



PARK RIDGE
Free Methodist Church

NEWS & NOTES

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September 2024

From the pastor's pen...

Dear Park Ridge Family,

My family is so excited to be here and is overwhelmed by your helpfulness and generosity of time and resources as we move in and settle into the new house—we could not have done this without you. As I said on Sunday morning, we have experienced Jesus through your kindnesses. We hope that we can be as loving and supportive to you as you have been to us in the days, months, and years ahead. Thank you for loving us so well. Your care and prayers for us have turned a difficult transition into a time of encouragement.

God is moving, and I invite everyone to *watch for it!* As we discern the steps and each of our roles on our journey ahead, let us listen to the words of Proverbs 2:3-6: “Indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you **look for it as silver and search for it as for hidden treasure**, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

If we seek God's Will and Way, *it will* inform and enliven our ways.

With Hope & Gratitude,

Pastor Katie, Jared, Alden, and Jewel

New email: pastorkatie@parkridgefmc.org





On Aug 23, a few of the men spent the morning with Chris Scribani, the director of development of Open Door Mission. Chris gave us a tour of the five Open Door buildings downtown, then took us through the Coldwater House. We heard from others who work at Open Door as we toured, and Chris shared much about the mission with us. We concluded with fellowship around lunch together at Bill Gray's. It was awesome to see how God has worked through his people at Open Door.

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

The Ladies Fellowship enjoyed some relaxing time poolside in July as we said goodbye to summer and look toward the Fall season. In addition to the start of the upcoming Book Club (9/24), we are starting "Monthly Me Time", the next one is on Saturday **October 12**, from 10 - 12 at the church. Come with a project (sewing, crafting, sorting, filing, etc...) or just to have a cup of tea or coffee with other ladies of the church! We'll make it a habit on the second Saturday of each month! Also, September 20th we had a fun Game Night!!

Ladies Fellowship events are announced in church emails, emails from Joyce Jarvis and also posted on the "Park Ridge FM Women of Faith" Facebook page. If you are not receiving an email about upcoming events,



*Joyce Jarvis and Pam Rende
Ladies Ministry Coordinators*



There have been a couple of great opportunities for us to get involved in prayer through the month of September. The first is Seeking Together a daily devotional and prayer prompt put on by the Free Methodist Church US.

Lance gets an email each day linking him to the day's devotional and I have just gone onto youtube and watched it there. Lance and I have had some good conversations around these devotionals. Last week, Sept.

15th, was especially encouraging as it has focused on the gen z generation. The Lord has laid it on Lance's heart to begin a ministry for this generation and the devotionals/prayers have been very affirming to us regarding this ministry. I, myself, was really encouraged by the one given by our Bishop, Katie Kolbe. She was encouraging the older generations to be flexible and to consider becoming mentors as many gen z-ers have very little religious or church experience and often biblically illiterate and hungering for connection with the older generations. This is where my passion lies and I have been praying that God would lead me to one or two that I can begin such a relationship with. I encourage you, as you read this, to pause and ask the Lord if He may be directing you in this area as well.

The second opportunity that happened this month was the Make Us One Conference held September 13-14 at the Double Tree in Henrietta. Pam Rende and myself represented Park Ridge at this event and it is our third year attending. It was not a disappointment. The worship and corporate prayer for our Rochester community and churches is powerful to see people from all different churches praying together for each other and for revival. It really makes the Big C (church) feel real. Friday evening after corporate prayer Rabbi Jim Appel spoke. Rabbi Jim is the rabbi at Shemi Yisrael the messianic Jewish temple in Brighton, New York. Pam and I sat in front of Rabbi Jim and some of his family, so when we broke into small groups to pray for each other's individual needs we joined with them. As we introduced ourselves and shared the name of our home church their faces lit up because after 7 years in the making they were able to get a building of their own through the hard work of a fellow Free Methodist congregation. They are currently in Edgewood Free Methodist's former location in Brighton. He spoke on repentance over the division that was caused between Jewish and gentile believers back in the 4th and 5th century. Pam and I were shocked because we had been totally unaware of what had happened and why messianic Jews and gentile believers do not often worship together as they have so much to offer us in learning about their rich heritage and how it brings deeper understanding to customs and celebrations talked about throughout scripture. He has written 13 books and several of them are about understanding the Jewish holidays and their significance in our individual lives and the world, as a whole. I would love to invite Rabbi Jim to Park Ridge to share what he shared at Make Us One and to teach us about Jewish tradition and celebrations. That was only a small portion of this year's conference that is working to bring the body of Christ together in the Greater Rochester area. I had the opportunity to speak with one of the founders of the conference and understand why more churches are not aware of it and I'm praying about getting more involved in solving that problem. They are wonderful people with a vision and passion for our community.

Debbie Mitchell
Prayer Coordinator

What's Going on Around the Church

Howdy Park Ridge Family!

