



PARK RIDGE
Free Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEMO

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Pastor Merry Kendall, Lead Pastor

April 2023

From the Pastor's pen...

As Easter approaches, our thoughts tend to turn toward the celebration of the miracle of the resurrection. Adults may think about what to cook and who to invite for Easter dinner. Depending on their age, children may participate in Easter egg hunts or learn about Jesus through a series of plastic eggs called Resurrection Eggs. Inside each of those plastic eggs is a symbol that represents a part of the lesson about Jesus' death and resurrection.

While we tend to focus on the resurrection, we must remember there cannot be Easter without Good Friday – no resurrection without a death. We do not like to think about death, do we? It reminds us of people who have gone before us – even some who went much too soon. Death brings us sadness.

But, the death of Jesus is different for us. We should have a sense of sadness and sorrow as we remember and meditate on the betrayal, arrest, beating, crucifixion, and death of our precious Jesus. But...

*“...He hung up on that Cross
Then He rose up from that grave...”*

Yes, He did! And, that is why we sing praises to God with words like these:

*“There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise...”*

These are just some of the lyrics in a song we sing at Park Ridge called “House of the Lord” by Phil Wickham.

Let's come together on Good Friday at 7:00 p.m. to remember the sacrificial life and death of Jesus so that we can also come together on Easter Sunday to share a continental breakfast at 9:00 and sing our praises to God at 9:30!

Remember...we won't be quiet! We will shout out our praise to Him for all He has done, all He is doing, and all He will do in the future.

Happy Easter from Pastor Merry!

WE NEED YOUR TREASURES!



Giant Sale to benefit Ireland Missions:

Friday, April 21 8 am-5 pm

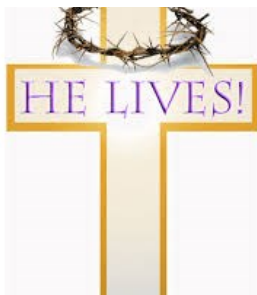
Saturday, April 22 8 am-2 pm

Your donations are needed! Items can be dropped off and placed in the Deats Room downstairs. Please do not place heavy items on the tables, and please do not block the shelving units.

No electronics, no clothes, no large furniture.

Help will be needed in the evenings the week of the sale for set up. On Sunday (April 16) help will be needed after church to set up tables. On Saturday the 22nd, help will be needed for clean up at 2:00.

Contact Michelle Kettinger with questions



**Good Friday
April 7
7:00 pm**

**Easter Sunday
April 9
9:00 am Brunch
9:30 am Worship**

Open Door Lunches

I would like to extend my appreciation to those who come and help out each month. It is a small act that impacts 50 people with a blessing.

Tom Rende, Coordinator



Mark your calendars!
The **annual society meeting** of the membership will be on **Sunday, April 23rd** right after worship downstairs in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend, but only members may vote to elect adult members to serve on the Board of Administration and the Board of Trustees.

The *Free Methodist World Missions* website provides many resources including news about our missionaries as well as prayer calendars so that you can pray for specific needs around the world. Check out the *April Heartbeat* at <https://fmwm.org/> for stories of hope and the monthly *World Missions Prayer Calendar*.

Here are some highlights about the work being done by ministries with a personal Park Ridge connection:

Dorr Update –Tim, Kellie, and the girls are still in Texas training, studying Spanish, and preparing to head to Mexico. One of the things driving them is the reality that there are approximately 1.5 billion people who do not have the full Bible in their first language.

Tim shares that, “Of course, there has been progress made over the years with more than 700 languages having a full Bible and at least 1,600 languages having a New Testament. It is also encouraging to know that 1,200 languages do have some translated Bible portions even if they do not have a complete New Testament yet. Work is being done in more than 2,800 languages worldwide in 126 countries. Many of these projects are being worked on by Wycliffe Bible Translators or one of their partner organizations.”

For more information about the Dorrs and their ministry, we encourage you to sign up for their newsletter. To receive regular updates from the Dorrs, email them at Tkdorr0019@gmail.com. The *newsletter* provides details on how you can support them personally and the ministry they are doing through Wycliffe Bible Translators.

To support the Dorrs financially, please visit www.wycliffe.org/partner/TKDorr.



Dublin – Please remember Billy Swann and Dublin Family Outreach in your prayers. That ministry continues to go strong in the City of Dublin. Please also remember Declan Keenan and his youth work through the Just Ask program. Declan/Deco and a group of youth are currently ministering in Morocco.

Also, be prepared to support missions through the **Missions Garage Sale** on April 21st and 22nd. Items can be dropped off and placed downstairs in the Deats Room. Please do not leave items in other areas of the church and please do not block the Deats Room shelving units with the Open Door lunch supplies. Help will be needed in the evenings the week of the sale for set up.

Please NO electronics, NO clothes, and NO large furniture.

On Sunday, April 16th after church help will be needed to set up tables. On Saturday April 22nd help will be needed for clean up at 2:00 PM. Contact Michelle Kettinger @ 585-355-0138 with questions.

Here are a few highlights from the *Free Methodist World Missions Hotline*:

Africa – Superintendent Goodson Phiri of Malawi is seeking our prayers. The southern part of Malawi has been heavily affected by rain because of cyclone Freddy. Road systems are blocked, homes have been destroyed and several have died. The Great Commission Bible School was in session, but four students from the south were released to go home because their families were displaced. Pray those directly impacted will experience God's provision and be encouraged as they trust God.

Asia – Missionary Seth Van Tifflin is currently hospitalized in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Seth is suffering from a herniated disc and a ureter stone and is in significant pain. Please pray for healing as he receives treatment for both issues.

Pray for missionaries Mark and Bryan as they recently taught a Scriptural Survey module this week for pastors from Creative Access Asia-VN. Ask God to enrich the students' hearts and help them learn effective ways to pass this teaching on to those they serve.

Europe –

Pray for opportunities to offer the love and hope of Jesus Christ.

Pray for "M" and "A," a mother and child he assisted over the past year. Ask God to help them find hope and healing.

Continue to pray for peace.

Larry Winckles and Erin Kingsley attended the Europe Without Orphans Forum in Sofia, Bulgaria, March 15-18. Pray for increased education and collaboration with others as the Free Methodist Church in Europe seeks to minister effectively to vulnerable children.

Latin America – Please pray for Pastor Manuel Perez in Honduras, whose father died this past weekend. Ask the Father to comfort and provide for this family.

Middle East – God is doing amazing work in two growing Impact Middle East networks in Jordan! Join us in prayer for the nation of Jordan.

For the most recent *Weekly Prayer Hotline* and *Monthly Prayer Guide*, go to <https://fmwm.org/pray/>.

Kirk Kettinger, Global Missions Coordinator

Coming Soon!

New book discussion groups in April!

Tom Rende will lead discussion groups through "The Unseen Real" on Sunday mornings at 10:30 beginning April 30th in the Meeting Room upstairs and at 6:45 on Wednesday evenings in the Fireplace Room beginning April 19th. You will be invited to consider what the ascension of Christ means for us now - in the present. To register and order your book, please check the boxes on the Connection Card.

