



Chapel Chimes

727 T Street, Sacramento, CA • February 2024

Dear Friends,

A recent Washington Post article entitled 'Snow Days and Other Miracles' noted that, with climate change raising global temperatures, the thrill children get from a bonus day off from school due to a snowstorm may soon be no more. Alyssa Rosenberg reflected on a smaller but no less sad tragedy of global warming: the melting away of snow days. Many of us from colder regions can remember the fingers-crossed excitement of watching local TV news stations alphabetically list school closings-Yippeel! or delays-Better than nothing! across the bottom of the TV screen. Snow days were an unexpected gift of a day to go sledding with friends and warm up with cocoa afterwards. Or curl up with a great book, or watch game shows on TV. Parents weren't as enthused, for them snow days meant shoveling the driveway and scrambling to find daycare.

A few years ago during a snowstorm in Virginia, Dwight and I trekked 5 miles on country roads marveling at calendar-worthy snow-covered fields and barns. Until the snowy wind froze my eyelashes together, turning my oohs and aahs into owws. We trudged home and toasted our snowy feat (feet) with French Toast and oatmeal and raspberries. We inhaled our breakfast and watched the birds at the feeder do the same, their feathers puffed up against the storm.

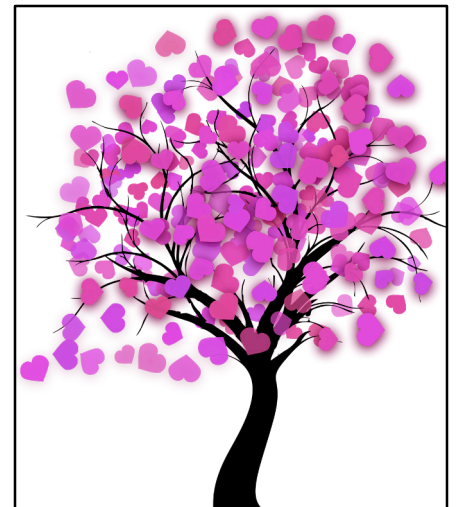
*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.
- Christina Rossetti*

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, so we canceled church that Sunday, which meant my normal Saturday night worship prep routine was canceled, too. I could watch a DVD. Or eat popcorn. Or eat popcorn while watching a DVD! Or read a book with a cat in my lap. I could stay up late since I didn't have to get up early to go to church on Sunday. My snow day options seemed endless!

Later on while making cocoa, I reviewed my notion of not 'having' to get up for church. I thought, "I don't 'have' to get up for church, I 'get' to get up for church. I love going to church!" Which works well, since I'm a pastor. But I've always loved going to church. One blizzardy winter weekend when I was a teen, my sister's boyfriend and I walked across town to church through falling snow. Whatever the weather, going to church has always been a way I have expressed my devotion to God.

Devotion is a word taken from the Latin *devotio* for "vow" or "total dedication." St. Francis de Sales, a seventeenth-century French clergyman writes, "Devotion is simply the fervor, affection and agility which we have in service of God." A devotional life is one lived in the presence of God. The world's religions teach us in an amazing variety of ways to practice devotion. To name just a few: Roman Catholics pray with a rosary. Buddhists meditate and chant. Protestants sing hymns. Indigenous dancers pray a Sun Dance. Orthodox Christians meditate on icons. Jews wrap themselves in a prayer shawl. Muslims make a pilgrimage. Spiritual traditions might encourage engaging in devotional acts like morning and evening prayers, saying grace over meals, dance, political protest, or giving gifts of chocolate candy.

Each year on February 14th, people exchange cards, candy, gifts, or flowers with their "valentine." Valentine's Day is named for a Christian martyr and dates back to the 5th century. One legend suggests St. Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young couples in secret.



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When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. By the Middle Ages, Valentine had become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Maybe this February 14th, in addition to buying a heart-shaped box of chocolates to give to someone you care about, or to enjoy yourself, a way to honor St. Valentine's devotion to God and to love, might be to ask ourselves, how do I show my devotion to God in my everyday life? Through the work you do, the friendships you nurture, the care you give to aging parents or a neighbor in need? In a quiet time in the early morning when you look out the window in wonder? A reflective time on the ride home from work? Some end-of-day sharing with children or grandchildren at bedtime?

