

THE PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

April 2020- A Few Lessons Taught by Covid-19



The rapid spread of the coronavirus, or covid-19 has been overwhelming. As a mother of 3 children, each with their own learning goals and objectives, e-learning is a struggle.

Choosing to cancel worship services, not being able to visit my members having surgery in the hospital, mustering the energy to get showered and dressed when I know I'm not leaving my house, cooking meals for my family which never go far enough, feeling the anxiety of my spouse looking for a job when nobody is hiring, and reading too much information about how vulnerable we are and some more than others...the coronavirus sucks! I hate it. I pray about it. God, I'm sure gets a kick out of my prayers, which range from pleas for healing, inspiration, and patience to unbridled rage.

But. And. (I recently read an article that discouraged the use of "but" since it seems to diminish the truth of the first clause, in favor of the truth of the second. All of the aforementioned stuff is true...AND)

This pandemic has taught me a few things. It has also confirmed truths I already knew. In line with our theme of 20/20 vision, this time has clarified some things and helped me to see some things more clearly. I wonder if it's had a similar impact on any of you. If so, please send me some of your realizations. You can send me the uninspired ones too - like how much we enjoy toilet paper - WHO KNEW!? Here are just 3 of my realizations:

Realization #1. I am blessed by you. Every Sunday for the last year and a half, I have gone to church and been the recipient and giver of hugs, quiet requests for prayer, vulnerable moments of concern, laughter shared with children, life shared with our more aged members. I soak it up, week after week, and every Sunday I am hungry for more. I leave worship feeling so blessed by YOU. Your care, your insights, your sharing in life with me is a huge honor. I love feeling a little helpless by the children's questions, I love hearing the voices of our choir and praying the Lord's Prayer in sync with you. These moments mean the world to me. While I cannot replicate that, I am still blessed by text messages, email notes, handmade cards (shout out to Leah, Rachel, and Henry), Facebook comments, videos containing "peace", and phone calls. I also am busily making calls and sending texts, trying to

care for YOU. However, YOUR care for ME - is a blessing that I am not sure I can adequately describe. And I am thankful. And I miss you.

Realization #2. Our Team is phenomenal. As other clergy scramble to figure out how to accomplish something resembling worship in a medium that their congregation can access, we have been blessed by an entire team who has one another's backs, who creatively considers new ways to achieve a goal, who are willing to step outside their comfort zones, and work hard at all hours of the day and night! From members who get my text messages asking them to refilm that...and horizontally this time, to staff members recording pieces of the liturgy, to the team editing for sound quality, proofreading lyrics, and getting everything uploaded, and emailed out...there are so many lay volunteers and our staff team working as hard as ever. One random Sunday when the church was closed, I was present trying to type my newsletter articles, and 6 different people stopped by to do this or that project in service to the church (keeping lots of distance and using lots of wipes and sanitizer). The team is broad and too many to name. I am so thankful that we have such a team.

Realization #3. Family Time. Spouse Time. Quiet Time. My husband just celebrated the most bizarre birthday of his life. Yet, we got to spend some time together without the kids. I needed that. Spending time with the one to whom I pledged my lifelong love was good. We had some much-needed conversation, much-needed laughter, much-needed time of connection. When we returned, we got time with our three children as we sheltered in place, playing games, talking through movies, and explaining why life would be different for a while. We have eaten at the table, we've organized toys, we've walked the dog (TOGETHER). Far too often, the calendar becomes crowded with activities, events, outings, and work in ways that stifle relationship. I try to compensate over the summer, AND. We should do better at prioritizing the relationships with those who are in our day-to-day lives. I need to work on making time for my family - both the ones who live with me and my extended family. They make my soul breathe and remind me who I am. These beloved people are my world. Too often the ones who mean the most are the ones we take for granted.

I'm sure I could go on and on and on about additional lessons learned, but three is enough for now. As we've sought better vision, I wonder how God might be using this very different (and challenging) time to whisper truths to your spirit. Maybe you've had time for meditation or prayer. Maybe you've been listening to multiple church's worship services on Sunday. Maybe you've been more intentional about caring for these vulnerable bodies we live in. I pray that in spite of challenge, you might feel God's presence, restoring your soul, nurturing strength when you feel depleted, and soothing your anxiety with the healing balm of grace.

As we prepare for Holy Week and Easter, may the presence of God become more and more pronounced in the quiet and in the storm.

