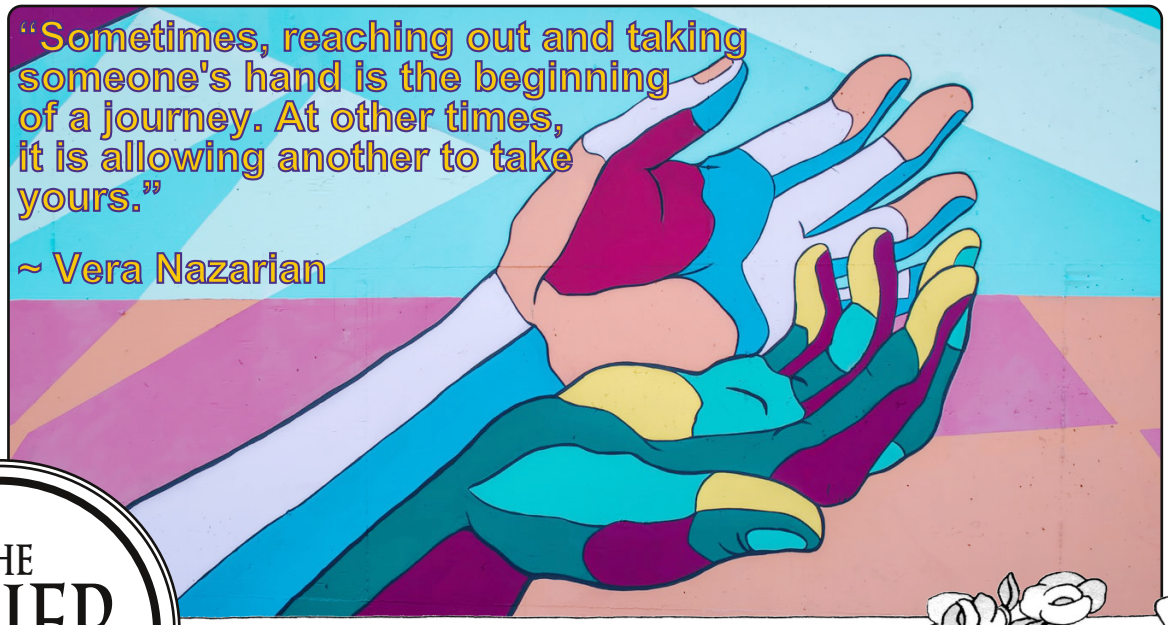


THE CRIER
AUGUST
An Open and Affirming Congregation
PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2020

JourneyNotes Introducing Pastor Dianne Rodriguez

Greetings,

Recently I reported the following to Council. Wow my work with Parkrose has truly begun. Thank you to all who helped. I feel welcomed and appreciated by your gracious embrace. I believe our work together during the multifaceted transition we are navigating; will be that of re-membering the congregation's soul. Throughout these days, I have been reflecting on a quote from James Baldwin that sets the tone for beginning this time with you. He wrote, "This is the charged, the dangerous moment, when everything must be re-examined, must be made new, when nothing can be taken for granted."

Since I began on July 1st my moments as your intentional interim pastor have been charged with new possibilities. After having sent out an email to everyone in the church directory inviting recorded or in face social distancing scripture readers for service; I am delighted that many have accepted the call. I am getting to know you via phone calls and/or one on one meetings in my office. It has been a delight to get to know you and the many ways you are engaged in ministry, while visioning the future of community life. Staff and I meet on a weekly basis to mirror the work the transition team will be doing with the congregation.

I will be coaching the transition team to engage the congregation in reflection on 5 focus points: heritage, connection, leadership, mission and future. Letters to the congregation inviting you to help establish the transition team, will be mailed mid-August.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...

PARKROSE COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Phone: 503-253-5457

MAIL:
P.O. Box 30063
Portland, OR 97294

OFFICE & WORSHIP:
12505 NE Halsey Street
Portland, OR 97230

OFFICE EMAIL:
office@parkroseucc.org

PASTOR DON'S EMAIL:
pastordon@parkroseucc.org

On The Web: www.parkroseucc.org
facebook.com/parkrosecommunityucc

God is still speaking!

