



PARK RIDGE
Free Methodist Church

NEWS & NOTES

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April/May 2025

From the pastor's pen...

Jesus changes everything.

The first weekend of April, I served as the keynote speaker for a large Women's Retreat in WV. Our theme was "Brave," and our focus passage was 1 Corinthians 16:13-14: "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." It is powerfully relevant to our present time. It was a powerful weekend of worship, fellowship, study, and prayer in a beautiful mountain setting at Camp Cowen in Cowen, WV.

I prepared and prayed over these talks for months, meditating on the passage and related Scripture. I packed books to spend my free time praying and planning sermon series for the remainder of the year. I had a PLAN. The night before camp, I prayed over the women who would attend camp (who were strangers to me). The following day, I woke up knowing almost everything had to change. I arrived at camp a few hours before the evening activities and thought, "Good, I'll make these quick changes and be able to enjoy the weekend as I planned." But God also had a plan. He asked me to share His story of goodness in my life in a fresh way. He wanted me to tell them how Jesus changed everything for me, which meant changing almost everything I had planned.

What I shared matters less than what God did through His Holy Spirit. He breathed new life into me by giving me a fresh awareness of His power and provision. He broke my heart for strangers, gave me the insight to encourage and embolden them, and connected us through our shared human experiences as women and status as God's beloveds. Together, we bore witness to how Jesus changes everything and truly gives us new life.

This is the season when we remember how Jesus's sacrificial death on the cross and resurrection make it possible for us to walk confidently in the newness of life in Christ. Nature reminds us to praise along with creation's chorus in thousands of tiny ways motivated by God's love—if we have ears to hear and eyes to see. Grass reappears (and needs mowing), flowers bloom, brooks babble, and birds play in the trees. New life surrounds us, and we hope for warmer days filled with outdoor activities and sunshine. How does this new life affect us?

Do we see fresh growth, life, and joy in our lives (and church)? Do our lives give fresh testimony to God's goodness and victory over all that seeks to kill and destroy? Do we believe from our roots up that we can rise as people strengthened and renewed, unburdened by the damaging frost of winter, and reveal God to the world around us—and to one another? Will we cling to the hope we profess in Christ because He is faithful (Heb. 10:23)?

This month, I invite you to reflect on how Jesus changed everything for you. Notice how remembering can call you back to Him and back to worship in new ways. Remember Jesus as the Source of your renewed life and that He longs to be our God and for us to be His people.
Jesus changes everything if we let Him.

In Joy,
Pastor Katie





The next prayer night will be Sunday, April 27 at 5:00 pm

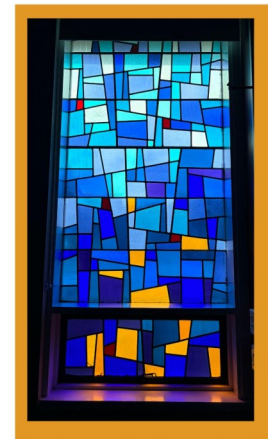
See the Monday email for ongoing prayer needs. Prayer requests will continue to be sent through the prayer chain when they are received. If you would like to receive prayer chain emails, please contact the office.

Annual Society Meeting

**Sunday, May 4
Following worship**

COMING SOON

Thank you to Dylan Soule for taking photos after worship for many weeks. If you have not had a photo taken, please email the office to schedule to have Pastor Katie come to you, or for information on how to submit a photo.



 **PARK RIDGE**
Free Methodist Church
2025 Church Directory
www.parkridgefmc.org

A sampling of the great photos Dylan took.

What's Going on Around the Church

Our partnership with Open Door Mission continues to grow in leaps and bounds in 2025!

Remember this – a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 2 Corinthians 9:6

The Park Ridge congregation continues to give generously in supplies and time with our lunch making assemblies. Held 2 times a month, we are making enough lunches for 100 people!

In the 4 months that we have been doing this in 2025, the church has donated enough for 400 lunches:

- 80 loafs of bread
- 24 jars of peanut butter
- 32 jars of grape jelly
- 40 cases of juice pouches

Many and many cases of chips, granola/fruit bars and fruit snacks

I am continually grateful to the congregation for their generosity in not only the lunch making extravaganzas but also for their donations as it relates to the Open Door Mission Donation Center!