Pastor Carol

WORSHIP

ALL WORSHIP AVAILABLE VIA YOUTUBE AND LIVESTREAM

- April 5** **Palm Sunday "Hosanna"**
Matthew 21:1-11
Worship Online
(Worship Bags available)
- April 9** **Holy Thursday "A New Commandment"**
John 13:1-20
Worship Online
(Collect your own bread and juice/wine)
- April 10** **Good Friday "Truly This Was God's Son"**
Matthew 26:47-56
Worship Online (Wear Black)
- April 12** **Easter Sunday "I have seen the Lord"**
Matthew 28:1-10
Worship Online
- April 19** **God's Design: Cause or Coincidence?**
Worship Online
- April 26** **God's Design: Building the Foundation**
Worship Online

Thursday to the betrayal and execution upon the cross on Good Friday, to Jesus' burial in the tomb, and finally, on Easter morning we celebrate the empty tomb - Resurrection. These events carry much significance, and through worship and ritual, we remember that Holy Week over two thousand years ago and consider its implications on today. Join us for these worship experiences, which will seek to build the drama and help us remember. Each service will be recorded and made available via Facebook, emails, and our website with links to the PRCC YouTube Channel. If you have trouble accessing our online worship, please contact the church office.

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP BAGS

We have a form set up for you to either have your Palm Sunday worship bag (think lunch sack), complete with palm branch and communion either delivered to your home or ready for curbside pickup on Thursday, April 2. Communion will be distributed in pre-packaged cups with wafers (gluten free available, but most will be gluten-filled). We will keep volunteers safe and sanitary! <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9OKJNwPpqBb7d73vJy63c4Cq0yCTEBdf1INxrTvdWjsww/viewform>

POSTPONED EVENTS

My Bible Classes, 3rd Grade Bible Presentation, and New Member Class/Reception has been postponed until we can gather in person.

LETTERS TO STATEVILLE

In this time of reinventing our lives, we are given the chance to share grace and kindness in many new ways. We have a list of men from Stateville who have not received mail previously from us. With both North Park Seminary closed and the prison now totally locked down, the professors are concerned about a small group of men who are not part of their formal program but who had been attending a single lecture that has now been cancelled. If you'd like to write to one of them, email me at AnitaR@att.net. Questions? PLEASE call! (What else have I got to do?)



Join us for Holy Week Worship Services!

Lent culminates with Holy Week, during which we will experience the dramatic events from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to sharing a Holy Meal and giving the Disciples a New Commandment on Maundy

2nd MILE AWARD

Since 1978, The Park Ridge Community Church has sought to recognize and honor those individuals from the congregation who give of themselves “above and beyond,” those who go the second mile to love and serve God and neighbor.

The Second Mile Award links past, present and future ministries and the individuals who have been instrumental in creating and sustaining the outreach, service, worship, fellowship, and learning that take place here and beyond the walls of our church.

We are inviting the entire PRCC membership to join in the selection process.

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

The following are the criteria used for selecting nominees:

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

To help you in your nomination process, here is a list of some of PRCC’s previous **2nd Mile Award** winners:

Gretchen & Dave Kapolnek
Sue & Dave Douglass
Bob Patterson
Alayne Richards
Earlene and Richard Beile
Charlie Giera
Keith & Katie Reboletti
Nancy Ady

Barbara & Bill Scharringhausen
George & Lynn Brant
Ginny Feurer
Tom & Cindy Klimmeck
Phyllis & Dean Whitford
Bob & Paula Mack
Luan Zoellner
Bruce & Kathy Webster
Barbara Pfaff
Scott & Siri Nelson
Kathy and John Davis
Sandy Bowen
Tim & Laura Lapp

When nominating a candidate(s) for Second Mile Award, **please provide the nominee’s full name and reasons for the nomination with as much detail as possible, as this will be used in the formal announcement of the final recipient.** You may nominate up to three candidates.

Please email, mail, or deliver your nomination to the Church office no later than Wednesday, April 15th. The Board of Directors will vote on April 21st at the scheduled Board Meeting by secret ballot to select the recipient of the 2020 Second Mile Award. The recipient will be named at the Annual Meeting.



OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

We offer our prayers in faith and trust in God's provision for our lives. Please know your prayers matter and we continue to pray for all those on our prayer ministry list.

