

# THE PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

September 2019

## Are You Ready for School?



"Are you ready for school?" seems to be the question that we are asking all of our students (and teachers, to be honest) as they prepare to go or have just started back to school. It's a question I will repeat to my children every morning multiple times over the next year, hoping that my incessant asking will thrust them into action! In one particularly honest moment, one of my children (who shall remain nameless) moaned and said "No. I don't want to go back to school. It's hard to learn things. You have to listen and think and remember and do the work and do the reading and think and listen and remember. It's hard, mom. I'm not ready."

If we are honest with ourselves, learning is hard. It begins with the foundation of humility, acknowledging that we don't know everything already. Socrates once said, "The only true wisdom is knowing you know nothing." And for many of us who have matriculated through schools, college, graduate programs, trainings upon training, the school of hard knocks, and life itself - we tend to think we've got many things figured out!

Jesus' band of followers had been to church, they'd learned their trades, some were more educated than others, depending on their line of work...and yet they came to him with open hearts and questions. "What must I do to inherit eternal life" asked one rich young ruler. "How can a person who's already been born be born again?" asked Nicodemus, the religion teacher. James and John wanted to ensure good seats of honor after a life of being dismissed. Everyone seemed to have plenty more questions. In the Old Testament, folks had

their questions too. Moses asked to see God's face, and God replied that he wasn't ready for that - and showed him instead his backside. LOL.

As we begin this new season of ministry, I encourage you to embrace the questions! I encourage you to open your hearts to the things we do not know and do not understand. Our fall series will invite us all on a journey to understand other people's faith perspectives, even as we examine our own. In a post 9/11 world, in which Muslims and Christians and Hindus and Jews and Buddhists and Sikhs and Agnostics are pitted against one another, with differences accentuated, fears amplified, and ignorance exacerbated, we MUST slow our roll long enough to listen and to learn. Are you ready to go to school?

In some parts of our world, countries are literally ravaged by war, with one religious community persecuting another, committing genocide in the name of religion. In this country, individuals have blown up buildings and mowed down crowds of people in the name of religion. A Christian pastor in Florida made the news as he burned the Qu'ran. Is violence and persecution germane and inherent to religious fervor? Is it possible to learn some of the tenets and traditions of another's religion without compromising your own faith? Christianity has not always been a tradition that has encouraged such a journey. In fact, where I grew up, folks were encouraged to befriend Muslims and Jews, in order that they might be converted and "saved." In his book *Why did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?*, Brian McLaren writes, "Isn't the real scandal not that our religious leaders might be imagined walking across a road or talking as friends together in a bar, but rather that their followers are found speaking against one another as enemies, day after day in situation after situation? Questions like these have always mattered. But in the years since 9/11/01, more and more of us are realizing just how much they matter." (8)

Our church celebrates that we are a place with diversity of faith, but unity in Christ. We understand that each of us comes with a perspective and a religious identity, and we may each one be in different places. But, at the end of the day, Park Ridge Community Church is a Christian church, following the teachings and examples of Jesus. How does our Christian faith inform how we interact with our brothers and sisters of other faiths? What can we learn about God by learning about other traditions? What can we learn about our faith as we learn about others'?

I have been on the phone with some friends and colleagues about participating with us. We are going to take some trips to other faiths' houses of worship. My Muslim friend explained that *Jamatkhana*, the name of the Ismaili Center we will go, literally means Congregation House. He explained, "It's a place of worship and prayer, but also of community, of gathering, of Sunday school...just like you have!"

I know I will be learning alongside you in the next few weeks. We will ask questions together. We will realize things we knew and things we didn't. We will read, we will see, we will smell, we will touch, we will listen, and we will learn. And, friends, I truly believe - this pursuit will introduce us to a deeper relationship with our God, the God, the Creator of all peoples and languages. We are invited to Encounter the Most High God in/through/because of/in spite of... the diversity of faiths. So, I ask you - are you ready? Let's do it anyway.

P.S. Shout out to Irene Ginger who led PRCC on a similar journey decades ago, and the Faith Development team who thought it was time for us to experience this journey again.

