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**November 2024**

*From the pastor's pen...*

Dear Park Ridge family,

When I think of you, I am overcome with gratitude! The past (almost) three months have flown by, and I am overwhelmed by how seriously you take the work of God's Kingdom. You love one another and our community well; your hospitality and generosity are commendable. You bear one another's burdens and lighten the load of grief, pain, fear, and healing through the prayer ministry. In the words of Jim Cieurca, "We have a good family." I could not have said it better myself. Thank you for being the body of Christ in a world that so desperately needs to see Jesus.

In November's Wednesday Bible Study, we are focused on gratitude: what it looks like to exercise God-centered gratitude in all circumstances and how gratitude shapes our generosity and witness. As November draws to a close and Christmas creeps into our homes, onto our radios, and brightens the darker days of winter, I encourage you to *pause*. Stop as one who needs to catch their breath and revel in the journey thus far—before reaching a summit with a magnificent view. Take time to cultivate wonder, reflect on God's handiwork as the Great Architect, and review the evidence of God's goodness in your life. What can you be grateful for in 2024? What can we as a church be thankful for in 2024? Who can you bless with a word of gratitude?

On Sunday, December 1st, we enter the season of Advent—a time of remembering and anticipating the promises and prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Just as He promised, God came to dwell among us and changed everything. What does it mean to prepare our hearts for what is coming, for what Jesus is doing and will do? What would it look like if we allowed the Good News to overwhelm and transform us this year (and into the next)?

I pray you find hope, peace, joy, and love in the Word, worship, and fellowship here at Park Ridge this Advent.

With Hope,

Pastor Katie





It's that time of year again!

The time for thanksgiving and reflecting on what the Lord has done over the last year. It is my favorite prayer night. It is so positive and encouraging and it's not KLOVE. Those who have participated in the past will remember that I send home a worksheet to help you begin your reflections so take advantage of it and let's have a record turnout of prayer warriors praising

God for his faithfulness on Sunday evening, November 24<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30 pm

On another note, Lance and I attended the Rochester Regional prayer night at Roberts Wesleyan University on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was set up just like the first night of the Make Us One conferences. I was curious to know how Lance felt about it afterward. He sent me a text the next morning from work: "I think the Regional prayer night was well done. I believe it should be 4 times a year. Great potential. Time well spent." I totally agree and have passed on our thoughts to the ministry that puts it all together. There is just something about worshipping and praying together with the big "C" church. Reminding us that we are not alone, others of our family are working to minister to and reach the lost just as we are. There are great networking opportunities to be had. We need to get the word out about this awesome opportunity and we need to consider supporting it wholeheartedly as the Park Ridge church family.

*Debbie Mitchell*  
*Prayer Coordinator*

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### **Upcoming Dates to Remember**

Sunday, November 24~4:30 pm Hanging of the Greens, followed by dinner

Sunday, November 24~6:30 pm Prayer Night

Sunday, December 1~6:30 pm Christmas Concert with Joyce Jarvis and Friends

Saturday, December 7~Coat Drive for Open Door Mission (time TBA)

Saturday, December 14~9:00 am Men's Breakfast at Olympia Restaurant

Saturday, December 14~2:00 pm Ladies Cookie Exchange at the church

Tuesday, December 24~6:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday's during December, 6:45 pm Advent Bible Study, Youth Group, Young Adults and Children..



# What's Going on Around the Church

Open Door Mission: Outstanding Outlook in 2025



Howdy Church Family!

As we begin our 'year in review' reflection, I am grateful for your support as a church body to join Open Door Mission in their work on restoring hope and changing lives in the Rochester area. It has been a blessing to see the willingness and camaraderie as we have gathered together for our monthly Lunch Making Extravaganzas!

A couple short months before we close out '24, we embarked on a new mission to help those in need... filling the Open Door Mission Donation Center with clothing, personal care items and bedding supplies. Your response to our October coat drive provided 34 coats to our community! We also received other articles of clothing that were dropped off at their donation center. I continue to encourage the congregation to look over their closets and consider filling the needs of so many Rochesterians. The Open Door Mission has a partnership with Savers in Webster, NY. When the ODM has an abundance of clothing, Savers will purchase that extra clothing for 25 cents/lb. The Donation Center is using this partnership to help fund a community center attached to the W Main Street entrance. Here, individuals are going to be able to shower, play and also use their PC Lab in order to apply for jobs and/or work on resumes.

