



*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



2022



## **JourneyNotes with Pastor Dianne Rodriguez**

**S**ince the soft opening of the Parkrose Micro Village on August 31st, I have been reflecting on Clarissa Pinkola Estes' words:



“Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good.

What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, and continuing. We know that it does not take everyone on Earth to bring justice and peace, but only a small, determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale.

One of the most calming and powerful actions you can do to intervene in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul. Soul on deck shines like gold in dark times. The light of the soul throws sparks, can send up flares, builds signal fires, causes proper matters to catch fire. To display the lantern of soul in shadowy times like these – to be fierce and to show mercy toward others; both are acts of immense bravery and greatest necessity.

Struggling souls catch light from other souls who are fully lit and willing to show it. If you would help to calm the tumult, this is one of the strongest things you can do.

There will always be times when you feel discouraged. I too have felt despair many times in my life, but I do not keep a chair for it. I will not entertain it. It is not allowed to eat from my plate.

The reason is this: In my uttermost bones I know something, as do you. It is

# 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 DIANNE'S EMAIL:**

blackswan57@parkroseucc.org

**On The Web:** [www.parkroseucc.org](http://www.parkroseucc.org)  
[facebook.com/parkrosecommunityucc](https://facebook.com/parkrosecommunityucc)



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*  
Sharon Ericson, Lucile Harden, Blair Loudat,  
*Moderator*

Aaron Winegar, *Office Administrator*  
Erica Martin, *Community Life & Youth Director*  
Niki Farley, *Accompanist*  
Rev. Charles W. Ross, *Pastor Emeritus*

that there can be no despair when you remember why you came to Earth, who you serve, and who sent you here. The good words we say and the good deeds we do are not ours. They are the words and deeds of the One who brought us here. In that spirit, I hope you will write this on your wall: When a great ship is in harbor and moored, it is safe, there can be no doubt. But that is not what great ships are built for.”

Parkrose, in your partnering with We Shine to make this micro-village happen, you have shown your soul. I am so pleased that so many came out to show support. Among the supporters were our conference minister Tyler, the Intentional Interim President of EMO, Andrea, and Pastor Libby from St. Johns church and village.

Since the opening I have been visited by several local pastors who want to explore with their congregation the partnership we have with We Shine.

Sadly, the cost of loving our neighbors has been realized in many broken windows and vandalism at the village. Please know I have filed a restraining order so that we get the best police protection possible.

Together with We Shine, we are continually working a safety plan to insure adequate protection for everyone on our campus, our church building and the village.

## **Reflecting on Worship Service**

As I write this report, I am looking forward to exploring the “Midwives Decision” with Christ Tanner the Board Chair of WeShine. We will be hearing the story of two midwives in Exodus, who went against Pharaoh's orders to kill the Hebrew baby boys at birth. During this service we will also be celebrating the Life of Dr. Michael Terpstra.

During July I was in conversation with Lenia Salas on two occasions. Lenia, a Cuban immigrant living here in Portland, has found a church home in Parkrose until she leaves for Pacific School of Religion.

On July 24 Robert and I were in conversation, and we blessed and gifted him before his move to Florida.

On August 7th I was in conversation with Barbara, whom I met at our Good Neighbor Agreement meetings. Barbara is a member of Portland UU and a supporter of Parkrose Micro Village.

Our final summer series "Anything but Ordinary" will end on August 28th, when I will be in conversation with Lori Eggers.

## Reaching Out

On August 23rd, along with Jan and DeeDee of We Shine, Erica, our tri-mods Sharon, Blair, and Lucile and Clay our moderator elect we will be reviewing A Good Guest Agreement and A Good Volunteer Agreement. Both these documents will guide us in maintaining healthy relationship and boundaries with village and campus guests, and the volunteers who interact with them. Soon after we will have a meeting for volunteers to share both documents with.

I continue to host Courageous Church gatherings on Tuesday and lead Bible study once a month.

I will be attending annual conference from Friday Sept. 23rd till Sat September 23. Both Friday and Saturday presentations and workshops will be given on Covenant - the theme for this year's meeting, and the way we have been encouraged to be in relationship with one another. We can have 4 delegates from the church attend. Please let me know if you are interested, so I can get you the registration information.

## Transition Team Update

This past week I tallied the pastoral expectation surveys, and will pass off the info to the Search Committee. I'm excited to share that 5 people feel called to be on the Search Committee; Tanner, Cyndi, Clay, Jessica, and Erica. I think the cross section of these individuals' interests, skills, and experience will make for a vibrant committee that will represent the heart of Parkrose's ministry. With your blessings I will be sending out a letter to the congregation asking them to select another person to make complete the 6 people expectation of the transition team. Early On September 18th Tyler, our conference minister, will be meeting with the search committee.

