

2023's 'Land-People-Money' Annual Assembly



An Open and Affirming Congregation

PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



2024



JourneyNotes with Pastor Giuseppe Amato

A few weeks ago, I was invited to join IMIrJ for an advocacy opportunity at the state capitol. The Welcome Center was terminated in September, and since then, there have been few supports available to immigrants and asylum seekers in our state. IMIrJ and I accompanied several families and individuals to support and witness to the need for a new bill that was being considered to help fill that gap. I was honored to be the clergy person available to hold space with these folks—honored, and deeply grieved.

Our regional politicking was in full display; in my mind's eye, I could see the reelection commercials being crafted as each legislator spoke, and this bill would simply be a note for their platform. Meanwhile, the people all around me faced a very real possibility of living on the streets. All of them. Those who left Afghanistan, Venezuela, and other countries in fear for their lives and those of their loved ones. The young, single adults. The pregnant women. The very young children. These are the faces that I saw when I closed my eyes that night.

The bill did not pass.

Community organizations have spent thousands of dollars they don't have in paying for motel rooms, taking on debt they may not be able to recover from.

This Easter, March 31 st , while we're celebrating, the emergency shelters in our area will be forced to evict asylum seekers. That means that roughly 100 people will be preparing to sleep outside while we eat our Easter dinners. It does not include families with very young children—they are prohibited from staying in these shelters and are already outside.

What do we do about this? The state is not going to create a bill in time—if ever. The city of Portland doesn't have much in the way of solutions, instead referring us to the county. That is what we're doing—and I am asking you to join us.

IMIrJ is creating a campaign to pressure Multnomah County into providing:



**PARKROSE COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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OFFICE & WORSHIP:

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OFFICE EMAIL:

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PASTOR DIANNE'S EMAIL:

blackswan57@parkroseucc.org

On The Web: www.parkroseucc.org
facebook.com/parkrosecommunityucc



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, *Music Director*

Rev. Charles W. Ross, *Pastor Emeritus*

You're Invited!
Annual Statewide Assembly



Home. It's where we gather to rest, to dream, to nourish ourselves, to care for one another. But these days, too many of our families' and our neighbors' homes are under threat.

Renters in Clackamas are one lost paycheck away from losing their housing while increased wildfires in Medford endanger both people and place.

As developers gobble up scarce water to build luxury estates and golf courses for second and third vacation homes near Bend, the workers building those homes can't even afford to live in Deschutes county.

Meanwhile there's not enough affordable housing throughout the state to welcome people out of tents and into homes.

How did we get here?

We've objectified the land and one another by putting belongings over belonging.

We've ignored the history of land theft and racist zoning laws allowing some to build generational wealth while others struggle.

We've been stalled by neighbors who say 'not in my backyard'.

On Sunday, March 10th from 4-6pm, we'll gather 500 strong - neighbors from across the state - to hear stories from our organizing, to crack open our hearts and imagination, and to say YES to a calling – taking action so that current and future generations have a place to call home.

Will you and your loved ones say yes?

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvkmcwPhHMv6XY8whQCommPAZbLM4DSTje7tLWSBIDeOKQw/viewform>

- More family sheltering options.
- Access and transportation to/from shelter options available to asylum seekers.
- Day centers for people who must leave shelter options during daytime hours.

Bottom line: we are using our social power to pressure the county to provide places for our neighbors to be at night and during the day. Please come and support this effort by joining us at the Multnomah Building for county meetings Thursdays at 9:30am until Easter. The address is: 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, OR 97214.

There are also other ways that we can help as well. Those who are willing and able may host individuals or families within their homes. There's a need for transportation as well as translation. Donations can be made to IMIrJ's "Sanctuary Funds," which go directly to providing shelter. To do so, go to: <https://imirj.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/imirj/donation.jsp>.

If you would like more information about any of this, please contact me at pastor@parkroseucc.org

Lastly, we have invited IMIrJ and the asylum seekers to join us for our Wellness Wednesdays. If you are interested in helping with this, please reach out to Erica Martin, cedirector@parkroseucc.org.

In prayerful hope,
--Pastor Giuseppe
(He/him)

ECMA at Multnomah County Board Meetings

To support our asylum seeking neighbors, ECMA is mobilizing people to show up for Multnomah County board meetings.

When?

Thursday mornings at 9:30am.

March 14th, March 21st, and March 28th

Where?

The Multnomah Building.

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, OR 97214

Who?

We are looking for representatives who are willing and able to show up on Thursdays and sit through testimony.

If you are interested in testifying, please reach out to Pastor Giuseppe at pastor@parkroseucc.org.



EASTER LILIES ARE AVAILABLE! Now through March 20th



Lilies can be purchased In Memory Of and In Honor Of the people who are so dear to us. \$10 per pot. The pots will be on display through Easter, and then you can pick them up during our special Easter Gathering. Order forms are available in the entry, or you can purchase your Easter lilies on the church website at parkroseucc.org/easter-lilies

REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR

BY CLAY OSBURN

Hello everybody, it's feeling a little like spring, almost! Maybe I shouldn't say that, but I'm not superstitious. We made it through so far with no major incidents. The pipes didn't freeze, no trees fell on our building and we never lost power. Speaking of power, what would have happened if the Village lost power? Lot's of neighborhoods lost power for days.