I hope to bring excitement and joy to our Donation Center mission in 2025 as we collect a wide variety of items. We have a box in the Narthex/Lobby of the church that is available to house your donations. We have 'items of the month' poster board depicting a particular item on the front that my daughter, Alyson, created! In addition to supplying donations, be on the lookout for "Volunteer Days" in 2025!

During my Sunday announcement, I also asked for future ideas from the congregation on how we can grow our support to ODM. One idea that was brought to my attention was the need for Thanksgiving dinners. Special shout-out to Joyce Jarvis, Ginnie Jarvis and Jewel Shull for their assistance in selling 'turkey tickets'. For \$3.07, an individual in need will be fed a turkey dinner consisting of turkey, potatoes, cranberries, soup and coffee. This is an annual event for ODM that I hope to carry on into 2025 and beyond!

Please approach me with your ideas on how we can grow our mission to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ! TY

Kevin Wood

If you have the available time this fall & winter seasons, please join us in our Lunch Making Extravaganza! Dates and times will be placed in the bulletin and referred to in our weekly emails. More exciting opportunities are on the horizon for this mission and will be communicated out when realized!



## **Welcome Chris!**

I am pleased to welcome Chris Wolff into the hospitality Ministry! We are thrilled to have you join our team and know you will make our church community a more hospitable place to be.

The Hospitality Ministry plays a vital role in creating a welcoming and warm atmosphere for all who visit our church. We strive to ensure that every individual feels embraced and valued from the moment they step through our doors. Our duties encompass a range of tasks, such as greeting people at the entrance, serving refreshments like coffee and snacks, and providing directions to visitors who may be unfamiliar with our church layout.

## **Ushers and Greeters:**

The ushers and greeters play a vital role in creating a welcoming and inviting atmosphere for all those who enter our beautiful facility. They are the first point of contact for many visitors and help set the tone for their entire experience. Their dedication and commitment to serving others is truly commendable. By generously tithing their time, they not only contribute to the smooth operation of our facility but also exemplify the spirit of volunteerism and community service. Their warm smiles and friendly greetings make each guest feel valued and appreciated, fostering a sense of belonging and connection. Their attention to detail, from opening doors to providing guidance, ensures that every visitor has a positive and memorable experience. It is through their selfless efforts that we create an environment where everyone feels welcome and respected.

## **Cafe Staff:**

Beyond the food, the church cafe serves as a sanctuary where fellowship flourishes.

With each bite, we taste the love and care infused into every dish. The church cafe staff does not merely provide us with sustenance; they offer us a glimpse of God's love made whole. Their service reflects the divine qualities of compassion, generosity, and hospitality. Through their efforts, they create an environment where we can come together, strengthen our bonds, and grow closer to God. Inspired by the fellowship and nourishment we receive, we are empowered to carry the spirit of the church cafe into our daily lives. We strive to be beacons of love and kindness, extending the same warmth and hospitality we have experienced to those around us. The church cafe becomes a catalyst for positive change, fostering relationships that reflect God's love in a world that so desperately needs it.

At Parkridge we firmly believe that hospitality is an integral part of ministry because it fosters a sense of community and belonging. When individuals feel welcomed, accepted, and appreciated, they are more likely to return and become actively involved in the life of our church. By creating a welcoming environment, we open doors for people to connect with others, build relationships, and deepen their relationship with Jesus. If you would like to join the hospitality ministry please connect with me after service and I will find a place for you. There is great reward in serving our brothers and sisters in Christ and I would love for you to take part in making it all possible.

Dylan Soule  
Hospitality Lead





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.