I hope that you include worshiping regularly when you reflected on how you show your devotion to God. In our Presbyterian tradition, in worship we respond to God's grace and claim upon our lives. In worship we offer ourselves to God in gratitude, and are equipped for God's service in the world. Worship seeks to form the soul before God, aiming at nothing less than the transformation of the human heart.

Thanks be to God for God's devotion to us through the person and work of God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and our dearest Love.

- Pastor Sarah

Report from Session

At the January 11, 2024 meeting of Session, the following matters were reported, voted upon, and/or discussed:



- Elders' Ordination and Installation – This month, prospective Elder Jana Nakase-Lee will meet with Pastor Sarah for orientation and training and, thereafter, Jana will meet with current Elders who will interview her and vote to approve Jana as a member of Parkview's Session. If Jana is approved as an Elder, she will be ordained and installed on January 28. Donna Komure-Toyama and Gary Younglove will also be installed as Elders on that date;
- Parkview's 2024 Budget – Session voted to approve the budget for 2024. A decision on the funding for Mosaics (Davis Community Church) as a mission project will be deferred until more research can be completed;

- Repair of Furnace – Session voted to confirm an earlier email vote authorizing Authority Heat & Air to complete repairs on the furnaces without having to replace them. Repair costs not to exceed \$5,000;
- In addition, Authority has advised that it may be wise to replace the air conditioning unit now since the use of freon beginning in 2025 will be restricted;
- Session voted to authorize the expenditure of up to \$9,000 to replace the air conditioning unit if the need arises. Other bids can also be obtained. Session thanks Betsy Eskridge for referring Authority to us;
- Social Hall Lighting Update – Kudos given to William Yee and Jun Tang who worked to rewire and clean the existing light fixtures in the social hall, making for a much brighter space. Their efforts saved Parkview a substantial amount of money as replacement of the fixtures would have been very costly;
- Reverend Rola Al Ashkar – Pastor Sarah informed us that Rev. Rola, our former pastoral resident, has resigned her position at Westminster Presbyterian Church. After discussion, Session voted to offer Rola use of the Kansha house once repairs to the building are completed as appropriate;
- Safety and Security Grant Update – William Yee reported that the outdoor lighting will soon be installed. Session voted to approve the expenditure of up to \$7,500 for the purchase and installation of the lighting.

- Terri Bowman, Clerk of Session
Steve Hanway, Pattie Hashimoto,
Donna Komure-Toyama
Irene Uno, William Yee

Volunteer Spotlight: William Yee

Parkview is fueled by its volunteers, many working behind the scenes to keep the church going.

William currently serves as Session elder and on various worship teams. He is also a member of the Security and Safety team, working hard to get new fencing, lighting, and security cameras installed. He was recently spotted washing all the globes for the lights in the social hall while the lights were being rewired! Thanks, William, for all you do!



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Parkview Elder Ordination and Installation

Our role model for all leadership in the church is Jesus Christ. We understand leadership not in terms of power, but of service, as we follow Jesus' example of servant ministry. Our Presbyterian Book of Order says elders should be people of strong faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their lives should demonstrate the grace, hope, and faith of the Christian gospel, here in the church and out in the world. When elders are ordained and installed, the church family agrees to pray for its spiritual leaders and to respect their decisions.



During worship on January 28, Jana Nakase Lee was ordained to serve as an elder at Parkview. In ordination, the church sets with prayer and the laying on of hands upon those who have been called by God through the voice of the church and elected by the congregation to serve as spiritual leaders. Congratulations, Jana! Then, Jana, Donna Komure-Toyama and Gary Younglove were installed as elders in the Class of 2026. In installation, the church prays for those who have been ordained and are being called to serve on session. Donna and Gary have previously been ordained and served as elders at Parkview. Donna just completed a three-year term on session and will serve again. Gary is returning to serve on session. Thanks to each of you for answering God's call and agreeing to serve as elders at Parkview Church. We also offer our heartfelt thanks to elders Carla Hart and Steve Hanway, who completed three-year terms on session. We thank both Carla and Steve for the terrific jobs they did serving as spiritual leaders for this congregation.