Jan McManus Executive Director of WeShine has collaborated with Parkrose to invest in a generator system that would heat Eastminter Hall and the Sanctuary. I think that would be a smart idea.

I've often thought if we could find people to manage and supervise folk during extreme weather conditions we could use our building to get people out of the cold, which would be a great community service. We would have to look for agencies to partner with to provide the people power to do that though, just a thought. There were some extreme cold days not too long ago and the emergency shelters closed their doors during some of the coldest conditions we've had in recent years. It was troublesome to hear that.

Enough dreaming. Something that is going to happen for sure is the youth Easter Breakfast. Make sure you come to Church a little early for a scrumptious meal. It's a fundraiser for our young folk. Erica will be talking about it, as we get closer to the Easter Holiday.

That wraps up, till the next time. Thanks for your support.

God blesses us all.

See you in Church.

Clay



March Birthdays

Blair Loudat	03/01
Bruno Reule	03/04
Lenny Anderson	03/08
Ana-Lucia Aguilar	03/12
Reid Rubsam	03/18
David Hohnstein	03/29
Ruby Hohnstein	03/31

April Birthdays

Pauline Aaron	04/02
Donna Barker	04/04
Nico Martinez	04/08
Connie Cork	04/09
Madeline Rowan-Robertson	04/18
Katie Booker	04/20
Sharon Mackie	04/25

Puzzles • Music • Movies
Art • Healing

QUEER GIRL

Healing Arts Support Group

Bi-Weekly Wednesdays
6 PM - 7 PM
Mariner's Room

12505 NE Halsey St
Portland, OR

Text Faera J. @ 503-922-5059
for details



Youth Fundraiser EASTER BREAKFAST

Come and join us at our Annual Easter Breakfast.

*Suggested Donation of \$10.00

Sunday, March 31st 2024
8:00 am-9:30 am
in Eastminster Hall



*All donations benefit our Youth Program

Proceeds raised help supply Service Projects
Care Kits – Spiritual Enrichment & Field
Trips



Join us in Sunday School (during Worship)
on **Easter Sunday, March 31st** for an
Easter Spring celebration. We will enjoy
crafty goodness, turtles, and Easter
activities!

News from the Community Life & Youth Ministry

Souper Bowl of Caring!

We raised \$358.00 and 84 lbs. of canned goods for SnowCap Charities. Thank you to those who donated! The Sunday School class cruised over and bought about 4 large bags of groceries! They picked out the items, shopped the deals, and budgeted our funds! Way to go Canna & Vi!



Wellness Wednesdays!

Most in our community know that we have had **Cultivate Initiatives** come with their shower & laundry mobile truck or their outreach van from 11-2 on Wednesdays. Jan and I have met with the leaders from C.I and discussed options to increase the traffic here at Parkrose UCC on Wednesdays. How can we help folks better access these services here?

During our cold & rainy weather, we will be opening Eastminster Hall from 11 am - 2pm as a warm place for folks to access clothing, and hygiene needs, eat lunch (prepared by the Wednesday lunch crew), charge cell phones, and experience a little fellowship with one another. Welcome **WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS!**

WeShine Staff & I have been making connections for shelter referrals, mental

health & wound care, plus additional resources, Like haircuts!

The Youth and Nursing Students are making care kits and sorting any donations received for the clothing closet!

DONATIONS NEEDED For the Care kits:

- Hygiene Products (Please NO used travel hygiene items.) Other products are needed: Toothpaste, Sturdy Hair Brushes & combs, hand warmers, soft-baked granola bar
- Packets of instant foods: oatmeal, soups, ramen, etc. Heck, even instant coffee packets!
- Men & Women's warm socks
- Gallon-size zip locks

Items that are needed for the clothing closet, for the village, and folks served on Wednesdays:

- Warm Winter Clothing (**gently used and clean, please**) Sizes M, L or XL
- Flannel shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, fleece jackets, and weatherproof items are preferred.
- Size Medium and Large **MEN'S PANTS**
- Men's & women's tennis shoes or light hikers.
- \$5 or \$10 gift cards to nearby food establishments, Goodwill, or PACS.

We will collect these items through the winter season. The donation basket will be in Eastminster Hall, or donations can be received at the Community Life office on Sundays and Wednesdays.





Thank you for your support! If you are interested in volunteering or donating much-needed items, please see the list below or get in touch with me at cedirector@parkroseucc.org

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS & ACTIVITIES!

We Came, We Saw, and we SMASHED! Thank you to those who came and had serious fun while releasing a little anxiety and stress!



Here are some other things we can look forward to as we get closer to SPRING!

- Youth Easter Breakfast 8am -9:30am In Eastminster Hall. Planning ZOOM to come soon!

- Lenten & Easter Sunday Fun & Activities each Sunday!
- Courtyard Garden Clean Up & Native Planting
- Turtle Monitoring this Spring with Laura G. (who is ready to get into waders & get mucky with us?)

I LOVE this time of year- Tu Bishvat (Jewish festival of trees) Imbolc, and Lent. These times are often a time of reflection; of comfort and nurture (plants and gardens as well as self); home & hearth: growth and progress.



No matter your tradition, I share the poetry of the Irish Blessing. May you find meaning in its verse.

“May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sunshine always warm your face, the rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of their hand.”

Take special care always,

-Erica



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.