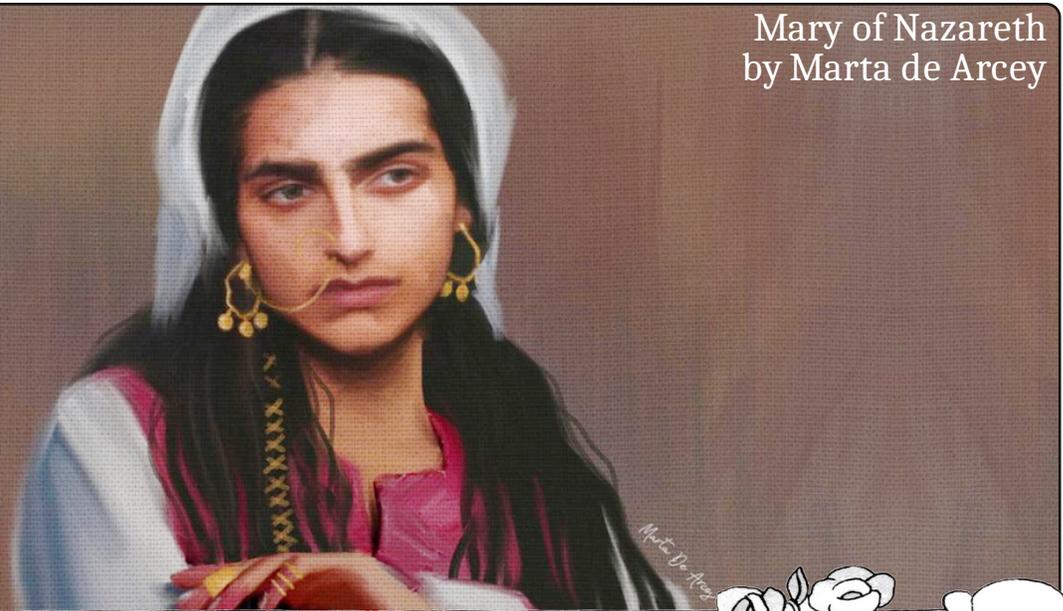


Mary of Nazareth
by Marta de Arcey



An Open and Affirming Congregation

PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



2023



JourneyNotes with Pastor Dianne Rodriguez

Since the inception of the search committee in September, I have been reflecting on the major spiritual shift Parkrose is navigating. This reflection deepened as we prepared ourselves for birthing Jesus. This shift is most evident in how Parkrose understands herself as a congregation who does ministry “with” her community.



The search committee has been working creatively and reflectively to capture the essence of Parkrose’s new identity, as a congregation whose leadership style is becoming more and more collaborative, embodying WE ARE THE CHURCH.

During the last week in Advent, I spent some time with Dr. Christine Hong’s reflection on Luke 2:1-20 (from Sanctified Art’s Advent Devotional - From Generation to Generation). Her words inspired me to include them in my Christmas reflection on Christmas Eve. This is what I shared:

Every year once Jesus is born our attention turns away from Mary to her newborn son.

Dr. Christine Hong, in her reflection on Luke 2:1-20, wisely challenges us with the following questions as we celebrate this virgin birth. Can we keep our eyes on Mary too? Can we offer her some nourishment? Can we offer her some postpartum care and rest? Dr. Hong shares that in the Korean culture a nourishing soup was given to woman after childbirth to restore her body, and to increase her healing after laboring to bring a child into this world. I sense in a metaphorical way that you Parkrose this past year have birthed a new ministry and a new way to be church.

You metaphorically have been Mary that has given birth to so much new life. My heart is filled with gratitude for your vulnerability and courage in saying “yes” to the micro-village that is now living on your campus dwelling among you. So, I pray that you Parkrose will find rest, nourishment, compassion, and care as you heal from labor and childbirth. I pray that you take the time to understand your central role and embrace both the excruciating pain and ecstatic joy of bringing new life into our world.

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*

Clay Osburn, *Moderator*

Aaron Winegar, *Office Administrator*

Erica Martin, *Community Life & Youth Director*

Niki Farley, *Accompanist*

Rev. Charles W. Ross, *Pastor Emeritus*

Spending time building Community

On Wednesday Nov. 23 I attended the Harvest Thanksgiving gathering with community and the villagers at the church. An abundant feast was served, and I especially enjoyed the pre-dinner fellowship as we played *Sorry* and told stories.

