning Bush (TRUST), and Friends bring the paralyzed man through the roof (FAITH). We experienced science concepts including dry ice, balloons that filled with air after a reaction of baking soda and vinegar, and more! We played games like racing as different animals or finding their lost shoes, and of course - water balloon toss! We created crafts like building a lantern and creating a burning bush sand art.

Pastor Mollie organized all the materials and recruited and trained our volunteers, setting everything in motion. Ann Swindell decorated the whole area, creating a magical Adventure Island right under the tent! Tom Goodwin made each story come to life as Pirate Tom! Jamie Knoblauch delivered snack popsicles each day to the delight of the kids and helpers! Kate Joyce, Kathy Chandler and Nate Jarvis revealed scientific truths that had the kids fascinated. Canace McGuffey

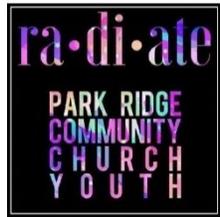
and Aiden and Connor Collins wore the kids out with exciting games. Siri Nelson, Kyrie Nelson, and Teri Biedke kept crafts happening on the driveway. Janet Johnson, Sue Douglass, Sara Born, and Jaclyn Weir all kept our registration table hopping and welcoming as parents dropped off and picked up their explorers. Pastor Carol, Sasha, Angie and Andrew Weber led music and dancing! Naomi and Hannah Siebert kept everyone engaged and the groups organized. And our youth became invaluable Island Guides, leading our children from station to station (Katie Hill, Bella Gaby, Alena Goodwin, Kylie, Madden Moellner, and Sydney Hollingsworth). This was a team effort from start to finish, and a fun time was had by all - and God's light SHONE BRIGHTLY!



THANK YOU EVERYONE for making this week so incredibly special!!



YOUTH NEWS



SUMMER YOUTH GROUP

During the summer months, Youth Group will move to Wednesday nights to accommodate weekend travel! Our time together will consist of creating Corn Hole/Bag sets for Rally Day, games, and snacks! Youth will meet on the Carriage House Driveway on the following dates from 6:30-8:00pm:

July 7, 21, 28



June 30: 6:30-8:00pm

All Youth are invited to the Church Lawn for wacky water games! If you have anything that squirts water, you are encouraged to bring it! You are guaranteed to get drenched in water, so dress appropriately! Slip-n-Slide included!

SUMMER MOVIE NIGHTS

All people of all ages are invited to our Summer Movie Nights under the big tent! So, bring your chairs, blankets, and friends! Feel free to bring your own snacks and beverages! The Fellowship Team will be selling popcorn and candy!

July 23: *Aladdin (2019)*

August 20: *E.T.*

YOUTH MISSION EXPERIENCE: Aug. 3-5 ALL DAY!

Youth will be serving local non-profits and our neighbors with home projects! If your home is in need of a simple repair, paint, window cleaning, yard work, etc (or you know someone in need), please contact Pastor Mollie! We will end the service experience with an ALL Youth Swim Party at Hinkely Pool from 7:00-9:00pm. Youth (even if they cannot attend service days) are invited and encouraged to invite their friends!

OUTREACH NEWS

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

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

OUTREACH PARTNERS

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

We are still collecting food donations at the PRCC members' homes listed below, all located in Park Ridge. Each house has a large, labeled Cans for Care bin in front, so you can drop non-perishable items any day and anytime at your convenience. 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 **July 1st**, and **August 5th**.

If you can help, please visit [PRCC website](#) to avoid duplication of efforts/food selection.

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



Baby Shower Donations!



JUNE SNAPSHOTS:





100 S. Courtland Ave
Park Ridge, IL 60068

**First-class
Postage
Required

Place Stamp
Here**



Contact Us:

847-823-3164

office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Like us on Facebook!

Our Staff:

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister

pastorcarol@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister

pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries sasha@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Shelley O'Brien, Director of Children's Ministries sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Liz Swanson, Director of Pastoral Services liz@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Jaelyn Weir, Parish Coordinator

office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org