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

We also keep in our prayers the following March requests:

Life in the Resurrection

- Andy Desmedt asked for prayers for his wife Tracy & her parents as they grieve the loss of her brother & their son on the anniversary of his death.
- Please keep the friends and family of Dick Kapolnek, who entered Eternal life on 3/6.
- Please pray for the family and friends of Rick Benedetto's friend Jim who entered Eternal life on 3/16.

Healing and Recovery

- Paula Mack is grateful for the prayers for her sister Laura who is recovering well from surgery and will get to join a family reunion.
- Sasha is thankful for the prayers for her friend Ian Kay who is out of the hospital and home recovering.
- Janet Johnson asked for continued prayer for her great nephew Axl who has finished radiation but will be starting chemo treatments soon.
- Luan Zoellner requests prayers for Bill whose health is keeping him homebound for now.
- Please pray for Kathie McGuffey Fancher, Ryan McGuffey's mother, who had surgery on 3/12.
- We pray in gratitude for Siri Nelson's successful surgery on her second wrist.
- We pray for Bernice Zabawski transitioning home after a stay in the hospital and rehab.
- Kim asks for prayers for St. Martin's in Des Plaines which has been shut down because of the coronavirus.
- Please pray for Sue Carroll's recovery after surgery on 3/16.
- Rachel asks for prayers for her mom and all those in nursing & other facilities isolated to protect their health.
- Sasha requests prayers for all those whose livelihood is critically impacted by not working during this time of emergency.
- Please pray for a good outcome & healing for Laura's co-

worker, Tina who is having two experimental surgeries this week.

- Please pray for the Larson family, Hillary's brother Jud who suffered 4 mini strokes last week and Scott's sister Lauree having surgery this Thursday.
- We pray for complete healing for Tommy Kleingers who survived a health crisis this past week.

Birthdays/Anniversaries/Retirement

- It is a joy to celebrate Ginny Feurer's 80th birthday and Caroline Young's 4th birthday!

Joys

- We celebrate raising over \$21,000 for the Living Waters mission trip, as well as all the work of the church board and committees.
- Larry Adams has a joy in celebrating his twin sister, Lora's visit here from the quad cities.
- It is a privilege to support the Uncle Pete's lunch project and we pray for those receiving the food provided by our volunteers.
- Gail is grateful that her friends Bob and Leslie returned home safely from Columbia after a mission trip there.
- It is a joy to connect as we can through phone calls and video conferencing. We pray that the work of social distancing and isolation does its job to decrease the spread of germs. As the distance goes longer and becomes greater, we hold each other in prayer and especially those who are in retirement communities and have not been able to leave or eat together for many days.

Global

- Julie Bruno asks for prayers for the Syrian refugees and for the world as the Covid-19 virus continues to spread.
- We pray for all those in the medical field who are on the front lines of treating the sick and facing this virus. Many are names and people we know including Colleen, Rachel, Mikhail, Alyssa, Kathy, Bob, Mollie's cousins in Kansas City and many more we don't know personally but we pray for nonetheless.
- Bernice and Elaine Zabawski ask for prayers for their family in Spain.



STAYING CONNECTED DURING COVID-19

STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE

And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Romans 5:3-5 (NSRV)

What a mess. This whole Covid-19 business is just that – a miserable mess. It appears that we have given up a whole lot more than chocolate for Lent. I know there are lots and lots of people in worse situations than I am, but I'm already beginning to feel pretty sorry for myself. (You don't have to admit it; I know I'm not alone.) I have things I want to do, places I want to go, people I want to see – even some of you. What does it mean that a Finance Committee meeting is beginning to sound good?

Although most of the shut-downs have been indicated as a matter of a couple of weeks, if South Korea and Italy are any indication, the misery is likely to be much longer. Believable experts (aka Dr. Anthony Fauci) are now suggesting that it could easily be several weeks if not months before "social distancing" is ended.

"These are the times that try men's (and women's) souls." Thomas Paine famously said of the days leading up to the Revolution. There are only a few times in broad span of history when who we are and what we are made of is called into question. This appears to be one of them.

Paine went on, "The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it NOW, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman." We know who are standing NOW and deserve our thanks. We know who the true heroes are: the doctors and the nurses who aid the ill without sufficient protective gear; the first responders who come when you call 911 and don't ask you if you have a fever before they touch you; the staff in nursing homes and assisted living facilities who come to work regardless. There are more, of course.

