



An Open and Affirming Congregation
PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 2023

JourneyNotes with Pastor Giuseppe Amato

When a church and a pastor covenant with one another in ministerial partnership, it is always a “leap of faith.” Did both parties represent themselves accurately throughout the search and call process? Are stated values actually being lived into and pursued? Is the situation going to be healthy or toxic? I know this relationship is still new—we are still in the “honeymoon phase”—but my experience has been overwhelmingly positive so far.



The last two months have flown by and I have deeply enjoyed our time together. I’ve said it before, and I will say it again: this is a special community. It is always easy to look around and see the work that needs to be done. The needs that are going unmet. The holes in our planning and projects that need to be filled. The stuff on the “to do” list that has yet to be attended to. I usually find this focus disheartening rather than motivational. We must, of

course, be aware of such things, but I also think we must have balance in our perspective. What has gone well? What has been done? What needs have been met? What holes have been filled?

So far, we have completed one preaching series. I called it “Harvest Season” because we were harvesting Feedback From, our congregation to construct next steps for the greatest concerns you have expressed. I deeply value collaboration, and you all really came through. So far you are seeing the results of her harvesting been implemented where possible. Our worship services continue to be refined. More relational spaces are being created. Opportunities for communal healing, support, and inclusion are being explored. We are in ongoing discerning conversations with potential community partners. Not to mention all of the wonderful work, relationships, and plans you were already busy with before I arrived!

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Pastor Giuseppe's Tentative Office Hours:
Monday to Thursday: 10:a.m.—3:00 p.m.
(Please Call Ahead)

Church Office Hours:
Monday to Friday: 9:00a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Staff

Rev. Giuseppe Amato, *Pastor*

Clay Osburn, *Moderator*

Aaron Winegar, *Office Administrator*

Erica Martin, *Community Life & Youth Director*

Niki Farley, *Accompanist*

Rev. Charles W. Ross, *Pastor Emeritus*

November is our stewardship month. In it, we are focusing on the theme, “because of you, our church is changing lives.” I know this to be true. We are working with God for the world that They desire, at least in our little chunk of it. I see lives being positively impacted every week. Some of them attend services and some don't. There are many we may never know the names of, but God does.

In that vein, I have also chosen to take advantage of our time in-between our last preaching series and Advent to consider spiritual practices. I once took a class on spirituality and social justice. At first, I wasn't sure about how these were going to connect. I realized, however, that the two intersect quite often. For example, as social creatures, our lives are bound up in one another, and the way we treat others affects our own spiritual health.

The biggest connection that I became aware of is the importance of taking care of ourselves so that we healthily remain in the work of social justice. Otherwise, we either burn out or perpetuate toxicity while we (ironically) work for a better world. This applies to much more than justice work. I think of spiritual practices as a form of self-care and tools that aid in our connection with God, others, our planet, and even ourselves. It is my hope that you will have new tools in your kit and be edified by our conversations together.

If you have read this far, you are a champ. Thank you for warmly welcoming my family and I into this community. I look forward to the years ahead of us!

Gratefully,
Pastor Giuseppe



REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR

BY CLAY OSBURN

It's Stewardship month. We'll be hearing from the Ministry Teams during worship about what this means to them. I believe the theme this year is "Because of you, our church changes lives." That's on the personal level and I like the theme. Of course there is, because of us, our church changes lives, and I'm not just talking about those of us whom attend our services, we include our partners too.

Stewardship takes many forms. How we use our land i.e. Eastminster garden, Portland fruit tree, it's all organic, no pesticides, bee friendly. Our custodial service only uses non-toxic cleaners. We are very green.

Personal care and loving relationships are an important part of stewardship. We're now having fellowship after worship every Sunday now, having coffee, engaging in conversation, listening to one another, and caring for one another.

We will be getting pledge cards soon. They will be asking for our Treasure's along with our time and talent. We have a very generous congregation with several people giving their time and sharing their talent. I am very appreciative of that. It takes a lot of hands to keep Parkrose involved with the community. Thank you for your support.



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.



Come help us decorate the church for Christmas. We'll meet on Saturday, December 2nd, at 9:30 in the sanctuary. You don't need to sign up, just come. If you have any questions, email me at barkerd860@icloud.com.

Reverse Advent Calendar! Winter Weather Clothing & Food Drive!

Help re-stock our closets for the WeShine -Parkrose Community Village and our community partners (such as SnowCap & Cultivate). It is pretty easy, and everyone can get involved!

Here is what is needed and that YOU can donate!

- Hygiene Products
- Warm Winter Clothing (gently used and clean) Sizes M, L or XL
 - o Flannel shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies
 - o Fleece jackets
 - o Weather/ Waterproof items preferred.
- Pull tab cans of hearty soups/ chowders/stews.

