



*An Open and Affirming Congregation*  
PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## JourneyNotes with Pastor Giuseppe Amato

**A**s of September 1, I have been with our church one full year. I am so grateful for Parkrose Community United Church of Christ, and our broader community, and each one of you. We have done some great work together. We've embraced one another in covenant and remained true to our mutual commitments. You have loved my family and me, and we have been blessed in loving you right back. I truly do feel that God has called us to be in partnership with one another, and that we have been reaping beautiful fruit from doing so.



I actually have an update to share with you regarding one particular piece of fruit: our partners with Asylum Solidarity Collective. As you may remember, we worked with them, IMIrJ, and our asylum-seeking neighbors to advocate for housing and wrap-around services for asylum-seekers in Portland. Read below for some good news and an invitation.

--Pastor Giuseppe



Hey all,

It's been a minute! We wanted to pop back in and share a few updates :)

Good news - the combined 60 families currently sheltered in the Ramada and Studio 6 will be covered for another month. Also in good news, the State and County (with support from us & other CBOs) applied for, and were just granted, some FEMA money to support newcomers! The award is less than we (and they) hoped, and we do not know when or how it will be distributed, but the advocacy asylum seekers and solidarity community did at the County level this year was critical in pushing the state to apply for these funds. So, we'll take the win!



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# PARKROSE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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[facebook.com/parkrosecommunityucc](https://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*

We are currently trying to scale back our involvement in the high-intensity triage and mutual aid work we've been doing, though we are still intending to hold some role there. Currently, we are focused on working with organizations, government partners, and the community themselves to envision what a functional reception system could look like. We know there will be a need for more advocacy and we will be in touch as things arise!

In the meantime, please do not forget to sign up for the PIRC Hotline Dispatcher info session and training through their Interest Form! You can read about the expectations here, and please feel free to share! Once folks have expressed interest, PIRC will reach out to schedule a training.

In addition, a number of our families are being rehoused by Catholic Charities (woohoo!) and our partners at CC have asked for our support in collecting furniture donations. If you have furniture to donate, please let us know and we will be in touch shortly about where to bring the furniture!

Thank you all for your support for this community!

## PIRC FAQ

### **What is the PIRC Hotline?**

The PIRC Hotline is a volunteer-run hotline that immigrant and other community members can call for support responding to ICE behavior, deportation defense, and other immigration related issues and referrals.

Due to the increasing need for shelter for arriving asylum seekers, the PIRC Hotline has begun receiving calls from new arrivals, collecting basic information, and referring new Portlanders to the Asylum Solidarity Collective, homeless services, and other resources for unhoused newcomers.

## Who calls the PIRC Hotline?

The Hotline is meant as a resource for undocumented and under-documented immigrants in the Portland Oregon Metro area, including arriving asylum seekers, but anyone in the community can call. Currently, most calls are in Spanish or English.

## What is expected of PIRC dispatchers?

Be available for four shifts of three hours each month (flexible, and you may not receive any calls during your shift!)

Conversational fluency in English and another language (most calls are in Spanish but French, Haitian Creole, Farsi, Portuguese, Russian, Arabic, & others also needed!).

Work to apply trauma-informed practices and navigate conversations with people in crisis.

Understand your limits and boundaries & ask for help.

Attend dispatcher trainings to learn more resources!

## What is not expected of PIRC dispatchers?

Social work training or encyclopedic knowledge of resources.

Full time availability.

Multilingualism or full fluency.

Immigration legal experience (the hotline does NOT give legal advice!)

## Contact

Asylum Seeker Solidarity Collective  
asylumsolidaritypdx@gmail.com

(971) 427-1039

Mutual Aid, Organizing, and Advocacy



## MONTHLY CONNECT POTLUCK DINNER

Come and join the Evening Connect Group every third Wednesday, 6:30pm, for a potluck. Our only plans are to gather, munch, and connect. Bring what you'd like--or nothing at all. We'll see you at Todd Peterson's house, behind the church. (1705 NE 125th Ave)

## *A message from the Moderator...*

We are entering into the budget process for 2025. We are in a unique situation in that our pledges, plate, and rental income do not cover our expenses. Consequently, we have been withdrawing funds from our investments at a much faster rate than they are producing income.

