



PARK RIDGE
Free Methodist Church

NEWS & NOTES

10 Straub Rd., Rochester, NY 14626
(585) 227-0990
contact: office@parkridgefmc.org

Summer 2025

From the pastor's pen...

This is an eventful time of year.

For families, there are transitions to new grades, graduations from high school and college, and weddings. Children love this season for the carefree, long hours of daylight. Adults look forward to more time after the workday is over, along with activities like gardening, neighborhood walks, cookouts, camping trips, or travel. For churches, things often slow down to accommodate different types of fellowship and to prepare for the upcoming fall ministry season.

Between rainy days, I have ventured outside to weed the long-untended beds, groom the shrubbery, and prepare our patio for summer outdoors. On Memorial Day, I went out early in the morning and worked until early afternoon—barefoot and without work gloves. I find getting my hands (and feet) dirty to be grounding. In other words, when I'm overwhelmed, anxious, scattered in a million directions, or disconnected from the present moment in any way, being and working in nature draws me back to what is *real and true*.

When Mark, Lance, Gloria, CJ, Chris K., and I attended the Annual Conference in May, Pastor Louis Colón said, "God can only help you and me in *reality*. The first part of the armor is the belt of truth." He said this as part of a workshop on how his small church has experienced a revival of hearts and significant growth because they did not waver from unbelief, and they were persuaded that God had the power to do what He promised (Rom. 4:18-21).

This summer, we may find ourselves a little more "scattered about" and disconnected from this body of believers, but we can still ground ourselves in what is real and true. I hope you will take advantage of the Ephesians Reading Guide, music playlist, and online worship when you are away. I believe if we *all* dig in, get our hands and feet dirty, and ask the Lord to guide us into a shared understanding of His vision and calling for us at Park Ridge, we will enter the fall ministry season invigorated, integrated, and inspired.

When I walk this property, I give thanks for the early leaders of our church and their obedience to God's vision, which led them to think long-term and dream God-sized dreams. They were on a mission with God then, and I hope that we will continue to live on mission with God now and well into the future. Please pray for our congregation, our neighbors, our community, and for all we will be called to serve in the next season together. Please pray for our building, the restoration of our kitchen, and that we are resourceful with our resources. God is on the move, and this is the season to ask (with anticipatory belief), "Can it *really* happen *here*?"

This *is* an eventful time of year.

In Joy and Hope,

Pastor Katie





I am personally encouraged by our prayer nights. Encouraged by those who attend and encouraged because I leave feeling like we are drawn together because of it. Prayer nights seem so simple yet they amaze me. The June 1st prayer night we were praying over and for the church. Dylan was reflecting on our last prayer night a year ago when we had done this. He was assigned to pray for the Powerhouse room not at all imagining that this year he would be leading Powerhouse and praying for its growth and ideas for next year.

That is just so cool to me!
Prayer is what protects us in the heavenly realms, brings unity, encourages us that God hears and is working amongst us. What a powerful time to get together and pray once a month.

Our next prayer night will be Sunday, July 13th, at 6:30-7:30 pm.

Debbie Mitchell-Prayer Coordinator

House Fires (HF) will be continuing our series on Truth, Lies, and Ideas. We will closely highly the intersection of Truth, faith, and doubt in our lives (What's a moment in your life when you seriously doubted God or His goodness?). HF has read and continue to discuss how Truth, faith, and doubt impacted Zechariah and Mary in Luke chapter 1. HF will use this same focus perspective as we read and "unpack" chapter by chapter the life of Corrie Ten boom in the book, "The Hiding Place". The hiding and caring for her Jewish neighbors during German Nazi occupation caused her family to stare directly at the level of truth, faith, and doubt in their lives. HF will conclude the reading of this summer series book with the watching of the 2023 Hiding Place movie.

HF will have a variety of other connection events during the summer. The first will be a BBQ, boardgame, and campfire night on June 13th.

Lance Mitchell



HF EVENT

BBQ

CAMPFIRE AND GAMES
CORNHOLE, BURGERS, AND FELLOWSHIP.
WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR?

**6:00 PM
9:30 PM**

FRIDAY JUNE 13TH

**22 BLUE HERON DR.
ROCHESTER, NY 14626**

Contact: Lance Mitchell 585-773-0918 for any questions

A stylized illustration of a campfire with orange and yellow flames rising from a dark brown log.

What's Going on Around the Church

Summer lunches are here!

I invite you to continue your participation in our Lunch Making Extravanzas! While you go about your summer of trips, relaxation and rest, keep these dates in mind.

Wednesday, July 2nd @ 6:30pm

Sunday, July 6th @ 10:45am

Sunday, August 3rd @ 10:45am

Wednesday, August 6th @ 6:30pm

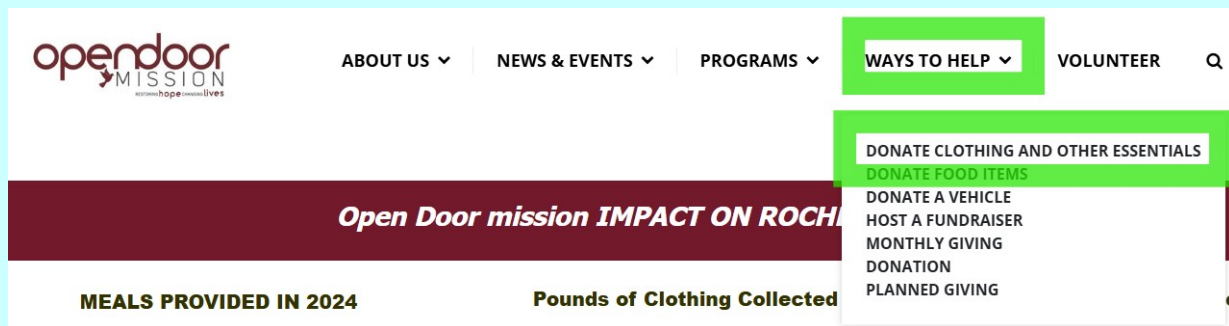
Wednesday, September 3rd @ 6:30pm

Sunday, September 7th @ 10:45am



Open Door Mission Donation Center: The Donation Center has recently added an Amazon Wishlist to their site. This encompasses some urgent needs that they are looking for. If you are viewing the pdf of this newsletter, please see this link: <https://a.co/bTs33Oh> You can also get to the listing via their website: **Opendoormission.com** and clicking on the **Ways to Help/Donate Clothing and Other Essentials**

