



An Open and Affirming Congregation
PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



2021



JourneyNotes with Pastor Dianne Rodriguez

In our gathering for Courageous Church, one of the key speakers we heard from was Diana Butler Bass. A commentary on her newest book shared the following:

The title of this book, *Freeing Jesus*, is intriguing. It raises the question: Why does Jesus need to be set free? Who holds him captive and who is equipped to liberate him from this captivity? As one will see, in reading the book, this is Diana's own attempt to free Jesus from the captivity she has experienced in life. In other words, she is attempting to respond to the question of who Jesus is to her. In doing so, she invites us to do the same. So, this is a personal act of liberation. The story begins in her introduction with a visit to a side chapel at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. She had gone there to pray, and as she prayed, she asked God: "Where are you, God?" As she prayed, looking intently at the icon of Jesus that was in front of her, she heard a voice say, "Get me out of here." The one who spoke to her, in her mind, was Jesus. It is this spiritual encounter that gave birth to the

book, in which she shares stories of her encounters with Jesus at different stages of her life. Thus, she answers the question differently at different stages. Thus, she encounters different versions of Jesus over time.



Over the summer I have enjoyed being in conversation during service with Niki, Jessica, Sharon M. and Steve in our Conversational Series "I have been meaning to ask." Thank you for lending your stories to share with me in conversation. It's been a delight to know you more intimately in relationship to our community of faith. The first series of four question ended with "Where do we go from Here" on July 11th. On July 18th Lucile and I had a conversation considering personally and communally, the pandemic, and the question: where do we go from here? Thank you, Lucile, for your leadership as moderator and you're in-depth sharing of how you experienced the pandemic in relationship to ministry at Parkrose.

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*
Lucile Harden, *Moderator*
Aaron Winegar, *Office Administrator*
Erica Martin, *Community Life & Youth Director*
A.J. Wong, *Music Director*
Niki Farley, *Accompanist*
Rev. Charles W. Ross, *Pastor Emeritus*

On July 25th I began the series again, same questions different scripture, and one conversation partner for all four weeks. The second go round with one conversation partner Erica, offered us the process of going deeper in sharing grief, grace and growing together. I hope that through our conversations you heard a developed evolving spiritual story that revealed an ongoing encounter of Jesus. And through these encounters you experienced it's meaning for Parkrose's ministry as a "freeing Jesus congregation." Thank you, Erica.

During July I met with Amicia, M.Arch Student (Current) Co-Director, AIAs - Freedom By Design, University of Oregon, Eugene, once in a meeting with Erica to explore spatial justice in creating a community space on our campus and the second time in a more informal Coffee and Donuts setting. Their vision for utilizing our space in further developing our campus ministry is exciting as is their process.

The transition team and I hosted one more gathering to be in conversation with the congregation about mission. We felt since the first two gathering were well received, and many voices heard, one more gathering was appropriate. On Aug.1 the transition team and I met with the many notes taken from these gatherings. We met again on August 10th virtually. This was a very productive meeting in that each team member had drafted an Intro/Vision, Mission/Value/ Purpose statement created through the voice of the congregation they listened to, during the gatherings. Together we discerned an integration of the drafts each team member brought to the table. Currently we are editing and finalizing one document. This document will be integrated into the church profile as we begin the search and call process. Next steps: Lucile and I will present the document to Committee leaders explaining the importance of having the committee

existence and work reflect Parkrose's statement. We will create an audio link with the transition team reading the statement for the church profile. Early September the team will offer a reading of the statement in service. We will soon be discerning the next focus point to select.

Staff and I continue to meet weekly, and Niki and I decided to take a summer break from SASP. Notification will be sent out as to when we will resume these offerings. Lucile and I meet regularly to discern the facets of Parkrose's evolving campus ministry. After reviewing applications for the sexton position and interviewing an applicant on several occasions Lucile and I hired Bamba. Aaron met with him prior to him being hired. Aaron thank you for showing him around the building and campus and indicating you thought Bamba would be a good fit.

On July 25th we enjoyed a Fun in the Sun Fiesta Drive Thru Fellowship. Darkness to Light, Pastor Leyva and family joined us bringing many delicious cold treats. Travis, Erica, Aaron, and Steve helped us navigate a fun, money making version of playing Pass the Pigs game. Parkrose you know how to toss your pigs! Niki, Jesse, and Mike provided us with music fit for the day and Donna Barker won the crazy hat contest.

