

An Open and Affirming Congregation
PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



JourneyNotes with Pastor Dianne Rodriguez

Since my last Crier article, I've been reflecting on the major spiritual shift Parkrose is navigating. Soon, we will be preparing ourselves for birthing Jesus, while the search committee has begun the search and call process so that Parkrose may call her settled pastor. Daily I pray for Wild Mercy, knowing just how glorious, yet treacherous giving birth can be. I know during a time such as this, there are often more questions than answers.



Mirabai Starr in her book **Wild Mercy** encourages us to embody ourselves, individually and as a community. To feel into all that it takes to bring new life.

“Nobody can seem to give me a good answer for why the Shekinah was ever sent away. It has something to do with embodiment. And the masculine religious model. As we have already seen, the world’s great religions seem to have convinced themselves that the purpose of life in this world is to transcend this world, including our

bodies - especially female bodies. Meanwhile, the Shekinah is about immanence, infusing all matter and all spirit with her glory. She is the shattering of the One into the blessed pandemonium of the many. She pours and spills and overflows into All That Is. She is unbounded and uncontrollable.”

At our last search committee gathering, I began with a monastic story that speaks of diminishment. Diminishment gives us the opportunity to know the power of God, to examine our lives, and to begin anew.

A pilgrim was walking along a road, when one day he passed what seemed to be a monk sitting in a field. Nearby, men were working on a stone building. “You look like a monk,” the pilgrim said. “I am that,” said the monk. “Who is that working on the abbey?” “My monks,” said the man, “I am the abbot.” “Oh, that’s wonderful,” the pilgrim said, “it’s so good to see the monastery going up.” “We’re tearing it down,” the abbot said. “Tearing it down?” the pilgrim cried,

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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*

“whatever for?” “So we can see the sun rise at dawn,” the abbot said.

Pastor's Vacation

Thank you all for affording me two weeks off. I was away from October 10th through the 23rd. We were off to the east coast to celebrate our niece's wedding, visit with family and friends, and to honor our uncle and aunt's last wishes of spreading their ashes in the Atlantic Ocean off of Freeport, LI, N.Y. A special thank you to those who offered the Exploring the Word, Reckoning with Racism, and the Sierra Service Project Worship services.

Spending time building Community

On October 1st, Laz and I spent our day at Parkrose's Crafter's Bazaar. Thank you, Erica, and all who made this happen. It was a delight to have our micro-village residents and staff be a part of this enjoyable gathering. Lucile Clay and I met in October with Pastor Leyva and his daughter Diana to offer our support as they face health and financial struggles. In October, I had two Conversations in Service with community leaders. One was with Peter Walden. Peter is the Co-Founder and Project Leader of Rhythm and Arts Alliance. <http://www.rhythmartsalliance.org/>. In the next few months, Peter and I will begin to explore starting a RAA chapter here at Parkrose. This is their vision:

Rhythm Arts Alliance creates a positive and healing path that can change the world one life at a time. Through our work of awakening the inner artist and building lasting, inclusive communities, we provide the foundation for insightful and soulful living. As we bring the arts off the stage and into the lives of youth challenged by poverty, alienation and marginalization, we provide the threads that will reweave our tattered communities.

On December 4th, Barbara Walden of the Russell Neighborhood Association and a member of the 1st U of Portland will be in conversation with me. She and Peter will be providing some extra music for our second

Sunday in Advent service. After service on December 4th, we will be hosting a Climate Café, Plant Luck luncheon service at noon.

Rev. Gabriele Chavez, and Thomas Chavez will be providing a plant-based lunch and will help us to explore a new way to give, a new way to eat, and a new way to live. Thank you, Clay, for introducing us to Climate Café.

On the second Sunday of October, I had the honor to be in conversation with Erica's friend, Rev. Jo Lawrence. She is a board-certified hospice and palliative care Chaplain in Portland, Oregon. She's a long-time practitioner of Soto Zen, and is ordained in the Sufi lineage of Hazrat Inayat Khan. As a neighbor, Rev. Jo expressed her deep desire to support our church and the micro-village. In the near future I'll be inviting her partner Brenda, a muralist, to join Jo and I in an Advent conversation.

On November 27th, the first Sunday of Advent, after the service, we will have a time of fellowship to pick up Sanctified Art journals and begin the spiritual preparation for Advent.

Darkness to Light will offer us a time of fellowship and tamales after service on December 18th. Mrs. Leyva will be providing her homemade tamales, and we are invited to bring side dishes to share.

Reaching Out Virtually

Kim and I are encouraged at the virtual conversations happening online during service. Thank you, Kim, for keeping everyone engaged. And thank you to everyone for your engagement!