~ Pastor Carol

**ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE  
DIVERSITY OF FAITHS**

**SEPTEMBER 8 (RALLY DAY) - OCTOBER 27, 2019**

**Park Ridge Community Church Learn 'n Go Series 2019**

|                                                               |                                                                 |                                                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Sunday Worship</u><br>8:30 am Chapel<br>10:00 am Sanctuary | <u>Small Group Study</u><br>Mondays 10 am<br>Wednesdays 7:30 pm | <u>Field Trips</u><br>Bahai Temple,<br>Mosque, Synagogue & more | <u>Guest Speakers</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|

Stay Tuned for an Updated Schedule of Extra Opportunities for Engagement in our Diversity of Faiths series, including:

Trips to:

- Hindu Temple
- Bahai Temple
- Jamatkhana, Ismaili Worship Center

Special Guests:

Father Matthew O'Donnell, speaking at Wednesday Bible Study, Sept. 18 7:30 pm

Others Awaiting Confirmation

Small Group Study of Rev. Adam Hamilton's *Christianity and World Religions* on **Mondays at 10 am AND Wednesdays at 7:30 pm**. Books available for purchase in office.

# WORSHIP

## WORSHIP WITH US IN SEPTEMBER

**September 1**     **Labor Day Sunday (Philemon)**  
(Food                Holy Communion  
Collection)        Last Outdoor Worship

**September 8**     **Unity in Diversity (Exodus 33; Matthew 2)**  
Rally Day  
ONE Service at 10:00 am  
Big Band Sunday  
Youth Group at 6:00 pm  
Blessing of Ministry Groups and Teams

**September 15**   **Catholicism (Psalm 95; John 6)**  
Multi-Generational Sunday  
Pastor Mollie Installation  
A Celebration of Kate & Darcy  
Chancel Choir Returns  
Sunday School Resumes

**September 22**   **Hinduism (John 109-16)**

**September 29**   **Buddhism (Philippians 4:6-7)**

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

## RALLY DAY 2019

Join us September 8<sup>th</sup> for Rally Day!

- 9:15 am Sunday School Open House
- 10:00 am ONE worship service featuring the Jazz Community Big Band and the kickoff of our "Encountering God in the Diversity of Faiths" sermon series.
- 11:15 am Church picnic with bouncy house and Deacon Dogs!



## ATTENTION MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY!

All are welcome to join our Monday morning Bible Study. We will resume our normal 10:00 am meetings on September 9<sup>th</sup>, we meet in the Library. We will be following the Unity in Diversity study led by Pastor Carol on Wednesday evenings.

## BIBLE STUDY resumes the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>!

Join a small group as we dive in deeper to understanding other religious traditions and how they impact or inform our own beliefs and perspectives. Monday mornings at 10 am or Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm, we will journey through Rev. Adam Hamilton's *Christianity and World Religions*. Books are available for purchase in the church office. This new, fully updated book explores four major world religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism—and compares the beliefs of each with those of Christianity. Hamilton deals openly and honestly with questions people ask about other religions, such as:

- Why are there so many different religions?
- How should Christians view other religions?
- How is God at work in other religions?
- What is the fate of those who earnestly pursue God through other religions?

In examining these major world religions and the beliefs of their followers, Hamilton urges us as Christians to build bridges with others so that we might grow in our faith, seek peace in our world, love our neighbors, and find positive ways to share the gospel.

# OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

September is a time to Rally back together. We renew our commitment to Christ's command to love God and our neighbor. We look forward to all the ways we share Christ's love especially through prayer. We continue to pray for each other and for these specific prayer requests:

Continue to include in your prayers all those on our prayer ministry list: Martha Bridges, 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, Susan Ruth, Ann Stutts, Ginny Sutton, Kathleen Weller, Joyce Wright, Bill Zoellner, Kate Zoellner.

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

## Life in the Resurrection

- We pray for Greg Sarlo whose partner Jim Reeder entered eternal life on 7/28. A memorial service is being planned to celebrate Jim's life on Saturday, August 31st.
- Laura Sissman asks for prayers for the Sherman family whose son was hit by a car and did not survive.
- Mark Holihan asks for prayers for students and faculty at Fenton High School after the recent death of a student.
- Ginny Feurer asks for prayers for Brenda, whose husband was killed in a tragic accident.

## Healing and Recovery

- Greetings from the Stettlers. Please keep them in your prayers as they face a variety of health challenges.
- Please pray for Jan Cannon's daughter Heather as she undergoes treatments for leukemia.
- Prayers for Drason Pace, 17-year-old with end stage liver disease due to hepatic thrombosis as a result of a liver transplant as an infant.
- Pray for Sheila Blackburn's cousin who had a brain shunt revision yesterday and Sheila's friend experiencing fertility issues.
- Please keep Sheila's friend's mom who's facing serious and chronic pain in your prayers.
- We pray for Julie Hennessey who has a broken ankle and will be facing surgery this week.
- Mark Holihan asked for prayers for his son Matt with a herniated disc.
- Please keep Mary Johnson's friend in your prayers as she grieves the unexpected loss of her husband.
- Tricia Williams asks for prayers for her cousin Doug Nash, diagnosed with cancer.
- We pray for Lauren, that she finds her way back to her family and away from harm.
- For the communities of El Paso & Dayton as well as our nation as we grieve and strategize on ways to put an end to such meaningless violence.

