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February/March 2025

From the pastor's pen...

As I write this, I am sitting in the warmth of my home, under a prayer blanket knitted for me as a farewell gift from Fifth Avenue Baptist Church. To be covered in the blessings of one spiritual family while sharing these words about new seasons of ministry with our new spiritual family...is heart-warming.

Monday morning, we woke to discover what I can guess is a typical Rochester snow day. There was enough snow to cover the tracks of the overnight snow plow, the mail carrier's steps through our yard were erased, and the paw prints on our patio and back yard had vanished. The sky was a "fuzzy" shade of white, the sun peeking through what looked like a sheer blanket. The snow was falling in a slow-motion, haphazard way as it made its journey from sky to surface. I felt the chill enter the house as I let the dog out for the first time, and I paused to pay attention. I have found so much delight in each fresh snow this season! While snow like this is inconvenient, and sometimes places us in harm's way if we must venture out, there is something special about how everything looks when it is snow-kissed. It is fresh and bright like a blank canvas.

The snow beckons us to slow down, to pay attention—to the weather, to where we step, and how we drive. With the time remaining this winter, I encourage you to listen to the call of the weather and slow down. For some, the new year tempts us with new diets, exercise plans, new planners and dreams of organized lives. We commit to new seasons of sports, hobbies, and volunteer work. If we are not careful, we will succumb to the relentless pursuit of busyness and won't realize it until we are sick, burned out, and detached from what matters.

I want to offer you a challenge: If you do anything "new" this year, start with something that matters for your spiritual health, for the kingdom of God. It can be as simple as carving out time to stop, breathe in the crisp winter air, and pay attention a few times a day. Pause to delight in the Lord about something (Psalm 37), lift your delight and your cares to Him in prayer, and share your delight with someone else.

Church, how is God asking you to show up differently as we ease into 2025? What is the Holy Spirit inviting you to gather up and drop at the altar in order to live in fluid alignment with God's will and way in this new year? Even Jesus, in His earthly life made time for communication and communion with His Father, which bolstered him for ministry. How will you create spaciousness to listen, draw strength, and receive wisdom from the Lord? I pray, as we draw nearer to the Lord this season, we will embrace the practices of pausing, praying, and sharing the good news of what God is doing in our lives and in our church with others. If you need suggestions on devotional studies for the new year—call or email me, I'm happy to help!

In Joy,

Pastor Katie





The next prayer night will be Sunday, February 23 at 6:30 pm.

Watch for a new prayer section in the Monday email. It will list 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.



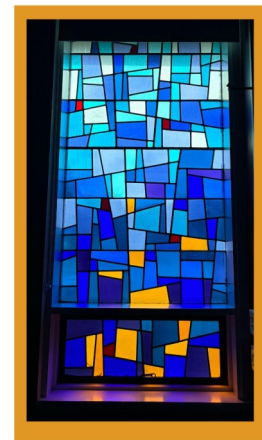
November prayer night

COMING SOON

We are updating our directory! Watch the announcements for more information. Pictures will be taken on February 16 & 23 and March 2. There will also be a form to make sure we have everyone's correct information.

Annual Society Meeting

Sunday, March 30
Following worship



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

What's Going on Around the Church



Lunch making sessions:

Sunday, February 2 @ 10:30 am
Wednesday, February 5 @ 6:30 pm
Sunday, March 2 @ 10:30 am
Wednesday, March 5 @ 6:30 pm

Collection Items:

February-Shirts
March-Shoes and Boots



December Events



Thank you Hospitality Team,
and others, for the delicious
Christmas Brunch!



Christmas Brunch



Christmas Children's Message



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 had fun sharing delicious cookies in December and talking about Christmas traditions and memories.

The spring schedule has been set, although the special activities dates may change so pay attention to emails and the ladies Facebook page.

02/08	Me Time	10:00-12:00	PRFM
02/09	Loaded Lunch	11:30	PRFM (Baked Potato Bar)
03/08	Me Time	10:00-12:00	PRFM
03/14 or 15	Game Night		TBD
04/06	Easter Craft Time & Salad Bar Lunch		
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*

House Fires Young Adult Ministries



Powerhouse Youth Group Update

We're having a blast in Powerhouse Youth Group as we journey together in faith and friendship! The past few months have been packed with exciting activities and meaningful moments, and we're thrilled to share some of the highlights with you.

* Christmas Scavenger Hunt:

The holiday season kicked off with a Christmas Scavenger Hunt! Teams raced around the fellowship hall and church following a list of tasks that allowed them to proceed in competition. It was a boys versus girls competition where the girls dominated in completing challenges like crawling through a garland jungle, reciting a their memory verse for reward and team led blindfolded mazes. The boys were surprisingly talented in the gift wrapping race. It was a night of laughter, teamwork, and festive fun!

