



An Open and Affirming Congregation



2022

PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



JourneyNotes with Pastor Dianne Rodriguez

Most recently our Conference Minister Tyler Connoley came to Parkrose to preach and share an informal time of meet and greet fellowship. His message was all about covenant. He also shared that our conference has asked him to preach on covenant whenever he visits one of our local churches. And most recently I found out that the theme for our conference annual gathering will be covenant. Covenant in the UCC is a big deal especially since our polity is covenantal. I am grateful as a spiritual leader that as a priority in our being church together covenant is in the spotlight as the guiding principle of all we do and who we are as church. I believe Rev. Nina Schmid has the same sentiment. Recently she wrote a reflection *Remembering Covenant*. Here are a few of her thoughts:

Covenantal relationship is the basis for our ministry together in the United Church of Christ. Article III of the UCC Constitution reads: "Within the United Church of Christ, the various expressions of the church relate to each other in a covenantal manner. Each

expression of the Church has responsibilities and rights in relation to the others, to the end that the whole Church will seek God's will and be faithful to God's mission..."

Sometimes, it seems like the seminal tenet of the UCC-covenantal relationship with God and being "faithful to God's mission," has become buried by the flotsam and jetsam of pre-existing struggle for congregational survival in a secular world. This appears amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. What is supposed to be a two-way street of spiritual covenantal relationship can feel like a super-highway of non-spiritual gridlock. Let us re-remember covenant and become re-educated about what it truly means. Let us renew true covenantal relationship on every level, rather than follow that one-way street which can tear down and destroy. May we remember and re-enact our covenantal relationships with God and each other; as individuals and, as the Body of Christ.



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*

On March 1st I will be meeting with our tri-Moderators and Erica to process Tyler's message on Covenant. And to explore ways in which we as a church can renew covenantal relationship with, our teams, leadership, members, conference, and community.

Recently I shared with Parish Life information about our:

Lent and Easter services and gathering.

February 27th fellowship after service to pick up Lenten devotionals, engage in a contemplative craft, and eat some King Cake

Ash Wednesday 11:00-1:00 Contemplative Labyrinth/Mandalas gathering with imposition of Ashes.

Palm/Passion Sunday April 10. I am thinking of doing a Close Encounters at the Cross play in service.

Maundy Thursday via zoom. I will again host a Holy Supper service. I will be sending out another one act play for our supper time discussion.

This will be at 6:30

Good Friday Labyrinth 11:00-1:00 with Stations of the Cross

Easter Service with fellowship to follow ideas on this are welcomed

Bringing flowers to put in our wire cross. Communion.

Transition Team Update

Currently the transition team and I are working on gathering connection presentations for the congregation. The focus point is "connection" We have identified 6 categories of connection Parkrose makes with one another her community, larger church and in her building. The categories are food, shelter, gender equality, those using our building, ecology, and conference

participation. The transition team invites you to participate in one of the two gatherings after service March 13 or the 27. We will showing short videos of how we connect to community and one another in these areas and offer some additional information. I do hope you will see God in the streets and experience Parkrose presence in her community. After each presentation the team will engage the congregation. It is our hope that the videos can be used on our website facebook page and possibly church profile.

This past week Erica, Jan of WeShine and I met with Matt and Ashley of Beacon Village to collaborate on ideas of how to present the value of alternative shelters to our community.

Eviction

This week we found it necessary to issue Brian a 24-hour eviction for threatening behavior. His original notice was for 90 days. On Friday of last week Brian broke two panes of glass and was throwing screw drivers. The police were called, reports were made, and visits made to our campus to remind Brian he was to be off our property. He was issued a citation for damaging our property with a date he will need to appear in court. Lucile and Blair filed necessary documentation that will require Brian to show up in court since the 24-hour eviction was not respected. He was to be off the property on Feb 17. Since that did not happen, he will be requested to appear in court to plea his case. The police are supporting our eviction process and have offered support to ensure safety until then.

By the time we gather on Sunday after service you will have experience my conversation with Jan of WeShine. The theme of our conversation was Setting in Motion a safe, compassionate, and just society.

Lastly, I leave us with an email from our conference minister and his experience of Parkrose.

Dianne,

My experience of Parkrose UCC was that they are a church that is doing some deep work, and engaging with the most-important topics of our day. I was grateful for the engaged and sometimes challenging questions in the after-church forum, and impressed with the depth of the thinking evidenced by those questions.

I'm grateful for the way the tech team has embraced the need for hybrid worship, and better ways of engaging one another during worship. They're doing a great job. When we had mic challenges, they also demonstrated the kind of grace and flexibility that Parkrose is known for.

Finally, I was impressed by the way one of your members (I'm sorry I can't remember her name) engaged in healthy relationship with your neighbors who live on the property that morning when a challenge arose. It was a quick side-conversation with you that I got to witness, but it demonstrated how the church is seeking real relationships and not charity with its neighbors who don't have houses.

Thank you for the opportunity to reflect with you on the community at Parkrose UCC. Feel free to share this email with others.

Blessings,
Tyler

I am ever grateful for all you do and who you are.