With this information in mind, the Finance Team would like to meet with you on September 8 either after church or in Blair's home. We will review our current budget and funding priorities. Your thoughts and input will be helpful as we plan for the budget for 2025 and beyond.

Within the next week, a member of the Finance Team will be calling you to determine which of the two meetings you will be able to attend. Again, your input is important for the future of our church so please determine which date works best for you.

# REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR

BY CLAY OSBURN

Greeting's my friends. I hope all is well with you and yours. It's been a great summer and we are going to have a great fall. Get ready for the back to normal (meaning summer is usually disrupted with vacations and adventures as far as making it to worship goes).

Fall will kick off September 8th with a potluck. This should be a fun get together, so bring your favorite dish. It's always a good time.

On September 8th also we will be having the second of two House meetings at Blair and Corky's home. These meetings are to help the Finance Budget team understand how to balance the budget with our community Mission in mind.

As I am writing this article we just finished the first meeting at our house (Tanya & Clay's). A great group of folk's showed up (about twenty) with plenty of ideas. Cyndi facilitated the meeting with a few questions to ponder as follows;

- How do we balance the budget and what would you cut?
- How could you contribute (time, resources and energy) to help balance the budget?

[With the great idea's we also need to be willing to participate not just expect someone else to manage the task]

We didn't get to these next questions before we ran out of time.

- What are the values and belief's you have when thinking about church finances and specifically about making cuts?
- How do you reconcile cuts with you guiding principles and beliefs?

These are important questions to wrestle with as we near 2025 and beyond.

One more thing don't forget to put the Crafter's Bazaar on your calendar the first Saturday in October, it's always a fun time.

Take care,

Clay



**Homecoming Potluck**

Everyone is invited to our annual Homecoming Potluck on Sunday, September 8th, after church. This is to celebrate fall and getting back into fall routines. You are welcome to bring a main dish, salad, rolls, fruit, vegetable dish or dessert. You don't have to sign up, please bring whatever you like. It would be helpful if you could list the ingredients in your dish. If you have any questions, please ask or email Donna at [barkerd860@icloud.com](mailto:barkerd860@icloud.com).



**Coffee Conversation**

**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



## SAVE THE DATE

# Crafter's Bazaar & Fall Fest



**Seeking vendors!** Attention all crafters, woodworkers, quilters, knitters, bakers, makers, & artists interested in selling their wares.

Sign up now through September 30th! Help us spread the word- Tell all your crafty friends!

**Date: Saturday, October 5th, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 pm.**

**Contact Erica Martin at [cedirector@parkroseucc.org](mailto:cedirector@parkroseucc.org) or call/text  
971-284-3872**

**Location address: 12505 NE Halsey Street, Portland, Oregon 97220**



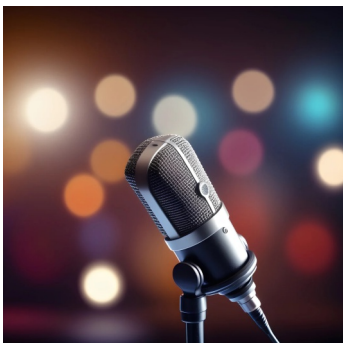
*Stay Tuned*

## NOW WITH PODCASTS

Parkrose Community UCC has begun posting podcast versions of the Sunday Conversations and a selection of the Sunday Sermons onto Spotify and Apple Podcasts, for your podcasting pleasure. So, if you are a listener of podcasts and you ever watch to relisten to an old service, or just want to catch up on something you missed, visit our channels here:

**Spotify:** [open.spotify.com/show/03RpWfRKTImw937dJG7XQB](https://open.spotify.com/show/03RpWfRKTImw937dJG7XQB)

**Apple:** [podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/parkrose-conversations/id1754003592](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/parkrose-conversations/id1754003592)



# ANTIRACISM LEARNING CIRCLES



*A message from Jody Feldman  
of Antiracism Learning Circles...*

*Dear allies in faith and love,*

You are invited to join an Antiracism Learning Circle this fall. It's on Zoom, so you can join from anywhere! First Unitarian in Portland is the organizer, and circles start the week of September 23rd.