We will collect these items through winter. Thank you for your support. The donation Barrel will be out in Eastminster Hall on November 5th!



News from the Community Life & Youth Ministry



Things have been darn tootin' busy here in the Community Life office!

Sunday school has been a GIANT hoot! SS Participants have enjoyed lively conversations, body prayers, stickers galore, pumpkin, freestyle crafts, renaming turtles, interviewing plants, coloring sheet frenzies, looking for Pokémon, checking on the bees, and playing games each week.

Each week we have a mix of attendees, so we do our best to reach them spiritually, explore & wonder, and meet them wherever they are. Pictured here we are helping to fill jars for the Bazaar, tortoise love and a bit of crafty freestyling!



A hearty “**Thank you**” to my trusty volunteer crew, Tanya, Vicki & Lea for their immense help!

We are looking forward to bringing forth special activities and curricula for **Advent**.



Whew! Our **Annual Outdoor Crafter's Bazaar & Fall Festival** was a hit! The young folk enjoyed "person-ing" the table, selling their wares, and petting all the baby goats! Here is a mini run down of the Bazaar Fun!

16 vendors (for some this was their first fair. YAY!)

4 Community Partners, amazing coffee was donated.

9 Raffle Item & Basket Winners

Baby Goats, Tamales (sold out in an hour), and music were all appreciated by many!



Save the date for next year~ Saturday, October 5th 2024!

Family Fall Fun Day on the Farm! We played hide n' seek, enjoyed lunch & petted all of the barnyard critters! Thank you for hosting us Jess & Cecilia!



Community Life News

WeShine! Volunteers are needed for Winter meals!

As it becomes colder, the villagers spend more time inside their pods staying warm and cozy. Around this time of year our weekly village meals become all the more important for connection and bringing villagers together.



I'm reaching out to you because providing meals is our most vital volunteer need! Providing a meal to the villagers makes a huge difference in their week. In the past, you have shown

interest in providing a meal for WeShine- so we are reaching out to you for the upcoming Fall and Winter seasons.

We use **SignUp Genius** for meal sign-ups, please sign up here!

For those who are able, we ask that you sign up for one week a month. But we also welcome those who sign up outside of a monthly commitment! If you have not already done so, please obtain your Oregon Food Handler's Card and send me a copy. The test is based on villages provided within the training and the card will remain valid for two years. The training costs \$10, will take about half an hour to complete, and is entirely online.

If you plan to attend the Chef and Villager Community Meal in January, we ask that you submit a background check. Please contact us and then we will send you a consent form and background check link.

Please contact Krysten Hall krysten@weshinepdx.org or Erica Martin cedirector@parkroseucc.org for any questions.

Warmest regards!

Leven Land & Housing: I recently met with Alyssa Walker Keller to talk about Parkrose UCC becoming a Sacred Organization House cohort for the 2023/24 season. I have forwarded important cohort information to Jessica for the Restorative Justice team.

Additionally, through Alyssa, I have been connected with the **NE Youth Collective**, which is an exciting opportunity for our young people. Planning to meet with those folks soon. Will keep you updated as further details develop.

Portland Fruit Tree project: PGE Impact volunteers came out Friday, October 13th, and helped to harvest fruit and join in a painting project in the Parkrose Community village. Much collaboration was displayed that day.

Cultivate Initiatives is cutting their shower services every other week, as they are currently down to one shower mobile. They are also in a discussion that since the village communal spaces are fully up and running, their services are no longer needed here at PCUCC. We continue to serve several folks on the days the showers/Hygiene/clothing resources are here. Nursing students are busy with first aid requests. Sack Lunches also see a number of folks served this day. We are hoping to continue these vital services with Cultivate Initiative.

- **American Red Cross-** The next blood drive is Monday, December 18th 12:30-5:30pm.

**Upcoming
Youth & Families activities
Join in the festive-ness...**

Take & Paint Ceramic Painting
November 26th- December 3rd, During Sunday school.

*If you are interested, PLEASE RSVP as more details are to come!

Holiday Card Making - Join us for this intergenerational favorite! Sunday, December 17th after worship and during Coffee Hour. Come and join others in the card-making merriment!

FUN Joke Corner (*Looking for levity! I know I am!*) What kind of shoes do frogs wear when camping in the summer? Open toad shoes.



That is all for now! Go where wonder grows, my friends.

~Erica



It's back! We'll be having Coffee Time every Sunday after church starting this Sunday, October 22. Please join us in Eastminster Hall after service for coffee and conversation.

PS: I have some people who have volunteered to help set up and clean up Coffee Time. If you would like to be added to this list please let me know. If you can't help set up or clean up Coffee Time but would still like to bring a snack (cookies, fruit, vegetables or crackers) please let me know, Donna at barkerd860@icloud.com.



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

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.