



Parkway Courier



Volume 54, No. 9

September 2019

Endings and Beginnings

Parkway United Church of Christ has been (and will continue to be) a Wonderful Congregation!

We began in 1846 and for 146 years we have served God, served the world, served N. Minneapolis, and served each other. This is a congregation to be proud of!

Like many congregations today, we have constructively met many financial challenges. We have wisely studied our options, thoroughly examined possibilities, and together, made excellent decisions regarding our future. Now, we are being called to unite with our sister congregation and become a new entity, a new church family.

Of course, this comes with many challenges. While we know that we chose wisely, it is always hard to say, "Goodbye." We are leaving our location, and our building, and we will watch as a new building for senior housing is erected in this place. What has been cherished by us will soon become a place for which others give thanks. It will be a place that others call "home."

This is God's ongoing transformation for a different, more needed, purpose. It is hard to let go, but we know that others will be grateful for this new opportunity in their lives, and in the lives of their family members.

We, the congregation of Parkway, are moving on! We will soon become Robbinsdale Parkway United Church of Christ. We will be a new church with more people, more ideas, and more opportunities. Everyone in our newly consolidated congregation will encounter new ways of doing things, rather than the ways they know. The leadership among Council, Chairs, and Ministers will try to be flexible as we integrate the new with the old. It will be a time of change and growth. We will make good new friendships and keep the friendships we have developed over the years.

The last service at Parkway United Church of Christ will be held on Sunday, September 8th at 10:00. Everyone is invited to attend! Associate Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Anita Bradshaw will help lead the service and the Lord's Supper will be celebrated as our last official sacrament at Parkway. A party with a catered pot roast dinner will follow the service. Although RSVPs were requested, we absolutely want everyone who wishes, to join us! This will be a time to remember, and a great gathering of friends.

Our first service as a new congregation will be at 10:00 the following Sunday, September 15th at Robbinsdale. We will vote to establish our new congregation and officially call both Rev. Kathy Itzin and Rev. T. Michael Rock as our ministers. Please bring a small amount of water from home or a summer trip, as we will pour them all together as a sign of the two congregations becoming one. Our Conference Minister, Rev. Shari Prestemon will preach, help lead the service, and celebrate the Lord's Supper with us. A catered dinner will follow. This will be a wonderful service, celebrating this new creation to which God has been calling us! It will be a wonderful new beginning!

Join us as we celebrate this amazing event, with these amazing people!

Pastor Kathy

OUR CHURCH STORY

By Gregory Merz

Charlene and I were married at Mizpah United Church of Christ, in Hopkins, on the hottest day of 1987. I had never heard of the United Church of Christ. I was Catholic by tradition and “to be determined” in practice. I picked Mizpah out of the Yellow Pages because we needed a place to get married and the Yellow Pages ad made the church sound like an open-minded, liberal kind of place, which generally matched up with my outlook.

After getting married, we kept going to Mizpah. Molly and Graham were both baptized there. Charlene taught Sunday school and coordinated the Loaves and Fishes program. I was on the stewardship committee. But I started to drift away. The appeal of staying home on a Sunday morning was stronger than the appeal of traipsing all the way to Hopkins to go to church. I went less and less frequently until I stopped going all together, putting myself back in the “to be determined” column. I joked about becoming a Druid. Charlene was more committed than I was and she kept going regularly. But eventually my lack of enthusiasm drained hers away and she finally joined me at home on Sundays.

And that’s the way it was for quite a while. To be determined. We drove past Parkway lots of times without giving it much thought. At some point, we decided to check it out. It was 2001. Molly was twelve and Graham was eight. I wanted, especially, to make sure my kids had a solid understanding of what Christianity was about so that they could make informed decisions about their own faith some day.

So, we decided to give Parkway a look. To be honest, it didn’t really grab us right away. But we kept at it. We wanted to give it a fair shot. Little by little, we got to know the people of Parkway and they got to know us. We got involved. Charlene taught Sunday school and I was surprised to find myself singing in the choir. We made “church friends.” Charlene was baptized at Parkway on a sunny Easter morning. “Church friends” became “friends.” Parkway became our home.

Time passes and change happens. On September 15, I will join a new church for the third time. (I don’t count my Catholic upbringing; I didn’t so much join that church as I was conscripted into it.) I am blessed that so many of my friends will be joining with me. And based on my experience, will recall that joining a church isn’t an event, it is a process.