Through the course of the challenge, in needing to ask our temporary guests to relocate; I was put in touch with the executive Director John Mayer of Beacon Village. Beacon Village is dedicated to building, supporting, and integrating alternative shelter communities throughout Portland, Oregon. Their first alternative shelter community on the campus of the Bridgeport UCC, provides homes for up to fifteen residents in ten heated, powered, secure, hard-walled shelters and features a handmade shower & laundry trailer, open-air community living space and library / clinic trailer built by Cascadia Clusters. Their website:

<https://beaconvillagepdx.org/> John was eager to share his experience, wisdom, resources, and support to us as our campus ministry evolves. One of the resources is a police officer who will support the low barrier approach to providing alternative shelter such as ours; as well as helping us maintain our boundaries while ensuring the safety of neighborhood. Lucile Erica and I are eager to meet Officer Jordan Zaitz mid-September.

Erica and I met with Janet McManus LMSW the executive director of WeShine (Welcoming, Empowering, Safe Habitation Initiative with Neighborhood Engagement. Here is their vision/mission/purpose statement: The goal of WeShine is to develop and operate welcoming, safe, and empowering transitional micro-villages in Portland neighborhoods for some of the most vulnerable individuals among our houseless population. We seek to establish partnerships with property owners and neighborhoods, faith-based communities, local non-profits and businesses to create supportive temporary micro-villages that can be replicated throughout the metro area. You can find more info about them at: <https://weshinepdx.org/>



I will be on vacation for the last two weeks in August. Blair, Sharon, and Lucile will continue the conversations series during service highlighting topics from Courageous Church! On my first Sunday back September 5th Cyndi McKee and I will be in conversation to continue the Courageous Church Series.

Courageous Parkrose church I delight in ministry with you as we continue to understand who Jesus is for us.

Shalom,

Pastor Jeanne

REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR

BY LUCILE HARDEN



Sept-Oct 2021

Dear Friends,

Change continues to be a part of our lives. Just when we thought we could return to some

normalcy, we again must be vigilant and careful when we go out and about and think of others. I am thankful that I remain healthy, and even with the vaccine, I continue to be cautious about where I go and whom I'm with. I hope, too, that you are all staying healthy. We are still in this together.

The parking lot recoat has been completed and restriped. It looks great. Thank you to all who have contributed to make this possible.

I am thankful we can still attend church with masks and safe distancing. Our meetings and discussions about the Courageous Church have been well attended and we've had some great discussions. We've seen five so far, and the focus is on reimagining our common ground for the collective good. It is giving us awareness how we can be active leaders for change. We shared some of these discussions with the congregation the last two Sundays in August.

The Transition Team is working on a Mission Statement for PCUCC. With input from the congregation at our three gatherings, the TT has taken the notes from the meetings to create the mission statement for us. Thanks to all who participated and thanks to the Transition Team for putting it together. This will be shared in the near future.

I'm pleased we have hired someone for the position of Sexton. His name is Bamba Figueroa. He is patrolling and

cleaning the grounds each morning and will be available for other tasks as the need arises. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered this year to keep our grounds cleaned. We remain committed to our three campus guests and continue to work with Providence BOB and other partners, and Union Gospel Mission is providing the Shower Mobile twice each month for our guests and others in the community.

We had a wonderful outdoor fellowship after church on July 25. Jesse, Mike, and Niki provided music, we visited, we played Pass the Pigs, wore some silly hats, and we were joined by friends from Darkness to Light. Pastor Dianne and DTL provided refreshments.

We continue to partner with Portland Fruit Tree Project in the orchard, as well as Feed the Mass for Monday and Wednesday meals. In late September, we will begin distributing meals from FTM on Fridays.

As we look to Fall, we're planning a Fall Festival and Crafters Bazaar on October 2 to be held outdoors. We hope you can join us for fun and fellowship, as well as find some treasures from our vendors.

The cooler weather has been a nice reprieve from the last couple of months. Let's all continue to check in on our neighbors and friends that are not able to get out. And, if anyone needs a ride or a meal, please let me know.

Blessings,
Lucile



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.

September Birthdays

Christy Strong	09/01
Sally Gaudina	09/02
A.J. Wong	09/07
Tanya Putman	09/14
Camie Pugsley	09/15
Idel Shum	09/16
Walter Lersch	09/16
Peggy Moyer	09/20
Bekki Van Benthuyesen	09/24
Colton Van Benthuyesen	09/25
Carl Johnson	09/30
Violet Hohnstein	09/30



Dear Friends,

In the Spring of 2013, our church parking lot needed to be excavated and repaved. At that time, it was suggested to keep our investment in good shape, we would need to Seal-Coat every five years. We are now two years past the time to Seal-Coat, so we cannot delay any longer.

Our bid to do the Seal-Coat is \$6400. Through your generous donations, we are almost **nine-tenths** to achieving our goal. Thank you!

There's still a ways to go. If you can help us out, please send your donation to the PCUCC Capital Fund Drive in the enclosed envelope. We thank you for your continued support to our church.