- Submitted by Pastor Sarah

Rev. Rola Speaks on the Gaza-Israel War

Rev. Rola Al Ashkar's personal reflections on the war in Gaza during her presentation on January 28 were very moving. She has shared her PowerPoint presentation with us. [Click here](#) to view the presentation. Rev. Rola recommends charitable organizations at the end of the presentation in case anyone is interested in making a monetary donation.



Parkview's Getting in Shape!

Starting on January 14, worshipers and friends have been coming to Parkview to participate in Parkview's free fitness class! Pastor Sarah is leading the participants to increase their flexibility, agility, and mobility with moderate stretches, cardio, and some extras just for fun! All ages and abilities welcome. You must sign a waiver to participate. Wear comfortable clothes and sports shoes. Bring a yoga mat if you have one. Come join in the fitness fun! The next classes are scheduled for February 11 and 25 after worship service and will last about 45 minutes. [Click here](#) to view the slideshow from the first fitness class.



Holy Listening January 2024 – What We Heard

We had Holy Listening sessions at Parkview at noon and 5:30 on Wednesdays in January. We met in my office and spent a half hour in silent prayer. Then we talked about what we heard or experienced during the prayer time. We talked about how hard it is sometimes to quiet the chatter in our minds in order to listen to God. Others mentioned that the quiet time felt like a gift. It felt peaceful to be still and to rest in God's loving presence. Others heard from God with colorful visions that were detailed and meaningful. Some heard questions when they listened to God, and shared those with the group. God showed up in ways people hoped and also in surprising ways. It was quite an interesting experience to practice listening to God together. We encouraged each other to give up the anxious-making urge to "get this prayer-thing right" and instead trust that we were perfectly ready to



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receive whatever God had for us without doing anything more than sit and consent to be loved by our Creator. Together. “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Matthew 18:20

Submitted by Pastor Sarah

Ash Wednesday and Lent 2024

The Season of Lent, which begins this year with Ash Wednesday on February 14, is the forty days before Easter, minus the Sundays. Some Christian churches encourage fasting and repentance to observe Lent. This year February 14 is Ash Wednesday, and it's also Valentine's Day. So, this year we have to decide whether to give (or eat) a gift box of candy, or give it up for Lent? When was the last time Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day converged? In 2018. It will happen again in 2029, but that will be it for this century. The date of Ash Wednesday changes based on the date of Easter. Each year, Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox.

In the Presbyterian tradition, the season of Lent is about mindfulness, a time to pay attention to life and how we're living it. Lent allows us to recalibrate and ask, “Who are we as people, as a society? Who do we want to be?” “How can we care for each other and the world in transformative ways? Might Lent be a time for us to face our drivenness and our reliance on creature comforts (like chocolate candy)? A time to focus on what God has provided for us and for Parkview Church? A time to rest in God's presence and seek God's direction? How will you observe the season of Lent, this gift of time God gives the church to help us reflect on our lives?

- Submitted by Pastor Sarah



theology and spirituality, including “Ladder to the Light.” Charleston served as the Episcopal bishop of Alaska, the president and dean of the Episcopal Divinity School, and professor of systematic theology at Luther Seminary.

Born into an extended Native American family in rural Oklahoma, Rev. Charleston has tried for more than seventy years to be open to the messages of God's Spirit. His book, “Ladder to the Light,” is based on a spiritual vision Rev. Charleston had of climbing from darkness into light. Each rung of the ladder, each chapter of the book, contains spiritual wisdom for our journey of life. The rung of blessing, the rung of hope, and the rung of community, are some of the steps we will explore as together we journey from the winter darkness of Lent into the light of Easter.

Sacramento's Pride March 2024

Love is Love is Love! Sacramento's Pride March 2024 is on Sunday, June 9, so mark your calendars to save the date!

Last year, Parkview was for the first time an official parade entry, and we danced the odori “One Plus One” to the delight of the parade viewers. But our Parkview Presbyterian Church banner also had an impact! While standing and waiting for the march to begin, one passerby took a photo of the banner to send to her parent to show that God's love is blind to gender and sexual orientation. Later in their television coverage, Fox40 News misidentified us as “clergy members from Parkview Presbyterian Church,” but still, what a wonderful message we shared!