Kevin Wood, coordinator



Pastor Katie has become a CMC in Genesis Conference, which puts her on track for her ordination.

Riley Williams graduated from Gates-Chili HS and will attend UB for Music Education.



Congratulations to Evan Davis, who graduated from Roberts Wesleyan University in May.



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

So thankful for the beautiful women of Park Ridge! Whenever we gather there is joy and friendship and loving care for one another. In May we had an afternoon tea party and once again the food was GREAT and the company wonderful!!! All are welcome! We hope you can join us for our next event!

06/14	Me Time	10:00-12:00	PRFM
07/12	Me Time	10:00-12:00	PRFM
08/09	Me Time	10:00-12:00	PRFM

Stay tuned for special summer events.

*Joyce Jarvis and Pam Rende
Ladies Ministry Coordinators*



Join us this summer as we read through Ephesians. Use the reading guide link below, or scan the QR code. For more inspiration, there is also a playlist link for you. Let's all stay on the same page this summer!

Reading Guide link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vUq12T_UD4h6A1n3mo3LGrFZFq3k7qSa/view?usp=sharing

Playlist link: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5xWilMerLxJDSUBJMATAQ?si=5dc0ff7de1de4c8c>

Powerhouse Youth Group Update

Wrapping Up a Great Year and Gearing Up for Summer Fun!

Hello Church Family,

What a fantastic year it has been for Powerhouse Youth Group! We are so incredibly proud of our young people and all that they have accomplished and contributed over the past school year. Filled with insightful discussions, fun-filled game nights and meaningful service projects it has been a joy to see them grow in their faith and in their friendships with one another. A huge thank you to all the volunteers, parents, and church members who have supported our youth this year!

As we wrap up our regular weekly meetings for the school year, we're thrilled to keep the energy and community going with some exciting summer events. Be sure to mark your calendars and get ready for some fun in the sun! Here's a sneak peek at what we have planned:

* Ice Cream Outing: What better way to kick off the summer than with some delicious ice cream? We'll be heading to a local spot to enjoy a sweet treat and some great fellowship. Stay tuned for the date and location!

* Bonfire & Worship Night: Get ready for a memorable evening under the stars with a crackling bonfire, s'mores, and an acoustic worship session. It's the perfect opportunity to relax and connect with God and each other.

* Kingdom Bound: We are so excited to be planning a trip to Kingdom Bound this year! This multi-day Christian music festival is an incredible experience, and we can't wait to share it with our youth. More details to come. We will be spending the day at Darien lake July 30th! The church will be covering the cost of youth who attended all year. It will be a great time to worship and have a fun filled summer day together.

* Beach Day: Pack your sunscreen and towels because we're hitting the beach! We'll have a day of fun, games, and soaking up the sun as we celebrate the summer season together. There will be BBQ cooking and awards to be handed out to recognize the growth we have seen in our kids this season. Date change soon!

We are so looking forward to these opportunities to connect over the summer. Keep an eye on the church bulletin and our social media pages for specific dates, times, and any additional details for these events.

While we are excited for these summer get-togethers, we are also eagerly anticipating our return to regular weekly meetings in September. We are praying for a refreshing and joyful summer for all our families and are already planning for a bigger, better, and more powerful Powerhouse when we return. We can't wait to see how God will move in the lives of our young people in the coming year. We hope everybody has a fantastic and safe summer! We are praying for blessings and wonderful memories for you and your families.

In Christ,

The Powerhouse Youth Group Leaders,
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:

Dorrs Update – The Dorrs are completing their first 3 year term with Wycliffe Bible Translators in September. They will be coming home for a short home assignment this fall. They are looking forward to resting, reconnecting with family and friends and visiting their church families. They will be visiting Park Ridge on September 7th. Please come and say hello!



In the *March 2025 Newsletter*, they asked for prayer as they seek the Lord's direction for the next stage of their ministry. "We would like to invite you to join us in prayer as we seek the Lord's direction for our next steps. We know that we are called to support the Bible Translation movement, but whether that is in Mexico or elsewhere is still uncertain." Please keep the entire family in your prayers as they seek guidance.

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. We were excited to support the Just Ask ministries with some of the garage sale proceeds.

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.

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

Africa – Pastor Isaac Gayne is the country leader in Liberia. Please join him in prayer for his mother, who is seriously ill. Praise the Lord! Hendrik and Kaylene Smidderks arrived safely in Togo and have located a place to live. Pray for them as they continue to settle in and establish new relationships. Please continue to pray for a full recovery for Pastor Dickson, a 68-year-old pastor in Cameroon, who fell and was found unconscious. He has been moved out of intensive care and is improving.

Latin America – Please pray for missionary Thad Roller, who spent most of last week in the hospital receiving antibiotics for an infection. The infection is gone, but Thad will have a small growth removed in an upcoming surgery. Pray for an uncomplicated surgery and a clean bill of health afterwards.

Kirk Kettinger, International Missions Coordinator