In the midst of this crisis, we have to ask ourselves if we are "sunshine Christians," finding it easy enough to be faithful when things are going well. What will it mean to us that Easter comes in the middle of this misery? I mean the chances are pretty good that if we are greeting each other with the

traditional "Christ is risen!" it will be by phone. Isn't it foolish to proclaim a crucified and risen Christ in these miserable times?

"Exactly!" Paul would say. "We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." To Paul, it is precisely in these difficult moments when people of faith look to Christ as the embodiment of the power and wisdom of God, and as the symbol of God's grace – precisely in the middle of misery when we are Easter people.

Paul believed that God's love and grace are the source of our hope. Moreover, in Romans 5:3-4, he talks about how it is in suffering that our faith endures, and when our true character is on display. He calls hope the evidence of that character; therefore, because hope is the evidence of God's love poured out in each of our hearts – we will not be disappointed. We are loved. We will be comforted.

Among those who embody hope and deserve our thanks at PRCC are the volunteers who will be available to assist those struggling during these particular trying times. The offer to assist could include a Stephen Minister – probably by phone or Skype. Please ask for help if you need it; you don't have to deal with this by yourself. Ask for prayers if you want them; know that Stephen Ministers are praying for your specific requests.

Finally, share the hope that we are graced with to reach out to others. We have a new list of men from Stateville who are part of the North Park project who have not received mail previously from us. (The prison is now totally locked down) If you'd like to write to one of them, email me at AnitaR@att.net.

If you'd like to talk to someone about what help or prayers you need, or if you think having a Stephen Ministry might help, contact Pastor Carol (847-823-3164) or Ginny Feurer (847-840-7082).

In reminding myself what it means to be a person of faith, I remind you with Paul that we are an Easter people – not just on Easter Sunday, but every single day.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

- Anita Rifkind



BOARD NEWS



by Laura Sissman and Thom Goodwin

Questions? Email or call us!

laura.sissman@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Thom.Goodwin@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Board Retreat - POSTPONED

Our Board of Directors was scheduled to engage in a Planning and Dreaming Retreat in March. In preparation for that experience, Members of the Board were asked to read the book *Ministry and Governance*, review goals from 2019, and consider their own hopes for the year of ministry ahead. The intention was to spend half of our time celebrating the progress in the last year and dreaming of what we hope to be, achieve, and do together in the years ahead. Then in the other half of the retreat, we would consider the structure of our organization, consider alternative models and clarify some possibilities for the near future. However, due to covid-19, this retreat was postponed. While we weren't able to gather on March 14, our Board Members are still dreaming, planning, praying, and listening for God's guidance in the years to come. Some of the Board Members will roll off in just a couple of months, but the impact of each person's ideas, energy, thoughts, and presence will be felt for years to come. We look forward to our "Future with Hope" and the ways our congregationally led church benefits from the balancing of the expertise of dedicated staff with the energy of our lay volunteers to achieve shared goals, transformed lives, and a better world! The retreat will be rescheduled - electronically or in person, when the timing works.

Commitment to Staff and Ministers

While our building is not currently being utilized for worship or other activities, our ministers and staff remain actively engaged in serving the needs of our congregation. As there are not guidelines in the bylaws to instruct salary adjustments, the Executive Committee has heard the guidance of the Chair and Vice-Chair regarding a commitment to paying the salaries and wages of our employees, part time and full time, regardless of hours clocked. This commitment stems from the underlying premise that our staff depend on their income to care for their families and remain committed to adjusting and serving the needs of our congregation. We do not want anyone's livelihood to be jeopardized. While we will continue to monitor the feasibility of this policy, this was presented to the Executive Committee with full support.

Finance Committee

Our Finance team met in March and got to work exploring options for the congregation to give electronically. After evaluating different platforms and applications, they settled with Zelle for three main reasons. #1 - Zelle directly sends

funds from a person's bank account to the church's bank account with no fees. #2 - This transaction is safe and secure from one bank to another with the benefit of the bank's firewalls. #3 - It is easy-to-use and takes only a few seconds. We have some concerns about the impact of cancelling services on our offering, and the Finance Committee will keep a careful watch on our giving to see if changes are needed.

Building Closure and Worship Cancellations

Keeping up with current guidelines to help "flatten the curve," slow the spread of covid-19, and protect our congregants has been an adventure! We initially cancelled along with the schools, which transitioned to e-learning on March 16. According to guidelines published by the CDC, Governor Pritzger's orders for "shelter in place" and lastly the President's guidelines, **we are extending the closure of the building and cancellation of in-person worship through May 1.** Please note, we are anticipating this going beyond May 1, but do not want to get ahead of ourselves in case there's a change.