Pastor Dianne's Open Office Hours:
(Please Call for Availability)

Church Office Hours:
Monday to Friday: 9:00a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Staff

Rev. Dianne Rodriguez, *Interim Pastor*
Lucile Harden & Sharon Ericson, *Co-Moderators*
Aaron Winegar, *Office Administrator*
Erica Martin, *CE/Youth Director*
A.J. Wong, *Music Director*
Niki Farley, *Accompanist*
Rev. Charles W. Ross, *Pastor Emeritus*

I have discerned a need in creating small social distancing spiritual companioning gatherings. The gathering will consist of six participants including myself. They will be one Tuesday at 1:00 and Saturday at 11:00 of every month. The first Tuesday gathering will be September 1 and the Saturday September 19. The gatherings will be held on campus, outdoors weather permitting or in the Eastminster Room. They will last no more than an hour. Please wear a mask. Once the invitation has gone out the first five to respond will be the participants for the allotted date. Those who participate first will then need to wait join again until those who have not and care to get a chance. It will be a time to engage in spiritual practices including a time for faith sharing.

So in this liminal time of "Neither Here nor There", I will end my first report with the following quote for us to chew on; as we do our work together. "There is a sweet spot between the known and the unknown where originality happens; the key is to be able to linger there without panicking." (Ed Catmull-Pixar)

Shalom,
Intentional Interim Pastor Dianne

Finance Update

Category	As of 6/30/20	2020 Budget	%
Pledges	$62,170	$113,000	55%
Total Income	$108,247	$175,948	62%
Total Expenses	$101,778	$210,118	48%

PCUCC'S SUNDAY SERVICES LIVE STREAMED

In response to the coronavirus, our in-person Sunday service has been suspended until further notice. During this time, join Pastor Don every Sunday at 10am on the internet for a live stream on Facebook. The church website will always have a link to the live stream right on the main page - parkroseucc.org

Do note, the words for the songs and unison prayers won't be available to you on the screen. Please have the bulletin handy for full participation. You can find the Sunday Bulletin as an attachment in the Weekly Update, or you can access it at any time on the church website under the Worship With Us tab - parkroseucc.org

If you have prayer requests, please email or telephone (cell phone) Pastor Don during the week, and he will share them in the service.

NOTES

- You do not have to have a Facebook account to watch the live stream.
- You can stream over a computer or a smart phone.
- Be sure to show up a little early so you can load the video post and start the video before service starts. Getting connected can take a few moments.
- The video feed should be the top post on the Parkrose Facebook page; if you arrive very early and it's not there, we might not have started broadcasting yet. Periodically refresh the page, and the video post should show up soon.
- Once the video post loads, click the play button to start the video, and you should see Pastor Don very soon after.

KEEP CONNECTED:

Don't forget to call your church friends, especially those who do not receive these electronic messages. This is one simple way we can stay connected during this time.

TOGETHER WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS!

We are in unprecedented times. We also want to remind you that if you are able to continue your tithe to the church, please do so as church expenses are the same and have not diminished.

There are currently three "easy" ways of donating without being here live in person.

Web Donations: The church website has a Donations page, and we accept credit/debit cards and Paypal. The link is www.parkroseucc.org/paypal, or you can navigate to the church website and click the donations tab. Online donations make use of the Donorbox security suite to protect personal information. These donations can be made as one-time donations or recurring.

Online Banking: Setting up a recurring donation via online banking. Not every bank offers this service. You setup the donation yourself in your online banking portal, and then every month your bank cuts a check and sends it in for you.

Mail Your Check: Checks can be mailed to PO Box 30063, Portland, OR 97294

Report from the Moderator

by Lucile Harden

August 2020

Dear Friends,

It seems like I just wrote a few days ago, but here we are again. I hope you're all continuing to do well and staying safe. I apologize I have not been good at my phoning recently, but I still am thinking of you all. Until we can safely gather together, we will continue to do our Sunday service via livestream. I continue to be thankful for good health for me and my family. I thought I would let you know, I have made some progress on cleaning my garage! The berries, however, say pick me, eat me, make jam, make cobbler, so how can I say no?