Shalom,

Pastor Dianne



Informal CoVid Fatigue Support Group

I am sensing we individually and collectively are experiencing CoVid Fatigue. To be sensitive to this issue, I would like to begin an Informal CoVid Fatigue support group via zoom, twice a month.

This will be a time to check in with one another, vent, to feel less alone, and explore selfcare options that will help with the stress and grief. All are welcome and encouraged to invite friends by sharing this email. Let us companion one another as we navigate this pandemic world.

The next gathering will be Saturday, March 5 at 11:00.

Remember all are welcome, this is informal. Lastly I share The Philosophy of Companionship for you to reflect upon. Any questions email or call me 516-673-1231
Shalom Pastor Dianne

/////

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86398886935?pwd=TFp3coxtR2goblY2SWkvVGVVN3VLZz09>

Meeting ID: 863 9888 6935

Passcode: 405959

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,86398886935#,,,,*405959#
US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,86398886935#,,,,*405959#
US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Companionship Philosophy

by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D.

1. Companionship is about being present to another person's pain; it is not about taking away the pain.
2. Companionship is about going to the wilderness of the soul with another human being; it is not about thinking you are responsible for finding the way out.
3. Companionship is about honoring the spirit; it is not about focusing on the intellect.
4. Companionship is about listening with the heart; it is not about analyzing with the head.
5. Companionship is about bearing witness to the struggles of others; it is not about judging or directing these struggles.
6. Companionship is about walking alongside; it is not about leading or being led.
7. Companionship means discovering the gifts of sacred silence; it does not mean filling up every moment with words.
8. Companionship the bereaved is about being still; it is not about frantic movement forward.
9. Companionship is about respecting disorder and confusion; it is not about imposing order and logic.
10. Companionship is about learning from others; it is not about teaching them.
11. Companionship is about curiosity; it is not about expertise.

REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR

BY BLAIR LOUDAT



Mar-Apr 2022

It's been a while since I have written a Moderator message for the Crier. I enjoyed doing it when Sharon Ericson and I

shared Moderator duties several years ago. It does seem, however, that we are much busier this time around than we were then.

I first want to acknowledge the great job Lucile Harden has done for the past several years. She has helped lead the church through a number of major events including Pastor Don's retirement and early death, the hiring of an Intentional Interim pastor, the long pandemic restrictions, our adventures with our tent guests, and other significant happenings. She has performed with so much grace and a clear love of our church and its commitment to our community. She has the love and respect of our members and friends and, has welcomed Sharon and me as partners in trying to live out the church's mission and vision. Thank you doesn't begin to convey our gratitude.

These past two months, January and February, have tried our patience as we have navigated through the process of evicting our three tent guests by February 28. Two of them have already left, quite peaceably, although the messes left behind were something of a challenge to clean up. A big thanks goes out to our Trustees for their great help! Our final guest should be gone by the second week in March. As we head into March and April, we should all see progress on the micro village that our partner organization, WeShine, is building. We continue to be impressed with the thoroughness and thoughtfulness that the WeShine people are bringing to the

establishment of their first village. It is an exciting adventure as we contribute to serving our wider community.

The Transition Team is charged with defining who we are as a church to inform the creation of a church profile for the Search Committee to use in calling a settled pastor. So far, the team has captured stories of our heritage and history, defined leadership, and developed our purpose and identity with the Mission and Vision statement for our church. Currently, the Team is working on identifying the connections we have as a church to the wider community. There are two important dates to keep in mind for this process – **March 13 and 27**. Please plan to attend our in-person service on either or both dates and stay afterward for a discussion of our ties and connections to the community.

Most of March and April make up the 40 days of Lent. Pastor Dianne's selection of the Full to the Brim devotional reflects the fullness of spirit that is Parkrose UCC. There is so much to read, ponder, and take away from this devotional. I found it to be hopeful and reassuring of God's grace and love for us. This devotional also features poetry from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed which also appeared in our Advent devotional. She is both so eloquent and straightforward in the messages conveyed through her poetry. I urge you to use this devotional to add meaning and purpose to your Lenten experience.

I appreciate your trust in me and it is an honor to serve as one of the three Moderators.

Blessings, Blair



News from the Community Life & Youth Ministry

Welcome mid-winter & Spring!

While enjoying the recent sun, I see the buds coming on in my garden and it reminded me of seeing the faces of friends peeking out from behind masks at church and Sunday school. It is always lovely to see each other. I personally look forward to it.



Getting back into the swing of things...



Check out these amazing updates and opportunities for youth, families and us older pals. 😊

Greening up your Lenten Practice!

Why not utilize an alternative practice this Lenten Season 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.

Got Jars?

Bring in your narrow mouth Mason jars for re-use. During Lent, we will collect the following items:

- Narrow mouth glass Mason jars
- Plastic containers with lids (peanut butter, mayonnaise, etc.)
- 2.75-inch plastic or metal lids-any that fit a narrow mouth mason jar.



* Please wash and rinse out your containers before donating. Drop off any jar donations at church on Sundays or by the Community Life office during the week.