Parkrose, your faithfulness, adaptability, and willingness to discern God's call in being the church continues to amaze me.

Thank you for all you do and most importantly - who YOU ARE!

Shalom,

*Pastor Kianne*



Please join us each Tuesday at 1pm in Mariners where we will explore, reflect upon, and discuss the questions and content of each chapter of Dawna Markova's book *I Will Not Die an Unlived Life: Reclaiming Purpose and Passion*. This activity promises much to think about.

# REPORT FROM THE MODERATORS

BY THE MODERATORS



## Sep-Oct 2022

It's wonderful to see the Parkrose Micro Village become a reality. The soft opening held in early August was well attended

by partners, Parkrose congregants, WeShine staff and board members, Tyler Connoley our Conference Minister, EMO's interim director, neighbors, and we had great coverage by Channel 2 news with Frances Lin. We look forward to the official opening in September when all of the guests will be in the pods and a community celebration will take place. It's so satisfying to see the fruit of labors of WeShine volunteers, and volunteers from our church and community and see the completion of this project and know that this will help make a difference in many lives. Thanks to all who have made this happen and know that this is what relationship and community is all about. There will volunteer opportunities available in the future to work with WeShine and the micro village.

I was deeply saddened to see our church windows and doors broken and boarded up because of targeted vandalism. Thanks to a generous donation, we will be able to cover a good portion of the cost of window replacement, and the Trustees will be doing the work. We are looking into other security resources for us and the micro village, and we know it will not deter us from doing the important work of taking care of others and building relationships. We will persevere!

We continue to distribute meals to the community from our partner, Feed the Mass, on Monday, Wednesday, and

Friday. We will increase our meal distributions as guests move into the micro village. Thanks to all who help either by picking up meals or distributing them.

We're moving forward to put in place the Search Committee to select a Settled Pastor. Pastor Dianne has five people that have asked to serve on the committee, and a sixth person will be selected soon. The team will then meet with our conference minister and begin the search. As we move forward, please keep the committee in your prayers. We have all had the opportunity to have a voice to determine our history and who we are at Parkrose and where we want to be in the future of the church. The partnerships we have and continue to develop in the community are so important and tell us who we really are and the work we are called to do. Together we can make a difference.

As we go through this process together, let us work together, trust one another, continue to strengthen our relationship with one another and our community. I am proud of the work we have done, and will continue to do, and it is a privilege to be a part of this amazing church and walk the journey with you.

Lucile Harden  
Tri-Moderator



### 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.

## Half Year FMT Update

PLEDGES	\$50,521		
OTHER INCOME	\$23,822		
TOTAL INCOME	\$74,343	EXPENSES	\$135,683

### September Birthdays

Christy Strong	09/01
Sally Gaudina	09/02
A.J. Wong	09/07
Tanya Putman	09/14
Camie Pugsley	09/15
Walter Lersch	09/16
Peggy Moyer	09/20
Bekki Van Benthuisen	09/24
Colton Van Benthuisen	09/25
Carl Johnson	09/30
Violet Hohnstein	09/30

### October Birthdays

Diane Mattox	10/01
Nolan Bechtel	10/01
Diana Bower	10/03
Karla Mangalindan	10/07
Florence Lersch	10/07
Kirsten Wageman	10/08
Mike McKee	10/08
Russell Martin	10/09
Carrie Aguilar	10/11
Elizabeth Durant	10/16
Nancy Ward	10/19
Judi Allen	10/22
Melba Chichester	10/24

## Attention!

We want to hear from everyone!



Whether you view our service every Sunday or once in a blue moon, we are inviting you to fill out our pastoral expectations survey. We want to hear from you!

We will be accepting completed surveys until the end of August.

You can fill out the survey in a variety of ways:

- You can find an online version of the survey on the church website at [parkroseucc.org/pastoral-expectations-survey](http://parkroseucc.org/pastoral-expectations-survey).
- You can pick up a print copy from the church office and return it there.
- You can contact the church office to be emailed a pdf copy, which you can then return via email or regular mail.

The survey includes instructions on how to fill it out. Please read carefully. Any questions feel free to contact me at 516 673 1231.

Remember your voice matters. In UCC polity it is the congregation who holds the authority.

Stay cool everyone

Shalom Pastor Dianne



Our garden bees are back in form.

Starting today, Parkrose "Sweet Life" Honey is back on sale!

**The price is \$7 a jar.**

Quantities are limited.

Limit 2 jars per customer.

Sales of honey will benefit Helping Hands Discretionary Fund.

**Contact the church office to purchase, or ask someone on Sunday!**

## SAVE THE DATE

### PARKROSE COMMUNITY UCC'S 3rd Annual OUTDOOR CRAFTERS BAZAAR

**Saturday, October 1st, 2022  
10:00am - 3:00pm**

Support your local artisans & small businesses!