- Laura Sissman asks for prayers for her friend Mark, having bypass surgery on 8/6.
- Please pray for Charlie's friend Angus who has entered hospice care.
- Prayer request from Lois Zitoli, asking for prayers for two close friends who have been diagnosed with cancer.
- Sheila Blackburn, on behalf of Grace Curtis, asks for prayers for Evan Curtis who was in a car accident on Sunday morning. Prayers of relief that no one was seriously injured.
- Gretchen and Dave Kapolnek ask for prayers for their brother in law having a throat biopsy this week.
- Doris Sikorsky asks for prayers for three friends: Gerry is having knee surgery this week, Phyllis is having surgery this week, and Luz, who is 96, is seriously ill.
- Julie Bruno asks for prayers for Dawn, whose cancer is advancing.
- Sasha asks for prayer for her friend who is facing on-going medical treatments.
- Ginny also asks for prayers for Heather who continues to struggle with side effects from her leukemia treatments.

## Travel

- We welcome back the mission trip team and celebrate the transforming work done in their lives and the lives of those they served.

## Birthdays/Anniversaries

- Wedding Anniversaries include Barrie & Bud Shinn celebrating 60 years!
- Pastor Carol's parents celebrate 40 years of marriage.
- Scott & Siri Nelson and Tim & Laura Lapp both celebrate 35 years of marriage on 8/4.
- We also acknowledge the recent wedding anniversary of Jim and Judy Sindt.
- We celebrated Liz Swanson's birthday on August 13th!

## Joys

- What a joy to celebrate the Baptism of Eliza Hamilton.
- It is a joy to welcome & introduce Mollie Foster in worship and hear her children's message.
- We celebrate with our sister church Epworth United Methodist as they mark 130 years of ministry.
- Prayers of joy for Bill Scharringhausen who made his first hole in one playing golf this week!
- Joys for Sasha, for the first time in 12 years, there is going to be a weeklong Junior Choir camp with 17 students participating!
- Prayers of joy from Paula Mack whose sister Laura is healing. Paula is grateful for all of the prayers that have been sent to Laura.
- Charlie Giera is grateful for some much-deserved time off to rest and re-energize.



# STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.*

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NSRV)

I am happy from time to time to provide you with interesting (well, I try) tidbits about some of the most important theologians of the Christian faith. Most of them are long dead, but not all. Most of the not-dead-yet theologians are university professors, with a sprinkling of bishops and ministers, and one pope. But here's the thing, one never knows where "theology" might crop up. This past week, I was blown away by the religious beliefs of Stephen Colbert. (And yes, THAT Stephen Colbert.)

Colbert is unusual in that he is open, indeed matter of fact, about being a Christian, and a Catholic. That's not to say that he isn't irreverent; his conversations with cartoon God (who pontificates from the stained-glass dome in the studio ceiling) depict God as a charming but quirky old guy with an overlong white beard.

In an interview last week with Anderson Cooper (a man of significance in his own right), Colbert talked about the untimely death of his father and two of his 10 siblings when he was just 10 years old. Fighting back his own pain resulting from the recent loss of his mother, Cooper steered the conversation in the direction of suffering and the human condition. He asked Colbert about something Colbert said in an interview with GQ magazine back in 2015.

Colbert, a J.R.R. Tolkien fan, had quoted Tolkien's response to a priest who had questioned his treatment of death as a gift, rather than as a punishment for human sin. Tolkien replied, "What punishments of God are not gifts?" In that 2015 interview, Colbert had gone on to say that he had become aware that it was necessary to "love the thing that I most wish had not happened" and to "take everything with gratitude."

Cooper asked him, "Do you really believe that?"

Colbert paused a long minute before he said, "Yes. It's a gift doing this." (Meaning the conversation with Cooper.) "It's a gift to exist. And with existence comes suffering. There's no escaping that. And I guess I'm either a Catholic or a Buddhist when I say those things..."

Colbert continued with reference to the loss of his father and brothers. "Of course, I want it not to have happened. But if you are grateful for your life, which I think is a positive thing to do.... then you have to be grateful for all of it. You can't pick and choose what you are grateful for."