The first four months has seen incredible growth in collection and donations of:

30 towels	92 T-shirts	6 coats
15 washcloths	63 pants	1 scarf
1 blanket	6 shorts	19 shoes
123 shirts	1 dresses	2 boots
41 sweatshirts, hoodies, sweater	1 hat	14 socks

Kevin Wood, coordinator



Baptism of Dominic Wolff



Proclamation of Faith for new members Jacob Donofrio and Dominic Wolff



The men continue to meet for a 9:00 am breakfast at Olympia Restaurant, on Lyell Ave., the second and fourth Saturday each month. All men are welcome.

Ladies Ministry

Ladies, If you've never joined us for an event, we hope you will consider it! We've enjoyed a couple of game nights since the last newsletter, as well as Saturday mornings together and our ladies luncheon this past Sunday! We need each other!! Thank you to everyone who contributed yummy toppings for our salad bar!! And the fellowship was supportive and wonderful! Keep an eye out for future events!

04/12	Me Time	10:00-12:00	PRFM
05/10	Me Time	10:00-12:00	PRFM
05/18	Tea & Crumpets	1:00	
06/03	Somewhere Social (Ice Cream?)		
06/14	Me Time	10:00-12:00	PRFM

*Joyce Jarvis and Pam Rende
Ladies Ministry Coordinators*



Hi, there!

**Lets
serve
our
families
together**

We are praying for...

Youth Team Support
Children's Team Support
Nursery/Toddler Team

Park Ridge Family,

Our family is growing—new babies, toddlers, children attending on Wednesdays, and teens attending Powerhouse on Wednesday evenings. We would love to integrate them more fully into the life of the church by helping them feel welcome and loved because we have prepared a place for them and people to guide them. That takes prayer, planning, preparation, and *people*. It would be wonderful if we spent the spring and summer preparing a place for these young (and future) disciples by gathering to clean up their spaces, learn about the safety protocols, and commit to a discipleship rotation. We want young (and growing) families to feel as welcome as anyone else here at Park Ridge.

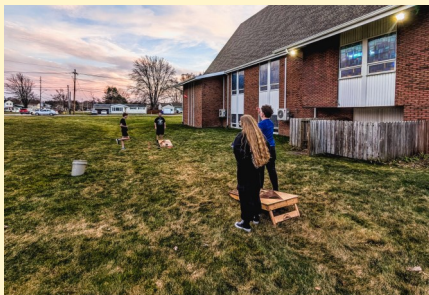
Our greatest needs are for a Nursery/Toddler Team, Wednesday Youth Team Support, and Wednesday Children's Team Support. Please pray about how you can impact this younger generation (and their parents) by serving them with your time, talents, and love for the Lord. When you have questions about the needs of these ministries and ways you can plug in, please message Pastor Katie at pastorkatie@parkridgefmc.org. Stay tuned!

Powerhouse Youth Group Update

Powerhouse teens are currently focusing on their identity in Christ with a series called “Made for More.” Dylan and Myranda have attended school, sports, and hobby events for the teens. Planning is in the works to attend Kingdom Bound at Darien Lake this summer.



Prayer session at eth start of the series exploring what it means to rally be a Christian.



Having fun playing Corn Hole



Bowling Night at Spencerport Bowl



During their Lent series, the teens gave of their time to serve others and cleaned up the church yard.

MISSIONS

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 *November 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 –

For more information about the Dorrs and their ministry, we encourage you 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.



to



Mission Sale:

WE NEED YOUR TREASURES!



May 2 & 3

Items currently being accepted in the Deats Room (NO electronics, NO clothing, NO large furniture)

Help is needed to set up the week before the sale. Help is needed during the sale. Help is needed to clean up after the sale.

If you can help any of those times, contact Michelle Kettinger at 585-355-0138

All proceeds will support missions.

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

Pray for the Set Free leader in Cambodia, Sokleap. In 2024, the team in Cambodia reached more than 950 children and youth, providing training and awareness of online sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Pray for Sokleap as she continues to educate the vulnerable youth in Cambodia.

Pray for ICCM national coordinators and staff as they travel to check on ICCM projects and children, particularly those in countries with ongoing conflict and government instability.

Rev. Dosseh Takpale (Togo) asks that we pray for the students from the Wesley Missionary Institute. They began their two-month internship on April 1, each being sent to a new area (more than 300km away) with a new language and culture. Pray the Holy Spirit will powerfully use them for God's glory.

Praise the Lord for the 3rd Provisional Annual Conference of the Free Methodist Church in Ghana. Bishop Linda Adams presided over this annual conference, which is under the Canadian General Conference. Please continue to pray for God's mercy in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The conflict continues, with many in desperate situations on the eastern side of the country. This week, torrential rains on the western side of the country have caused severe flooding in and around the capital city of Kinshasa.

Kirk Kettinger, International Missions Coordinator