Potential Annual Meeting ONLINE

All Annual Reports are due to Jaclyn by April 13. Every year, Jaclyn assembles all of the reports into one document, which is available electronically and limited copies in print. If you would like a printed copy, please email Jaclyn at office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org. Because we are anticipating closure of the building to extend beyond May 1, we want to be prepared. We are preparing to hold the Annual Meeting via Google Hangout, which can accommodate up to 250 different log-ins. Persons would be able to call in on the phone or use a computer to participate. Each household would submit one form that affirms their attendance (thus confirming we have a quorum), and each member would be asked to submit a form to vote on the nominations slate presented. Both of these forms will be available to mail in/paper ballot as well. Then we would follow a typical agenda, with certain individuals giving presentations, awards, explanations, and scholarships. There would be opening and closing prayers, and time for those with questions or concerns to voice such. Laura Sissman, Chair of the Congregation, would lead the meeting as usual. If the restrictions are lifted and we can meet in person, then these preparations would be moot. However, we are proceeding as though our Annual Meeting on May 3 will be held online. If you or someone you know needs assistance with the technology or a tutorial on dialing in, please contact Thom Goodwin at thom.goodwin@parkridgecommunitychurch.org.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: April 21, 2020 at 7:30 pm via Google Hangout



APRIL NEWS



KINDRED SPIRITS CAFÉ

We love being together each Tuesday at noon but will continue to follow the CDC recommendations to stop the spread of germs. Kindred Spirits Café will take a hiatus for April and we look forward to resuming once it is safe to gather back together. This is a great time to stay connected with phone calls and cards to each other and know we are connected in Spirit.

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 all connected in Spirit!



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

The Eric Nelson Scholarship was set up to honor Eric Nelson and his generous donation of proceeds from brokering used cars on behalf of the youth group at Park Ridge Community Church. Eric demonstrated a commitment to giving back to Park Ridge Community Church well beyond his years in the youth program. All senior youth (12th grade) who are PRCC members or active non-members are eligible to apply. Please see the [church website](#) or contact the office for an application. The deadline to apply is April 15, 2020.

The Chamber of Commerce will award two scholarships this year: To be eligible, students must either live in Park Ridge, or attend a Park Ridge high school, or be the child or employee of a Chamber Member. Contact the Chamber at info@ParkRidgeChamber.org for the application.

RUMMAGE SALE

The Rummage Sale has been cancelled. Thank you to Kathy Davis and Robin Kopecky for stepping up and beginning the process of this wonderful event going!

MEDITATION AND YOGA

Cindy Klimmeck is offering mediation and yoga classes on ZOOM. Yoga – Monday at 7 pm, Chair Yoga – Tuesday at 10:15 am, Meditation – Monday and Friday at 9 am.

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

Meeting ID: 967 160 2932

WOMEN'S EVENT

Our Women's Event on April 3rd has been cancelled due to CDC group restrictions.

CREATION CARE TEAM NEWS

Psalm 24:1 *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."*

Twelve members of our team met in March. Topics discussed:

- We are getting baseline footprint evaluations of church electric, gas, water and paper usage to track the difference our efforts are making. We focused on paper and gas and will look at water and electricity next time we meet. We have some ideas on reducing paper usage and have reached out to the Worship Support Group to get their input.
- We discussed the idea of offering a film about waste for the congregation to view and then discuss.
- We unanimously recommended to the trustees that natural lawn care products are used on church property.
- We have discovered that our recycling efforts at church are not being properly carried out and trash is often mixed in with recyclables. Because of this our recycling typically ends up in the trash. We discussed starting a new recycling campaign where we would only recycle paper products to begin with and once we were doing that routinely and properly we would add other recyclables.
- We discussed having a walk/bike/carpool to church day on April 19 in honor of Earth Day on April 22.

Of course all this is secondary to the efforts to stay healthy and safe by social distancing and we may not be back in church for a while.

Our next meeting is April 19 after the 10AM service from 11:30AM-12:30PM.

All are welcome. Please contact Tricia Williams at tricia.williams@parkridgecommunitychurch.org if you are interested in joining this team.