Cooper asked him what one gets from enduring the losses, in other words, from suffering.

Colbert answered, "So what do you get from loss? You get awareness of other people's losses which allows you to connect with that other, which allows you to love more deeply, and to understand what it's like to be a human being, if it's true that all humans suffer. It's about the fullness of your humanity. What's the point of being human if you can't be the most human you can be?"

Cooper then talked in some pain about his own mother's life and losses, and concluded with, "She said the question isn't 'Why me?' It's 'Why not me?'"

In that difficult moment, Colbert's response was straight out of our shared Christian faith. He tries to console Cooper. He says, "In my tradition, the great gift of the sacrifice of Christ – is that God does it too. You are really NOT alone, God does it too."

God suffers too. In 2 Corinthians, that is the consolation Paul says we get from God, and then as Christians we share that consolation with other human beings – even a TV talk show host named Stephen Colbert in a CNN interview.

It would be foolish to say that suffering isn't painful, and even more foolish to say that it is easy to be grateful for life on particularly bad days. But Stephen Ministry says that Colbert's (and Paul's) basic theology is spot on: You are really NOT alone. And a Stephen Minister is available to be with you for as long as you need a reminder of that fact. Contact Pastor Carol (847-823-3164) or Ginny Feurer (847-840-7082). No monologues, I promise.





# FALL NEWS

## KINDRED SPIRITS CAFÉ

All are welcome to join us on Tuesday's for lunch in Jordan Hall. We gather at noon time, so bring your sack lunch and a delicious dessert and beverages will be provided. You can plan on coming first to Chair Yoga in the Great Hall at 10:15 or just come when you can. This is a relaxed atmosphere of conversation and activities. Here is our September schedule:

9/3 – Birthday Day Celebration

9/10 – Rally Back with Food Free for All (bring a dessert or appetizer to share with all)

9/17 – Meet Pastor Mollie Foster

9/24 – Outreach Update from Paula Mack



## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Make sure to like us on Facebook, also, we'd love to get more new and current reviews!

## SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, 10/16 at 7:00 pm Paris Donehoo will be talking about the book he co-authored - 'Polarized: The Collapse of Truth, Civility, and Community in Divided Times and How We Can Find Common Ground'.

## KNITTING KNIGHTS – Yarn Open House September 16<sup>th</sup>!

Rally back to the fall routine with a Yarn Open House on Monday, 9/16 at 7:00 pm in Jordan Hall. The Knitting Knights will be gathering to take stock of our creative work and to prepare for upcoming events. Join us from 7:00 to 8:30 pm to get yarn, patterns or just be inspired to crochet, knit and converse as we prepare for the Spirit of Christmas and various outreach projects. Everyone is invited to join this circle of crafters!



## CIRCLE 10 NEWS

**Save the Date - Circle 10 Women** invite you to join us on **Wednesday, November 20th** for the "Spirit of Christmas" dinner. This event is an opportunity for all women at PRCC and their friends to enjoy time together before the rush of the holiday season. This event will be held at the Park Ridge Country Club and vendors will be there and you'll have time to do some holiday shopping.

Information about time, ticket sales, etc. will be coming soon!

## CADY FAMILY RECEPTION

The entire Cady family was welcomed August 15th with an Open House reception, hosted by many wonderful volunteers. Thank you to the team who set up, prepared food, and cleaned up! It is such a gift to be able to gather together and reconnect!



# Park Ridge Community Church Annual Golf Outing

Sun., Sept. 29, 2019  
12:00 Check In  
1:00 Shotgun Start  
5:00 Dinner



Old Orchard Country Club  
700 W. Rand Rd., Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Cost: \$125/golfer - includes Green Fees, Cart with GPS, and Dinner  
\$35 Dinner Only \*Cash Bar

Please make checks payable to Park Ridge Community Church  
Registration first come, first served. Due no later than 9/20/19

Join us for this fun social event! We are playing a best ball scramble  
with competitions for longest drive, longest putt, and low score.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Golf \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner Only \_\_\_\_\_

Golf \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner Only \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Golf \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner Only \_\_\_\_\_

Golf \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner Only \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Foursomes encouraged - Individuals welcomed and will be matched with other players\***

Other golfers in your group:

Please place me in a group \_\_\_\_\_

**Hole Sponsorships Available! Please contact Ryan McGuffey at  
[ryan.mcguffey@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:ryan.mcguffey@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)**



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS



## WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?!

Our Membership Team, co-chaired by Sara Born and Sue Douglass, would love to welcome you to Park Ridge Community Church. Perhaps you've been attending for a while or maybe you've just found us...no matter how long it's been, we are happy to welcome you into membership. We will have a couple opportunities to formally join PRCC coming up.

