



PARK RIDGE Free Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEMO

10 Straub Rd., Rochester, NY 14626
(585) 227-0990
contact: office@parkridgefmc.org
Pastor Merry Kendall, Lead Pastor

May 2023

From the Pastor's pen...

As I reflect on the last 2.5 year, I am so pleased with all the people who have stepped into roles of ministry leadership since my arrival in 2020.

Jason Strong, Mark Alessi, Tom Rende, Pastor Lance and I either resumed or started new opportunities for Bible studies.

Pastor Lance, Chris and Deb Wolff, Reegan Mitchell, Michelle Kettinger, Adam Jarvis and Dominic Wolff minister weekly to youth in Powerhouse and Crossroads.

Sierra Mitchell Dix and Meghan Kettinger launched YACHT, a ministry to young adults.

Tracy Davis and Michelle Bull minister to our youngest children on Wednesday nights.

Joyce Jarvis stepped into the role of Worship Leader and continues to decorate the sanctuary seasonally as our Sanctuary Dresser.

Dominic Wolff directs the Bell Choir.

Pastor Lance gives leadership to our celebration of Communion with Chris and Debbie Wolff.

Jeff Meyer and C.J. Aspromgos serve as the Tech Team Coordinators

Debbie Mitchell serves as our Prayer Coordinator.

Ginnie Jarvis and Debbie VanGraafeiland serve as Care Coordinators to our seniors and homebound.

Joyce Gallagher gives leadership to the ushers and greeters.

Dylan Soule serves as our Hospitality Coordinator.

Patty Stoffel assumed the role of publishing a monthly newsletter.

Kirk Kettinger keeps us informed about Free Methodist Global Missions.

Jeff Meyer serves as Head Trustee, with Carolyn Stiffler coordinating a team of volunteers for buildings and grounds.

Mark Alessi is developing a Men's Ministry.

Joyce Jarvis and Pam Rende are serving as Women's Ministry Coordinators.

Each of these leaders is encouraged to develop leaders and managers within their ministries to share the load of responsibilities. The more people actively involved in a ministry, the larger the ministry can grow.

Take some time to thank these leaders...and any I may have mistakenly overlooked...for all they do to serve the Lord at Park Ridge! And, consider joining them in ministry.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Merry

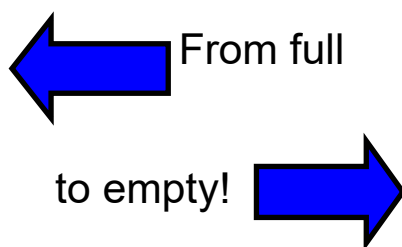
MISSIONS SALE SUCCESS

This year's sale to raise funds for local and global missions brought hundreds of people from across the community into the church. A total of \$3424 was raised during the 2-day sale. We are excited that those funds will go to support several programs: Free Methodist Church Bishops Crisis Response Fund, Open Door Mission Coldwater House, the Door family as well as Dublin Family Outreach and Just ASK the organizations the church supports and works with in Dublin.

Kirk and I will be traveling to Dublin May 12 for the first time post pandemic. We will be meeting with DFO and JustAsk leaders to determine how Park Ridge FM and Roberts Wesleyan University can continue to best support them and their work with children and families in Dublin. We have greatly missed serving there and are excited for the opportunity to return and plan to lead future teams. Be on the lookout for information on ways you can support these programs and/or travel to serve in Dublin in the future!

Thank you to those who donated items. An even bigger thanks to those who were able to come out and help with setting up the sale and help during the sale itself. Each time we have done one of these I am overwhelmed at the start of the week and have more than once said to myself "never again"! But the work always gets done and when Friday arrives and hundreds of people from the community come into the church and we raise thousands for missions. The dread is replaced with thanksgiving and praise. So, mark your calendars now for a sale in April 2024!

Michelle Kettinger



Ladies Ministries

In April the ladies enjoyed a potluck fellowship at the home of Michelle Kettinger! We had good conversation and good food and discussed taking on a ministry in the near future! Come join us on May 6th at the church at 11:00 for our multi annual "Get Er Done" event ! Bring an unfinished project to work on, or just come for the fellowship. Lunch will be provided!



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 *September 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:

Doors Update –Tim, Kellie, and the girls are making significant progress. They write, “We are now working hard to master public speaking - giving devotionals, Sunday school lessons, speeches in Spanish, and advanced grammar as well. This semester has been very challenging as we have moved far beyond the basics and have had to think and work with abstract concepts. It is no easy matter to learn how to make our thoughts come out in a coherent manner when we are speaking Spanish! We have never appreciated our own language as much as we do right now!”