Search Committee Update

The newly formed search committee and I met with Tyler Connoley, our Conference Minister, on September 18th. Tyler felt with all of the transition team notes passed onto the search committee, that we are in a very good place to begin the church profile. On October 9th, the committee met to assign roles: Convener/Dianne-exterior, and

internal communication/Clay, writer/Cyndi, notes/Vicky and Chaplain Erica, and to plot the next steps. We will be meeting again on October 30th to address Page 8 of the profile. We have scheduled meetings for November 13th and 27th.

In closing, I would like to offer an assessment from Brian McLaren. Brian is an author, global activist, pastor, theologian, and leading voice of contemporary spirituality and religion. He argues: *"Notwithstanding the dire headlines about the demise of faith and drop in church attendance - Christian faith is not dying. Rather, it is embarking on a once-in-an-era spiritual shift. For millions, the journey has already begun."* McLaren challenges us to stop worrying, waiting, and indulging in nostalgia, and instead embrace the powerful new understandings that are reshaping the church. In his book, **The Great Spiritual Migration**, he explores three profound shifts that define the change:

- Spiritually, growing numbers of Christians are moving away from defining themselves by lists of beliefs and toward a way of life defined by love.
- Theologically, believers are increasingly rejecting the image of God as a violent Supreme Being and embracing the image of God as the renewing Spirit at work in our world for the common good.
- Missionally, the faithful are identifying less with organized religion and more with organizing religion: spiritual activists dedicated to healing the planet, building peace, overcoming poverty and injustice, and collaborating with other faiths to ensure a better future for all of us.

The work of this Spiritual Migration has boldly, courageously, and in life-affirming ways begun at Parkrose! Thanks be to God!

Shalom,

Pastor Kuanne



REPORT FROM THE MODERATORS

BY THE MODERATORS



Nov-Dec 2022

Fall is a time for firsts and lasts it seems. This will be my last message as one of three moderators. I've so appreciated serving with

Lucile Harden and Blair Lodat. We have navigated a number of critical issues for the church; I feel we will be leaving office with the church on the path Jesus calls us to. We have a mission and vision statement that very clearly match our actions and call us to further action. We have a Search Committee poised to work through finding a permanent full-time pastor. We have supported the micro-village, fed people through Feed the Mass, worked through our passage from on-site campers to the micro-village. In all, our focus on justice and peace continues.

How we get there is always interesting. Take the annual budget. Not an interesting topic for most folks, but necessary to support the work we do and the excellent people we have in place to do the paid work (along with our many volunteers). We view our budget through a lens of abundance. In this latest round, we struggled with use of our investments versus our spending. The Budget Committee worked through our differences to land on a budget which supports our mission, our staff, and our sense of our church as God's hands in the world. Disagreements were handled with discernment. No part of the budget was glossed over. Individual members did research and heavy lifting. When the congregation receives the budget, we know it will be approved in the same spirit we are bringing to you.

Safety on our campus is another perennial issue. Our property often reflects the issues of the day. People camp, leave trash, leave behind evidence of the poverty in their lives: needles, human waste, garbage. Someone



Come and help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. On Saturday, December 3rd, we will meet at 10:00 to put up the Christmas tree and candles and hang the greens. If you would like to help you don't need to sign up just come. That will be Saturday, December 3rd at 10:00. If you have any questions please contact Donna at barkerd860@icloud.com.

always must clean up. Bamba, our sexton, comes around once a day and asks people to leave, picks and cleans up. After that Tub and Lucile Harden have really carried the brunt of this clean up; personally, I don't thank them enough for everything they do. I feel that way about all the volunteers who make our church what it is. And our staff for patience in working with the demands of their jobs.

We have ordered a system of outdoor cameras, like Ring, to help us. Supply chain and communication issues have delayed installation. Similarly new windows to replace those broken by violence are delayed due to supply chain issues.

Even in a space of lasts, as the leaves fall and the rain begins, there are so many signs of life and "firsts." The youth led service on Sunday gave me hope about our future and our earth. The burgeoning of life and movement in the WeShine Village are another place of hope. The dogwood tree in honor of Pastor Don Freuh looks healthy and ready to bloom in the spring!

Finally, please remember to vote! In the words of Senator Rev. Raphael Warnock of Georgia:

"A vote is a kind of prayer about the kind of world you want to live in."





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.

November Birthdays

Jean Cline	11/02
Armeda Darrach	11/08
Travis Martin	11/09
Paige Osburn	11/11
Carol Bechtel	11/12
Cecilia Goodling	11/16
Jessica Harrison	11/21
Jahna Albertus	11/23
Corky Loudat	11/29

December Birthdays

Matthew Masters	12/04
Steve Campbell	12/07
Robert Barzler	12/14
John Delco	12/15
Anne Crockatt	12/24
Scott Mattox	12/25
Jesse Goodling	12/25
Robert "Rob" Rubsam	12/29
Barbara Clark	12/29

Your Moderator Elect

My Friends,

Not to long ago, I announced I would accept the nomination as Church Moderator for the next few years. In doing so, I must acknowledge our past Moderator's and the work they have done. Their experience and teamwork has been essential to our Community.