Out to Lunch Bunch



The Out to Lunch Bunch will gather on Thursday, September 12, at 11:30 a.m. at The 50's Grill, located at 5524 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Center, 55429. Please call Parkway's church office by September 6 to let us know that you will be joining the group.



Taco Tuesday's at El Toro



Join us on the third Tuesday of each month at El Toro in Robbinsdale for lunch at noon. September 17 is the next get together. 10% of the proceeds from lunch will go towards the NEW CHURCH! Come for great Mexican food and lively conversation with members from both churches! It's a great way to get know each other!

IT'S (FINALLY) HAPPENING!

by Dianne Star

On Sunday, April 14th, the congregations of Parkway UCC and Robbinsdale UCC voted to consolidate. There were so many things to consider and so many decisions to make - new name to choose, legal documents to write, transitional by-laws to approve, new logo to design, items to take to RUCC, new homes for other items, church sale to plan, logistics of moving, last and first services to plan, change of address to file and more, more, more. Our minds are in overdrive and close to being overwhelmed.

What about our hearts? Are we preparing them for the consolidation? Are we open to new friendships? Are we prepared for new ways of doing some things? Are we looking forward to new ministry opportunities? Are we willing to share our stories and ideas? Are we hopeful about the future?

The UCC's brochure on Extravagant Welcome says, "We are like a 'company of strangers,' made family by the grace of God in Jesus Christ."

Wherever our minds and hearts are on this journey of consolidation, we are welcomed - welcomed to take time to adapt to our new church home, welcomed to grieve, welcomed to observe, welcomed to jump right into activities, welcomed to listen, welcomed to share our ideas and stories.

Mystery Dinner!



We realized many things in the process of consolidation. Three of them were of vital importance.

1. We share many gifts, but the greatest is hospitality.
2. We don't know each other well enough, yet.
3. Everyone needs to eat.

So, let's eat and let's host. The wonderful Marc Blakesley is helping to organize a Mystery Dinner. We need families to contact Marc about hosting a meal at your house on Saturday or Sunday,

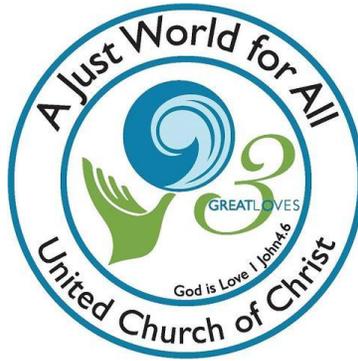
September 28-29 or October 5-6. That is four dates. You choose which date and set the time and let Marc know how many people can sit around your table.

On September 15th, people will sign up to eat. What dates you are available and any dietary needs. You can also call the church office, 763-537-6965 to sign up.

You will receive communication the week before the dinner of the host of your dinner and the time you arrive. Wonderful conversations and relationships will ensue.

You can reach Marc at marcblakesley@gmail.com or 612-325-1467 or the church office communications@robbinsdaleucc.org

Let the fun begin!!!



3 Great Loves – a Just World for All

by Dianne Star

The 3 Great Loves campaign of the UCC is an opportunity for all of us to express our Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation by working together to address the inequities in our world. This is a 2-year initiative, and the UCC is providing resources for and seeking stories of how we are living out God's love in our world. Stories can be shared at www.ucc.org/3greatloves, or on Facebook, or on Instagram and Twitter using #3greatloves in the post.

For 2019, the UCC printed "Just Act!" a daily action calendar for creating a just world for all. At the beginning of each month, some of the actions for the month will be posted on the bulletin board by the Love of Neighbor poster. Use these actions as a resource for your ideas and actions about making a Just World for All.

Here are some actions from the September calendar:

- Work at listening more than you speak this week. (from becomingminimalist.com - Study the silence. When you do speak, choose words that are "few and full.")
- Take a photo of something old and something new to share with friends. (Use your imagination.)
- Buy a package of diapers and bring to a homeless shelter. (Some food shelves also accept diapers.)

Just Act!

Pictures, Pictures, Pictures!



One of the most helpful tools in getting to know people in our new congregation can be our Robbinsdale Parkway UCC church directory! It helps to be able to match new names with new faces! The consolidated Worship and Events Committee hopes to have a new Robbinsdale Parkway United Church of Christ directory ready to go by the beginning of November. Pictures are due by Oct. 13th, the 2nd Sunday. Please see a photographer after a service, and check to let us know if your phone, address, or email have changed.