On December fourth Barbara Walden of the Russell Neighborhood Association and member of 1st U of Portland was in conversation with me. She and Peter provided delightful music for our second Sunday in Advent service. After service on December 4th, we hosted a Climate Café, Plant Luck Luncheon service at noon. Rev. Gabriele Chavez and Thomas Chavez provided a plant-based lunch and helped us to explore a new way to give, a new way to eat, and a new way to live. We were pleased that some villagers joined us for lunch. Thank you, Clay, for introducing us to Climate Café.

It was especially nice having Mike and Jesse playing Advent music in service.

Darkness to Light offered us a time of fellowship and tamales after service on December 18th. Along with the festivities of this luncheon Erica hosted holiday card making and hot chocolate. Mrs. Leyva provided her homemade tamales, and we were invited to bring sides to share.

On December 21 from 12:30-2:30, Parish Life and I hosted the Longest Night Labyrinth Contemplative Service. Thank you, Donna, Blair and Vicky, for your help, and Niki for your music.

Christmas Eve Service was at 5:30 in the sanctuary and live-streamed. Thank you, Niki and Mike for the beautiful music.

There was no Christmas Day service. Hoping everyone enjoyed your family and friends.

For New Year's Day a pre-recorded service was offered, there was no in-person service.

We will be back in the sanctuary on Epiphany Communion Sunday January 8, 2023.

Reaching Out Virtually

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

Search Committee Update

Cyndi McKee offered a Search Committee Moment in service, announcing that we are almost 3/4 of the way done in completing the church profile.

In closing I leave you words from Rachel Held Evans.

To understand Mary's humanity and her central role in Jesus's story is to remind ourselves of the true miracle of the Incarnation—and that is the core Christian conviction that God is with us, plain old ordinary us. God is with us in our fears and in our pain, in our morning sickness and in our ear infections, in our refugee crises and in our endurance of Empire, in smelly barns and unimpressive backwater towns, in the labor pains of a new mother and in the cries of a tiny infant. In all these things, God is with us—and God is for us.

Thank be to God! Thanks be to you!
Christmas and New Year's Blessings to you and yours.

Shalom,

Pastor Lianne



If you can, please come and help put the church's Christmas decorations away on Saturday, January 7th. We'll start at 1:00. If you have any questions please contact Donna at barkerd860@icloud.com. See you Saturday afternoon.

REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR

BY CLAY OSBURN

While I was thinking of writing for this edition of the Crier the lyrics "These times they are a changing" came to mind.

We've seen a great shift in the way we've become Church. The days of focusing on our inner circle are long gone. Our new partner WeShine is a big part of that change. WeShine has been getting media attention for their involvement in the housing crisis. I see this partnership as a springboard to other opportunities for Parkrose.

We are no longer just responsible for ourselves; we have a larger family to consider.

In this next year part of our focus will be how to get our message out to the community. We will be exploring new ways to do this.

I'm not a social media guy, I've never participated on Facebook and the like, such as the younger generations do. I can see now, it's time to meet people where they are at and this is one of the ways to do just that. I will learn and we will learn - our family depends on it.

I'm looking forward to the New Year and the opportunities it will bring. We have a great Community full of Love. We will prosper from that Love. Thanks be to God.

Moderator Elect
ClayOsburn@hotmail.com



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.

JANUARY

22

ANNUAL MEETING

Members, join us for the 2023 Annual Meeting. Hope you can join us; we need your input.

January Birthdays

- Vickie Lyman 01/09
- Catherine Todd 01/13
- Sadie Durant 01/13
- Linda Loeffler 01/19
- Rhonda Rowan-Robertson 01/22
- Maurey Cline 01/22
- Owen Rubsam 01/23

February Birthdays

- Tanner Martin 02/02
- Ryan Van Benthuyzen 02/03
- Antoinette Bessette 02/07
- Heather Martinez 02/16
- Al Darrach 02/20

PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Name _____ Email _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 I/We pledge to live by the Congregational Covenant and make a financial commitment to the life and programs of Parkrose Community United Church of Christ in 2023.
 \$ _____ per _____ (week, month, etc.) Yes—I'll volunteer (see other side)
 Signature _____ Date _____

Don't forget to turn in your Commitment Cards!

For your convenience, you can also fill out a commitment card form online on the church website at: parkroseucc.org/stewardship

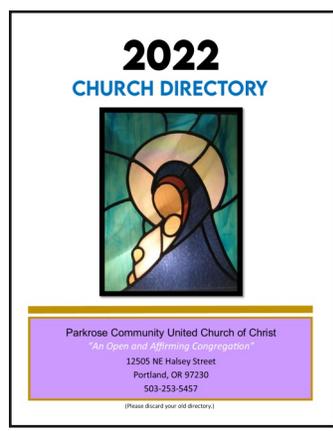


Annual Reports Due!

