

All you need is just
Peace

#justpeace



An Open and Affirming Congregation

PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



2026



Agenda of Belonging with Pastor Giuseppe Amato

It sometimes seems like the world has lost its mind. Our national leaders have made horrendous choices that affect millions of us--as well as our neighbors throughout the world. Our friends and family fear wrongful imprisonment. Harassment is increasingly normalised. Genocide is enabled through our government's aid, and war is waged by that same government with little reason or concern for human life. In times like this, I am so grateful to hear some of our spiritual leaders speaking up. Thank you, Rev. Tyler.



--Pastor Giuseppe



Committed to God's Way of Shalom

Almost forty years ago, in 1987, the Central Pacific Conference declared itself a Just Peace Conference. In that resolution, the Assembly urged all churches and members of the conference to study the book *A Just Peace Church* edited by Susan Thistlethwaite.

In that book, the authors say this about our faith:

"The basic biblical vision is the vision of shalom, which means 'peace.' But

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Pastor Giuseppe's Office Hours:

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(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, *Music Director*

shalom means peace in a much fuller way than the English language conveys.

Shalom means wholeness, healing, justice, righteousness, equality, unity, freedom, and community. Shalom is a vision of all people whole, well, and one, and of all nature whole, well, and one."

Just Peace is an English translation of the Hebrew word shalom. And when we declared ourselves on the side of Just Peace, we were recommitting to following God's way of shalom.

The prophet Hosea said, "because you have trusted in your way and in your many warriors. Therefore, the noise of war will rise against your people." (Hosea 10:13-14 CEB) However, almost three thousand years later, the United States Government leads its people away from the advice of Hosea and the other prophets by waging wars of convenience with its newly-named Department of War. It follows a path of violence and destruction that is in direct opposition to our God of shalom. All these centuries later, God's people still suffer under governments that insist on following their own way, governments who expect war to fix things, and who therefore subject their people to further cycles of violence.

By pretending that 'might makes right,' the White House declares itself in opposition to the Christ who Paul says taught us by example: "Though he was in the form of God, he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit." (Phillipians 2:6 CEB) A hyperviolent Department of War is not just a bad idea that makes us all less safe, it is also an affront to the Christ who declared, "Blessed are the Peacemakers."

As the Conference Minister of a Just Peace Conference, and as a follower of Jesus, I have no qualms declaring unequivocal opposition to what our government is doing

in Iran, has done in Venezuela, and threatens to do in other parts of the world. This leads me to another topic, I'd like to address.

I regularly get asked when the Central Pacific Conference will declare its opposition to whatever latest atrocity or policy the Administration has perpetrated. When will the conference say people from other countries should be welcomed and respected? When will the conference say trans people are God's beloved children? When will the conference oppose the war with Iran? The fact is the Assembly of the Central Pacific Conference has declared all these things, and I as the Conference Minister regularly do as well.

As I already said, the CPC declared itself on the side of Just Peace almost forty years ago. More than thirty years ago, in 1993, the Assembly declared the conference Open and Affirming of lgtq+ people. Ten years ago, in 2016, the CPC became officially Immigrant Welcoming. All of these votes were taken by members of the Assembly who relied on our two-thousand-year-old faith as their guide, and who prayed to our God who has been inspiring prophets for as long as humans have been on this earth.

I'm not a Pope who has a retinue of reporters who broadcast my every word, but I am grateful that as your Conference Minister I can join public actions, advocate in private rooms, and sign our name to amicus briefs without ever having to turn to the Assembly for guidance. The CPC has been on the side of God's shalom for a very long time. We have and do speak for peace, for queer inclusion, and for the welcoming of people from other countries. Our commitment is long and clear, and has nothing to do with the current Administration.

Unfortunately, in our current political environment, when we advocate for God's shalom, we also get accused of having a derangement syndrome, of being suddenly woke, or of being tied to a political party. We are none of these things. We are a conference of the United Church of Christ that was pro-peace, pro-lgbt, and pro-immigrant long before this president or his party ever declared themselves in opposition to our values. We are members of a religion that is two thousand years old, and our God has been calling us to the way of Just Peace since before the dawn of time.

Thank you for all the ways you show up for shalom in this world. Thank you for continuing to be the church God needs for this place and this time. Thank you to each of you who prophesies for peace on street corners, at family tables, in workplaces, in your churches, and in all the spaces you inhabit.

I'm grateful and proud to be your Conference Minister, and to be your partner in the struggle for Just Peace.

Blessings,

Tyler



REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR

BY CLAY OSBURN

Friends,

Good news, we're experiencing some growing pains here at Parkrose Community UCC. Pastor Giuseppe asked the Trustees to bring some more pew chairs into the Sanctuary to accommodate the expanding congregation. Worship service attendance is at a high that we haven't seen since before COVID. The Christian Education program has more youth attending every Sunday than we have seen in a long time.