#### Seeking vendors!

Attention all crafters, woodworkers, quilters, knitters, bakers & artists who are interested in selling their wares.

Space is limited so, sign up beginning August 1st and through September 23rd!

Please see Erica or Clay for any questions or to reserve your space!



FROM THE FINANCE TEAM...

We are looking for a new member in the Finance Ministry Team aka FMT. We meet once a month mostly by Zoom, Sunday afternoon for 30 minutes. It would involve after some initial training on QuickBooks. Our duties are divided so no one person is overwhelmed. This is a (5) member Team not including our Office Manager. A Chair person, co-Treasurers, and co-Finance Secretaries round-out the Team.

Please contact Clay Osburn, Sharon Mackie, or Cyndi McKee if interested.

## Conference Dues Due

### *Have You Paid You Paid Your Conference Dues?*

As members of Parkrose UCC, each of us has a responsibility to pay conference dues. Currently, each member is assessed \$15 a year to cover our share of membership in the UCC Central Pacific Conference. As of Monday, August 22, the church has received about 32% of the dues and we appreciate those who have already contributed.

With 66 members a full collection of dues would be \$990 so we are currently short \$675. If you have been following the expenses we incur versus our income, you know that our income does not cover our expenses. Paying your conference dues as soon as possible will mean that the church will not have to assume that responsibility. Thanks for your help.

Parkrose Community  
United Church of Christ's  
**OUTDOOR CRAFTER'S BAZAAR & FALL FESTIVAL**

Saturday, October 1st, 2022  
10:00am – 3:00pm.

Bazaar Location: 12505 NE Halsey St.  
Portland, OR 97220

OPEN TO CHURCH FOLK & THE COMMUNITY!

Featuring over 15+ vendors & crafters,  
Community Partner Corner  
Fantastic Raffle Baskets!  
Petting Zoo & Concessions!



\*To keep us all safe, this is a COVID responsible event. We will continue to take appropriate safety measures.

Please plan to wear masks! Thank you in advance.

# News from the Community Life & Youth Ministry

Summer/ Fall 2022



## Pottery Painting Party!

Thank you to all who enjoyed **Outdoor Pottery Painting party on Sunday, July 31st** It was a festively fun activity to do together. They turned out nicely! Please arrange to pick up your pieces with Erica. Thank you!



*WeShine Pods are nearly ready for habitation!*  
The fence is built, and pods are all nearly complete and nearly ready for move in! Electrical inspections are expected very soon.



As we begin the process to welcome folks, and in collaboration with WeShine Staff, we are creating a Volunteer Policy & Guidelines.

If you interested in helping with finishing touches, learning more about the volunteer process or how **YOU** can volunteer, please contact Erica Martin at [cedirector@parkroseucc.org](mailto:cedirector@parkroseucc.org) or 971-284-3872. I will help to get you connected!

## SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT!

Part 1: A few snippets of the first leg of our journey to Del Norte/ Smith River for our service project with Sierra Service Project with @youth\_of\_parkroseucc. (Follow us on Instagram)

After spending the night in Grants Pass, our chariot got us safely and we were able to visit the tide pools and Battery point lighthouse.

Our main camp was nestled in the Redwoods state Forest at Howland hills outdoor school. What a beautiful location to operate out of for the entire week.

I never tired looking at the Nurse logs of ancient trees giving life to understory and the forest floor...All the FERNS!



Part 2: The young people of Parkrose UCC showing off their cement mixing, staining, drilling and screwing board skills at our project site, helping to build a ramp for the homeowners. 🛠️



After hearing a guest speaker from the Tolowa Dee Ni nation, our team was ready for our day at Tolowa Dunes. This area remains to be traditional fishing grounds as well as important nesting habitat for Snowy Plover. The only uses of this invasive grass are to use mats of grass to dry out their catch.



We began the day pulling Invasive European beach grass and ending the day swimming in Smith River. A day of much need play and friendship.

I thought we were never going to spot a herd or see an elk, and so I cursed Elk Schmelk. Guess what? FINALLY, on our last day, we spotted ELK on our way back at the end of the week. THE BRAVE Tanya gently approached them for a few pictures.



Our amaze-balls, wonderful & hilariously crazy staff at Sierra Service Project were also caring, encouraging, inspirational and spoke of the diversity and inclusion work that they personal and Sierra Service Project is doing among its community partners.

They shared individual stories of their spiritual journeys, being queer in a Christian community and finding their way, giving up and persevering and being genuine and channeling their authentic selves. What an amazing group of young people!

Finally, a "Welcome home-wind-blown Oregon coast" group photo before heading home on Hwy 101 heading for our lunch spot in Bandon.