I had not ever imagined I would want to be the Moderator. However back in January I told Tanya I was going to ask to be elected as Moderator for the next few years. She didn't say no.

Something had come over me back toward the end of 2021. It was a resigning. Maybe it was the effect that this Covid era was having on me. There was nothing I could do about it. I was unburdened. There was no pressure. I felt free to accept this journey our Community is on.

I've been so impressed and proud of what we have done together along with our Partners and Campus Ministry. I wanted to be all in.

I am optimistic about our future and what it holds for Parkrose. Our inner circle is a little smaller but overall the Community is growing. Good things are happening at Parkrose. We are a bright light in our neighborhood. The Pastor and our Community life Director have been key figures in the direction we have taken. Kudos to them.

Not one of us could have predicted the pandemic. There will always be challenges. It's our faith that will lead us. I want to be a part of that.

Cheers to our Abundant Life.
Moderator Elect
Clay Osburn

SHARE YOUR HEALTH

As coronavirus concerns intensify, we need healthy blood donors more than ever.



Is it safe to give right now?

Donating is a safe process and healthy individuals should schedule a blood or platelet donation to help maintain the nation's blood supply.



Safety at Blood Drives

Red Cross employees implemented added precautions to ensure blood drives and donation centers are safe for donors and staff.

-  Using Sterile Collection Sets
-  Spacing Beds 6 Feet Apart Where Possible
-  Having Hand Sanitizer Available
-  Donor and Staff Temperature Checks Before Entering Drives
-  Wiping Down Donor-Touched Areas
-  Donor and Staff Temperature Checks Before Entering Drives



What if a donor becomes sick after donating?

We provide a call back number donors should call if they become sick with any illnesses days after their donation.

If you're healthy and well, we're urging you to make a blood appointment.

Visit www.RedCrossBlood.org.



American Red Cross

BLOOD DRIVE information

Tuesday, November 7th, 2022

12:30pm – 5:30pm

Where: Parkrose Community United Church of Christ

Located: PCUCC Eastminster Hall

****By appointment only!**

To schedule, please visit: redcrossblood.org

**Or call: 1-800-RED CROSS
(1-800-733-2767)**

Look for the “Parkrose UCC Blood Drive”

*If you have questions or issues in scheduling an appointment, please contact Erica Martin

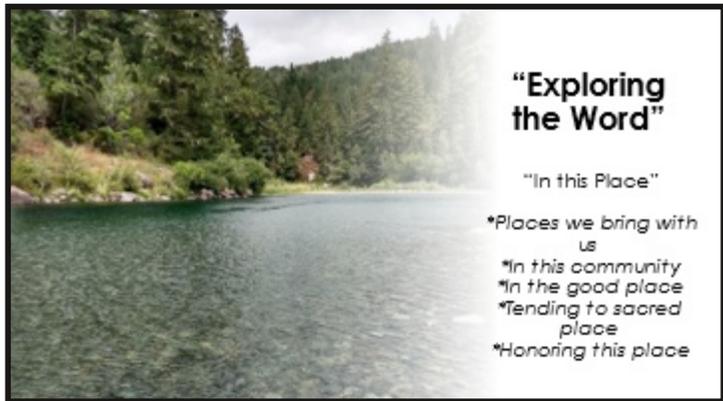
at cedirector@parkroseucc.org

*Due to COVID restrictions, Limited appointments available.

News from the Community Life & Youth Ministry

Youth Sunday!

On October 23rd, the Youth & Friends shared their experiences from Sierra Service Project. If you missed that Sunday, please watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZ0JgdtK61s>



Fall Fun at the Farm!

The Youth & Families Ventured out to Goodling Ranch for Good old-fashioned fellowship complete with Weenie Roast, Riding of mules, and the petting of many new farm friends!

Thank you, Jesse & Cecilia, for hosting this fun day!



WeShine & Parkrose Community Village Update!

Permitting is in progress and the Village Communal Building hopes to be in place by Thanksgiving. Partners are here weekly assisting in getting essential services out to the village and community folk. Below is the schedule for these weekly services.

Mondays, 5:00-8:00pm
Shower Services with
Union Gospel Mission.



Wednesdays, Showers & Wash Services with
Cultivate Initiatives. 11:00am -2:00pm Showers & Laundry wash services, Clothing, Pet Washing services, First Aid



And of Course, *Feed the Mass* meals served Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 12:30pm-1:30pm

We are currently fostering additional partnerships with service providers. Here's to growing that list!

Cocoa & Card Crafting Sunday

Dec. 18th after worship, 11:30 In Eastminster Hall! Let's all channel our "Mr. Doug Nichols Card Crafting superpowers" and have some fun together crafting Christmas cards! Cocoa, Holiday Treats & Materials Provided!

Take Joy this season, friends.

-Erica



Climate Café
Love all creation as yourself
Coming soon to your Community, Stay tuned.

Parkrose Community United Church of Christ
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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.