



An Open and Affirming Congregation
PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



JourneyNotes with Pastor Giuseppe Amato

The wildfires raging in Southern California right now are a devastating tragedy. This is a disaster that many in our community are personally connected to. Some of us have loved ones who have been evacuated. Some of us are from the affected area and have watched in horror as our cherished landmarks have been destroyed. What can we do faced with such overwhelming and continuous destruction? Once again we hear the well-rehearsed cultural refrain of “thoughts and prayers”—and I do certainly encourage them. But what else can we do? First, please check in on folks you know who may be affected. Second, please consider supporting some of the following organizations. My thanks to @localemagazine for the information.



World Central Kitchen: Nonprofit that immediately prepares and serves meals to communities impacted by natural disasters and during humanitarian crises.

Website: wck.org/news/first-alert-ca-fires-jan25

California Fire Foundation: Provides immediate assistance to victims through programs like supplying disaster relief cash cards to those affected by wildfires.

Website: www.cafirefoundation.org

Habitat for Humanity of Greater LA: Assists in rebuilding homes for those affected by wildfires.

Website: www.habitatla.org/support-us

Los Angeles Fire Dept Foundation: Registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit that directly supports the @losangelesfiredepartment

Website: supportlafdf.org

Community Foundation’s Wildlife Recovery Fund: Supports intermediate and long-term recovery efforts for major California wildfires, as well as preparedness efforts.

Website: www.calfund.org/funds/wildlife-recovery-fund

And last, an addition of my own:

**PARKROSE COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Phone: 503-253-5457

MAIL:

P.O. Box 30063
Portland, OR 97294

OFFICE & WORSHIP:

12505 NE Halsey Street
Portland, OR 97230

OFFICE EMAIL:

office@parkroseucc.org

On The Web: www.parkroseucc.org
[facebook.com/parkrosecommunityucc](https://www.facebook.com/parkrosecommunityucc)



Pastor Giuseppe's Office Hours:

Office -- Mon, Wed & Thurs: 10:a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Home -- Tuesday: 10:a.m.—3:00 p.m.

(Please Call Ahead)

Church Office Hours:

Monday to Friday: 9:00a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Staff

Rev. Giuseppe Amato, *Pastor*

Clay Osburn, *Moderator*

Aaron Winegar, *Office Administrator*

Erica Martin, *Community Life & Youth Director*

Niki Farley, *Music Director*

Disaster Ministries (UCC): Supports the long-term recovery of communities affected by these fires and other domestic disasters.

Website: <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/disaster/>



Well, here we are, entering a new year and on the cusp of a new presidential administration. I am aware that there is a great swirling of thoughts and feelings right now. I have been grateful that our community has made space to share these with one another over the last couple of months. Now, our conference ministry leaders are requesting that we share with them as well. Please consider their letter down below, and reach out if you can make the time.

—Pastor Giuseppe



CPC JOINT MINISTRIES MESSAGE

We can imagine this is the following morning of the visit of the Three Magi to the Christ Child... they came from afar, the gifts were given, wondering now what was to come?

What is to come for us in 2025?

Epiphany Season 2025 (January 6 - March 1) offers the chance to understand Epiphany not just as a one-day event, but a process of receptivity to the Spirit, to revelation, to query, to unfolding, to perceive what is God calling us to be or do at this time.

Our conference ministry teams are aware that the November election outcomes and subsequent daily news feeds have made many of our pastors and congregants anxious and concerned about the aims and stated policies of the incoming president and his administration.

There is such uncertainty about everything and what could potentially threaten the fabric of our democracy, human rights, justice and peace making, global relationships, and the general well-being and safety of people.

How is this affecting you where you live, work, family and social circles, worship? What else are you feeling in your heart? What are specific issues or concerns keeping you up at night. What are you praying for? What inspiration do you have to be proactive and resourceful to make a difference where possible? We would like to know.

Listening Sessions to be Scheduled

We are planning a series of listening sessions hosted by each of our ministry teams during the Epiphany season, primarily via Zoom, and perhaps a query process on paper. The sessions were affirmed by the CPCUCC Board of Directors at the December 14, 2024, meeting. Stories and info shared may affirm, inspire, inform one another, our congregations, our ministries, and conference. We will see how the Spirit moves us.

Dates still to be determined for the sessions, but they will be convened in the evenings, 6 pm Pacific time, 7 pm Mountain time in January and February, so please contact the chair of the ministry that interests you with any questions or comments.

May God bless you and yours this holiday season,

Rev. Andrea Cano, Chair, Wider Church Ministries; 2012acano@gmail.com

Rev. Tara Wilkins, Chair, Justice and Witness Ministries;
revtara@bridgeportucc.org

Rev. Cecil Prescod, Chair, Local Church Ministries; christianed@ainsworthucc.org

REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR

BY CLAY OSBURN

Happy New Year, Church family,

First, I would like to recognize our great Staff. Thank you Pastor Giuseppe, Community Life Director Erica, Music Director Niki and Office Manager Aaron for their continued support at Parkrose. We have a great team here at Parkrose Community.