What an incredibly fun, awesome, empowering, spiritually rejuvenating and utterly exhausting (but so absolutely worth it) week with these lovely peeps!

We'll never forget it. ❤️



## Summer Sunday School coming to a close!

We have had several visitors and enjoyed spending time outdoors, doing the body prayer, playing games such as cut-throat Harry Potter UNO and I-Spy, random crafty goodness, trivia games, dance parties, filling up pollinator drinking fountains and PICKING BERRIES for snack.



**There will be no Sunday School on Labor Day Weekend.** Busy bags are available for your young ones during worship. Please see an usher. Sunday school will resume after Labor Day.

### Things to know!

- We will resume Turtle monitoring in the fall with cooler weather.
- Crafter's Bazaar & Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 1st from 10-3pm. Youth, we will zoom and see what we want to make as our crafty/baked item to fund future adventures. Will send out notification shortly.

Go where wonder grows, my friends.

Erica Martin, Community Life & Youth Ministries Leader



## Reducing your Plastic Use

Why not utilize this service and make your lifestyle a little greener? Let's give a little love to mother earth, shrink your carbon footprint, keep items out of the waste stream and put in motion your love of creation.



### Upcoming Community Re-Fill Events:

**2nd & 4th Tuesdays**

**July 11th & July 26th 11am -1pm**

*Simple Sundries* will be here with the following items available for refill:

Hand & body soap, \$.50/oz

Lotion \$.60/oz

Dish soap \$.30/oz

Laundry soap \$.25/oz

Dishwasher powder \$.30/oz

All-purpose cleaner \$.15/oz

Bona \$.10/oz

Bar Keepers Friend \$.30/oz

\*Up-cycled Dispensers & sprayers priced between \$5-\$12

Stop by and refill your current glass containers. Keep unnecessary plastic out of the waste stream.

To find out more, visit:

Simple Sundries at

<https://simplesundries.life/>

## Action Calendar



The Restorative Justice in Action Team is sharing a 30 day Climate Justice challenge from the National Church and Global Ministries. These actions can be done anytime, not just in August. Copies of the calendar will be on the offering table Sunday. A link is here: [https://www.globalministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/GM-MissionDash-Calendar\\_2022.pdf](https://www.globalministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/GM-MissionDash-Calendar_2022.pdf).

If you want to learn more about each day's action, you'll need to access through the web link above.

We hope it can become a part of each of our daily practices. Please consider trying one or some or all of these? Let us know how it went?

Thanks, the Restorative Justice in Action Team.



Global Ministries invites you to join in our Mission Dash Virtual 5K by not only running, walking, rolling, jogging, or spiritually sprinting, but also by taking daily advocacy actions in solidarity with international partners. Some of these actions are things you can do as an individual to care for creation, while some are actions you can do to change the larger systems in place in your community, our country, and the world. These daily actions are just a few ways you can respond to God's call to care for creation. We encourage you to do what you can and try to make them habits that last after the end of August and the Mission Dash.

### In Your Home

August  
**1 MEATLESS MONDAYS**  
 try to eat no meat today and learn about how that impacts the environment.

August  
**2 COMMIT TO LOW OR NO WASTE**  
 GROCERY SHOPPING by limiting your purchases of single-use plastics, buying unpackaged products, and bringing your own containers to bulk food stores along with your reusable shopping bags.

August  
**3 TRY COMPOSTING**  
 AT HOME or see if your community has a curbside composting option.

August  
**4 CELEBRATE EARTH DAY**  
 in April and watch the 2022 Ecumenical Earth Day Service by Creation Justice Ministries.



August  
**5** If you eat seafood, discover which types of seafood are fished or farmed in ways that have less impact on the environment and which types of seafood have a high likelihood of being fished using forced labor.



August  
**6 CALCULATE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT**  
 and find ways to reduce your output.

August  
**7 CELEBRATE CREATION JUSTICE SUNDAY**  
 using resources from Creation Justice Ministries.



August  
**8 TAKE SOME TIME FOR CONTEMPLATION TODAY**  
 Use this meditation on Creation from the Catholic Climate Covenant.

## In remembrance....



Dr. Michael Terpstra passed away on August 18, 2021. A Celebration of Life was held here for him on Sunday, August 21st. The recording is available for viewing at <https://youtu.be/or84UNX9Hwo>

## Your Church Donations

There are currently four "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 direct link is <https://www.parkroseucc.org/paypal>, or you can navigate to the church website yourself and click the donations tab. Online donations make use of the Donorbox security suite in order to protect personal information. These donations can be made as one-time donations or recurring.

**Online Banking:** Setting up a recurring monthly 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

**Auto Pay:** You can authorize an automatic bill payment to be made using your debit card, credit card, checking account, savings account or money market account.

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



## 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.