

THE PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

February 2020

When is the last time you worried about whether you would get sick from drinking a glass of water? When did you worry about if you could brush your teeth or if it was worth the risk?

Around the globe, more than 840,000 are estimated to die each year as a result of unsafe drinking-water, sanitation, and hand hygiene. Even though more than 2 billion people have gained access to an improved sanitation facility since 1990, another 2.4 billion people still lack access to basic technologies such as flush toilets, piped sewers, or even a ventilated pit latrine.

This is a justice issue.

Waterborne parasites such as roundworm, whipworm, and hookworm impact children's ability to attend school and focus in the classroom, limiting their potential. These and other diseases, along with the time-consuming chore of hauling water for the family, cause absenteeism and early drop-out. Also, on average globally, women and children spend 200 million hours every day collecting water, often for water that's already contaminated. Too often the journey is not safe. Trails can be steep and rocky or muddy and slippery. And when women walk alone, they are often vulnerable to assault or being trafficked.

June 21-27, PRCC will send a group of twelve youth and adults to Honduras to bring clean water to a community in Honduras in partnership with Living Water International! We will be digging a well, entirely sponsored by this community, guided by and learning alongside local people. We also will be teaching community members the importance of hygiene and sanitation. Our food will be cooked and provided by local women, sharing a piece of their culture with us.

This gift and project will literally bring healing and hope to this community in Honduras.

Park Ridge Community Church is a congregation dedicated to mission and outreach – here and around the world. We encourage each other to impact our world for the better. We are committed to be a people who are deeply concerned for those in need. We strive to bring justice where needed and to lean into a faith that challenges us step beyond our comfort zones.

Over the next month, we will learn more about water – in the biblical stories and in our world.

We will work together to envision a world where all people can have access to clean, safe water.

As I am personally preparing for our adventure in Honduras, I keep imagining the sound of the first strike of water pouring out of the well that will be sponsored by YOU! I imagine the look on the parents' and elders' faces as they see hope before them through this gift. I hear children splashing and laughing as they run their little hands in and out of the water, eager for a taste! I imagine watching the PRCC youth grow and learn as they serve and play alongside the local people of this Central American community. What a day of rejoicing in God's abundant grace and peace!

You play a significant role in making this happen. Our total fundraising goal to support this mission is to raise \$20,500 for sponsorship of the well and to subsidize the cost of travel for the mission participants. Friends, we have already received a couple of generous gifts! Jazz in January is tallying final amounts to be contributed, and Christian Outreach is considering a grant proposal for this project as well! Depending on the final amounts, we could already be halfway to achieving our goal! Please stay tuned to our announcements and emails to see our progress!

Can you see it? Can you hear it? Can you imagine the impact this will have on our siblings in Christ? I invite you to join in this effort to bring healing, hope, and justice through the gift of clean water by offering prayers, encouragement, and financial support.

I celebrate all that God is doing, and has yet to do, in and through the people of PRCC! I look forward to seeing this dream become a reality alongside you!

Pastor Mollie

Living Water International exists to demonstrate the love of God by helping communities acquire desperately needed clean water, and experience "living water"—the gospel of Jesus Christ—which alone satisfies the deepest thirst.



EXPERIENCING THE HOLY LAND

By Pastor Carol

I was blessed to travel to the Holy Land January 3-12 along with the Society for Biblical Studies. The Rev. Peter Miano led our group of 34 individuals, 11 of whom were pastors. The trip was designed to train clergy and church leaders to lead groups through the Holy Land. A thorough explanation of extra-biblical sources of evidence, as well as biblical exegesis, were included as we traveled throughout Israel-Palestine to visit holy sites.