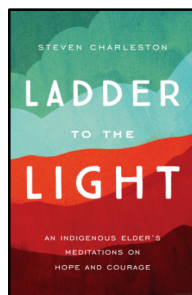
This year, we hope to have an even larger contingent of Parkview members and friends and plan to offer a rainbow of colors of hapi coats and Parkview Pride t-shirts to purchase, if desired. Please let Jana Nakase (jana_lab@yahoo.com) know if you are interested in participating this year as a dancer, a walker, or waiting at Parkview to share lunch fellowship when the parade participants return. Please let her know as soon as possible, so that she and Kris can start organizing the Parkview parade wear. Thank you!

- Submitted by Jana Nakase



Coming to Parkview: Lent 2024

Please join me during Sundays in Lent for my sermon series called “Ladder to the Light.” This series is based on the book of the same name by Rev. Steven Charleston. He is a leading voice of justice for Indigenous peoples, spiritual renewal, and the environment. A member of the Choctaw Nation, Rev. Charleston is a retired Episcopal bishop who wrote more than a dozen books on



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A Smile and a Bowl of Udon, Recap #1

Our long-awaited udon fundraiser by the Mariners took place on February 4, in the middle of a weather forecast for an atmospheric river accompanied by gusty winds. Despite that, 160 bowls of hearty udon bowls were sold, and our social hall became a wonderfully warm place. 100 to-go packages were mostly prepared on Saturday with the help of Judy Fukuman, Miko Kumagai, Irene Uno, and Linda Yasumura. Lois Van Beers was such a graceful and powerful organizer of the logistics of this event. Judy Fukuman's itemized shopping list was immensely helpful. I appreciate Jonathan Sakakibara for all his help.

What a joyful moment it was when I heard "oishii (delicious)!!" everywhere and noticed some people even drinking up the broth! Cathy Nishizaki's yellow flower vases added joy, and the dessert table full of homemade sweets was amazing. Then Kishwer Vikaas, Ben Pryor, and many others stood up and cleaned up the whole place like magic! Parkview is an awesome place full of gratitude. Patty Hashimoto took care of the tickets, and Sakura Chorus members Hideko Davis, Taeko Houston, Miko Kumagai, Izumi Jones, Yumiko Swann, Shiomi Wilson, and Sachiko Yoshikawa added mighty additional support for the event. Keiko Kagami and Miyo Uchida regretfully stayed home because of the weather.

Thank you to Carla Hart, Dave McGill, Donna Komure-Toyama, Hideko, Judy F., Julie Chew, Irene, Linda Y., Luda Wright, Mieko Davis, Miko Kumagai, Nami Fong, Taeko Houston, and Yumiko Swann for waking up early Sunday morning and boiling lots of noodles, and to Cathy, Dave, Donna, Julie, Lori Hart, Miko, and Taeko for taking up the challenge of preparing "cleanly peeled boiled eggs." Oranges supplied by Linda & Bill Nagata, Yumiko Swann, Linda & Hach Yasumura, and Diane & Gary Younglove were very tasty. The desserts by Dave, Jana Nakase, Luda Wright, Judy F., and Mieko, made for many happy smiles! Also, thank you to Terri Bowman, Lori, Dave, and choir members for helping set-up. Kris Sazaki's ticket and flyer designs were very nice. Thank you to Pastor Sarah for cutting oranges with us during the busy Sunday morning. Our Parkview Team made another jolly event together.

- Submitted by Haruko Sakakibara



Go to <https://parkviewpc.org/2024/02/05/a-smile-and-a-bowl-of-udon/> to view more photos from the Udon Fundraiser.

Photos courtesy of Maurine Huang

A Smile and a Bowl of Udon, Recap #2

On Sunday, the Mariners held a fun and successful fundraiser. Emphasizing the Japanese heritage of our church, Haruko Sakakibara made udon (noodle soup), using authentic natural flavoring with kombu (dried kelp) and bonito flakes. Building community, the entire church worked together to create a festive atmosphere for the enjoyment of our soup together. The week before, many church members volunteered their time to prep for this event. Haruko enlisted the members of her Sakura Chorus to prepare the ingredients. Mariners and many other Parkview members volunteered to prepare and cut eggs, slice green onions, prepare age (fried tofu), and pick and cut oranges. We created a welcoming setting in which we could enjoy udon together in the social hall.