The missions work with Open Door Mission continues to be a blessing to many! Our congregation has devoted hours of time and supplied resources in providing 600 lunches over the past 6 months. When there has been a need, we have shown dedication and love for our community! I thank you for continuing to make this mission a priority for the church and blessing the Rochester area with your gifts!

The time that we spend together in the kitchen also contains a fellowship aspect with it as well! There is an abundance of conversations happening throughout in which we connect with others. The ultimate goal is to get the lunches made, but there is a comradery atmosphere that brings us close as a body of Christ. We are all missionaries! My usual pitch is to have 5-6 missionaries in the kitchen making & bagging the PB&J sandwiches, while 3-4 missionaries fill the lunch bags with other goodies in our Fellowship Hall. Mission work needs the church family to succeed, and appreciation is felt from the first bite of the sandwich to the last sip of the juice box!



MISSIONS

Free Methodist Missions
Global prayer requests



Please pray for the current needs at Nundu Deaconess Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Maternal-child health is an urgent concern. Pray for the construction of a classroom building to increase and upgrade the capacity of the school of nursing to train midwives to help.

Pray for FMWM-Asia Affiliate Missionary Trevor Foley and his work with Voice of the Martyrs-Korea. As the Word of God is shared, pray the truth of the gospel will penetrate all hindrances.



Continue to keep the Dorr Family in your prayers as they work in ministry in Mexico. They recently had their Visa's extended for three more years!

Watch for Operation Christmas Child information coming soon!



Hello Church Family!

The Hospitality Ministry is thrilled to welcome the fall season with you. Expect to enjoy more seasonal treats this year, sourced from local farms and bakeries, as we bring some fresh flavors to our church café. If you have any favorites, please let me know, and I'll do my best to include them in our rotation.

This year has been filled with joy and celebration, including the warm welcome of Pastor Katie! Her welcome brunch marked our 85th week of the Hospitality Ministry at our church. A heartfelt thank you goes out to my wife, Miranda, along with hospitality members Pam and Cynthia, for their dedication and hard work in making this weekly fellowship a success. We are always looking for more volunteers to join us and continue the work we've begun.

If you're looking for a way to get involved at Park Ridge, love God, and enjoy serving others, consider joining the Hospitality Ministry. There are numerous ways to serve, including our Café crew, Ushers and Greeters, or as Special Event Volunteers.

I'll leave you with the verses that inspire our ministry and motivate us to serve everyone who walks through our doors:

Matthew 25:35-40 (New International Version)

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

These verses beautifully illustrate God's call for us to practice hospitality. If it matters to God, it matters to us. Join us in our mission to make Park Ridge FMC the most welcoming place for spiritual growth and transformation!

Hospitality Lead,
Dylan Soule

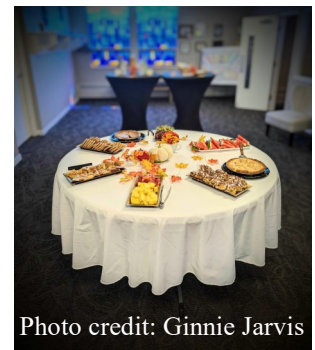


Photo credit: Ginnie Jarvis

Happy Retirement!

Best wishes to Jill Romberg, who is retiring as church custodian after 20 years! Thank you to Jill for her many years of dedicated service to the church.

The Board has hired Deb Wolff as Jill's replacement.

Hello/Goodbye?

It's a weird place to be right now... saying good-bye to you as my serving as your pastor comes to a close; but saying hello to you as a new member of Park Ridge community. It has been an incredible honor and privilege to serve as your pastor this past year. I have grown to appreciate the way you are rooted and grounded in the Lord, and how that expresses itself in your love for one another and for us as we joined you. I am impressed with your commitment to outreach and to mission; and look forward to seeing how under Pastor Katie's leadership that sense of mission expands and grows.

Can I be honest with you? I was a little nervous about staying at Park Ridge, not because of a conflict with Pastor Katie... I adore her, and deeply believe she is exactly the right next person God has chosen to lead Park Ridge into our future. I was nervous because I sensed that my personal political and theological stands might be different from some of yours, and didn't want that to cause conflict but wanted to be free to express what I believed and thought as a member of your community. I wanted to be fully who I am, not just Pastor Gloria. When I expressed this concern to one of the delegates, he said to me something like "unity embraces diversity, it is not just everyone thinking the same thing." And so, here we are... looking forward to being part of the diverse family of God at Park Ridge growing in our transformation as image bearers of the One who loves us.

Ed and I hope to be doing quite a bit of traveling over the next few months, but when we are in town, we will be worshipping with you, growing in the Word, and finding new ways to serve our God together.

Blessings always,
Gloria



A huge thank you to Pastor Gloria for saying "YES" and coming to Park Ridge as our interim pastor!