There are some holy sites that have been venerated since before the time of Jesus. The site that has been regarded as the tombs of the patriarchs (and matriarchs) is in Hebron, and Jesus likely could have visited these tombs. The blocks that were used to build the shrine over the tombs date back to Herod the Great, who was the father to Herod Antipas, who ruled at the time of Jesus. There are other holy places that are pretty much the same as in the time of Jesus, like the hillsides where shepherds did and have always tended sheep. There are wadis, where access to water in the ravines tell the tale of travelers through all time moving from place to place. We can be fairly certain that these are the trails and paths that Jesus would have traversed when going from Nazareth to Capernaum or Bethsaida and around the land of Galilee. The Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, the mountains of the Transjordan, the Jordan River, and the sands of the beaches around the Sea of Galilee are all almost definitely the same as what Jesus saw as he looked out at the world from childhood to adulthood. Techniques for fishing may have changed, but the waves rocking the boats, the way storm clouds roll in, and fears consume the hearts of human beings...this is all the same. There is one Spring in the area where the author of Luke describes Jesus drinking from the well with a Samaritan woman. While the basement of the Orthodox Church starts to feel somewhat forced, we do know that this is the only spring that is in the right location, and it has been filling the well for a very long time.

There are also sites that have been venerated as places where significant things happened. There's a cave in Capernaum, for example, that has graffiti dating to the 1st century, which read "Come Lord" and "Hail Lord". These are fairly good indicators that this was where Jesus stayed/lived/slept in Capernaum. The place of the Skull or "Golgotha" is just up from the stone where it is said that the women anointed Jesus' body after they took him down from the cross, and just a short distance is the location venerated as the tomb where Jesus' body was laid. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre with all of its ornamentation, incense, and crowds create a very unique atmosphere; however, the faith, the tradition, the proximity to actual or memorialized sites where these events

transpired is soul-shaking. The Church of the Nativity can be challenging to envision Mary and Joseph holding their infant child. The rush to kneel and touch the rock where *potentially* the Magi visited...well, it steals some of the power of the moment. However, the stone caves paints a new understanding of what life was like in the 1st century, and pausing long enough to imagine the frame of mind of a young couple trying to be faithful in what must have been a terrifying time is transformative. Finally, there are other places like the Wailing Wall and the Garden of Gethsemane, where simply breathing the air seems to deepen one's faith.

I am anticipating a trip with many of you in 2021. There are a million details to get organized before then, and we are trying to balance a variety of needs, wants, and preferences. I hope to share my pictures, stories, and experiences in a few different venues, including **AFTER WORSHIP ON FEB. 2**; At Kindred Spirits, and potentially with the Men's Breakfast and Women's Circles (if desired).

An interest form will be distributed and be available in the church office for everyone who is at all interested in attending a church trip to the Holy Land to indicate priorities and desires for our trip. The responses will help shape the trip that we design, and then folks can choose whether or not to sign up. These interest forms will help us estimate the number of slots to reserve, so please be sure to turn in a form if you think you might want to attend.

The question that I have been asked the most often is whether or not I felt safe while I was in Israel-Palestine. The answer: YES. The checkpoints and the realities of a contained West Bank is frustrating, and at times inconvenient for our American tourist group. However, I never felt in danger. Our guide cited statistics of violence in Florida, Texas, and Chicago as being "dangerous" places to visit, more so than the Holy Land. However, due to news cycles and attention on the Middle East we often perceive it to be a very dangerous place. I walked around at night, we travelled freely, and I never felt in danger. Of course, I also felt the power of your unwavering love and prayers! I can't wait to go back to the Holy Land with You!



WORSHIP

WORSHIP WITH US IN JANUARY

February 2 **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**
(Food Holy Communion
Collection) First Communion Presentation
Pastor Carol Holy Land Recap
Super Bowl Party

February 9 **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**
Youth Group

February 16 **Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**
Youth Group

February 23 **Transfiguration Sunday**
One Service at 10 am
Pancake Breakfast
Jazz Community Big Band
Youth Group Sunday Supper

- Nursery Care is available each Sunday for infants through 5 years.

SUPER BOWL PARTY!

Come join the Fellowship Committee for our Super Bowl and Chili Cook Off Sunday February 2, 5 pm in the Great Hall. Please let us know if you plan to attend, plan to enter a submission into the Chili Cook-off competing for a trophy or want to bring an appetizer by [CLICKING HERE](#). We will also be playing Squares, visit the [CHURCH WEBSITE](#) to learn more about signing up and how to play!