Over on the sidelines, we had 100 to-go bags filled with broth, noodles, and toppings for udon to enjoy at home. Altogether our small but mighty church made 160 servings of udon and enjoyed our fellowship together.

- Submitted by Lois Van Beers

Financial Report as of January 31, 2024:

	January	Total Yr 2024
Income:	\$8,766.65	\$8,766.65
Expenses:	\$13,592.73	\$13,592.73
Difference:		(\$4,826.08)

Upcoming Events

Worship with Us In Person or Online:

You can find login info for worship and Zoom meetings as well as worship programs at <https://parkviewpc.org/>.

Feb 10: Lunar New Year. Welcome the year of the Wood Dragon!

Feb 11: Worship Service. 10 am.

Worship Leader: Carla Hart

Japanese Reader: Michael Wright

Pianist: Haruko Sakakibara

Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Lois Van Beers

Sound System: Dave McGill

Parking: Dave McGill

Parking Barriers (Sat): Jonathan Sakakibara

Ushers: Donna Komure-Toyama, Lynn Yamamoto

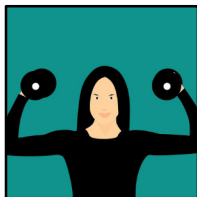
Greeters: Judy Fukuman, Diane Younglove

Altar Flowers: Betsy Eskridge & Lois Van Beers

YES: Julie Chew

Feb 11: Free Fitness Class. 11:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Get Fit! Keep Fit! Come join in the fitness fun!



Feb 13: Bible Study. 6 pm via Zoom.

Feb 14: Ash Wednesday.

May your Ash Wednesday be a time of reflection and promise. Read page 4 for more information.



Feb 14: Choir Practice. 7 pm in the social hall.

Feb 15: Pastor Sarah at Conference. Thru Feb 17.

Feb 19: PPC Legacy Meeting. 7 pm via Zoom.

Feb 18: Worship Service. 10 am.

Worship Leader: Titus Toyama

Japanese Reader: Janet Hill

Pianist: Janet Hill

Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Aki Kumagai

Sound System: Lois Van Beers

Parking: Phillip Chew

Parking Barriers (Sat): Titus Toyama

Ushers: Diane Younglove, Gary Younglove

Greeters: Tia Kilpatrick, Irene Uno

Altar Flowers: Phillip & Julie Chew

Coffee Time: Judy Fukuman, Cathy Nishizaki, Miyo Uchida

Feb 18: Kris on Vacation. Thru Feb 23.

Feb 20: Bible Study. 6 pm via Zoom.

Feb 21: Choir Practice. 7 pm in the social hall.

Feb 25: Worship Service. 10 am.

Worship Leader: Liam Wright

Japanese Reader: Aki Kumagai

Pianist: Haruko Sakakibara

Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Judy Yee

Sound System: Titus Toyama

Parking: Carl Odell

Parking Barriers (Sat): Neil Matsuoka

Ushers: Betsy Eskridge, Carla Hart

Greeters: Pattie Hashimoto,

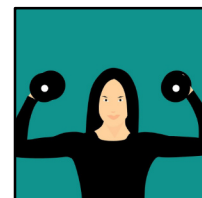
Gary Younglove

Altar Flowers: Cathy Nishizaki

YES: Lynn Yamamoto

Feb 25: Free Fitness Class. 11:30 am - 12:15 pm.

Get Fit! Keep Fit! Come join in the fitness fun!



Feb 25: Monthly Bible Study. 12:30 pm in the pastor's office.

Upcoming Events

Feb 27: No Bible Study. Pastor Sarah on vacation.

Feb 28: Choir Practice. 7 pm in the social hall.

Mar 3: Worship Service. 10 am.

Guest Preacher: Rev. Kim Nelson

Worship Leader: Christine Umeda

Communion Elders: Christine Umeda,
Herning Grissom

Japanese Reader: Miyo Uchida

Pianist: Haruko Sakakibara

Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Lois Van Beers

Sound System: Tom Tambara

Parking: Gary Younglove

Parking Barriers (Sat): Titus Toyama

Ushers: Terri Bowman, Julie Chew

Greeters: Bill Grissom, Herning Grissom

Altar Flowers: Stan & Christine Umeda

Mar 3: Newsletter Deadline. 5 pm. Please note this special date due to Kris' vacation. Email photos and/or articles (350 word max.) to officemanager@parkviewpc.org.

