

anything but Ordinary



An Open and Affirming Congregation

PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



2022



JourneyNotes with Pastor Dianne Rodriguez

Ihis past month we learned of yet another gun shooting in a church.

Still raw from the massacre of children in Uvalde Texas, I can't help but wonder about our collective soul. Rightfully, I have sensed within me, as well as all of you, a deep sense of lament at this meaningless suffering.

Dawna Markova, in her book *I Will not Die an Unlived Life*, reminds us, "It is not pain in itself that is so hard on our souls, but the meaningless suffering that comes from feeling disconnected from a sense of purpose."

I am deeply grateful for being in community with you as we walk through our pain and sorrow. You are a body of grace in these hurting times! Dawna Markova wrote in her chapter "Spot of Grace" about a time in her life when she was stuck on the word grace. She tells us:



"To understand what grace finally led me to, I have to tell you about my grandmother and what she taught me about walking which was really more about finding purpose than it was about physical fitness. She explained that we all walk a spiral path she called the wisdom trail, and we walk on the foot or risk, then the foot of mastery, then back on the foot of risk. As I understood it, if a person stays on the foot of risk too long, they find themselves nervously hopping from thing to thing, never settling in and developing mastery. On the other hand, if they stay in their mastery too long, they get stuck in the mud and their soul never fully develops fully. Each time we shift from the foot of mastery to the foot of risk it takes a leap of faith, a little gasp in the unknown where God can enter. Maybe that is where grace comes in."

Reflecting on Worship Service

As I write this report, I am looking forward to exploring with Many of Simple Sundries the story, "the binding of Isaac"

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 DIANNE'S EMAIL:

blackswan57@parkroseucc.org

On The Web: www.parkroseucc.org
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*

I am looking forward to exploring with Many of Simple Sundries the story, “the binding of Isaac” in Genesis.

We will question blind obedience, what it means to be faithful, and if our faith needs to be tested. I have asked Mandy to share her experience of what was sacrificed in herself in trying to fit into a normative 9:00-5:00 working environment. Also, she will share how this led to her vision and mission of Simple Sundries.

Last Sunday, while in conversation with Sue, we explored the extraordinary faith of Hagar and Ishmael. Too often we forget the other part of Abraham's family, the one that was cast away. When we do this, we forget just how truly connected all of humanity is. Without the complexity of seeing and owning the bigger picture of all of our relationships (those that we label as good and chosen, or not good and mistakes); I believe we experience less of God's nature.

On June 12th, while I was in conversation with Anne about embracing the stranger, grace came through our sanctuary doors. Russell, one of our tenters came to service to thank Parkrose for allowing him to tent on our campus - and that he was ready to fill out an application for the micro-village.

On Pentecost Sunday June 5th, after missing most of service due to a fatal crash on I-84, Clay and I had a conversation about Jesus and God as Woman. Thank you, Sharon, lay leadership and tech crew for covering service until I arrived. After service, Parish Life hosted a Pentecost fellowship, and I distributed the **Anything but Ordinary** Journals that will guide our summer services.

Professor Harrison and I were in conversation on May 29th. We spoke about when unity is destructive. We were truly blessed by Professor Harrison's shared life

experience and vocational dedication to educating about racism. Our service began with a smudging/healing ritual offered by Lakota elder Max Defender, his grandson and brother. We were grateful for their cleansing the sanctuary from the negative energy we incurred from the neighborhood meeting on May 22nd to offer information about the micro-village. We are equally grateful for the supportive neighbors whom Erica and I have met since that gathering. After service on the 29th we shared fellowship with Professor Harris.

On May 22nd, Todd and I were in conversation sharing ideas about Social Advocacy. Since then, Todd and I have been in conversation about hosting an outdoor Pride celebration Saturday in July.

Reaching Out

This month I have attended We Shine's Good Neighbor Agreement meetings, and will continue to do so as we aim to process a covenant that will benefit our church, the micro village, and our neighbors. Jan and Erica have done a remarkable job in sustaining and cultivating healthy relationships in our community.

During this month after service on a Sunday, I shared with Clay that I had been in conversation with Steve and Lori about the possibility of being moderator or co-moderators for next year. Clay shared with me he felt he was called to fill this position. After Lori informed us that, at this time, she could not take on this position, Clay, Steve and I had an exploring conversation. Clay shared he felt spiritually called at this time to be moderator as our campus ministry is birthed and is in its infancy stage. He cited his experience and heartfelt personal

growth in relating and serving as Jesus did with the oppressed of his time. Steve agreed to help Clay by filling in when Clay might need time off.

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

Transition Team Update

The transition has begun the work of inviting our community to fill out the Pastoral Expectation survey. It was offered to be done in person on June 12th and again on the 26th. Email, the weekly update, and our Facebook page offer ways in which a survey can be submitted. We have also gone the extra step to send it to our active youth and young people who are being in community with us as their lives permit.

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

Shalom,

Pastor Jeanne



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



July-Aug 2022

With the sun and warmer temperatures these last few days, hope for summer days has finally arrived. It is a

good thing for our spirits and our gardens. I have been thinking a lot about Hope lately as well as Gratitude.