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## Ladies Ministry

The ladies have continued to enjoy each other's fellowship on the second Saturday of each month! Please come join us for coffee and donuts and conversation! Pam also lead a fall craft in the month of October that gave ladies another opportunity to gather! On November 17th we'll enjoy lunch together for our annual "Calm Before the Storm" event. It's just a chance to take a breath and relax before the rush of the holidays are upon us!

December 14 is the annual ladies cookie exchange. Come to the church at 2:00 pm with a plate of cookies to share & taste, and a plate of cookies to trade The number of cookies you bring to trade will be the number of cookies you bring home.



All ladies are always welcome!!!

*Joyce Jarvis and Pam Rende  
Ladies Ministry Coordinators*



## ***Powerhouse Youth Group Update***

Powerhouse Youth Group is thrilled to be back in action, offering a dynamic and engaging space for teenagers to explore their faith and navigate life's challenges. After a successful fire and get-to-know-you event, the group is now embarking on a thought-provoking series of lessons centered around thankfulness to God in different situations.

This series aims to equip teenagers with a deeper understanding of gratitude and its transformative power. Topics covered will include:

**Being Thankful in Difficult Times:** Learn how to cultivate an attitude of gratitude even in the midst of adversity, recognizing that challenges can lead to growth and resilience.

**Being Thankful for the Simple Things:** Explore the beauty and significance of everyday moments, appreciating the small blessings that often go unnoticed.

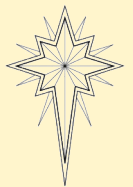
**Being Thankful for God's Love and Grace:** Reflect on the profound love and grace of God, recognizing His unwavering presence and faithfulness in all circumstances.

Recognizing that adolescence can be a turbulent time, Powerhouse Youth Group provides a safe and supportive environment where teenagers can ask questions, share their thoughts, and delve into spiritual growth. Myranda and I are honored to serve as leaders and counselors, guiding the youth at Parkridge through this transformative phase of their lives.

Your trust in us is greatly appreciated, and we invite you to stay connected with Powerhouse Youth Group to witness the amazing things the youth are accomplishing within and outside of our great church. Together, let's foster a spirit of thankfulness and empower the next generation of faith-filled leaders.

Please note that we will not be meeting the week of Thanksgiving.

*Powerhouse Youth Leaders,  
Dylan And Myranda Soule*



## ***House Fires Young Adult Ministries***

A new ministry, that has started this Fall at PRFMC, is House Fires ( HF ) young adult group. All young adults 18 and above, who are between jobs, taking a Gap year, attending college, serving in the military, single, married, mom, dad, working, etc. are more than welcome to participate in HF. HF is great opportunity for young adults to engage in a supportive community that will potentially lead to further connections in and outside of PRFMC. HF meets every other week. We begin the night with a light supper which will be followed by Worship and HF fellowship. The Word of God is the foundation for each meeting but a variety of ministry tools will be utilized to build/foster a deeper and more meaningful relationship with the Father.

In addition to HF on Wednesday night, a number of fun and connection/building events are planned. Upcoming HF events is the Milton Bradley Crokinole game night this Saturday (November 16), Heart to God/coat drive for Open Door Mission (December 7), and "It's a Wonderful Run" 5K walk/race in Seneca Falls.



# 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** – Tim, Kellie, Lydia, and Esther completed their first year in Mexico! Here’s a section from their October 2024 newsletter:

We Survived! We have just completed our first full year serving in Mexico! We can hardly believe it!

“As we reflect on this past year, we can see why God brought us here. We are needed. Tim has faced many challenges in his work but he is thriving and growing in his role as the center administrator. Many people have told us that they are glad to have him here so they can focus on the more important tasks of translating the Bible into the many languages of Mexico. He has been able to use his God-given talents to help the center run more efficiently in many ways. Many of the skills he learned from his previous jobs have helped him tremendously in this job.”

“Lydia and Esther completed third and first grade (respectively) this past year and began fourth and second grade. They love school at home with Mommy! The girls are also attending a new small private Christian school part time here in Mitla. They are enjoying the art, music, and physical education classes. It is all in Spanish, so they are beginning to learn to speak in Spanish more every day. They have made new friends as well, which they are super excited about. Although the school has presented us with some challenges, we think this is a great opportunity for the girls, and we are happy that we were able to make it happen.”