You're also invited to an **Information Session** on Monday, September 30 at 7 pm in the church Parlor. We will receive new members, including Pastor Mollie, on **Sunday, September 29 and Sunday, October 20 in worship!** If Park Ridge Community Church is your church home, we'd love to count you among those who have made the decision to become a member!

Just a reminder to current members - PLEASE wear your nametags on Sundays to help everyone get to know one another better. Also, we need pictures in our online directory. We can take your picture on a Sunday or you can email Jaclyn any favorite photo. This tool helps us to recognize one another and know our whole church better!

## COFFEE HOUR – Hosts Wanted

In between services and after the 10 am worship concludes, we have a wonderful opportunity to fellowship and connect with other PRCC friends and families! All are invited into Jordan Hall to drink coffee, eat lite snacks, and mingle. HOWEVER - WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

We are seeking hosts to volunteer to prepare treats EITHER after the 8:30 OR after the 10 am service. This can be as simple or elaborate as you'd like. Reimbursement is available to cover the cost of food.



## 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 Karen and Bruce Nelson are in the spotlight for the many ways that they volunteer at PRCC. Perhaps you know Karen and Bruce for the fine musicians they are and how they enrich our services with their musical talents. Karen is an accomplished violinist and Bruce is a talented percussionist and they both perform professionally and choose to share their musical gifts with us at our church services and events on a regular basis. Karen regularly volunteers in the Medical Lending Closet loaning equipment to those in need and Bruce can sometimes be found repairing equipment to be loaned out. Karen is a member of the Senior Contact Committee and visits with those seniors who are unable to attend PRCC and keeps them abreast of all that's happening at church. Karen also has a passion for the environment and to care for our Maker's creation she started the initiative to switch from Styrofoam coffee cups to paper cups and to add the use of ceramic coffee mugs on Sundays in order to help all of us at PRCC be more caring for our environment. You might not know that both Karen and Bruce are trained Stephen Ministers providing ongoing one on one Christian care to those who need someone to listen without judgment. Bruce is currently serving as an usher and Karen is serving as a Deacon and is a member of Women's Circle 10. Karen has served faithfully on the Nominating Committee for the past three years as well. These are some of the many ways that Karen and Bruce share their gifts with all of us at PRCC and we appreciate them for all they do.





# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

## Summer Sunday School

We had a great time in Summer Sunday School during 10 am worship June 2 through Aug. 25! Between seven and thirty participants, preschool through adult, worked together on a weekly lesson and activities. A special thanks to our 4th through 12th grade youth assistants, who made the whole thing possible!

***No Sunday school Sept. 1, Labor Day weekend ~ nursery open as usual.***

## Nursery Care

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 and youth to fill out our nursery care 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 well, and you get the opportunity to hang out with amazing little people and get to know their families and the other caregivers. If you have any interest in helping out, please contact Shelley or Teri, [sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org).

## Sunday School 2019-20

Would you like to help with 2019-20 Sunday school classes? No experience needed! Lesson plans and supplies are provided. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to help guide the children of PRCC on their spiritual paths. Contact Teri or Shelley, [sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org) with questions or to sign up.

## Upcoming for children

- Sept. 1: no Sunday school (Labor Day weekend) - nursery open for babies & toddlers
- Sept. 8: Rally Day! (see schedule below)
- Sept. 15: Sunday school begins during 10 am worship (begin in the Sanctuary)

## Rally Sunday, September 8!

9:15 am: Sunday School registration and Open House  
10 am: one worship service, with Jazz Community Big Band  
11:15 am: outdoor lunch and celebration (with Deacon Dogs and children's activities)

**Regular Sunday School resumes September 15.**

## Typical Sunday school schedule (beginning Sept. 15, 2019)

- 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 young children from classrooms

**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. Three- through five-year-olds are welcome to attend Sunday school or remain in the nursery, as their families decide.

Contact Shelley or Teri with questions:  
[sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)

## Prayer Buddies

Children and the "young at heart" will once again be matched up in our Prayer Buddies program, where older and younger PRCC members get together at coffee hours or special events and pray for each other throughout the year. Last year's buddies are invited to continue their partnership (or contact Shelley with changes), and new buddies will be paired up in early October. New sign-ups begin Sept. 15 in the Park Place Room or at coffee hour and continue through Sept. 29. Please contact Shelley, [sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org), with questions or to sign up.