APRIL NEWS

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

At PRCC, the Membership and Welcoming Committee works diligently to find ways of welcoming newcomers and helping all members become more involved in the life of the congregation. If you have been attending PRCC and would like to learn more about what membership means, we would love to tell you! Contact Sara Born or Sue Douglass, co-Chairs of the Membership and Welcoming Committee. We strive to welcome every person who enters the church on Sunday mornings and by name, if possible. To help everyone know one another better, we have name tags available. (Even if you think everyone knows your name - please wear one). Our efforts at wearing name tags helps longer term persons and newer persons alike feel more comfortable. We also have designed a new Welcome Postcard with space for newer folks to share their information and request follow-up information from the church. Perhaps most importantly, we facilitate Coffee Hour! After worship concludes (in non-covid-19 time), all are invited into the basement in Jordan Hall to share in coffee and fellowship, getting to catch up and get to know one another better. When you're in Coffee Hour, challenge yourself to introduce yourself to someone you don't know - find out about them and tell them about yourself! This is how we become an even more welcoming church and deepen our connections to one another. HOWEVER - when we don't gather for worship in person, please reach out and connect via phone, email, text, or on social media. Allow the warmth of this community to bless you and to bless others!

NOMINATION COMMITTEE NEWS

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

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

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

Mary and Eric Johnson are in the Volunteer Spotlight this month.

Mary and Eric are active in a variety of service ministries at PRCC. Of course, you see them most Sundays as they both sing in the Chancel Choir. The choir meets on Thursday nights for practices so you might see them on a Thursday night at church.



In addition to choir here are some of the other ways they serve our church.

Since 2018 Mary has been serving as the chairperson for the Worship Support Group which meets quarterly to coordinate and brainstorm efforts to deepen our worship experience and unity in Christ.


Eric has been serving on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee as PRCC Treasurer since 2018. He prepares the monthly financial reports for the Finance Committee and BOD, attends the Finance Committee meetings each month and works with committees and staff to prepare the budget that is presented to the BOD for approval and communicated to the congregation at the May annual meeting.

A few years ago, when it was determined that the church website needed some serious updating, both Mary and Eric served with a group to revise the existing content, add more informative content and photos and make it easier for members and visitors to access information.

Mary and Eric attend the Wednesday night Bible study sessions when their busy schedules allow and support various Outreach efforts such as the Crop Walk and Sunday Night Suppers.

We appreciate the many ways that Mary and Eric share their time and talents with us at PRCC.

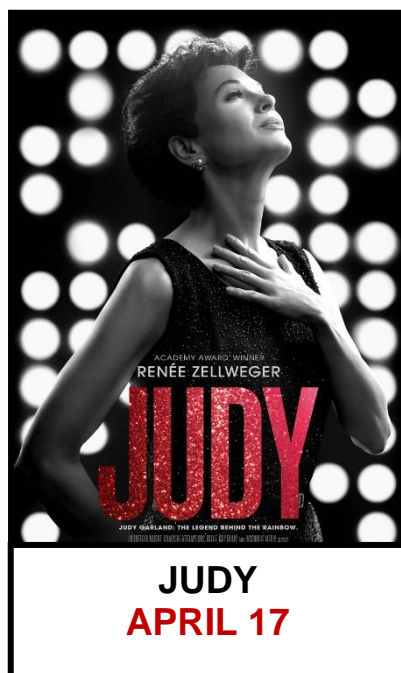
Friday FLICKS



Grab your popcorn and join your friends from PRCC at the movies--well from your own couch!

For the month of April, Pastor Mollie will be creating a “watch party” on our Facebook Group, “PRCC Congregation”. You can share theological thoughts and comments with the group as you watch! Not on Facebook? No problem! Feel free to share your comments with Pastor Mollie or other friends you know are watching!

The viewing will begin at 8:30pm on Friday evenings. Here’s the lineup:





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 in these times. I can be helpful and cooperative around my home. Please strengthen those going through tough times and illness right now. Help me to remember that you always love me and are always there for me. I give you my sadness, my frustrations, my disappointments, and worries. I ask for your Peace. Amen.

SHARE THE JOYS YOU CAN FIND

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

OUTREACH PROJECTS

Thank you so much to all who contributed food, drinks, bags, offerings and people-power to pack 100 lunches! They were picked up Sunday, March 15 and taken directly to Cornerstone Community Center. The Uncle Pete's Lunches coordinator, Carolyn, came in person to pick them up and expressed immense gratitude that we fulfilled our commitment, when so

many groups have had to cancel their planned packing events. Your efforts were very much appreciated.