Full descriptions, schedules & registration information at: [docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScadmJv7aZm6gXUtaXqZ1sy8VuA-XqtEzKDoYckMQooBLjYDw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScadmJv7aZm6gXUtaXqZ1sy8VuA-XqtEzKDoYckMQooBLjYDw/viewform)

A printable flyer here: [drive.google.com/file/d/1oHoJFPCCwMuxVcP47gmXjyHu4NohwI2/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oHoJFPCCwMuxVcP47gmXjyHu4NohwI2/view)

**LEARNING CIRCLES** are small discussion cohorts based on a book or podcast that provide:

- Important learning about white supremacy, racism, and our national history
- The opportunity to build trust and go deep in small group discussions
- A safe place to have difficult discussions and deal with discomfort
- An opportunity to create and strengthen relationships with others
- Connection, focus and purpose in a virtual setting

**This fall 2024 we are offering:**

- Seeing White - the real history of the US, the one none of us were taught in school. Start your journey here! Documentary podcast series from Scene on Radio.
- The Land That Has Never Been Yet - an examination of whether we have ever had a real democracy. Documentary podcast series from Scene on Radio.

- The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story - edited by Nikole Hannah-Jones - a profoundly reveling vision of American past and present.
- Say What You Mean: A Mindful Approach to Nonviolent Communication - by Oren J. Sofer, including skill building around curiosity and care.
- Caste: The Origins of our Discontents - by Isabel Wilkerson. How we have been shaped by a hidden caste system.
- Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America - by Heather Cox Richardson. What we need to do to reclaim democracy.
- How We Win the Civil War: Securing a Multiracial Democracy and Ending White Supremacy for Good - by Steve Phillips, including analysis of how the Confederates have never stopped fighting.
- Indian Country 101 – learn Native history in the US up to the present. Build skills to offend natives less and engage with tribes more effectively.

**How Do LEARNING CIRCLES Work?**

- Each cohort (typically 4-12) gathers for a series (from 6-12 sessions) of facilitated Zoom discussions.
- Register for specific Learning Circle(s). Meeting dates & times vary.
- Everyone is given the opportunity to share reactions, then discuss as a group
- We ask that you plan to attend all sessions so we can build bonds of trust and insight

For questions contact Jody Feldman  
@ [feldmanjody@gmail.com](mailto:feldmanjody@gmail.com)

# News from the Community Life & Youth Ministry

We have been busy this summer at Parkrose UCC. Here is some good stuff happening in the Community Life & Youth Ministry Office.

Get ready for it!

So excited for this event! Our fundraising contribution will be face painting-(with a practice session on Sunday, September 9th & 22nd during Sunday School!)

More details to come!

## Community Life!

We at Parkrose UCC continue to work with **Cultivate Initiatives, WeShine, Concordia Nursing program, Dept. of Human Services, Hairstylists for Humanity, and Portland Rescue Mission** to help serve our neighbors and community on Wellness Wednesdays.

Many have expressed an interest in helping to serve our guests and those who come periodically (outside of Wednesdays) come for needs and/or supplies.

Below are some ways YOU can support. (More opportunities will be added as this as the need arises.)

Donate Care Kit items for the Community Closet & Groceries to GO (intended for those feeding /caring for themselves.) Many folks have been coming with their pets. Please see this NEW updated list. See below

- **\$5-\$10 Gift cards** to local fast-food restaurants – (McDonald's, Taco Bell, Subway, and Starbucks are all close by)
- **Dog & Cat Food** (canned/wet) and pet care items such as treats, leashes, collars, poo bags, etc.

- **Clothing:** Sweatshirts, T-shirts, Shorts, Socks & Underwear- men's & women's sizes
- **Shoes:** Tennis shoes, sandals (all sizes and genders)
- **TO-GO Foods:** Pull-top canned soups/ chowders or Top Ramen cups, granola bars.
- **Coffee & Tea items:** Especially Herbal and decaf flavored Tea blends.



Thank you to those who have donated items for this ongoing event. I would like to share with you the gratitude of those who have received the items!

Pictured here is Hairstylists for Humanity Mykal, cutting Gary's hair on this past Wellness Wednesday! Stay tuned as Mykal will return for FREE HAIRCUTS on an upcoming Wednesday.