## PRCC Sunday School Shutterfly Site

We have a free, members only Shutterfly site, with a Sunday school calendar and photos. Enjoy a blast from the past, update your family calendar with Sunday school events, and check out the latest photos! To access this closed group, send an email to [sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:sundayschool@parkridgecommunitychurch.org), and we'll invite you to join.





# OUTREACH NEWS

## MAINE TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry donations are always needed, especially in the summer months when donations start to dwindle. Be inspired to share your bounty through the summer by dropping off non-perishable items in the cart in the Park Place Room!

## LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER

Assistance is needed for **Thursday, September 5th's** dinner at **Lincoln Park Community Services**. We will be serving at their new facility at 1521 Sedgwick. **Cooking** begins at **2:00 pm** in the church kitchen, and then we'll be **serving at 7:00 pm**. We plan to leave church at 5:30 pm and return before 9:00 pm. If you'd like to be a part of this worthwhile ministry, please contact Luan Zoellner ([lzoellner@ameritech.net](mailto:lzoellner@ameritech.net)).

## MARYVILLE BACKPACK COLLECTION – Thank You!

A huge thank you to all who so generously donated backpacks to **Maryville's Undocumented Children's Program**. Because of your generosity, we EXCEEDED our goal and collected 120 backpacks! Now these young immigrant children will have a sturdy new backpack to carry their few belongings in, as they travel to their new homes. A special thank you to Circle 10, the Men's Morning Breakfast, and the Yogi's for their contributions!



# YOUTH NEWS

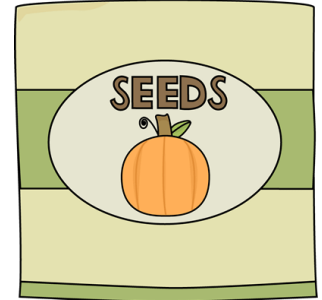
## SEED PATCH

"The tents are quite old. Some poles have been bent. The tables are wobbly. The banner is spent.

The community loves it and supports the event. They always show up with their dollars and cents.

The patch must be ready with pumpkins galore – all shown to their best in the finest décor.

There'll be "spookies" to jumbos with lots in-between – most orange, some pinkish and even light green.



Please give a few bucks to start things a-humming so that we can earn big when it's all up and running!

Please and Thank You!"

"Seed" Packets will be available in the Ellinger Transept. Feel free to contribute what you can to the Pumpkin Patch, this seed money will help us to present our best this pumpkin season!

## YOUTH DESSERTFEST!

You are invited to a dessert fest at Pastor Mollie's house (Carriage House) on **September 15th from 4:00pm-6:00 pm**. There will be ice cream and a variety of other desserts for you to enjoy! Bring your favorite ice cream topping to share! (If you're a football fan--don't worry, so is Pastor Mollie--the games will be on!) This will be a great opportunity for Pastor Mollie to get to know you whether you're a youth veteran or a rookie!

**Parents:** You are also invited to join in from 5:30-6:00 pm. If you have any questions, please email Pastor Mollie: [pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)

## COFFEE WITH PASTOR MOLLIE (All are Welcome!)

Pastor Mollie will be available for coffee and conversation, drop in and say hi, anyone from PRCC is invited to sit down and get to know Pastor Mollie a little better as she begins her journey with us. **Drop in on the following Tuesdays at the Northwest Highway Starbucks: September 17<sup>th</sup> 9 am to 11 am, September 24<sup>th</sup> 11 am – 1 pm, and October 8<sup>th</sup> 11 am – 1 pm.**



**"Look! I'm doing a new thing;  
now it sprouts up."  
Isaiah 43:19**



**Who:**

Youth 6th-12th Grade

**When:**

**Sunday School (Starting Sept. 15):**

10:00 Service (Except 1st Sunday of the Month), Great Hall

**Youth Group (Starting Sept. 22):**

Sundays, 4-6pm, Great Hall

*This fall, we will be reNEWing our youth space. We want your ideas and hands!  
Come to Sunday School to dream of new ideas and Youth Group to bring the ideas to life!*

For more info, contact Pastor Mollie: [pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:pastormollie@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)



# YOUTH PUMPKIN PATCH 2019

Come one and all! It is time to have some pumpkin fun!