FIRST COMMUNION



We are pleased to recognize the First Communion of Bria, Owen S., Ella, Archer, Layla, Carrie, Adrian, Justin, Owen F., and Alexia during 10 am worship on February 2nd. These children worked with Pastor Carol and Pastor Mollie to learn about the history and practice of Holy Communion and are prepared to join the wider Christian community in this Holy Sacrament.

PASTOR CAROL HOLY LAND RECAP

We are anticipating a trip to the Holy Land in 2021. There are a million details to get organized before then, and we are trying to balance a variety of needs, wants, and preferences. Pastor Carol will share her pictures, stories, and experiences in a few different venues, including **AFTER WORSHIP ON FEB. 2;** At Kindred Spirits, and potentially with the Men's Breakfast and Women's Circles (if desired).

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Ash Wednesday services will be held on February 26th at 7:00 am and 7:30 pm. The morning service is intended for those on their way to work, it will be a 15-minute service without a sermon.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Our Women's Retreat will be held February 7th – 9th, if you would like to come last minute, please contact Pastor Mollie or Liz ASAP. Information, including the itinerary, has been sent out, if you did not receive this please contact the Church Office.



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 23rd after 10:00 am Worship featuring the Jazz Community Big Band. Come hungry! There will be pancakes, fresh fruit, coffee and OJ. A gluten-free option will be available.



OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

“Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life” - Jesus

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 January requests:

Life in the Resurrection

- Prayers for the Stettler family. Marian Stettler, long-time PRCC member, entered life in the resurrection on 12/23. A memorial service was held here on January 18th at 2:00 pm with a reception to follow.
- Prayers for the Larson family. Scott Larson's mother Marilyn entered life in the resurrection on Christmas Day.
- Please pray for the families of those on the Ukrainian airplane, many of whom were students returning to school. Please pray for the family and friends of Ava Zachurus who passed away last weekend.
- We hold Diane Todd in pray as she grieves the loss of her daughter.
- Sheila requests prayers for the rowing team of St. John of the Cross who were in a tragic car accident.
- Please pray for Maddie Koslow, Molly O'Brien's friend whose mother died suddenly last week.
- Please pray for the Collentine family on the loss of Dick's mom, Mary, mother of 10, age 97.

Healing and Recovery

- Prayers for Diane Zabawski-Maestranzi, Bernice's granddaughter, who faces upcoming surgical procedures. We pray for wisdom and treatment for her overall health and wholeness.
- Prayers of thanksgiving that Paul Curtis, Grace Curtis' brother in law, has awoken after 5 days in a coma, and we continue to pray for his healing and recovery as he faces surgery and ongoing treatment.
- Please continue to hold Larry Zimmerman in prayers for patience as he works hard in rehab to recover from a stroke.
- Prayers for Angie Pappasavav's mother who fell and is healing from a few fractures.
- Please pray for a HS football coach & family friend diagnosed with aggressive leukemia and in hospital through the holidays.
- A visitor asks for prayers for his wife's PTSD to diminish. Special prayers everyone going through a difficult time during

Christmas.

- Please pray for a friend struggling with chronic illness and financial challenges.
- A member asks for prayers for the continued improvement of preemie twin boys born to friends.
- Please pray for Jane Scheuer's son-in-law Joe and sister Marilyn, both of whom were hospitalized last week.
- Jane also asks for prayers for Tina & her husband John who was in the hospital after a life threatening diagnosis & surgery.
- We continue to pray for Rick's friend, Jim, who is grateful for our prayers and now faces treatment for the tumor on his heart.
- Please pray for baby Louisa suffering from a serious respiratory infection.
- Sasha asks for prayers for her mother, Alicen McGowan, as Alicen faces various health issues.
- We pray for a former member who moved to Arkansas, Jeff Newman Lee, recovering from a heart attack.
- Kathy Berry asks for prayers for her mother in Florida recovering from a serious medical situation.
- Kathy also asks us to pray for her co-worker Michelle, a young mother & paramedic, newly diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Ginny Jacobson asks for prayers for her sister-in-law Betty who is being treated for a delicate skin condition.
- Please hold Karen Nelson's nephew John in prayer for a slowing of disease progression.
- Please hold the people of Puerto Rico in prayer as they work to recover from the recent earthquakes.
- We are asked to pray for a niece, Amy, fighting serious infections.
- Please continue to pray for Heather Cannon who received a successful stem cell transplant on Christmas Eve.
- Emma asks for pray for Lizabeth Dziallo who has bone cancer in her spine.