In April, they took those new skills and visited Oaxaca, Mexico where they worked on training and equipping several of the local churches to effectively evangelize and discipline people in their towns. They look forward to getting back to Michigan in May for some much-needed rest before obtaining visas, saying goodbyes to family and friends, and preparing to head to Oaxaca in late July in order to begin work at the center by September. Please be in prayer for the entire family over these next few weeks and months.

For more information about the Doors and their ministry, we encourage you to sign up for their newsletter. To receive regular updates from the Doors, 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 Dorr’s 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 and at Drewstown House. Plans for the July and August family camps at Drewstown are well underway, and your prayers and support are welcome and needed. If you would like to give to support the Dublin Family Outreach and summer camps, you can find the giving information in Billy’s newsletter. You can sign up for the newsletter by emailing Billy at citymissiondublin@gmail.com.

Please also remember Declan Keenan and his youth work through the Just Ask program. Declan/Deco and a group of youth recently returned from ministering in Morocco.

Kirk and Michelle Kettinger will be visiting both Deco and Billy in the next few weeks and look forward to rekindling the relationship between these ministries and Park Ridge FMC.

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

Asia – The socio-political situation in Creative Access-MR continues to deteriorate. Pray for perseverance and peace. And thank the Lord that despite the circumstances, the church is reaching new people with the good news of Jesus.

On April 24, missionary David Clemente will begin a three-week trip to four countries. Pray for his continued work connecting the Filipino diaspora and developing new partnerships in Oceania.

Latin America – Please pray for international missionary David Lopez, who will have surgery this week. Pray that the medical professionals providing David’s care will be at their best and for his complete healing.

Irwin and Silvana, a Free Methodist couple in Peru, are being sent out as missionaries to serve a network of house churches in the Amazon region. Moving from southern Peru, they just arrived in Iquitos this past weekend. Pray for them as they adjust to many changes and establish relationships. As they invest in this growing network of FM house churches, please pray for growth and fruitfulness, with many coming to believe in Jesus Christ.

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

Kirk Kettinger, Global Missions Coordinator

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



Reminder:

Lunches are assembled the first Wednesday of the month for the Open Door Mission. Everyone is welcome to meet downstairs at the church at 6:30 pm to make PB&J sandwiches and assemble the brown bag lunches.

Trustees / Buildings & Grounds

The Trustees have been working on projects inside the church early this Spring, and we have started on some outside projects too, as weather permits.

Inside Projects:

We are upgrading our lighting to LED as older fluorescent ballasts fail and/or tubes burn out. An example is the hallway on the main level. The new LED tubes are brighter, and only use half the energy! An added plus – there are no ballasts to fail...



The handicapped accessible lift was recently inspected and passed with flying colors! We are “good-to-go” for another 6 months (FYI: The Town of Greece requires an inspection and a new permit every 6 months to ensure the safety of the lift and compliance with town / state building codes).

Rick Stoffel is currently obtaining quotes from alternate lift maintenance companies, as our current company is significantly raising their prices this year.

Jeff Meyer and Bert Buettner have made repairs to a leaking toilet and two sticking urinal flush valves. Since our building is not in constant use, leaks like this can go undetected and lead to high water bills.

Outside Projects:

The playground has been readied for use! New canopies / tarps have been installed, and approx. 4" of fresh "playground mulch" is in place.



The big zero-turn mower has been serviced for the Spring / Summer 2023 season. When you see Don Henry and Paul VanGraafeiland, please thank them for keeping the lawn mowed, trimmed, and looking great!

Watch the bulletin and your email for an announcement from Jeff and Carolyn regarding our annual Spring Cleanup Day! Volunteers typically gather on a Saturday morning to spruce-up the grounds around the church and we will need your help!

Sincerely,
Your 2022-2023 Trustees,
Bert Buettner, Jeff Meyer, Carolyn Stiffler, and Rick Stoffel



Congratulations to Lance Mitchell, who will be ordained as a n Elder in the Free Methodist Church, Genesis Conference, on May 11. The ordination is open to all who wish to attend, but sign up is requested so the Conference will prepare for enough people at the reception which will follow ordination . To sign use the link below, and fill out only the part for attending the ordination service. Sign up by May 1.

<https://forms.gle/JnbeQSou4X2SoJLW7>