## Pumpkin Patch 2019 Save the Dates

Pumpkin Patch set up will be Saturday, Sept 28 at 9:00 AM

Pumpkin unload will be Saturday, Oct 12 at 9:00 AM

Pumpkin Patch will be open Saturday, Oct 12 - Wednesday Oct 31 (closed on Mondays)

Pumpkin Patch take down will be Saturday, Nov 2 at 9:00 AM



## How to Sign Up to Work the Patch

Individuals or groups wishing to sign up online can go to the PRCC website at [www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org](http://www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org) and Click on the SignUp button.



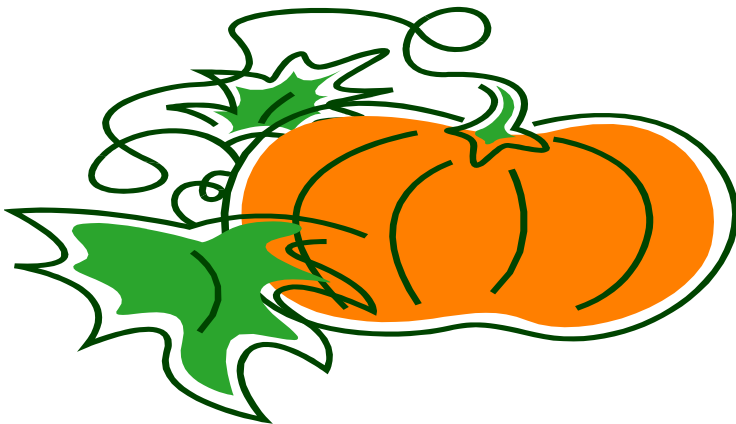
You can also sign up to work in the Pumpkin Patch on the trifold poster board in the Park Place room!



## Consider being a Patch Sponsor

Your family or business can sponsor the Patch through one of our various sponsor levels (Gold Pumpkin - \$100 donation and higher; Silver Pumpkin - \$50 donation; Bronze Pumpkin - \$25 donation) or choose a different amount that is comfortable for you. Sponsors will have their names prominently displayed on our sponsorship board (if you so choose) located at the main entrance to the patch. We are also looking for Patch farmers that would like to plant some pumpkin seeds to help purchase some new Pumpkin Patch supplies? Various seed sizes and types will be available soon!

Questions, contact Hillary Larson at [hkharp@comcast.net](mailto:hkharp@comcast.net) (773-263-3866) or Colleen Moriarty at [cmoriarty104@gmail.com](mailto:cmoriarty104@gmail.com) (224-558-1783). Thank you in advance for your support. We hope to see you in the Patch!



\*\*\*\*16th Annual\*\*\*\*

### Youth Pumpkin Patch

Proceeds Benefit  
PRCC Youth Ministry & the Les Turner ALS Foundation



**October 12 - 31 2019**

Great Fun for the Entire Family!  
Live Music on the Weekends

Pumpkins of All Shapes & Sizes  
Homemade Baked Goods & Seasonal Items

### Patch Hours

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Monday         | Closed           |
| Tuesday-Friday | 3:30pm - 7:00pm  |
| Saturday       | 9:00am - 7:00pm  |
| Sunday         | 11:00am - 7:00pm |

Located just south of the Community Church at Prospect & Crescent Avenues

### Free Weekend Movie

**It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown!**



Fridays & Saturdays - October 12, 18, 19, 25, 26  
At Dusk - Weather Permitting



For further info: [www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org](http://www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org)  
Park Ridge Community Church 100 S. Courtland Ave., 60068



# BOARD NEWS

The Board of Directors met on August 20 to gear up for another year of ministry together! Chair Laura Sissman and Vice Chair Thom Goodwin are attempting to increase Board meeting efficiency with pre-printed agendas, shared reporting through the Google drive, and using meeting time to address action items from the ministry areas and committees. Each Committee Chair was given a binder with printed materials that can be added to as new documents are available. Our new ministry leaders are fully on board and ready to go (or are getting there)! Thom is continually providing workshops and classes on using the Google Drive for Board materials and Committee work. If you need help, please reach out!

## A New Staff Parish Relations Committee is born

For many months, the Board of Directors has considered the need for a Committee to address Personnel matters, and in August, a motion was made and approved to form a new Staff Parish Relations Committee. This Committee will work together to outline their specific function; however, each member of the committee will be assigned to a staff person for periodic check-ins and support. This committee will provide problem-solving mediation as issues arise among staff or with the congregation, as well as provide ongoing support for our staff team. The hope is that this team will help foster greater health among our congregation and staff partnerships now and in the future.