## Youth & Children

On July 21st A few of my favorite “Youth & Sunday Schoolers” met and celebrated the good times had at Parkrose UCC, complete with a special coffee hour. 😊

Look at this handsome crew of folk!



## Youth NEWS! GRANTS PASS or BUST!!!

Well, I didn't have any youth takers. So, Russell and I trekked down by ourselves and made some connections with ODFW staff and Local **Western Pond Turtles!**



We have been invited to help in the Spring with monitoring and so look forward to setting something up for the Future.

**Youth Hang-Bowling** at King Pins with East Co. Ministry Alliance Youth We bowled our brains out! Will keep you posted on upcoming events!



**Things to look forward to:**

- **Rage Paint** event at Smash PDX- TBA
- Saturday, October 5th 10-3 pm **Crafter's Bazaar & Fall Fest**
- Fall Fun!

## ANOTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

I need help preparing dinner on the following Tuesday nights for WeShine's council meetings!

\*A **Tuesday night, during September (TBA)** I would start preparing food at 3:00 pm and dinner is served at 5:30. If you can bring your youth there, I can take them home. Send me a text message or call 503-348-9813



I know we all have a lot going on. Look for a call or text to see when you are available for a meet-up! Sending you all love and hope we get to see each other soon.

Go where wonder grows, my lovely friends.

-Erica





# FREE services at Parkrose Community UCC Wellness Wednesdays! Free Lunches!

Lunches are served Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. All are welcome to a meal. Spring and Summer lunches contain a sandwich, fruit, cookies and water. Fall and Winter lunches contain hot soup, roll, fruit, cookies and water.

a **PARTNERSHIP** with:  
Parkrose Community UCC  
Cultivate Initiatives  
Concordia Nursing College  
Hairstylists for Humanity  
WeShine PDX - Parkrose Community  
VILLAGE

## Wellness Wednesdays!

### Lunch

### Showers & Laundry

### Clothing & Hygiene Items

### Resources

COMMUNITY SERVICES  
AVAILABLE

## WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

11am until 2pm

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

**LOCATION: 12505 NE HALSEY  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97220**

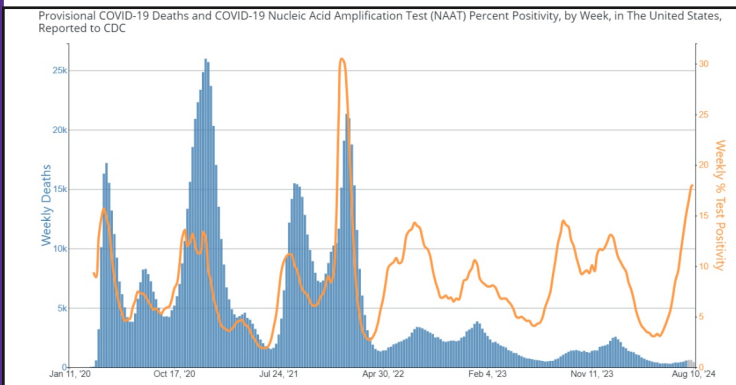
ALL ARE WELCOME!

## A message from the Moderator...

### COVID UPDATE

If you test positive for Covid, best practice is to stay home & wait 5 days after a negative test.

[Editor's Note: The church office still keeps tabs on Covid updates from the CDC. I will include their chart below, go to the link to view the interactive chart on the CDC website. Their current recommendation remains unchanged from 2023: -- the disease is no longer a threat to hospitals and the health care system, but avoid spreading it. It is still a health concern.]



[covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/  
#trends\\_weeklydeaths\\_testpositivity\\_00](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_weeklydeaths_testpositivity_00)

Celebrating the Life of  
**Charlie Ross**

Celebration of Life Service  
September 14 • 2pm



A celebration of Charlie's life will be held on Sept. 14 at 2pm at Vancouver UCC, 1220 NE 68th St. Vancouver, WA 98665 It will be available to view via Zoom at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81937200945?  
pwd=7jq8Ys4bOrVwN1XSBnVcH8DLDZpGFi](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81937200945?pwd=7jq8Ys4bOrVwN1XSBnVcH8DLDZpGFi)

Please kindly mute your microphone.

- Lou Miller

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.