Blessings,

Lucile Harden
Moderator



October Birthdays

Diane Mattox	10/01
Nolan Bechtel	10/01
Diana Bower	10/03
Karla Mangalindan	10/07
Florence Lersch	10/07
Kirsten Wageman	10/08
Mike McKee	10/08
Russell Martin	10/09
Carrie Aguilar	10/11
Elizabeth Durant	10/16
Nancy Ward	10/19
Judi Allen	10/22
Melba Chichester	10/24

News from the Community Life & Youth Ministry

2021 A Summer of Sharing JOY!

We have been busy in the Community Life & Youth Ministries office! Painting, Turtle Surveys, group fun at Wings & Waves! The Sunday school program has enjoyed a few visitors over the summer. It is always great to see folks when we get the chance. We continue to practice safe distances and mask wearing in person to reduce our risk of contracting variants of COVID 19.

Group Fun at Wings & Waves



Painters Needed For our Community Art Installation!

Need some inspiration? Look at these fantastic artists and their salmon!



Come and paint a fish for our “Salmon” themed fence art. This project needs to be completed by October 2nd!

To sign up for available dates/time slots or to take a fish home to paint, please RSVP with Erica Martin -this helps to plan for materials and supplies. This is a multigenerational activity!

Tuesday, September 14th 11-1 pm

Thursday, September 16th 11am-1pm

Saturday, September 18th 11am-1pm

*If you would like to check out a Salmon paint kit- please let me know. We can arrange a no contact hand off. The fish would need to be returned to me no later than Sept. 26th , As we will need to lacquer our pieces.

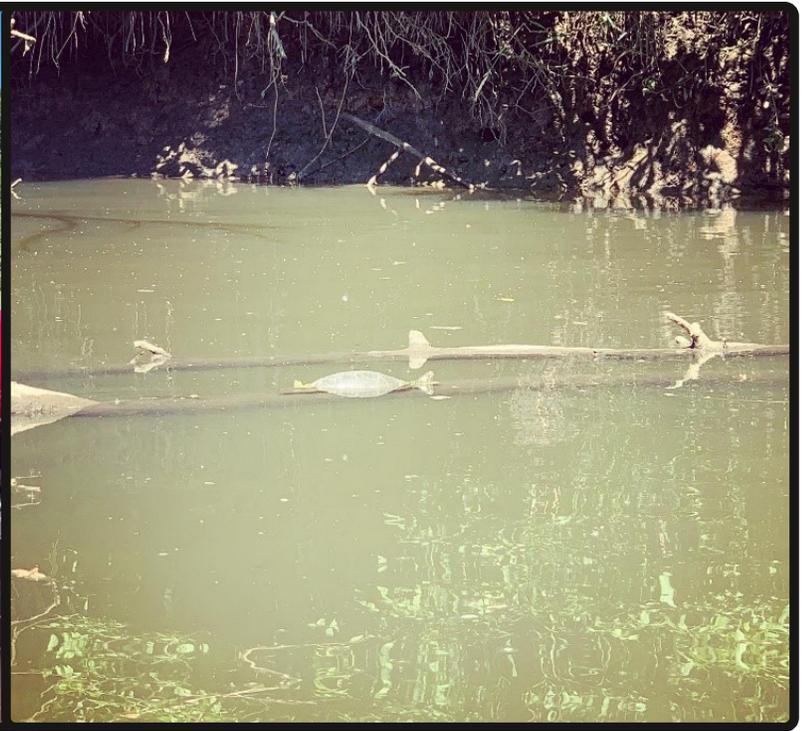
Caring for Creation- Turtle Surveys!

In July, the youth had the opportunity to continue to help with turtle basking surveys. We had a great time escaping the heat and looking for turtles by canoe in Scappoose Bay and the Multnomah Channel. Turtles will utilize fallen trees and the tree’s branches as modified basking platforms. We will be scheduling more surveys for the Youth in the fall.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7...

courageous
CHURCH
REIMAGINING OUR COMMON GROUND
FOR THE COLLECTIVE GOOD

You are invited to attend a bi-weekly study group every other Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Mariners Room to hear a diverse group of church leaders discuss Courageous Church. Please join us.



Community Life Ministries:

We continue to work with coordinators from various organizations to determine guiding factors to implement of our outdoor safe shelter ministry and better define our boundaries. This work is very important as we work with coordinators from organizations to provide various services for outdoor safe shelter ministry guests...Plus it is good to know of others doing similar work in our area.

We are excited to have made recent connections to Union Gospel Mission's Shower Mobile Beacon PDX and "We Shine". The shower mobile will be located at Parkrose every other Thursday.

Alex and the crew over at Providence Behavioral Health BOB continue to serve as an essential resource for us and our guests. We are in the near final phases of the Memorandum of Understanding between our groups and are formalizing partial funding requests.

