



PARK RIDGE
Free Methodist Church

NEWS & NOTES

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November/December 2025

From the pastor's pen...

"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

~ 1 Peter 2:9 CSB

In this verse, we see our identity, purpose, and belonging all wrapped up in Jesus Christ, who called us out of darkness to live and serve and fellowship in His marvelous light. As we move into the season of Advent, when the Light of the World came to dwell among us, I invite you to embrace the practices of slowness and listening. Now, I know that many of our schedules do not allow for full days of rest or regular spiritual retreat, and I still believe we can integrate "pockets" of time in each day for the Lord to speak to us. One of my meditation teachers used to say, "If you are too busy to meditate for 20 minutes a day, then meditate longer." We make time for what we value. We make time for what we need. We make time for what we worship. So, if we find ourselves unable to make time for (and with) the Lord, we might confront ourselves with the question, "What do I really value, need, and worship if not the Lord?"

On October 30th, I had the privilege of attending OneDay with Patty, Dylan, Myranda, Lance, and Gloria. We heard some thought-provoking messages, Spirit-fueled music, and were challenged to examine how our churches are preparing for and participating in the move of God. Pastor Jamie Haxby of Hope Church Lancaster in the UK spoke to us, "If we are really passionate about Jesus, then we will give Him our time." He was referring to their Sunday night prayer gatherings, which have a start time but no end time. Pastor Jamie's stories of his growing church were powerful because they were a testament to what God can and will do with a group of obedient people who wholeheartedly seek Him and believe God is real, sovereign, and working right now—with people who don't want to miss the move of God.

During Advent, we will gather in all the usual ways, but this season is anything but ordinary. I pray we can slow down enough to ponder the gift of salvation made possible by Christ's coming to earth. He came and has shaped us into who we are now so that we can proclaim our praises of Him in word and deed, and in doing so, make Christ known to the ends of the earth, until the end of the age. His story is our story to tell and embody.

On Sunday, November 16th, I will share a vision for dwelling with the Lord and His story in 2026. I hope many of you will be present (or watch online), and that you will commit to this journey of reading and remaining with the Lord through a communal study of Scripture. I believe it will help us deepen our understanding of God's story and our confidence in God's character. More to come...

In Joy,
Pastor Katie

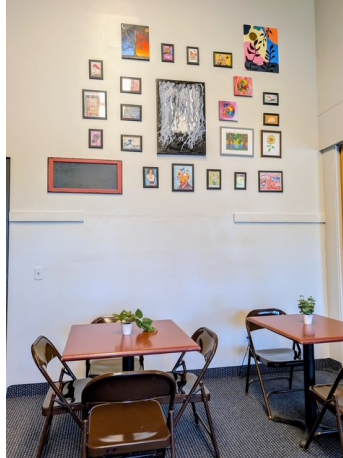
What's Going on Around the Church



On October 30th, a few of us attended OneDay at Edgewood Church in Pittsford. What is OneDay? It is a *one-day* gathering for all members of the Genesis Conference of the Free Methodist Church. We gather to refresh, refuel, and remember that our work in ministry points to that *one day* when all will be made well and all who call upon Jesus as their Lord will be gathered unto Him. This event is held annually during the last week of October, and it is open to clergy, ministerial candidates, church staff, delegates, and laypeople. The theme this year has been "Ready for More" with the emphasis on how our churches are preparing to participate with what God is and will be doing here in our conference, in the Free Methodist Church, and in the global church. It is an inspiring, beneficial day of worship, prayer, and learning together. Mark your calendars for next year now!



Youth Room Renovations Before, During and After!



Thank you to everyone who made this renovation possible!



I have been so encouraged by the prayer in our church. The people who are committed to the Sunday night prayer nights and those in the different ministries praying for each other. The women's retreat had a powerful time of prayer and praise. We were encouraged to be vulnerable in our deepest concerns and that allowed us to really see each other and prompted us to pray more specifically and to check in with each other in the following weeks. Prayer and

fellowship go hand in hand. Our Sunday night prayer nights have covered some different themes that have caused us to think differently about how we pray and areas that need prayer. One month we focused on prodigals, those people we know of who have heard the truth or grown up with the truth but have since chosen to walk away from it. There is a small jar under the altar full of popsicle sticks with names of those we are praying for. Another prayer night was a station prayer night where we prayed prayers of thanksgiving, for world concerns, for our prodigals, for our own spiritual armor and our concerns. The last prayer night we learned how to pray using scripture to guide us, particularly the Psalms. There were prayer guides for several Psalms of differing themes, themes of thanksgiving, trust in God, sorrow and lament. No matter how hard it is to get to prayer night (and the enemy is always happy to give me lots of ideas to just cancel it) it always refreshes my soul.