Birthdays/Anniversaries/Retirement

- We celebrate a very Happy Birthday to Barb Zuegel.
- We celebrate with Sue Sandstrom her birthday on 1/21.

Joys

- We hold our Stephen Ministry team in prayer as they begin a new training class this week.
- Charlie Giera shares the good news of an excellent health report from his doctor.
- John Weber is grateful for a return to the regular routine after the Christmas break.
- It's a joy to celebrate the first place win at the Maine/Niles trivia night by the Kevin Rauch team.

Travel

- Prayers for Cathy Stewart's son, daughter in law, and granddaughter as they leave for Jordan to serve Syrian refugees.

STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. 2 Corinthians 3:2-3 (NSRV)

Do you ever wonder where some of the things we say come from? For example, what on earth could “raining cats and dogs” mean? (Back in medieval times, people lived in houses with thatched roofs. Household pets were housed in the attic. If it rained hard enough to get that area wet, the cats and dogs would jump down into the dry house.) Another one I wondered about was “wearing one’s heart on one’s sleeve.” We use this to say a person is broadcasting their affections for all to see. With St. Valentine’s Day nearly upon us, it seemed a perfect time to do a little research.

My curiosity about this coincided with another interesting event: the receipt in the office of a number of letters from the participants in the North Park University graduate classes at Stateville Correctional Center (aka prison) to whom many of us wrote Christmas cards. These letters were expressions of gratitude, indeed joy, at having been thought of. Most of the letters indicate a desire to continue the correspondence. One of the letters is posted on the bulletin board outside of the office.

Letters, like the one on the bulletin board, that were written to specific people have been forwarded to them, and all have agreed to continue the relationship. But there are several generic letters expressing loneliness and wondering if someone would like to continue to exchange letters. These guys are wearing their hearts on their sleeves, as it were.

St. Paul tells the Christians at Corinth that each of them is a letter from God, written not with ink but by the very spirit of the living God, not on stone (aka paper) but on their hearts. So, to Paul, in a very real way, being a

Christian means that we are wearing our hearts on our sleeves. We broadcast our affections in a way that all can see. Every day, all the time (aka 24/7/365.)

Of course, Paul would not have known that saying. Its origin is a game played at least in Victorian times at St. Valentine’s Day parties where the names of single men and ladies were written or embroidered on fabric hearts. Each participant would select a heart, and the ladies could either keep the heart she selected as her companion for the remainder of the evening or choose to spend the time with the man who chose her heart. The appropriate hearts were pinned to the sleeves of the participants – thus wearing their hearts on their sleeves. (I feel obligated to mention that one of the origins of Valentine’s Day was an effort to end a Roman Festival called Lupercalia that also involved pairing up but with the men choosing the names, and no apparel to which to pin a heart.)

In a very real way, each Stephen Minister, and each person a Stephen Minister cares for, approaches the relationship with their heart on their sleeve. No one night stands; the Stephen Minister makes a commitment to be with the person who needs them for as long as necessary. Nor is it a random selection; each relationship is established after careful thought and much prayer. And despite the fact there are always sleeves available for pinning on name tags, the relationships are confidential.

The new training class for Stephen Ministers includes Karen Webster, Naomi Siebert, Colleen Moriarty, Carrie Plach, John Sasser, and Sarah Odeshoo (aka my niece.) Their commitment to learning to be Stephen Ministers is a perfect example of what it means to be a living love letter, responding to the spirit of the living God written in on their hearts.

If you could use someone to be with you for this Valentine’s Day, or any day except Lupercalia, contact Pastor Carol (847-823-3164) or Ginny Feurer (847-840-7082) to talk about the possibilities.



LETTERS FROM STATEVILLE

During our Advent Festival in December we made Christmas Cards to send to some of the Stateville Inmates with whom we have had previous contact. Our cards were met with overwhelming joy and thanks prompting many of the recipients to send us letters expressing how impactful our efforts were. There is an interest in beginning a pen pal program to continue these uplifting communications. If you are interested, please talk to Anita Rifkind or Shelley O'Brien.