If you are unable to get a picture taken on a Sunday, send one from home! Char will be keeping the present Parkway email address until Jan. 1, 2020. Please send it to Parkwayucc@gmail.com, along with a note indicating if there is any change in your address, email, or phone.

Parkway's Stained Glass Windows!

The congregation has chosen to bring five stained glass windows with us to the new Robbinsdale Parkway UCC building. We have chosen: The Risen Christ, the world, Jesus at Bethlehem, Loaves and Fishes, and Jesus teaching on the mountain. If you are interested in purchasing one of the other windows, the Parkway Council has recommended that we ask for a \$250 donation. This is less than previously stated, as Empirehouse Glass and Glazing has offered to remove our windows at no cost. Please let Char Merz know if you would like a window by Sunday, Sept. 8th. In the case of two or more members asking for the same window, names will be drawn from a hat. We will contact new owners of windows by Tuesday Sept. 10th.

PARKWAY GARAGE SALE! September 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.



We're having a garage sale inside the building on September 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Whatever is left that we aren't taking with us and hasn't already been claimed will be for sale. There will be quite a bit of furniture left and some treasures we know you can't live without. Tell your friends and neighbors about it and invite them to come and have a look. We can use some volunteers for the day. If you can come for any amount of time, please let Char Merz know!

Youth Ministry News

Youth Kick-off Event – Lock-In – Friday to Saturday, September 27-28, 2019
Come for planning for the new year. Very exciting. Welcome New Members.
Youth Sunday – October 20th – Share our Mission. Service is Life.

Bible Adventures News

Bible Adventures will begin on September 8th with a welcome home party for the kids and the introduction of the curriculum "A Joyful Path". This is a new curriculum coming to us from Progressive Christianity.org

We are excited this year to have Nexus Trueself continue to lead our Nursery Ministry for the younger kids.

We will also welcome some amazing new energy from Rev. Kathy Itzin into this ministry. Please look in the mail for your student information sheet and bring it to church on September 8th for the kick-off of this ministry.

Always in gratitude for our leadership team of Rachael Grimm, Lisa Kolkman, Jim Gausman, Cheryl Nordquist and Jim Puffer. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please join us on the first Wednesday of the month for our design meetings.

In the love of children, T. Michael and the Bible Adventures Team

Our First Worship Together

September 15

Rev. Shari Prestemon will be preaching!
Joint Service of Consolidation and Congregational Meeting at Robbinsdale UCC.

The service will begin with leadership from our co-moderators, Lyle Latzig and Greg Merz. They will lead us into worship and into the process of dissolving and forming a new church. We will share in our water ritual as a powerful symbol of our belonging to each other. **All are welcome and encouraged to come and celebrate.**

Here's what we will vote on and incorporate:

In the context of worship, our Co-Moderators will lead us in prayer and some crucial votes as a congregation.

1. Vote to dissolve Parkway UCC and Robbinsdale UCC
2. Vote to incorporate Robbinsdale Parkway UCC
3. Vote on Plan of Consolidation (This is the document filed with the Secretary of State for a new corporation. It is included in the Mustard Seed and hard copies are available at church.)

(Transitional By-laws will be adopted by the Coordination Council and New By-Laws will be presented to the Congregation within the first year of the new church.)

4. Vote to install Co-Pastors, Rev. Kathy Itzin and Rev. T. Michael Rock

Rev. Shari Prestemon, Conference Minister of the MN Conference, will preside over the Litany of Welcoming a New Church into the Conference and in the Service of Installation for the Co-Pastors. We will conclude with sharing the Lord's Supper.

Fruit of the Spirit News

Fruit of the Spirit is our Fall "Fun" Raiser at Robbinsdale Parkway UCC. We will be collecting donations and idea forms starting on Sunday, September 29th. Think of what kind of "fun" you can have by donating an item or an outing or a service for the auction. In the past, people have donated quilted blankets, knit gloves, created baskets for entertainment, self-care, or a day with the kids or grand kids. People have donated piano lessons, golf outings and theatre tickets. People have also created wonderful dinners at their homes for 8 or 10 people or baked cookies or muffins for the year. We have also had folks donate a weekend or a week at the summer lake place. All ideas are welcome.

Silent Auction will take place before and after church on October 20th and 27th. The silent auction will close at exactly 10 a.m. on Sunday, November 3rd. After church, folks can pick up their winnings on the way to the Fellowship Hall for a lunch and a Live Auction.

