



*From the Pastor's pen...*

It's 2023 - a new year!

I love having the clean slate of a new year, being grateful to let go of any unpleasant memories of the previous year and focus on what may come in the next twelve months. No matter what, I felt God's presence throughout the year - in the midst of joy, sadness, fun, and pain. And for His omnipresence, I am grateful. I hope you are, too.

Reflecting on 2022, we have seen so many prayers answered by our awesome God! While I am looking at the most current "Answered Prayer" page from my prayer journal, here is a sampling:

- In July, Tim and Kellie Dorr met the minimum financial goal that Wycliffe required for them to begin language school. Oh, and they passed their final exams in language school in December!!!
- Noah Alessi (son of Mark and Evie) found a new job!
- Jim Ciurca's muscle spasms were minimized!
- Joe Ciurca (Jim's brother) is now cancer-free!
- Ethel Polinski (Jill Romberg's mother) recovered from hip surgery!
- Tom Rende recovered from pneumonia; and then, he and Pam recovered from Covid and/or the flu!
- Earl Bassett (Wendy Strong's dad) was released home to continue his recovery from several health issues!
- A young adult ministry launched at Park Ridge!
- Marie (relative of Lance & Debbie Mitchell) recovered from Covid!
- The tumor is gone from Tracy Davis' heel!
- Carolyn Stiffler's headaches ceased!
- Garland and Susan Solt recovered from Covid!
- And though we miss her, Paula Pye made a peaceful transition to her eternal home!

This is by no means an exhaustive list of all the prayers God answered for the friends and family members of Park Ridge. If you want to be a part of all the wonderful ways the people of Park Ridge are involved in prayer, contact Debbie Mitchell, Prayer Coordinator, at [debsdaycare83@yahoo.com](mailto:debsdaycare83@yahoo.com).

***"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6).***

*Pastor Merry*



*From Debbie Mitchell, Prayer Coordinator*

*The roles of the Park Ridge prayer ministry and how you can become involved.*

First and foremost is our corporate prayer time held on the last Sunday evening of each month 6:30-7:30 pm. We average about 15-20 participants and spend time focusing on different prayer topics. We have had a night of prayer for healing, a night of prayers of Thanksgiving, a night of intercessory prayer, a night of prayer for our towns, states and nation, a night of prayer over concerns for the Ukraine. We pray individually, together as a whole and together in small groups. If you've never been a part of this ministry option come check it out. Several have shared how these prayer nights are highlights for them and that they have felt more comfortable reaching out to others when they are in need of prayer.

Next we have the prayer chain which uses email to reach the congregation and alert them of prayers needed and shares answers to prayer. We also have a Facebook group for women called Park Ridge Women of Faith, where prayer requests are shared and the women are able to support and encourage one another by checking in regularly.

On an individual level, there are several roles that one can take on in the prayer ministry. They are briefly described here:

**Special Events Team-** those interested on being part of this team are called upon when there are important decisions to be made by the board, when Pastor asks for special prayer for a service or other ministry needs. This team prays for a specific time period depending on the need.

**The Guardians-** these people of prayer are assigned one week a month ( for example, the first week of each month) to arrive early to church and pray over the church property, the building and classrooms used, the Pastor, the worship team, the tech team and the equipment. They pray for safety, good working condition of equipment and that the Holy Spirit would work in powerful ways through Pastor, the worship team and the fellowship. There are several assigned each week and they may pray together or individually and they may pray in one spot or pray walking around the property and within the building.

**Ninja Prayer Warriors-** This team involves individuals committed to prayer for others in the service during the service. They sit with their families and friends and using a journal pray for those they see in the service and for the pastor and worship team. No one knows they are part of this prayer team and therefore the name "Ninja" prayer warriors as they are stealth. Each Sunday there are 3 or 4 Ninja prayer warriors seated throughout the sanctuary. They also are assigned one Sunday a month similar to The Guardians. Several Ninja prayer warriors have shared they feel more connected to their church family as a result and they find they get more out of the messages on their weeks. Some Ninjas go to the balcony so they can better see each one and pray over them.

If you are interested in being a part of one, several or all of these prayer opportunities contact the office and I will reach out to you. For those who are already part of this ministry and you have suggestions on other teams that could be developed or ways to tweak the team you are on please talk to me after church, email me at [debsdaycare83@yahoo.com](mailto:debsdaycare83@yahoo.com) or text me at 585-773-4590. I want to experience all that God has for us through the power of prayer so no idea or tweak is too big or too small.

## Happenings in the Life of Our Church

### *Ladies Ministry*

On November 5 the ladies fellowship met for a **“death by chocolate”** event. We talked about the importance of fellowship between women and ate some great sweets! On December 10 we enjoyed at **“Christmas cookie exchange”**, lots of laughter and great conversation and we were reminded that Christ’s yoke is easy! Just doing what He has called us to do is enough! On January 14 at 11:00 AM at the church we’ll meet to **“get ‘er done!”** Bring an unfinished project (or two) to work on and well enjoy each other’s company once again! Lunch will be provided. I hope you can join us!!



A very, merry Christmas breakfast was enjoyed by 30 people on Christmas morning!