As we move forward with the construction of the Parkrose Community Village, we have high hopes for making a difference in the lives of 10 houseless people. We have learned so much from our WeShine partners and many of us have worked alongside them as the sleeping pods have come together. And, we are grateful for the dedication and expertise of their and our own volunteers. This work aligns so well with several tenets of our mission and purpose developed by the Transition Team and members of the congregation. We are continuing the work of Jesus by

- Building relationships and working side by side with the wider community
- Advocating for peace and justice in our city, our nation, and our world
- Enthusiastically welcoming and meeting people where they are in life
- Breathing life into scripture to deepen our spirituality and bring it alive in our world.

As the Transition Team nears the end of their work of the last two years and a Search Committee is formed, we have high hopes for the process of selecting a settled pastor. The work of this team has been difficult not only because of Covid19 but we have experienced so much loss in

the last two years while trying to stay focused on the future. The work of the Search Committee will be another step towards defining who we are and moving forward towards the fulfillment of our Mission and Purpose. We are so grateful to all the members of the Transition Team. We are also grateful for challenges and new ways of thinking about Church that Pastor Dianne has put before us. She has helped us to be more purposeful as we try to follow the way of Jesus.

We have lots of reasons to be hopeful – as the lyrics to the song that keeps going through my head say:

“He’s got high hopes
He’s got high apple pie
In the sky hopes”

Think of work Erica Martin has done with the youth – the mural, the painted fish, and the field trips - making us hopeful for the future. And her work with the community has created a number of partnerships with the members and organizations in the community. Thank you, Erica! Your Church Council is hopeful for our future as they challenge their thinking about the work of the church while they continue to fulfill leadership roles of ministry teams. We are grateful for their dedication and time.

In these turbulent times it is easy to get discouraged and lose hope. Instead, let’s continue to have hope for the work Jesus calls us to do and be grateful for all those in our congregation who are making this noteworthy effort.

With Hope and Gratitude,
Blair Loudat



July Birthdays

Paul Tober	07/01
Paul "Smokey" Stover	07/01
Jean Henry	07/12
Elena Durant	07/15
Goldie Hohnstein	07/26
Molly Rowan-Robertson	07/28

August Birthdays

Oscar Mangalindan	08/04
Quentin Van Benthuisen	08/09
Louise Anderson	08/11
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



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.

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/>

News from the Community Life & Youth Ministry

Hello friends!

School is out! Congratulations to all our graduates and those advancing to the next level in school. Wishing everyone an enjoyable summer break!

We are forecasting an eventful summer for the good folks here at PCUCC! Want to know more, please see the information below for updates on what's happening!

WeShine Update

The building permits have been issued.

WeShine had the pods transported to the site. Thank you, Jesse Goodling for the amazing help of unloading pods via forklift.

Additionally, the trenching has been dug and electrical conduit has been laid. As many of you have seen, the first few pods have been built.

Thank you to our "trustworthy" Trustee Crew-Steve, Jesse, Tub and Travis for helping to assemble the pods.

WeShine, Church members, Neighbors and surrounding businesses have begun the work of a good neighbor agreement with reasonable progress. More meetings are planned. We hope to include guest panels from Beacon Village, St. Johns Village, and representatives from Mult. Co. Sheriff HOPE program and Portland Community Policing to attend future meetings as well.

While we have experienced a few negative comments regarding the village, we have also received supportive

feedback from community partners, friends, and neighbors. We must persist!

If you have questions, *please* do not hesitate to reach out.



Sierra Service Project

It's getting closer for our departure! After having a bit of a panic attack due to rental



vehicle shortages (who knew?), we have reserved our sweet chariot to transport our group to CALIFORNIA!

Our group attended the ZOOM volunteer orientation and so the next month or so will focus on various details for along the journey.

Summer Planning

We have some terrific activities on the docket for our Youth & Families. These outings include:

- Turtle basking surveys at Haag and Detroit Lakes
- Canoe & Kayak adventures at Estacada Lake
- Pottery Painting at Mimosa Studios
- BBQ fun at Oxbow Park

** Dates of events to be announced*

***A Summer planning Survey** has been sent to our youth and families to assist in planning purposes.



I eagerly await the responses to get these events “inked”. *Stay tuned!*

I recently was researching various ways to say “hello”. “Guten Tag” means “good day” in German. “Hej” is “hello” in Swedish. “Bore da” is “good day” in Welsh. When I discovered “Aaniin” in Ojibwe translates to “I see your light”, I took a moment. How wonderful!



It reminded me of the meaning of the Namaste greeting, “the god in me honors/ sees the god in you”. In recent and uncertain times, traditions and language reminds us that others have done this very same thing throughout history. Remember to look for the light in others.

Go where wonder grows... ~Erica



Want to help plan this amazing event?

Seeking “Partners in crime” to plan the Parkrose Community UCC’s

2nd Annual FALL FESTIVAL & OUTDOOR CRAFTER’S BAZAAR

Tentatively scheduled for

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

Contact Clay Osburn

COME & VOLUNTEER TO HELP BUILD THE WESHINE VILLAGE!

July 2nd

9am -12noon

1pm-4pm

No work on 7/3

July 9th

9am -12noon

1pm-4pm

July 10th

9am -12noon

1pm-4pm

Duties include:

- Assembly of shelter pods
- Painting
- flooring (peel & stick tiles)
- Plan to wear your “grubbies” and boots. (Site is rather uneven and muddy.)

*Light refreshments will be available

Please sign up to volunteer, please contact cedirector@parkroseucc.org or jan@weshinepdx.org and let us know which shift you would like to fill.

Can’t make this volunteer event?

Many More opportunities will be planned. Stay tuned!



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.