Mar 5: No Bible Study. Pastor Sarah on vacation.

Mar 5: Prayer Team Meeting. 7:15 pm.

Mar 6: Choir Practice. 7 pm in the social hall.

Mar 10: Daylight Savings Time Begins. 2 am.

Mar 13: Worship Team Meeting. 5:20 pm via Zoom.

Mar 14: Session Meeting. 1 pm in the social hall.

Mar 17: PPW Installation Luncheon. After worship service.



All of Parkview congregation are invited to the PPW Installation Potluck luncheon, with a special photographic presentation by Bill Nagata featuring "North to Jasper and the Canadian Rockies." Please join us and bring a main dish, salad, fruit, dessert, or any of your favorite foods to share. If interested, please email Carol Sakai at hawaiianlcsn@gmail.com with your name, number of people in your party, and dish you are planning on sharing.



Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for the following events. Details to follow in weekly emails and/or the newsletter.

- Mar 20: Mr. Rogers Day
- Mar 24: Palm Sunday
- Mar 29: Good Friday
- Mar 31: Easter Sunday
- Apr 28: Sakura Chorus concert
- May 08: Kris in Berlin thru June 06
- June 09: Pride Parade
- June 23: Summerfest



Thank You for Your Support!

Many thanks to all of you who contribute to Parkview through your generous pledged offerings! Additionally, thanks so much to the following for their generous special donations. Acknowledgment letters and postings in the *Chapel Chimes* may be in reverse order. Thank you for your patience. Contact officemanager@parkviewpc.org with any questions.

General: Scott & Heather (Komure) Chan, Paula Fujiwara, Donald Kishi, Sakura Chorus

In Memory of George Matsuoka: Neil Matsuoka & Kris Sazaki

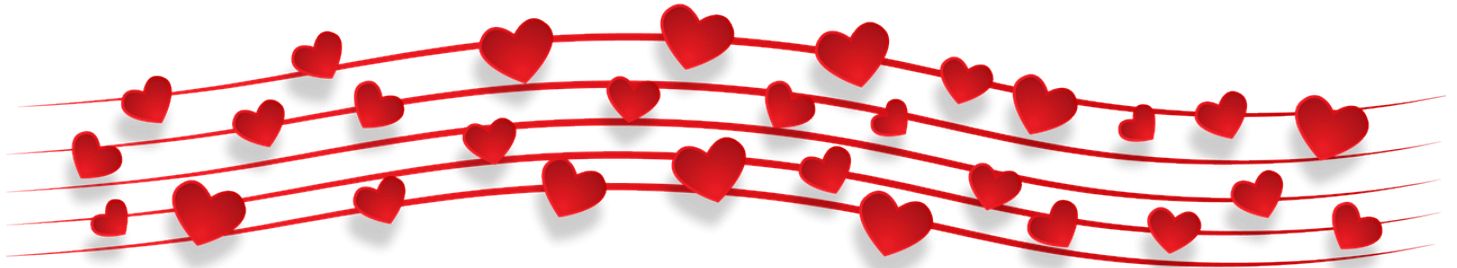
In Memory of Zee Wong (Marilyn Champa's Sister): Carla Hart

In Support of the Parkview Choir: Dave McGill

In Support of the Udon Sale: William & Judy Yee

Thanksgiving Offering: Kevin & Sylvia (Ryugo) Campbell, Brian & Leah (Fujiwara) Kanegawa

Christmas Offering: Dave McGill, Bill & Linda Nagata



How to Donate:



In Person. You may drop off your donation during worship service.

By Mail. Make checks payable to Parkview Presbyterian Church. Please do not send cash.

Online. Please go to <https://www.parkviewpc.org/>, click on the "Support Parkview" tab, and select "General Fund." Use the Notes section to provide additional information about your donation, i.e. "in memory of" or "xx fund." You can use a credit card or bank transfer; donate one time only or set up regular donations. Thank you for your generosity.