MY BIBLE CLASS

Our annual class for 3rd graders was off to a great start, with 12 curious and eager students and several generous adult helpers. We will work out how to continue the class and when to present the Bibles to the students. Can't wait to get back to work!

REACHING OUT TO PRCC FRIENDS

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





PRCC Youth News

TIK TOK

Jump in the TikTok challenge! Pastor Mollie will post a challenge/song for the week and youth can submit their video (to include any members in their household...pets count!) using the hashtag **#prccyouth**. If youth do not have TikTok, they can text their video to the group text or Pastor Mollie.

Pastor Mollie will post the challenge to our Youth Facebook Group, Instagram account, Group Text (see below), and the parent email stream. The intent is to create a little fun while connecting to one another! Anyone is welcome to join in on the fun!



SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

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

PRCC Youth Instagram: [prccyouthgroup](#)

GROUP TEXT

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

Email: pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Cell: 913-683-2321

CONFIRMATION HANGOUT

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

Confirmation Google Hangout Link:

[Join Hangouts Meet](#)

meet.google.com/xfn-yhxr-avh



Youth in Mission



ON HOLD

Calling all middle school youth!

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

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

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

Honduras 2020

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



Dear PRCC Community:

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

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

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

Peace to you,
Pastor Mollie



OUTREACH NEWS

MAINE TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY

All food pantries are in need of donations at this time. If you are able and willing to drop off donations to Maine Township, please do so! 1700 Ballard Rd, PR, 60068.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Donations can be dropped off when building is re-opened.

Jeannine Schultz School – Supplies Collection

Thank You!

We've had a wonderful response collecting school supplies in support of the 64 students and the teachers of the Jeanine Schultz School in Park Ridge.

Items Needed:

#2 Pencils, Pens, Colored Pencils, Highlighters, Assorted Markers, Glue Sticks, Erasers, Spiral Notebooks, Pocket Folders, 3 Ring Binders, Packets of Lined Paper(wide rule) Construction Paper, Kleenex, Sanitizer, Disinfecting Wipes. Wish to participate, but unable to shop? Donations/Gift cards are appreciated. Questions? Contact: Paula Mack - paula.mack@parkridgecommunitychurch.org.

KNITTING KNIGHTS AND ALL THAT SEW

Many projects are going on from home! We are still looking for small size Easter adorables, including Easter eggs and small peeps, bunnies, etc. They can be dropped off in the box on Liz Swanson's porch or email Liz or the office for more details but we hope to have them by 4/8.

FOR THOSE WHO SEW!! Please help with sewing face masks for nurses at UIC. If you have 1/8 or 1/4" elastic and could donate it, just drop in the box on Liz Swanson's porch (328 Courtland). If you sew and can make some at home or share this request with others who sew, that would be great! Sewing instructions are in the below link:

<https://www.craftpassion.com/face-mask-sewing-pattern/>



LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER

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

COSMETIC BAGS

Donations can be dropped off when building is re-opened.

Please save your clean empty cosmetic bags, the type that hold the freebies given out by the large cosmetic companies. We are collecting them through March. They will be used as part of our outreach to the Bridge Project.

Thanking you in advance for your continued support of our outreach ministries. If you have any questions, please contact Marylynn Collentine.

SUNDAY SUPPER

Sunday Night Suppers are suspended until further notice due to the Coronavirus. We will let you know if this lifts before our previously scheduled April 26th slot.

BRIDGE PROJECT

An update from the Bridge Project:

Last week Chicago Bridge Project moved about 5,000 pounds of food from our office and hotel partners (as they closed and consolidated kitchens) to our shelters and other agencies. That's 5,000 pounds of wonderful, nutritious food that went to help folks in need instead of landfills. Our recoveries included thousands of pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen soups and prepared foods, hundreds of gallons of milk and other dairy products, cheeses, sandwiches and even about 20 pounds of sushi! We supported La Casa Norte, the Night Ministry, Hope Manor I and II veterans' homes in Humboldt Park and Englewood, New Life Food Pantry in Humboldt Park, Epworth Men's Shelter in Uptown, L'Arche in Forest Park, Precious Blood Center in Back of the Yards and the tent community at Chicago and Sacramento.

MARCH SNAPSHOTS



Our Daffodils Blooming



March Snow



Love Notes



Paula M. Dropping Off Groceries



Google Hangouts



100 S. Courtland Ave
Park Ridge, IL 60068

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Here**



Contact Us:
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parkridgecommunitychurch.org

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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