Amicia and their team of U of O design students and Freedom by Design will be working with us to help design and build our Conestoga Village. This process has already begun, and we are working with

onsite guests to get their input. It's an exciting next step!

We recently met with the Nonprofit organization "We Shine", who can offer village site support, potential funding and help with construction of our Conestoga village. We anticipate this construction to take place this fall and before cold weather sets in.

Current Volunteer Needs & Donations Needed for the Community Closet!

Here is a current list of items that are needed in the Community Closet:

- Clothing appropriate for outdoor wear (rain jackets, seasonal coats, etc.)
- Z-Pull tab canned goods, including fruits, soups, chilis, chowders, & stews, tuna fish, sardines, etc.
- Bottled Water
- Granola Bars and fruit cups.
- Eco-Plastic cutlery & Eco-Paper plates (Sorry, no Styrofoam)

Community Closet Donations can be received on Tuesdays from 10am-1pm or on Sundays, after worship.

Coffee & Donuts are held First and Last Thursdays of the Month at 10 am. Volunteers are needed to help make coffee & set up tables.



Shower Mobile visits Parkrose UCC every other Thursday from 11am -2:30 pm. Helpers are needed to schedule, hand out towels and remind folks when it's their turn for showers. *Upcoming shower mobile days August 26, Sept. 9th & Sept. 23rd.

Want to be a builder for a day or help feed a hungry and hardworking crew? Dates for Conestoga Building are to be set. Get on the list to help build or help feed folk. Thank you in advance.

Helpers needed to Set up at OUTDOOR BAZAAR & FALL FESTIVAL Help set up, take a shift selling wares at the church table and help with event tear down. Event is scheduled for Saturday, October 2nd from 10am until 3pm. Please see Erica Martin to sign up.

Thank you for your amazing, continued support of YOUR community!



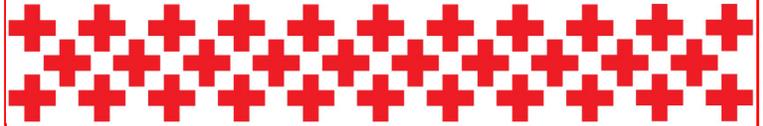
RESERVATIONS FOR IN-PERSON SERVICE ARE NO LONGER NECESSARY

Pastor Dianne officially cancelled the need to reserve seats for in-person services! Everyone can now simply come to church on any Sunday, no need to contact anyone first.

Everyone is welcome, but do be mindful that masks and social distancing are still required.

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



BLOOD DRIVE in Memory of Dean Simpson Parkrose Community United Church of Christ Eastminster Hall

12505 NE Halsey Street
Portland, OR 97230

**Monday, September 20th
12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

To schedule your appointment
or for more information,
please call 1-800-RED-CROSS

or visit www.redcrossblood.org;
Sponsor Code: ParkroseCUCC



Get gameday ready with the Red Cross! Come to give Sept. 13-30 for a limited-edition college football T-shirt, while supplies last!

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 |
redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Parkrose Community United Church of Christ Quarterly Giving Statement

Slinky McKinley
1102 Commercial Place
Multnomah, OR 97147

Thank you for everything you do to help the church and our community!

Period: \$100.00 per Month + \$2,400.00

Month	Check #	Contribution	Other Contributions
AUGUST	1112	\$0.00	07/21/18 1111 \$100.00 Tithe
SEPTEMBER	1113	\$0.00	08/15/18 1111 \$100.00 (through the Church)
OCTOBER	1113	\$0.00	Total: \$1.00
NOVEMBER	1113	\$0.00	
DECEMBER	1113	\$0.00	
TOTAL		\$0.00	

No gifts or services were provided in return for the donations.
Recurring: September 12, 2018

Donation Statements

Any time you want a pdf copy of your Donation Statement emailed to you or a paper copy mailed to you, simply contact the church office and request one.

Parkrose Community
United Church of Christ's
OUTDOOR CRAFTER'S BAZAAR &



Saturday, October 2nd 2021 10:00am – 3:00pm.

Bazaar Location: 12505 NE Halsey St. Portland OR 97220

OPEN TO CHURCH FOLK & THE COMMUNITY!

Seeking Vendors! Attention all creators, makers, crafters, woodworkers, quilters, knitters, & artists who are interested in selling their wares.

Limited space available, please sign up before
September 25th.

Table rentals prices begin at \$25.00

(*See vendor application for additional pricing of spaces and additional details.)

Please visit our website: parkroseucc.org/crafter-s-bazaar to reserve your spot online, or download a pdf version at parkroseucc.org/crafters-bazaar Or you can contact event coordinators via the church office at office@parkroseucc.org / 503-253-5457 or cedirector@parkroseucc.org.

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.