It's good to have Pastor Dianne on board, and I know she is reaching out to everyone by phone, and she has even met in person with some of you. Give her a call if you'd like to schedule a time to meet. Many people have responded to her invite for reading scripture on Sunday, and the schedule is full through August. If you would like to read in person or prerecord, please let her know.

Our church garden is growing and producing fresh fruit and vegetables thanks to Ron Glanville and Clay Osburn. Ron has taken some of the fruit to SnowCap, and he and Clay also had the garden open last Saturday for members and friends to tour and take some of the fruit and produce for a small donation. During August, he will be having the garden open on Saturdays from 9-11 a.m.

Blair, Walter and I were a part of a workshop on ecumenical partnerships in which we were asked to tell our story of two congregations coming together, thanks to the initial efforts of our two pastors, Rev. Don Frueh and Rev. Brian Heron, and the congregations of Parkrose Community UCC and Eastminster Presbyterian Church. Eastminster closed on June 30, 2012, and we became one (Parkrose UCC) on July 1, 2012. It was an amazing journey then, and our story continues to be told and unfold in a variety of ways.

We had to discontinue our community dinners in March due to the Covid outbreak, but at our Safety Committee last week, it was decided that we still would like to do some kind of outreach safely. People are still houseless, hungry, unemployed, or can't get unemployment benefits. Starting in August, we will do a sack lunch or a "grab and go" on each Tuesday, probably in the evening. We could use four people on Tuesday afternoons to prepare the sack lunch at church (using safe distancing, of course). If you are interested, please contact Blair Loudat or myself.

Thanks to our Trustees for continuing to maintain and keep our church

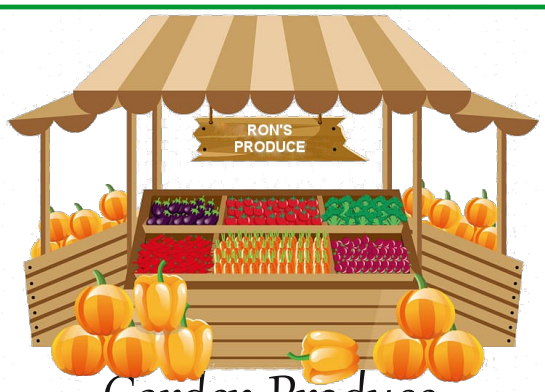
Continued on Page 5...

property safe. And, again, thanks to our staff for keeping our church running in these uncertain times.

I continue to pray that some dialogue will come from the protests for the Black Lives Matter Movement, so that change to racial inequality will occur. I hope the protests can be peaceful and not get lost with angry protests against government, authority, and those just wanting to riot.

Please continue to stay safe and well. Virtual hugs to all.

Lucile



Garden Produce

Ron Glanville and Clay Osburn have been tending and nurturing our orchard and garden, and the produce and fruit are now being harvested.

Ron will have the garden open each Saturday in August from 9-11 a.m. Feel free to come visit, walk through the orchard, and also pick up some of the delicious produce for a small donation. Donations will go to the church garden fund.

Enter through the side gate on the west side of the church.

Snowcap
Is Hosting a Clothing Event

On Friday, August 7 and Saturday, August 8 from 9 am-3pm SnowCap is hosting a clothing event at Mountainview Christian Church, 1890 NE Cleveland Ave., Gresham

Adult & kids gently used clothing and shoes are needed. Please label shoe sizes.

If you need more information call 503-405-4293

PLEASE DO NOT BRING CLOTHING TO THE SNOWCAP BUILDING

SnowCap
Community Charities
Open Hearts, Open Hands

August Birthdays

Oscar Mangalindan	08/04
Quentin Van Benthuysen	08/09
Louise Anderson	08/11
Mary Jane Sorber	08/17
Liz Morse	08/19
Barbara Simpson	08/25
Kimberly Morey	08/25
Cliff Allen	08/27
Sally Parkins	08/28
Ron Glanville	08/28
Jan Eck	08/28
Jim Gaudina	08/31

* Ministry Team Focus *

Mission & Outreach Ministry Team

The PCUCC Mission & Outreach Ministry Team has continued good work throughout the year. The Team is responsible for coordinating outreach ministries inside as well as outside the church, nurturing community action within the church and supporting community partnerships.