I would like to say to parents of little ones, when sent me card with those lovely figurine stickers.

Thank-you, so much for the card, yes, it was a surprise to me, when I receive mail, my heart over-flow with joys as I look at card with a big smile on my face. I do used figurine to stick on walls like adhesive tape for my mirror, when I shave, I smile as used 'candy green ones', oh, these will last good while. :3

You parents keep doing well by teaching your young ones the gifts of caring - I needed that encouragement going into New Year, 2020.

I Hope with much Blessing for All of "Park Ridge Community Church for you to have Healthy New Year, 2020.

FOR such A HEART FELT Beautiful CARD
WOW...

GOD is OH
SO GOOD

AND you Prove THAT
AT 6 year OLD ☺ Hey...

I PRAY THAT GOD
Continue To Bless Rachel
And Her Family

AND THE Park Ridge
Community Church.

PEACE ON EARTH
AND GOODWILL TO
ALL

LUKE 14:1-9...
HAVE FUN

May GOD
Bless
you ALL!

Thank You for the Timely words of
Encouragement! I wasn't overly moved
but I do ~~recognize~~ Acknowledge and
am grateful for your effort that is a witness
to the love of Christ in you.

Thank you for the heartfelt card. It was really
thoughtful of you to reach out to me while I'm going through the
toughest time of my 34 years. I appreciate your gestures and love
to express that God is love and God is eternal life. Please

Hi Annette! Thank you for the lovely
card. I was elated and pleasantly
surprised at the same time. It is a
beautiful thought when a Christian
sister reaches out to a Christian brother.
You helped to fulfill the gospels mandate
to visit those who are in prison based
on Matthew 25: 35, 36.



WINTER NEWS

KINDRED SPIRITS CAFÉ

All are welcome to join us Tuesday's for lunch in Jordan Hall. Come with a sack lunch after yoga or anytime about noon. We will provide a delicious dessert and beverages. If you need more information or have questions, please talk to Liz Swanson. Our February schedule is as follows:

- 2/4 Celebrate February Birthdays
- 2/11 Learn about & write Haiku Poems
- 2/18 Gail Benedetto's travel presentation
- 2/25 Fat Tuesday – FOOD FREE FOR ALL

KNITTING KNIGHTS



Looking for ways to keep your hands out of the cookie jar on these long, cold winter nights? Knitting or crocheting soap sacks, hats or any other project can help!! Please join us Monday 2/3 and 2/17 at 7:00 pm in Jordan

Hall to learn more about these fun projects. Please contact Liz Swanson for more information or with questions.

ADULT EDUCATION

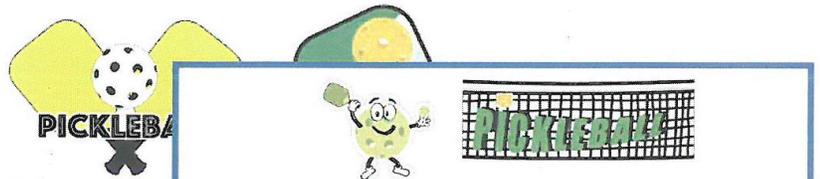
Monday Morning Bible Study: 10 am Gathering; 10:30 am Study led by Winnie Ericksen and Pastor Mollie

In *Called*, author Susan Robb shows us how God interrupts the lives of ordinary people, calling and empowering them to lives of service they never would have imagined on their own. Discover how to hear and respond to the unique call God is placing on your life in this six-week study. For more information or questions, contact Winnie or Pastor Mollie.

Wednesday Bible Study at 7:30 pm; co-led by Pastor Carol and Katie Reboletti

We gather on Wednesdays in Ellinger Transept to study the Gospel of Matthew. Some of the texts will align with the preaching on Sundays, and as we seek a guiding light for the year ahead, we will look to Matthew's insight.

PICKLE BALL – Beginning February 1st!



**PRCC Hosts a different type of "Service" project...
Come join us in the Great Hall for Pickleball
Open Play – Friday mornings 8:30-10:30
Interested? Contact Paula Mack
#847-323-7609 or pcbmack@gmail.com**

12th NIGHT BRUNCH – THANK YOU!