Ministry Team Leads, it's time to turn in your annual reports! This year, reports are due Sunday, January 15th! While there's still plenty of time, the deadline will sneak up on you fast if you're not careful!

New Church Directory!

It's time to produce the 2023 Church Directory. So, if there have been any changes to your contact information, please let the church office know within the next two weeks. Or if you would like to be added to the church directory, just let the church office know at office@parkroseucc.org.



News from the Community Life & Youth Ministry

Happy New Year 2023!

It is the time where we look at back at what this last year held for us and bring in the intentions of the New Year! This is also a helpful process in formulating my annual report. 😊 What are some things we can celebrate from this past year. What are some loving things we can do for ourselves in 2023?

I want to life up the youth of our congregation and the work they have done with the **youth mural**, the preparation for **Sierra Service Project** and “rocking it” at the project site, this past summer as well as helping out and selling their wares at the **Crafter’s bazaar & Fall Festival**. We have enjoyed each other’s company at events like **Fall fun on the Farm, Holiday card making** and, **Tamales** with our Friends from Darkness to Light Church.

Some exciting things to look forward to in the next year are...

- Turtle & ecological surveys
- intergeneration fun and activities and
- planning the next adventure for the youth.



In the Community Life office, I would like to showcase the partnerships with **Union Gospel Mission and Cultivate Initiatives** to help provide essential hygiene and wash services for our villagers and unsheltered neighbors. WeShine and PCUCC have really developed an amazing relationship!

We look forward to nurturing the newest connection with **Outside In’s** medical van to add to the list of service providers, for both the village and community.

We partnered with **American Red Cross** for 4 bloods drives in 2022. Many new donors are pints collected at these events. Eastside locations are in high demand. The next blood drive will be in March 2023. So keep a look out.





WeShine PCV & Community Service Partners:

Permitting is in progress and the Village Communal Building hopes to be in place SOON. Volunteers are waiting in the wings. Service Partners are here weekly assisting in getting essential services out to the village and community folk.

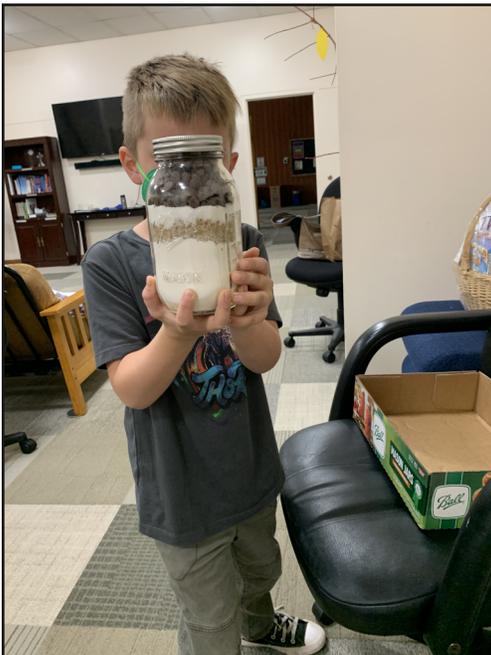
Below is the schedule for these weekly services.

Mondays, 5:00-8:00pm Shower Services with Union Gospel Mission. Every 1st and

3rd ((TBD) Mondays, Outside in's Medical van from 9am -3pm.

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

Feed the Mass meals served Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 12:30pm- 1:30pm.





WeShine Volunteer Planning

WeShine **Volunteer Orientations** will be held monthly. Next orientation TBD. To learn more about or are interested in volunteering? One will need to complete an application and attend a volunteer orientation.

Reach out to me and I can help you get connected, as well.

Ending this year with gratitude and hope.

-Erica



Support Tree Recycling for Scouts

Troops 606 and 5606 are doing the tree recycling at the Moose Lodge, 16411 ne Halsey, Fri 12/30 9-4

Sat, 12/31 9-4

Sun, 1/1 11-4

Sat, 1/7 9-5

Sun, 1/8 11-4

Sat, 1/14 9-4

Drop offs are \$5 (at the Moose lodge)

We have limited days for pick ups. Call me at 503-560-1148 to arrange a pick up. Pick ups are \$10.

Flocked trees are \$25.

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.