Want to learn more about our partner **Simple Sundries?** Visit

<https://simplesundries.life/>

* Not available at the time of printing. We have invited Mandy and her Simple Sundries refill set-up to come here to the church. Please stay tuned! 😊 If you are interested and want to make sure you don't miss out, please contact me

- Erica Martin.

Updates & Coming Events!

Our **Souper bowl of Caring** drive yielded 93 lbs. of food & clothing and \$70.00 in donations!

Thank you, Violet, for wearing the can this year and greeting folks as they brought in donations.



Youth ZOOM meeting March 13th at 3:00pm!

Loads to talk about at this meeting while we make a baked treat together. Topics include:

- o Easter activities
- o Amphibian/Turtle Monitoring this spring
- o Sierra Service Project this summer

Watch for the ZOOM link coming your way soon. 😊

Festive Spring & Easter Card making with Doug!

Sunday, March 27th at 11:30, after worship

* Bring a sack lunch/snack and gear up for spring and Easter by crafting a lovely handmade card for your loved ones. Doug Nichols, our expert card crafter, will provide a quick tutorial and be onsite to assist as needed. Crafting supplies provided.



"Uncharted" Youth & Families Private Viewing Party!

Sunday, April 10th at 1pm. We have the whole theater to OURSELVES! Let's Meet at Regal Division Street Theater, located at 16603 SE Division St, Portland, OR 97236.



The Movie tickets have been purchased. Snacks are available at the Theater

You will need to RSVP with Erica. Limited seating available!

Easter Morning Breakfast -Youth Fundraiser!

East some eggs and help the youth get to California. The youth & helpers will serve up breakfast goodness on **Sunday, April 17th at 9am. Youth & helpers! Please plan to be there at 8am.**

* *Donations welcome and benefit the youth's **Sierra Service Project** this coming August!*



Share joy always, my friends.

-Erica



UCC Northwest Regional Women's Retreat XIII

November 4,5,6 2022
Salishan Resort, Gleneden Beach, Or.

The UCC Northwest Regional Women's Retreat welcomes women to Salishan Resort on the Oregon coast for our regional retreat Nov 4,5,6 2022. Explore the website at www.nrwr.org for information on speakers, workshops, the venue and registration.

You may contact Carol Kiriluk with questions at ck5.maple@gmail.com, or any member of the committee as listed on the website.

Registration forms are available in the Entry Hall.

WeShine Update!



Progress is being made with WeShine! WeShine's board has been hard at work making things happen behind the scenes! Here are a few updates as this alternative safe shelter project moves forward:

- 1.) They have launched a GofundMe campaign! Conate now to help them achieve their financial goal! Grants are continually being written and awarded.
https://www.gofundme.com/f/helping-our-unsheltered-neighbors-a-pod-at-a-time?utm_source=widget&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet
- 2.) Warehouse space has been secured (donated!) the so that pod panels can be built- indoors. WeShine anticipates beginning construction during the second week of March. If you want to sign up to join building parties or find other ways to get involved, please visit their website and fill out the "Join Us" button.
- 3.) Building connections with community partners continue to happen with outstanding outcomes. An alternative shelter networking event is scheduled for Friday, March 18th. This will be a fantastic way to connect with others in mutual aid.
- 4.) We will keep you informed with the next steps, which will include all the details of setting up the pods onsite at Parkrose UCC!

- Erica



Dear Friends,

Zoomside chats for March will talk about favorite Spring Recipes.

So check out your recipes online or in your favorite cook books.

We will exchange 1-3 recipes , how they are made and why you like them.

Afterwards I will gather them through attachments and send out to each participant.

Dates will be **Thursdays March 10 and 24 at 2:00.**

Email me at:

marjoriecrawford71@yahoo.com by the Tuesday before hand, March 8 and 22, if possible.

Then Blair Loudat will send you a Zoom link.

It's a time to meet, socialize and enjoy getting to know each other.

I look for ward to seeing you and finding news ways to enjoy our meals.

PS If these times don't work for you email me what times will and we will see what we can do.

March Birthdays

Blair Loudat	03/01
Bruno Reule	03/04
Lenny Anderson	03/08
Ana-Lucia Aguilar	03/12
Reid Rubsam	03/18
David Hohnstein	03/29
Ruby Hohnstein	03/31



THE CHRISTMAS FUND
for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

It's not too late to give to the UCC Christmas Fund!

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years.

April Birthdays

Pauline Aaron	04/02
Donna Barker	04/04
Nico Martinez	04/08
Connie Cork	04/09
Madeline Tallmadge	04/18
Katie Booker	04/20
Barbara Rock	04/21
Sharon Mackie	04/25



Courageous Church, Part II

You are invited to join the Courageous Church group, Part II for a study of Dawna Markova's book *I Will Not Die an Unlived Life: Reclaiming Purpose and Passion*. We will explore, reflect upon, and discuss the questions and content of each chapter. Here is a quote from the Foreword of the book:

Never have the words "slow down" been so desperately needed as they are now. Markova asks brilliant questions as she gently challenges us to exit the fast lane and move into the slow river of wonder, which summons us to our true passion.

Please join us each Tuesday at 1:00 pm in the Mariners Room beginning March 14. This activity promises much to think about our purpose and place in the body of the world in which we live.



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.

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.