Our larger focus of Mission & Outreach is to address hunger and poverty in East County. In 2019\20 our congregation supported these efforts by ongoing volunteerism and collecting donations for the following:

Our church was very generous. Donations to SnowCap in the following categories were:

A total of 1555 pounds were donated in 2019. This figure includes 74# of school supplies, 67# of food collected and donated from the Good Friday Labyrinth Walk, 129# of food collected and donated Souper Bowl Sunday, plus $74 cash. 36# of clothing from our Christmas Giving Tree—consisting of men's, women's and children's socks, underwear, gloves, hats—a total of 274 items.

The remaining poundage included ongoing donations of produce from our garden, toiletries and hygiene items, food, clothing, paper items, blankets, sleeping bags, paper and cards, books and pet food (purchased by the Sunday School youth during Blessing of the Animals.)

In addition, we held four Soupertunities during the year and packaged 936 packages of rice for SnowCap for their pantry.

We also helped in supporting a PCUCC sponsored table at SnowCaps's annual dinner and auction. (Although the 2020 dinner was cancelled due to Covid19, the online auction was held.)

We continued our Blessing Bag project for distribution at our church and also delivered 15 bags to the Easterseals' Veterans' Program. The bags include many personal hygiene items, granola bars, socks, gloves and emergency blankets for wintertime.

We again adopted a SnowCap family for Christmas in 2019. We adopted a family of four, a single mom with three children. With our budget money and donations, we were able to purchase clothing, toys, hygiene items, dish and laundry soap, a Winco gift card and a nickel arcade gift card.

We were made aware The Wy 'East Shelter was in need of cups and plasticware which we have on hand to donate to them.

The Easterseals' Veterans' Program received, in addition to the Blessing Bags, cups, spoons, donated coffee, hot cocoa and granola bars.

Continued on Page 7...

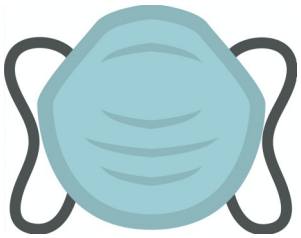
We also continue to encourage better environmental practices by utilizing better cleaning and recycling practices in our church home.

If you have any questions about Mission and Outreach you can always talk to Erica & Travis Martin, Connie Cork, Tub & Lucille Harden, Kim Morey and Rodney Law (liaison with Peace & Justice Ministry Team).

FROM THE FUNDRAISING TEAM:

After much deliberation, it is with sadness that we announce that we will be "hitting pause" for our Annual fundraisers- **Crafter's Bazaar** and **Holiday Tea**-for the 2020 Fall & Winter season. We will revisit these opportunities in 2021. Thank you for your understanding. Until then, be well.

Free cloth face masks are available for those who need them. The masks



are being made by members of the congregation. If you are in need of a cloth face mask, contact Greg Malby at gregmalby@gmail.com or call or text Greg at 503-313-5651. If you are sewing face masks and would like to contribute your work, contact me to join in.

Calendar for August

DATE / TIME	EVENT / LOCATION
Sunday, August 02	
10:00 AM	Virtual Worship & Fellowship Facebook Livestream
Tuesday, August 04	
11:00 AM	CE Ministry Team Zoom Call
Wednesday, August 05	
10:30 AM	Bible Study Zoom Call
Saturday, August 08	
11:00 AM	P&J Media Discussion Group Zoom Call
Sunday, August 09	
10:00 AM	Virtual Worship & Fellowship Facebook Livestream
Wednesday, August 12	
10:30 AM	Bible Study Zoom Call
Saturday, August 15	
9:00 AM	Orchard Work Party Grounds
Sunday, August 16	
10:00 AM	Virtual Worship & Fellowship Facebook Livestream
Wednesday, August 19	
10:30 AM	Bible Study Zoom Call
Wednesday, August 19	
5:45 PM	SnowCap Volunteer Day SnowCap
Sunday, August 23	
10:00 AM	Virtual Worship & Fellowship Facebook Livestream
11:00 AM	Board of Trustees Meeting Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, August 26	
10:30 AM	Bible Study Zoom Call
Sunday, August 30	
10:00 AM	Virtual Worship & Fellowship Facebook Livestream

