



PARK RIDGE
Free Methodist Church

NEWS & NOTES

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Easter 2024

From the pastor's pen...

Dear friends,

I am about a month out from my hip replacement surgery, and although I'm keeping busy, enjoying times with all of you in worship, times of play with my granddaughters, times with friends and with Ed, the awareness of that surgery is always there, sometimes just outside of conscious thought. It has given me a new appreciation of how Jesus must have felt the last few weeks of his life.

How do you continue to maintain your ministry, your times of teaching, the times when you are sitting around a campfire eating and laughing with your friends when the day of your death looms ahead coming closer and closer? He may have not even known the exact date but surely he was aware each day, each moment he was closer to the time God had ordained for him to die.

In Matthew, we find him continuing his teaching using parables to bring the realities of kingdom living more alive for his followers. In the Gospel of Mark, we find him repeatedly telling his disciples he's going to die, even as he continues ministering and serving the needs of the people around him. In Luke, we again find him telling his disciples he is going to die, continuing to minister to others, then weeping over Jerusalem as he enters Jerusalem riding on a colt. In John, we find Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from death, predicting his own death, humbling himself to wash his friends' feet, then a final sermon about the absolute necessity for his followers to love one another and to maintain unity together.

Through all these things the drumbeat of death pounded louder and louder in Jesus' mind. He was human, just like us. He didn't want to die, he wanted to live. Yet faithfully, faithfully he walked towards that cross. And as he walked toward that cross with single-minded focus he spent his life, loving, teaching, serving others.

Not to be morbid, but isn't that actually the truth of all of our lives as well? We are all walking towards death. Unless Jesus comes, all of us will die. (We don't really like thinking about that very much!) But, this picture of Jesus' life outwardly focused on loving others, serving them, helping them can also be a map for us of what our lives can be. Should be.

We can get distracted. We tend to get focused on our own needs, wants, dreams... and our culture applauds us for that. But as I look at Jesus' last few weeks of life, I wonder if I've made it way more complicated than it actually is?

In these remaining weeks of Lent, let's together as God's people examine ourselves, let's repent of those places we have failed to love and serve others as Jesus has exemplified for us. Hebrews 12:1-4 says, *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. ⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood."*

Just like with Jesus, death is not the end of our story. We have a resurrection coming, and the only thing that will follow us into that future life is the love we have for God and for others. So, with that joy set before us, let us untangle ourselves from any way of thinking and living that would keep us from living the life Jesus has set before us. Let us walk towards our death and our life to come with single-minded focus following Jesus' example of love for God and selfless service and care for others.

Blessings on your journey!



March 24: Palm Sunday Service 9:30 am

March 29: Good Friday Service 6:30 pm

March 31: Easter Sunday Service 9:30 am

Ladies Ministry

In February the ladies gathered at the church and enjoyed another time of fellowship and getting personal projects done! In March we'll be having another get together to share lunch and an optional springtime craft for those who wish to do one! In May we will be facilitating a baby shower tea party for Myranda Soule and her new little one!

This ministry is meant to be for all women of all ages and we truly enjoy having the fellowship of many! Some of you have never joined us and we hope you can make it to one of our upcoming events!! We'd love to have you there!!



*Joyce Jarvis and Pam Rende
Ladies Ministry Coordinators*





The March prayer night will be 6:30 pm on March 24, due to Easter falling on the last Sunday. Remember to pray for our neighbors as you drive down Straub Road.

Indoor Sale to Support Missions

Park Ridge has raised thousands of dollars over the years to support local and international missions by holding an indoor garage sale. We hope to do the same again this year. The sale brings hundreds of people into the church from our local community! Your unwanted items are needed AND your help in order for the sale to be a success. This year we are hoping to have 2 rooms open for the sale and so more help will be needed. The plan is to set up the Fellowship Hall and the Fireplace Room. The Fireplace room will be arranged as a "Boutique".

Below is a list of dates and times help is needed. Please reach out to Michelle Kettinger via phone (585-355-0138) or email (kettinger_michelle@roberts.edu) to sign up to help.

Set Up Times

April 5 6-9 (moving items into the fellowship hall)

April 6 12-3

April 7 After Church

April 8 5-9

April 9 5-9

April 10 5-9

April 11 12-3, 3-6

**WE NEED YOUR
TREASURES!**



Help at the sale (Greeters, Check out, Helping Hands)

April 12 8-5

April 13 8-1

Cleanup After Sale

April 13 1-4

What's Going on Around the Church

Howdy Church Family!

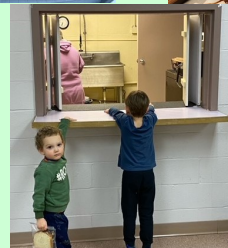
My name is Kevin Wood and I am your new Open Door Mission Lunch Coordinator! 2024 has brought about quite a number of changes already and adding onto our mission to service the community around us is what we live every day. Beginning in March, lunches will be made on the first Sunday each month, following worship, as we embark on an extension to our Open Door Mission and provided an additional 50 lunches to be distributed to those that need it. This additional run of lunches was made possible by you, the Park Ridge church family! With your donations of supply and time, we were able to show God's love to those that need it. Thank you for making this, our first Sunday morning assembly, a big success!

The church will continue the assembly on the first Wednesday each month. Our Wednesday's supplies have been graciously donated to the church already.

As we progress in 2024, I have a vision of enlisting your help with both with donations and your time to prepare these lunches for their ultimate destination, the Open Door Mission! Please keep this mission in your hearts and prayers as you progress through your daily activities.

Donations needed on a monthly basis:

- 2 large jars of peanut butter
- 3 large jars of jelly
- 50 granola chewy bars
- 50 packs of gummies
- 50 bags of chips
- 50 juice boxes/pouches
- 50 lunch bags
- 100 sandwich bags



The men meet for breakfast on the second and fourth Saturday each month, at 9:00 am.

All men are welcome to attend.
Meetings are at Olympia Restaurant,
2380 Lyell Ave, Gates

Annual Society/Congregation Meeting

Sunday, March 17
Following Worship
Everyone is welcome to attend.