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



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To support the Dorrs financially, please visit [www.wycliffe.org/partner/TKDorr](http://www.wycliffe.org/partner/TKDorr).

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

**Africa** – Pray for the annual conferences in Nigeria as they meet in the next two weeks. Ask God to guide Area Director Mike Reynen as He leads these sessions.

**Asia** – Pray for the team leading the efforts for Gethsemane Leadership Training as they work with a video team this week to film additional training modules following the Better Together Converge in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

**Europe** – This past week, Valencia, Spain, was devastated by unprecedented rain and flooding. Pray for comfort, protection, and provision. Pray for those workers still involved in search and rescue efforts. Ask the Father to use believers and churches to offer hope amid the desperation.

Pray for Area Director Josh Fajardo as he travels to Brazil to commission new international missionaries, Paulo and Clara Bettiol.

**Latin America** -Praise the Lord for the new Bible Quizzing program in Colombia. Several children are learning scripture for the first time. As they memorize scripture for competition, pray it will be treasured, digested and applied to their lives. (Read more about this in the November Heartbeat).

**Middle East** – Praise the Lord! Our leaders across the Middle East have been able to gather in one location for a time of retreat! As they return to their ministry locations, pray they will have renewed strength and encouragement to serve the Lord with boldness despite the current challenges in the region.

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

Kirk Kettinger, *International Missions Coordinator*

# 2024 Advent Reading Guide

12/1/24: Jer. 33:14-16; Ps. 25:1-10; Luke 21:25-36

12/2/24: Ps. 90; 2 Peter 3:1-18

12/3/24: Ps. 90; 2 Sam. 7:18-29; Rev. 22:12-16

12/4/24: Ps. 90; Isaiah 1:24-31; Luke 11:29-32

12/5/24: Luke 1:69-79; Mal. 3:5-12; Phil. 1:12-18

12/6/24: Mal. 3:13-18; Phil. 1:18-26

12/7/24: Mal. 4:1-6; Luke 9:1-6

12/8/24: Mal. 3:1-4; Phil. 1:3-11; Lk. 3:1-6

12/9/24: Ps. 126; Isaiah 40:1-11; Rom. 8:22-25

12/10/24: Isaiah 19:18-25; 2 Pet. 1:2-15

12/11/24: Isaiah 35:3-7; Luke 7:18-30

12/12/24: Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 6:1-8; 2 Cor. 8:1-15

12/13/24: Amos 8:4-12; 2 Cor. 9:1-15

12/14/24: Amos 9:8-15; Luke 1:57-66

12/15/24: Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

12/16/24: Isaiah 11:1-9; Num. 16:1-19; Heb. 13:7-17

12/17/24: Num. 16:20-35; Acts 28:23-31

12/18/24: Micah 4:8-13; Luke 7:31-35

12/19/24: Ps. 80:1-7; Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 10:10-18

12/20/24: Isaiah 42:10-18; Heb. 10:32-39

12/21/24: Isaiah 66:7-11; Luke 13:31-35

12/22/24: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55; Heb. 10:5-10;

12/23/24: Psalm 113; Gen. 25:19-28; Col. 1:15-20

12/24/24: Isa. 9:2-7; Ps. 96; Titus 2:11-14; Lk. 2:1-14

12/25/24: Isa. 62:6-12; Ps. 97; Tit. 3:4-7; Luke 2:8-20

12/26/24: Ps. 148; Acts 6:1-7

12/27/24: Prov. 8:32-26; Jn. 21:19-24

12/28/24: Isaiah 54:1-13; Rev. 21:1-7

12/29/24: Col. 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

12/30/24: Ps. 147:12-20; 2 Chron. 1:7-13; Mk. 13:32-37

12/31/24: 1 Kgs. 3:5-14; Jn. 8:12-19



# Advent

*A season of expectant hope where together we can reflect on the restoration we have in Jesus' birth.*

Starts Sunday, December 1, 2024  
Park Ridge FMC, Sundays @ 9:30a  
[parkridgefmc.org](http://parkridgefmc.org)