News from the Christian Education & Youth Director

Summer is here and it is in the hopes that YOU…our youth and families… are enjoying the sunny weather, finding activities to do with your families and taking pleasure in creating some "awesome" with your Summer Care kits!

Summer Care Kits:

Thank you to those who have sent pictures of your children craftin' it up.

In these pictures, The Hohnstein girls are enjoying the treasures in their box and Smiles are everywhere thanks to Violet! Ani is putting together her "No Sew" blanket and donating it to the Linus Project! Share the photos of your craftiness!

Summer storytelling series: *Do we have a special treat for you!*

Many of our Sunday school volunteers and I have been video- recording stories just for you! Each Friday, a new story will be coming your way, via YouTube. We began on June 17th and our stories will run through September 4th! Wonderful stories have been selected. Grab a snuggly blanket and listen in!

Here is the link to our **YouTube** channel. New stories are uploaded every Friday:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCphY5C7t5vl-6-wC2iK6UeA/videos

Checking in with our Soil! Excavating Undies for Soil health:

It is time to dig up those undies! Here are the results from my yard. Only the band and some stitching are still intact. I dug up many worms and other soil friends along the way. It looks as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9...

though this spot is rather fertile. Bacteria and microbes have broken down the cotton undies.

Soil bacteria are the most abundant microbes in the soil. They are tiny single celled organisms, and there can be billions of bacteria in *a single gram of soil*. Populations of bacteria can boom or bust in the space of a few days in response to changes in soil moisture, soil temperature or carbon substrate.

Watch for more updates on undies from our youth!

Socially Distanced Picnic & Hike:

(this event is open to all ages)
RSVP needed!

An interest in having a social distanced hike & picnic has been expressed. Since carpooling isn't recommended, parents are invited to join in the fun.

Let us Meet at the church and caravan together on **Sunday, August 16th at 1:00pm**.

Bring your masks, refillable water bottle, pack a sack lunch/snack and make our way to the Witch's hut in Forest Park.

How to get there: 3/4-mile walk starting from the Lower Macleay Parking lot at NW 30th and Upshur or 1/2-mile walk starting from the Upper Macleay Parking lot near the Portland Audubon Society.

The Witch's hut:

http://www.portlandhostel.org/2016/05/09/the-witchs-castle- in-forest-park/.

In thinking about ALL of our undertakings, it is a wonderful reminder of our recent lessons (or parables) of the farmer, the mustard seed, & specks of yeast. Big ideas can come from the littlest spark. Let us never forget that.

Blessings,
Erica

Parkrose Community United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 30063
Portland, OR 97294

Stamp

TESTIMONIES, NOT TESTS OF THE FAITH

The United Church of Christ embraces a theological heritage that affirms the Bible as the authoritative witness to the Word of God, the creeds of the ecumenical councils, and the confessions of the Reformation. The UCC has roots in the "covenantal" tradition—meaning there is no centralized authority or hierarchy that can impose any doctrine or form of worship on its members. Christ alone is Head of the church. We seek a balance between freedom of conscience and accountability to the apostolic faith. The UCC therefore receives the historic creeds and confessions of our ancestors as testimonies, but not tests of the faith.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING

In Galatians 3.28 we are reminded that despite our differences we are all "one in Christ Jesus." Therefore, we, the people of Parkrose Community United Church of Christ, declare ourselves to be open and affirming. With God's grace, we seek to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender, marital status, age, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, religious, political or social-economic background. We welcome all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, and fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our congregation. This is God's church and no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.