Here are some important dates coming up in the next couple months.

As tradition holds there will be a Communion breakfast/ brunch the first Sunday of the New Year held in Eastminster Hall.

Next up the Organizational Meeting to be held the last Sunday in January after worship. This gathering is designed for the Officers and Ministry Teams to meet and discuss new ideas and possibilities for the New Year.

Every year the Officers, the Staff and Ministry team chairs submit a report a couple weeks ahead of the Annual Meeting held in February to give the Congregation enough time to look at the report in case there are questions.

This year, the Annual Meeting is scheduled for the last Sunday in February, after worship. Everyone is invited. Keep an eye on the Weekly-Update for an announcement.

All is well my friends. Peace, love and joy to our community.

Clay





Cleanup Volunteers Needed

Come to church on Saturday, Jan 11th to help clean up and put away the Xmas decorations. We'll start at 9:30am.



Happy 2025! It's a new year! We need people to sign up to bring food, help set up and clean up for Coffee Time. If you would like to volunteer to do this on a Sunday morning, please let Donna know. She'll have a sign up sheet on Sunday morning or you can email her and choose your Sunday. You can contact Donna Barker at barkerd860@icloud.com.

23 Annual Meeting
Feb 23rd, 11am

Yearly Donation Reports Almost Ready

As of January 1st, it's almost time to release your Yearly Donation Reports. As always, we will wait a couple of weeks for any straggler 2024 checks being mailed in to arrive and be processed for 2024. After that, your reports will be printed and distributed to everyone who made a donation in 2024.

Parkrose Community United Church of Christ
Quarterly Giving Statement

Month	Yearly Contribution	Other Contribution
JAN	100.00	0.00
FEB	100.00	0.00
MAR	100.00	0.00
APR	100.00	0.00
MAY	100.00	0.00
JUN	100.00	0.00
JUL	100.00	0.00
AUG	100.00	0.00
SEP	100.00	0.00
OCT	100.00	0.00
NOV	100.00	0.00
DEC	100.00	0.00
Total	1200.00	0.00

Annual Reports Due Soon

Ministry Team Leads, it's time to turn in your annual reports. This year, reports are due Sunday, February 11th. While there's still plenty of time, the deadline will sneak up on you fast if you're not careful!



JULY 2024
CHURCH DIRECTORY



PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1505 NE Hobay Street
Portland, OR 97230
503-556-9457

Jan 2025 Church Directory

It's time to produce the Jan 2025 Church Directory. If there have been any changes to your contact information, let the church office know within by Thursday, Jan 30th. Or if you would like to be added to the church directory, let the church office know at office@parkroseucc.org, or fill out the registration form in the Entry Hall.

News from the Community Life & Youth Ministry

Wishing a Happy Christmas & New Year to us all!



Looking back over the last few weeks, I am filled with joy and gratitude for the good folk here at **Parkrose Community UCC** and our Community Partners! This was indeed one of the most meaningful Advent and holiday seasons of my “career” as a church lady, lay leader, and community organizer.

From our advent themes of “Words for the Beginning” to our Smash painting with Youth & Families peeps, to our Christmas Unicorn program, and finally holding space for Christmas day, while greeting our community guests with a warm meal and a little holiday cheer. Every moment, every interaction, every bit of laughter and tears has been so very special.

I think of the parting words from my Unicorn Homily that speak to new beginnings, carrying this energy into 2025 and finding the sacred in the everyday...

*“So, let us start here and start now.
Like our Unicorns will remind us,
there is so much left to love.
So much left to hope for.
The angel said, “Do not be afraid;
I am bringing you joy.”
Do not fear...Remember
that the universe/God/Goddess is in
the joy,
the laughter, and the messiness
of life.
Start with love and begin again,
our new beginning.
Advent...”*