Thank you to the 100+ congregants who joined us for delicious food and warm fellowship on January 12th in the Great Hall!

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!



The Schrimpf Family
Paul and Mindy with Reese and Oscar



The Brunet Family
Tom and Lorel

WINTER NEWS



COFFEE HOUR

The Membership/Welcome Team is looking for volunteers to host coffee hour after the 10:00 am service in 2020, we have open spots beginning in March.

NEW VISITOR COMMUNICATION

Be on the lookout for the new postcard that everyone in the congregation can use to give to a visitor they meet in the pews. This is a specific way for the Membership Committee and office to gather contact information for those who are newly visiting PRCC so we can reach out and support their experience!

CREATION TEAM

A group of us met on January 15, 2020 with a staff member from Faith in Place. Since 1999, Faith in Place has worked with over 1,000 houses of worship throughout Illinois to help inspire faithful people to care for the Earth through four program areas:

Energy & Climate Change, Sustainable Food & Land Use, Water Preservation, and Advocacy.

Present at the meeting were Bill Barsanti, Karen Heckmann, Ginny Jacobson, Mike Laginess, Bob Mack, Karen Nelson, Liz Swanson and Tricia Williams. Reducing waste (including food), reducing use of disposables, recycling, raising awareness, landscape/pollinators, integrating youth into our work, energy efficiency and solar energy were some of the topics that we would like to look at. We decided to call this effort Creation Care Team rather than Green Team because we think it helps us to remember to connect our faith with our care of the Earth and environment. We plan on meeting again on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 7 pm to work on creating a mission statement and setting some goals. The meeting is open to anyone interested in being part of this team effort. Look for a short survey to come out this spring so we can get input from



congregation members about what your thoughts are related to this topic.

If you have any questions or need more information, contact tricia.williams@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 spotlight Ann Swindell!

Ann has been a PRCC member for quite some time. She likes to fly under the radar so you might not know all of the things she is involved with and does here at church.

Ann currently serves on the Altar Guild team, working with other volunteers to care for the altar, vestments and altar linens in the sanctuary. In the past, she has enjoyed working with the youth. She has been a chaperone on high school mission trips, middle school ski trips and other youth activities and she is a frequent Vacation Bible School helper too. Ann is currently volunteering as a mentor for the middle school Confirmands.

What you may not know about Ann is that she is a whiz at sewing and design. She's the creator of awesome costumes for the Christmas pageant, the pumpkin patch and the Easter Bunny and she's made many of the beautiful banners that you've seen and still see in the sanctuary and around the church. She's also created the always popular pumpkin patch decorations; like the giant sunflowers, bats, birds and general patch decor. Ann helps in the Sunday School wing decorating bulletin boards and helping make all sorts of things.

We are all blessed by Ann and the many ways she shares her amazing creative skills with us at PRCC.





WINTER NEWS

BOARD NEWS

In a Special Called meeting of the Board of Directors on January 21, 2020, we received a Financial Update from Eric Johnson, Treasurer, and approved a Budget for 2020. This budget will be presented at the Annual meeting May 4, 2020. We celebrate ending 2019 well, and this marks the earliest we have approved an annual budget in many years! We were able to approve increases in many ministry areas due to the generous responses to the Stewardship campaign. Here are a few things to note from 2019:

- The 2019 Budget anticipated a \$34K deficit, which did not include an Associate Minister salary package. Not only did we cover the expenses for the calling of Pastor Mollie, we ended the year \$13K ahead of what we had budgeted. While this still amounted to a \$21K deficit, we did not need to transfer funds from the reserves to close out the year.