* Spreading Christmas Cheer at Unity Assisted Living:

We put our creativity to good use by crafting heartfelt Christmas cards for the residents of the Hamlet at Unity Assisted Living and dementia care. It was a beautiful way to share the love of Jesus and bring smiles to their faces during the holiday season. The youth were able to create 54 cards in total that were delivered to the residents in hopes that they would know they are cared for by their local church and specifically by Jesus.

* Arcade Night:

We took a break after the holiday rush and headed to the Salvatore's Pizza and ERA Retro Arcade in Spencerport for an evening of games, friendly competition, and lots of laughs. We learned a lot about each other's favorite shows, foods and caught up on our extra-curricular activity updates over dinner before heading to the arcade and playing a plethora of games together.

Deepening Our Faith:

We are currently in the middle of an exciting series called "I AM," where we are exploring the powerful names and titles of Jesus and actions we can take to be more like him. Each week, we are discovering more about His character, His power, and His incredible love for us. We're learning how these "I AM" statements reveal who Jesus truly is and how He desires to be in relationship with each one of us.

Looking Ahead:

* Tubing Trip:

Attention! We're hitting the slopes for a thrilling tubing adventure in February! Stay tuned for more details about dates, times, and how to sign up. This will be a fantastic opportunity to enjoy some winter fun and build friendships. If you would like to contribute to funding Hot Chocolate and snacks for the Youth on their trip please contact Dylan or Myranda. Additionally, if you would like to chaperone and help in ensuring our youth have a safe and memorable time please get in touch.

Prayer Requests:

* Please continue to pray for our youth group as we seek to grow in our faith and our relationship with Jesus.

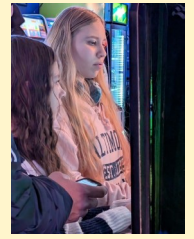
* Pray for each teenager in our group, that they would experience God's love in a powerful way and that their faith would become their own.

*Join us in prayer for our teens that they would find success in all their passion-based activities. Be it band, drama, dance, track, game playing, or football we are incredibly proud of our teens and look forward to rooting them on in person during their seasons of self-discovery.

* Pray for leaders, that we would have wisdom, discernment, and compassion as we guide and mentor these amazing young people.

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for Powerhouse Youth! We appreciate you partnering with us as we invest in the lives of these incredible teenagers.

In Christ's love,
Dylan and Myranda Soule



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 – Read about the activities of the Dorr’s as Tim, Kellie, Lydia, and Esther are in year two of their work in Mexico:

The *January 2025 Newsletter* tells the story of an interesting day trip and highlights their interactions with the local community.

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

Ireland – Just Ask and Deco Keenan – Please be in prayer for Deco as he leads the Just Ask children and teens ministry in Dublin, Ireland. The organization is applying to become a charity, and that distinction will provide them with many more opportunities.

Please especially pray for the kids (including past Just ASK participants). Each of them continues to face challenges as they navigate life. Pray that the faith lessons they learned the relationships they built with people like Deco can be a comfort and example of how to live a life of faith.

Ireland – Billy Swann and the Family Fellowship Ministry – Please also pray for Billy Swann and his work in and around Dublin. Like Just ASK, Family Fellowship is going through the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) organization. This will require their team to carefully define their mission and vision. Pray that they clearly hear God’s leading in this process.

Also, their minibus died last summer. The minibus is an important part of the ministry, and the lack of transportation has severely affected their work. Please pray that a replacement can be found soon.

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

Africa – Droughts and rising prices in Malawi make it difficult for many people to have adequate food. Pray for rain and God’s provision for the people.

There has been widespread unrest in Mozambique following their recent elections. The situation has been intensified by the escape of 6,000 prisoners from a high-security prison. As a result of the unrest and the stalled economy, thousands have fled to neighboring countries. Pray the church will be a source of peace and hope amid this crisis.

Jordan Kaufmann was ordained an elder in the Central Region Conference this past weekend. FMWM rejoices! Jordan and Audrey Kaufmann are preparing for deployment to Lome, Togo. Please continue to pray for them as they complete preparations.

Asia – Praise the Lord! Three new elders were ordained, and three new ministerial candidates were received at the annual conference in Thailand this week. Pray for these new leaders.

Praise the Lord for several baptisms in Creative Access-MR during the last week of December. Pray for the growth of these new believers.

Europe – Pray for leaders in Bulgaria as they prepare for several teams scheduled to visit from January through April. They are also working to get an online Bible course up and running. Ask the Lord to give strength and help for these tasks as they continue to give leadership and support to communities and churches.

Latin America – The Latin America Area welcomes two couples joining the area missionary team: Brook and Susan Selby will serve in Panama, and Jose “Gaby” Estrella and Dalia Sanchez will serve area-wide. Pray for both couples as they complete preparations and partnership-building.

Middle East – In 2024, the Whole Woman Initiative provided 1,650 postnatal visits to 425 families and trained 25 local midwives. Praise the Lord! Pray for the continued impact and expansion of this ministry to refugee women.

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