The sack lunch program broke all records, serving 68 lunches on the last Wednesday Wellness Day in April. The number of showers, laundry and clothing provided are growing too.

Hats off to Lucile Harden and Blair Laudat for organizing the annual Auction and all those who volunteered and those able to attend. It was a good time, with good food and great deserts. The Auction raised over \$6000 of which \$2000 went to our Wellness Wednesday program.

That's all for now, take care.

Clay



Home Goods FUN d Raise

On Sunday, June 14, we will be having a mini garage sale after church. Feel free to bring 3-5 items you'd like to donate for the sale. Any items that don't sell, please take back home or donate them elsewhere.

Please price items and bring them to church by 9:30 a.m. on the 14th so we can display the items and be ready for the sale after church.



News from the Community Life & Youth Ministry

by Erica Martin

“Where I live if someone gives you a hug it’s from the heart.” – Steve Irwin



It’s true in this neck of woods as well. It seems that most folks are struggling and looking for connection. This happens to be a super power that Parkrose UCC holds. Folks really very appreciative of the good things we do here at this church. I am proud of the work we all do.

Wellness Wednesdays!

Attendance remains strong, often reaching between 35/40- and as many as 60 lunches and 18-20 showers. We still need donations of men's clothing, outdoor

wear, and hygiene items like toothpaste, soaps, and shampoos.

Ash from WeShine has made an incredible connection for shoe donations, all genders, sizes and styles.

Special thanks to volunteers Cecilia, Julie, Jacob and Tanya for their help scooping pet food, sorting donations and cleaning up on Wednesdays. Their support makes these Wednesday events FLOW EASIER. Thank you

We anticipate partners to join us on Wednesdays- **Care Oregon** to assist with Oregon Health Plan enrollment. **Animal Aid** will also be back to distribute pet supplies and food to our community in the near future. We recently hosted PSU students and Multnomah County for an outreach event regarding **Heat Resilience in the Gateway area**.

Met with Osa, coordinator from **Cultivate Initiatives**. They are positioned to lose 70% of their funding and are advocating at budget hearings. They are seeking grants that have more of a health focus, such as Kaiser and other foundations.

In addition, they are seeking a more grassroots fundraising effort-such “hiring a team” for brush clearing, painting, light construction. If interested, Click the link on their website. <https://www.cultivateinitiatives.org/> scroll down to **Hire a Crew** or **Donate!**

Donations Needed for our Community:

These items are always in high demand-

- “Gently used” men’s & women’s clothing & shoes- all sizes needed (Pro tip: Think to yourself “what would I wear camping? A flannel shirt or a silky nightie? Please bring the flannel. Thank you in advance.)
- Pet food- especially Dog Food (Dry and Canned)
- Hairbrushes & combs • Toothpaste & personal care items
- Fleece Blankets
- Bottled Water & Granola Bars
- Pull Tab Cans Soup, Stews, Tuna & dried goods.



Sunday Mornings & Sunday School Class.

We continue to see an increase in attendance from many new families who are not yet familiar with our programs. We have adjusted our safety policies and are finding a flow with a multi-aged group of young people. Success!



I have been collecting classroom registration forms. This form helps us to identify any food allergies or sensitivities, including allergies to certain foods, bees, and hay fever, as well as parental and emergency contacts.

We continue to build community and relationship with these kiddos.

The Sunday Morning team are still working on the implementation of a sign-in and check-out system for Sunday school. We have had some folks stay with their children, as they are new.

Bird House Sunday-Jesse, our resident “Bee Charmer” and woodsman brought pre-cut wood bird houses for us to build, decorate, and take home. It was inspirational to see young people use tools and feel a little empowered! Take a look for yourself!

Summer Plans on the horizon!

I met with Cris our East Co. Youth Collective Organizer and we are cooking up some exciting things for the coming summer and fall goodness.

We talked about Youth event design team and programming; forming a scholarship

fund (for activities that cost \$) and Parkrose UCC hosting a “Summer Break” party at Smash PDX- (Otherwise known as Sacred Rage)-Pizza Party & Service work-or a day beach trips and “Family Fun on the Farm”.

Want Updates? Let us know if you are interested.

Email me cedirector@parkroseucc.org

Cris Saldivar: cristina@togetherlab.org



Terrific News!

We hired Lea as a **Sunday School Assistant!** Lea is really taking this role seriously and her enthusiasm is contagious! The kids, Vi and I really enjoy her kindness and humor. She is an



amazing young person who makes connections with our littlest and eldest members and brings fresh perspectives and a bit of hipness to the existing Sunday School programs.

Save the Date

For the 6th Annual Crafter’s Bazaar- First Saturday, October 3rd, 2026 from 10-2 pm.

Vendor applications coming July 1st.

Seeking Volunteers! Want to serve on this amazing, rad & fun planning committee? Get in touch with Clay or Erica. Let’s put the FUN in FUND-raising.

Go where wonder grows, my lovely friends and stay connected.



Respectfully Submitted,

Erica Martin



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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.