Looking ahead at the 2020 Budget:

- With increased giving, we are able to increase our outreach and ministry budget and maintain a lower deficit figure than 2019.
- There were 20 brand new pledging units for 2020, and on average, pledges increased 6.8%. The Finance Team is following up with a few outstanding pledges.
- The Executive Committee approved Lay Staff Salary Increases of at least 3%. *Please note that no increases were made to Ministers' salary packages.*
- The Youth Budget increases are higher to accommodate a more robust youth programming year, including an international mission trip for High School Youth and a three-day mission experience for middle School Youth.
- Our Children's ministry budget increased due to added ministry events, as well as increased participation of children in all activities.
- We estimated giving for 2020 based on actuals from 2019 and pledges received.
- We are hopeful for a number of fundraisers in 2020 to help overcome the anticipated deficit.
- Per prior Board approval, Contingency funds are available, as needed, to cover the expenses of the salary and benefits package for the Associate Minister.

HISTORY & POLITY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Park Ridge Community Church chose to affiliate with the United Church of Christ during the tenure of Rev. Dr. Paris Donehoo. Each year, in our budget we include a nominal amount to contribute to the shared goals and mission of the United Church of Christ. Pastor Mollie is currently beginning the ordination process with the Chicago Metropolitan Association of the Illinois Conference in the United Church of Christ. In this process, Pastor Mollie will complete a series of requirements, including a psychological assessment, a course in the History and Polity of the United Church of Christ, a mentor relationship with another clergy person, and a series of interviews and examinations to demonstrate calling and equipment for ministry. In January, Pastor Mollie and Pastor Carol took a course in the History and Polity of the United Church of Christ at the Chicago Theological Seminary, taught by Rev. Dr. John Thomas, former President and General Secretary of the United Church of Christ.

Pastor Carol was ordained as a United Methodist elder in 2011, after completing the ordination process including paperwork, coursework, and interviews and examinations with the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Northern Illinois Conference in the United Methodist Church. As of the fall 2019, she began the process to obtain dual standing with the United Church of Christ. This would mean her ordination would continue to be held in the United Methodist Church AND it would be officially recognized in the United Church of Christ. This has increased interest because of the ongoing conflicts in the United Methodist Church. In case something was to happen and Pastor Carol's credentials in the UMC become jeopardized, she wants to be able to continue her ministry without losing standing. Her decision to participate in the UCC class was both out of obligation and interest in learning more about the polity and practice of the United Church of Christ.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

The Nominating Committee will begin meeting in February. It's time to start the process of reaching out to members who may be interested in filling any open Board of Directors and Executive Committee positions before the May annual meeting. Maybe you are interested in being a member of this committee?

Or maybe you are considering where you might be called to serve our beloved church and its members. Don't be afraid to answer the call.

Contact Tricia Williams at tricia.williams@parkridgecommunitychurch.org for more information.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

All preschool through high school students are invited to Sunday school. Bring a friend! Below is our typical schedule.

**Meeting space information below.*

- 10:00-10:15 All gather in the sanctuary to begin worship with family members. Pastors dismiss children to Sunday school.
- 10:15-10:30 **Preschool to 3rd grade** children ~ music time in SS wing
- 10:30-11:15 **Preschool to 3rd grade** children in classrooms
- 10:15-11:15 **4th-12th grade** ~ go to class from sanctuary
- 11:15 classes end; parents pick up preK-2nd graders from Sunday school wing

*PreK-2nd grade classes in Sunday school wing
 3rd grade class at the back of Jordan Hall, lower level
 4th-5th grade class in the Library, lower level
 6th-12th grade class up in the Great Hall (above the Sunday school wing)

The first Sunday of each month, (Holy Communion days) including Feb. 2, March 1, etc. middle & high school students are to remain in worship.

Please complete a registration form, available from Park Place Room or the Sunday school wing or our website, www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org, so that we have contact and allergy info for each child. Return forms to Teri or Shelley, or to the church office.

Contact Shelley or Teri with questions:
sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org.

NURSERY

Nursery care is available each Sunday 8:30-11:15 am for infants through 5 years of age on the lower level, next to Jordan Hall.

* Seeking loving adults (of any age) and youth to expand our nursery care-giver roster! Vicki Kelly and Kyrie Nelson are doing an amazing job of running our nursery week after week, but from time to time, we need extra hands or substitute caregivers. We pay for your time, and you get the opportunity to hang out with amazing little people!