This whole event is a great way to connect with one another, serve one another, and help us meet our goals as a new congregation. The last time we did this "fun" raiser we were hoping to make \$7000 and thanks to a generous matching grant at the live auction and lots of amazing church members, we raised over \$13,000.

All are welcome. Use your amazing imagination.

HAPPY/THANKFUL OFFERINGS

We are offering this gift because we are happy and/or thankful for:

August 11, 2019

My beautiful church!
-Gerry Hartley

Harry Bimble, Betty Grable
Bob Hartley's favorites.
-Gerry Hartley

August 18, 2019
The Bounty for God's
fruit in my yard.
-David Goettsch

Molly's weed whipping
-Emily Braun

August 25, 2019
All the wonders of,
and all the blessed
memories formed at
Pilgrim Point.
-Emily Braun



2 Kira Goettsch	11 Jerry Stone
5 Ryan Lerum	11 Jeff Williams
7 Jennifer Berry	11 Ross Williams
9 Brad Jones	22 Cody Greening
9 Barbara Kinnunen	23 Jenna Bredenberg
10 Carolyn Hendel	24 Kathy Malaske
10 Shawn Lewis	25 Skyler Bredenberg
	28 Billie Austin

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Gerry Hartley
Rose Marie Lund – (Durand's daughter)
Kay Leerssen
Marlene Mars
Harriet Thompson
Parkway and Robbinsdale Churches
Eunice Shore
Brett Sprague
Laura Mylan - (Friend of Janet Zahn)
Jan Schwarz
Sheryl Griefe - (Friend of Dick and Nancy)
Bob Freeman - (Cancer surgery)
Celeste Barrett - (Friend of Bonnie McClain)
Dianne & Lester Boerger
Veralyn Bash - (Lester Boerger's sister)
Paul and Donita Boerger - (Lester Boerger's parents)
Sandy Thompson - (Bob and Evie Thompson's daughter-in-law)
Emil Makinen – (Jim Jarvimaki's brother-in-law)
Chris Murphy - (Nephew of Tom and Kathy Malaske)
Gabby Brown - (rare form of leukemia, daughter of co-worker of David Goettsch)
Lily Torman - (Kathleen Hustad's friend's daughter with leukemia)
David Moore - (Victor Morrison's brother-in-law)

Judy Oelkers - (Pat Durand's cousin)
Jim Jarvimaki
Sarah Billington – (Alexandra's mother)
A.J. Houle - (Dick and Nancy Larson's son-in-law)
Terry Nolan
Theresa Carr - (Friend of Bonnie McClain)
James Karst
Jim and Marharet Heglund
Greg Lipelt - (Todd Lipelt's brother)
Brad & Laurie Jones
Bill Morrison
Lisa Flynn - (Carol Anderson's niece)
Brad Larson - (Friend of David Goettsch)

We are serving the Northside in Christian love!

Parkway Courier

An Open and Affirming Church

3120 Washburn Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Parkway's last worship service is
Sunday, September 8 at 10:00 a.m.

Please join us at the Robbinsdale UCC
location beginning Sunday, September 15
at 10:00 a.m. as we become
Robbinsdale Parkway UCC.

Come and share our new beginning and
stay for our new ministry together.
All are Welcome!

This is the last Courier published by
Parkway United Church of Christ.
Watch for our new newsletter 'The Waterfall'
coming soon.

Thank you to all who have submitted articles
over the years and to all who took the time to
read and support this newsletter for so many years.
You are appreciated!

**Published by and for members and friends of
PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



Robbinsdale Parkway UCC

September 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 	3	4 7 p.m. Choir	5	6	7
8 10 a.m. Last worship service at Parkway Luncheon to follow worship service	9	10	11 7:15 p.m. Choir practice at Robbinsdale	12 11:30 a.m. Out-to-Lunch Bunch 50's Grill	13	14 Parkway's Garage Sale 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
15 10 a.m. First worship service at the new church with luncheon to follow	16	17 Taco Tuesday at noon at El Toro Red Cross Blood Drive 1-7 p.m. at RPUCC	18	19 7 p.m. Council	20	21
22 10 a.m. RPUCC worship service	23	24	25	26	27 Mystery Dinner Youth Lock-in	28 Mystery Dinner
29 10 a.m. RPUCC worship service "Fruit of the Spirit" "Fun" Raiser begins	30					