Our next prayer night will be Sunday, November 30 at 6:30-7:30 pm. The theme will be Thankful Reflection. You can pick up a handout in the church lobby.

Debbie Mitchell-Prayer Coordinator



Join House Fires for a game night on November 15 from 6:30-9:00 pm.. Friends are welcome! Optional, bring a snack to share.



Lance Mitchell

Christmas at Park Ridge



An advent reading plan will be available on
Sunday, November 30.

November and December Events

Watch the Monday emails and Sunday bulletins for event details.

- 11/22~9:00 am Men's breakfast at Olympia Restaurant
- 11/23~5:00 pm Hanging of the Greens
- 11/30~6:30 pm Prayer Night
- 12/5~7:30 pm Hilton Parma Gazebo Band Christmas Concert
- 12/6~12:00-4:00 pm Coat Drive
- 12/13~9:00 am Men's Breakfast at Olympia Restaurant
- 12/13~10:00 am Ladies cookie exchange at the church
- 12/17~6:30 pm Cookies, Cocoa & Carols
- 12/21~10:45 am All Church Brunch
- 12/24~6:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 12/26~9:00 am Men's breakfast at Olympia Restaurant





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 a beautiful time at LeTourneau Christian Center on Canandaigua Lake in October. We spent two nights and part of three days enjoying the beautiful view, the needed companionship and great food! We had lots of free time which we spent playing games, reading, taking walks, talking, playing games, shopping in Canandaigua or just napping.

In our devotion time we talked about the meaning of a 'retreat' and how it differs from 'rest', and the fact that retreat is meant to have a healing element to it, and so it matters a great deal WHERE we retreat TO. If we retreat to things that are empty and offer no real remedy, we find ourselves in the same state afterwards, as we were before retreating. However, if we retreat TO our Heavenly Father in prayer, to His Word, or to a brother or sister in Christ - we come away from our 'retreat' changed. Where we choose to 'retreat' in our day to day lives - - matters.

We had beautiful times of sharing and prayer and realized that we often share the same fears and anxieties - even about going on retreat!! We were all so blessed to have been there! We also spent hours singing, sometimes while playing games or puzzling and there were too many snacks to mention! We did not go hungry!!!!

The time spent was GLORIOUS, and we hope that more of you can join us the next time we go!!

11/16 11:30 am Baked Potato Lunch at PRFMC
12/13 10:00 am Christmas Cookie Exchange
Bring a couple dozen of your favorite cookie to exchange, and a plate of them to share. Guests are welcome!

*Joyce Jarvis and Pam Rende
Ladies Ministry Coordinators*



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 taking some time to rest and recover after visiting many churches, friends and family over the past few months. We are still preparing to leave for Vanuatu in January.

In the course of getting all of our medical and dental appointments taken care of, we found out that Esther has extra tooth that will need to be surgically removed, so please keep us in your prayers as we navigate that and hopefully get it taken care of soon.



Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our family and our Wycliffe ministry.

To support the Dorrs financially, please visit www.wycliffe.org/partner/TKDorr.

Ireland – Billy Swann and the Family Fellowship Ministry – We were excited to have Billy Swann as our guest on October 15th. Billy led the Wednesday night Bible study and gave an update on his work in the greater Dublin area. Please pray for Billy's ministry in and around Dublin.

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

Europe – Please continue to pray for Todd and Deanne Miller, our pastoral care couple for the Europe Area. Todd is still receiving treatment for a brain tumor discovered just a few months ago.

Africa – Please pray for peace and stability in the Ivory Coast and Cameroon. Both countries recently held national elections, and tensions are high. Pray the Church will be a source of light and peace during these days.

Middle East – Pastor "R" and his church in Jordan are sharing the love of Christ across cultures. Pray for this church as they bring the light and hope of Jesus to those most in need through schools, refugee educational programs and ministry centers.

Kirk Kettinger, International Missions Coordinator

Lunch Making Extravaganza Dates:
Wednesday, December 3rd @ 6:30pm
Sunday, December 7th @ 10:45am



Monthly Collection Items:
November - Hats & Gloves
December– Sweatshirts & Hoodies

Kevin Wood, coordinator