## Shout Out to the Trustees

The Trustees have been busy this summer, from painting yellow stripes on the stairs to replacing windows, installing a/c in the offices, getting floors waxed, confirming roof estimates then having to regroup when unforeseen events halted progress, AND getting the Carriage House ready for Pastor Mollie!! The list goes on and on, but the entire Trustees team was acknowledged and thanked at our meeting.

## Reading, Considering, and Conversing - *Governance and Ministry*

The Board of Directors is reading the book *Governance and Ministry* together to consider the structure of our church leadership. Books were given to each Board Member, along with a slideshow with highlights to spark conversation. The work of the Structure team continues as they consider ways to propose organizational changes with corresponding by-law updates. The goal is to increase effectiveness, streamline processes, increase congregational involvement and decrease burnout...sound impossible? Nothing is impossible with God...and we believe that!

## How are the Finances?

We celebrate that we continue to have enough money to pay for ministry and surprises as they emerge. Eric Johnson, Treasurer, reported on giving trends, comparing them with 2018 giving. In 2018, May was the strongest month of the year, and this year it was our lowest giving month of the year. Our spending has been kept tight, with several areas spending less than budgeted for 7 months of the year. We currently have around a \$30K deficit in our budget, due to lower than anticipated pledged contributions. We realize as we launch the fall programs, expenses will increase, and we hope that giving will as well! The Board encourages our membership to consider automated giving, as this consistency helps to keep things running smoothly even while we vacation or travel. If you'd like to catch up on your pledge, find out how to sign up for automated giving, or understand more, please reach out to Eric Johnson (Treasurer) or Thom Goodwin (Chair of Finance).

## Senior Minister Report

Pastor Carol reported to the Board about the summer, her plans for continuing education, and the worship planning for the year. This report included sermon series from now through the end of May. Her intention is for the music team, the children's ministry, adult faith, outreach, and more to find ways to connect with worship. The staff also put together an overview of already scheduled ministry events, holidays, special Sundays, etc. for the upcoming year. This helps committees and teams to plan more effectively, collaborating as we go.

## Upcoming Meetings

The Executive Committee will meet on September 17<sup>th</sup>. No Board Meeting in September, see you in October!





## Join the PRCC Music Ministry!

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

*Groups for all ages and abilities.*

*No experience necessary.*

**Sunday School Music** – kids ages 3-8, meets SUNDAYS during worship at 10:15 am

**Junior Choir** – girls and boys 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades, meets on TUESDAYS (NEW DAY!) from 4- 5 pm beginning Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Angeli Choir** – girls 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, meets on SUNDAYS from 12:00 – 1:30 pm (NEW TIME!) beginning September 15<sup>th</sup>

**Chancel Choir** – all people, ages 14 and older, meets THURSDAYS 8:00 – 9:30 pm, beginning September 12<sup>th</sup>, and SUNDAYS 9:30 am

**Bells on High** (handbell group) – adults, HS and older, meets on THURSDAYS from 6:30 – 7:30 pm beginning September 12<sup>th</sup>.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Director of Music Ministries, Sasha Gerritson  
[sasha@parkridgecommunitychurch.org](mailto:sasha@parkridgecommunitychurch.org)





# AUGUST SNAPSHOTS



*Outdoor Worship Children's Message*



*"New" Members: Rick Benedetto and Eric Biedke*



*100/100 vote for Pastor Mollie!*



*Stephen Cady Family Celebration*



*August 25th worship – Junior Choir*



# PRCC ON THE MOVE!

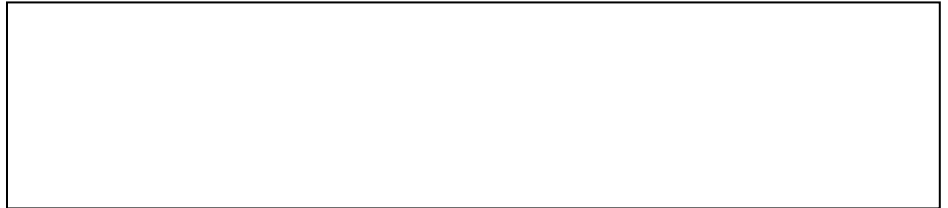
Thank you to all that included us in your summer travels...welcome back!





100 S. Courtland Ave  
Park Ridge, IL 60068

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# SAVE THE DATE

Rally Day – September 8, 2019



Contact Us:

847-823-3164

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

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

**Like us on Facebook!**

Our Staff:

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister

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