MY BIBLE CLASS

Children 3rd grade and older are invited to the annual My Bible class, **March 1 - April 19** (except March 22 for spring break and April 12, Easter day). The class meets **during Sunday school time**. Children should begin in worship with family; when the pastors dismiss to Sunday school, around 10:15, the My Bible teacher and students will go to the 3rd grade class area, where they will learn to use this essential tool of our faith. After the 6-week class, the children will be presented during **worship April 26** with the very Bible they have learned to use. Registration is open to all, including friends. To register or with questions, contact Teri, sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org.



SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTREACH PROJECTS

January - February offerings will go toward our church's goal to build a well in Honduras! In March, we will again pack 100 lunches for Uncle Pete's Ministry. We will collect food items and buy lunchmeat, then assemble the lunches between worship services on March 15. Our children's time, talents and treasure are being put to good use!





PRCC Youth News

SAVE THE DATE

City BBQ in Park Ridge will host a fundraising event for our summer Youth Mission Trip on February 20th.... Look for more details!

YOUTH SCHEDULE

February 2:

No Sunday School: Youth stay in worship
PLAY: PRCC Super Bowl Party in The Great Hall at 5 pm.

February 9:

LEARN
Guest Speaker: Kelly Mack

February 15 &16:

GROW
Youth Winter Retreat: Wilmot, WI

February 23:

SERVE
Sunday Suppers with PR Presbyterian Youth

SCRIPTURE EMOJIS

Did you figure it out?



Answer:
Noah

Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³ So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴ So make yourself an ark of cypress^[c] wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased, they lifted the ark high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water.

¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.



THE YOUTH SPACE IS STARTING TO LOOK HEAVENLY...



A HUGE thank you to Tom Klimmeck for all of his work prepping the space for its makeover!!

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up for the Youth Winter Retreat, please register by February 1st.

Schedule:

Saturday, February 15th – depart at 9 am
- Ski/Board all day
- Group dinner and reflection at the lodge.

Sunday, February 16th –
- Breakfast and Worship at the lodge
- Group tubing
- Arrive home at 2 pm

Cost:

Lift Ticket: \$58
Ski/Board Rentals: \$24
Tubing: \$31
Lodging: \$35/person
Extras: ski lesson - \$13, helmet: \$8

Meals:

Saturday: Youth pack a lunch, dinner provided
Sunday: Breakfast provided, lunch on the way home (youth pay for own mean).

Lodging:

Each person must bring their own linens and towels.

Payment:

Youth accounts can be used to cover costs; total cost is dependent on individual activities/rentals.

Chaperones:

Adults! If you enjoy skiing and would like to join us, please let Pastor Mollie know ASAP!





OUTREACH NEWS

MAINE TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry donations are always needed! Feel free to drop off Sundays or during office hours throughout the week. Thank you in advance for your help!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

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.

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER

Christian Outreach is once again looking for volunteers to help serve dinner at **Lincoln Park Community Services** on **February 6th**. A helpful Brownie Troop will be assisting with cooking, so no other volunteers are needed to cook. Those serving dinner will leave church at 5:30 and will be back no later than 9:00. If you are available, and would like to help, please contact Luan Zoellner (lzoellner@ameritech.net or 847-525-8353).

COSMETIC BAGS

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

Our next opportunity to serve at Sunday Night Supper will be March 1st. We will only be serving for this meal, not cooking. Please see the needs below:

5:00 - 7:30 pm Time commitment (Report directly to Park Ridge Presbyterian Church)

7-8 people to serve food

4 people to operate the drink cart (Note: these helpers must be able to push a cart and lift gallon bottles of milk/ juice)

3 kitchen workers/ food distributors of extra food for guests to take at the end of the meal, and kitchen clean up (all assist with clean up)

If you would like to volunteer, please sign up [HERE](#).



DECEMBER/JANUARY SNAPSHOTS



Christmas Services 2019

Jazz in January



Circle 2's 12th Night Brunch





100 S. Courtland Ave
Park Ridge, IL 60068

**First-class
Postage
Required

Place Stamp
Here**



Contact Us:
847-823-3164

Sunday February 2nd at 5 pm in the Great Hall.

Chili Cook Off and games!

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
Shelly O'Brien, Director of Children's Ministries
Liz Swanson, Director of Pastoral Services
Jaclyn Weir, Parish Coordinator