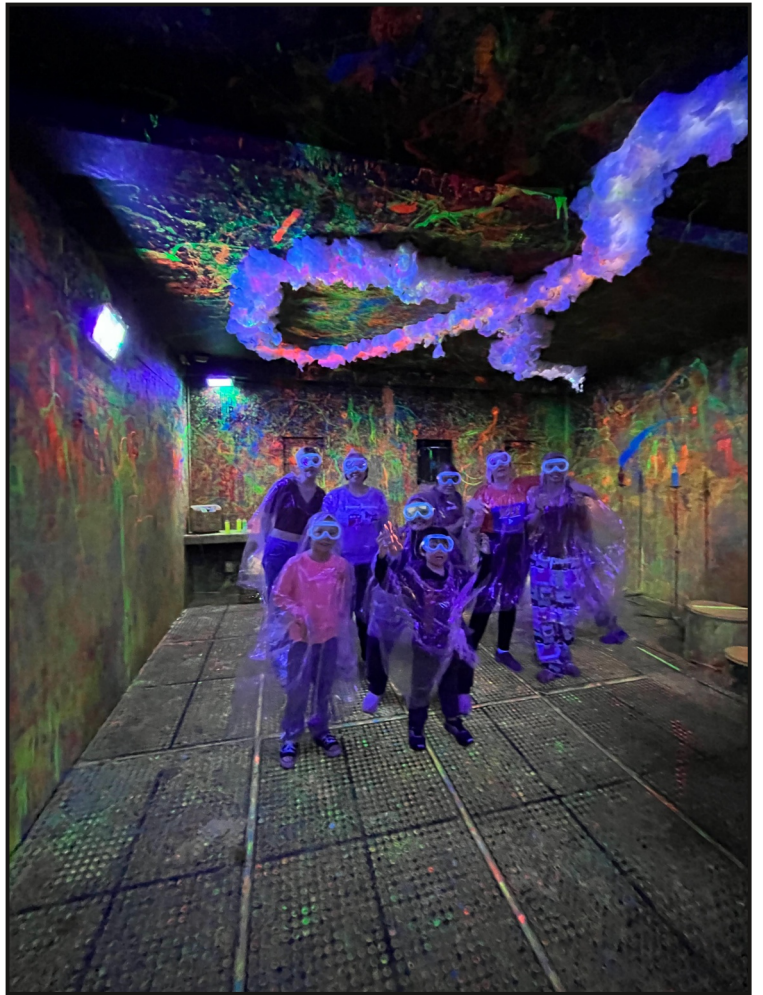
It’s time for me to take a step back, rest and regroup. I will be planning some

activities for our young folk, carrying on with Wellness Wednesday goodness, and looking for new ways for us to work with community partners.

*“In the sweet name of all that is new,
bright, lovely, holy, and unhindered.
Filled with rainbows, sparkles, and
Unicorns.
Please leave here with Light, Love,
peace, and calm.”*

Please enjoy some of the photo evidence of these good people of Parkrose Community UCC enjoying each other’s company and serving up love in the community.





Community Life:

Donations Needed!!!

WE STILL NEED Clothing Donations for Wellness Wednesdays: Thank you to those who have donated and given items that are on the list.

We continue to need donations of gently used **WARM WEATHER** - cold-weather jackets, raingear, socks, men's and women's pants, sweatshirts, and sturdy footwear/shoes. All genders and sizes!

***Donations** of toothpaste, emergency blankets, granola bars, and hot cocoa/soup packets are also appreciated. These are helpful when putting together on-demand "Care Kits".

*A note about volunteering. We currently have enough volunteers for Wellness Wednesdays. However Cold & Flu season is here, and it may be that a substitute is needed. If you would like to be on this list, please get in touch with me at cedirector@parkroseucc.org. We will do our best to give a heads-up in those situations.



COMMUNITY SERVICES AVAILABLE

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

11am until 2pm

SHOWERS, LAUNDRY, FIRST AID CLOTHING, HOT MEAL & MORE

LOCATION: 12505 NE HALSEY PORTLAND, OREGON 97220

ALL ARE WELCOME!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

WeShine Dinner Host Sign-ups:



If you are looking for a way to volunteer during your winter months, think about sponsoring or preparing a dinner on Thursday for WeShine's Village Council Meetings.

- Click here to sign up <https://evite.me/aRTkWeabUH> (This link will be updated soon)
- You will need a food handler's card if you make homemade items.
- Another idea is to team up with a friend and buy already-made items from the grocery store, sponsor a pizza or Chinese food dinner.

Thank you for your continued Support!



Join us for

Coffee Conversation

and

Sunday Fellowship

Join us every Sunday after service for coffee, snacks, and conversation. Everyone is welcome to join in the fellowship!

Parkrose Community United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 30063
Portland, OR 97294



TESTIMONIES, NOT TESTS OF THE FAITH

The United Church of Christ embraces a theological heritage that affirms the Bible as the authoritative witness to the Word of God, the creeds of the ecumenical councils, and the confessions of the Reformation. The UCC has roots in the "covenantal" tradition—meaning there is no centralized authority or hierarchy that can impose any doctrine or form of worship on its members. Christ alone is Head of the church. We seek a balance between freedom of conscience and accountability to the apostolic faith. The UCC therefore receives the historic creeds and confessions of our ancestors as testimonies, but not tests of the faith.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING



In Galatians 3.28 we are reminded that despite our differences we are all "one in Christ Jesus." Therefore, we, the people of Parkrose Community United Church of Christ, declare ourselves to be open and affirming. With God's grace, we seek to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender, marital status, age, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, religious, political or social-economic background. We welcome all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, and fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our congregation. This is God's church and no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.