

FIRST (PARK) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

October 13, 2024



Order of Worship for October 13, 2024

Gathering, Centering, Announcements - 10:15am

Sanctuary Worship - 10:30am

Gathering Music Phyllis Ann Miner, organ

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle

Blessing of the Children and Youth Peter Smith

The Invitation to Worship and the Ringing of the Chimes Reading Responsively

One: Friends, if ever there was a time when we need light, it is now.

All: **If ever there was a people who need wisdom, it is us.**

One: If ever there were a place where hope needed to be born, it is in the temple of our hearts.

All: **The work of your hands surrounds us, the miracle of grace and kindness confronts us. God of Hope, come be present in our worship.**

Prelude Smith-Dively Ringers
Kurt Stroh, director
Grazioso
Arnold Sherman

+ Invocation Reading in Unison
Lori Henry-Hutchings, liturgist

**God of Hope,
we come into your presence this morning
with confidence that your spirit is here,
where two or more or gathered.**

**Where there is sadness, bring joy;
where there is tiredness, bring refreshment;
where there is despair, bring a renewed sense of hope.**

Let this place be a sanctuary, a safe haven for us,
a home for holy words and songs and prayers
where our hope for ourselves, our loved ones, our world is restored. Amen

+ Hymn of Praise - No. 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

Tune: CWM RHONDDA

Stewardship Moment

Imagine Together: *A Community of Belonging*

Libby Wahlstrom

Scripture Reading

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Lori Henry-Hutchings, liturgist

Then Job replied:

I am still bitter in my complaint-

God's hand is heavy, despite all my groaning.

If only I knew where to find the Almighty,

so I could approach the Judgment Seat!

I would make my case to God,

and expound my best arguments in my defense.

But I would also benefit by hearing the answers,

and get a grip on what is behind all this.

Would God get on a high horse in debating with me?

No, God would give me the chance to state my case!

There an upright person could make such a convincing case

that I would be delivered forever from my Judge.

But if I go east, God isn't there; if I go west, I find nothing.

When God is working up north, I can see no one;

when God turns south, I don't even catch a glimpse.

The Most High makes my heart sink,

and makes my body shake in terror.

Even so, I'm not silenced by the darkness

nor by the deep gloom that covers my face.

One: The Word of God for the People of God...

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Peter Smith
Spiritual Formation & Education Minister

Meditation

Phyllis Ann Miner, organ
Interlude
Douglas E. Wagner

Prayers of the People and Our Savior's Prayer

concluding, the congregation prays in unison:

**...Our Father/Mother/God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our
debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response

The Chancel Choir
How Long, O Lord?
Christopher Norton

*How long, O Lord, will you forget
an answer to my prayer?
No tokens of your love I see;
your face is turned away from me;
I wrestle with despair!*

*How long, O Lord? But you forgive
with mercy from above.
I find that all your ways are just;
I learn to praise you and to trust
in your unfailing love!*

(Text from Psalm 13)

Invitation to Generosity and Stewardship

*With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings;
shall I come before Him with yearling calves?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul.*

He has shown unto you, he has shown you what is good.

*And what does the Lord require of you,
but to do justice and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

+ Doxology

Praise God, From Who All Blessings Flow
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Praise God in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Amen.**

+ Prayer of Dedication

Reading in Unison

**Loving God, may our gifts this day and our very lives bring hope to the
hopeless, shelter to the unhoused, food to the hungry, company to the
lonely, and comfort to the hurting. Amen.**

+ Hymn - No. 830

It Is Well With My Soul
Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE

Let us now go forth into the world in peace; being of good courage; holding fast to that which is good; rendering to no one evil for evil; strengthening the faint hearted; supporting the weak; helping the afflicted; honoring all people; loving and serving the Lord and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Postlude

Phyllis Ann Miner, organ
Trumpet Voluntary
Gordon Young

We welcome Evan Snyder to his new capacity as Choral Resident at Park Church! Evan has served as a Choral Scholar and was a guest soloist for our production of *Considering Matthew Shepard*. As a Choral Resident, Evan will continue his role as Tenor I Choral Scholar while also working with the Minister of Music to build his conducting skills and to assist with administrative and rehearsal tasks. Evan is a proud graduate of Michigan State University, holding degrees in composition, music theory, and voice. He recently completed a year-long fellowship in opera composition in London.

The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the Altar

In loving memory of Robert Kuyers.
Given by his wife, Nancy.

The flowers at the Pulpit

In memory of Robert Metzger.
Given by his family.

The flowers on the Children's Altar

In honor of all the children.
Given by Kathy Miller.

If you would like to dedicate Sanctuary flowers, email Marcia Streeter. mabiti1@gmail.com

Thank you for joining us this morning!

We'd like to know that you were here, answer any questions you have, and support you in prayer. Please fill out the information card and place it in the offering plate. in

Following Worship

Coffee Fellowship in Allinder Commons

The Youth Group meets in the third floor youth room (Lunch is provided)

P.O.P. Table: Purchase tickets to Voctave and Music at Midday information

Decorate a Kids' Food Basket bag.

TONIGHT at 7:30: Great American Voices Presents *Voctave*. Tickets are \$25.00 (\$10.00 for students) and available after the service today and at the door tonight.

Pastor Darryl will be out of the office for a planned vacation and a time for spiritual renewal Friday, October 11 - Saturday, October 19. Please note: There is no Bible Study on Oct. 16 or Men's Discussion Group on Oct. 17. Pastoral care remains available. Please contact the office at 616-459-3203 or office@parkchurchgr.org.

Joys and Concerns

Please pray for those navigating illness/treatment including: Ron Bickel, John Duiven, Jane Hackbardt, Kurt Myers, Liz Taylor, and Mike VanDuinen.

Remember our young people away at college including: Luke Barnum, Laura DeBoer, Mallory Hagemann, Lily Kugler, and Jack O'Malley.

Remember those serving in the military including: Jesse Campbell, Devon Goetz, Andy MacGregor, and Matthew Quick.

World Communion Sunday Bread Sale

Thank you to everyone who baked and to everyone who bought! The bread sale brought in \$379.00 for the mission work of Park Church Women. We appreciate your generosity and hope you enjoyed your delicious purchases!

Church-Wide Harvest Potluck **Sunday, October 27 following worship**

After worship, join us in Merriam Hall for a church-wide Harvest Potluck where we will be able to fellowship with our new members. The main dish is provided. You are welcome to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share if you would like to...but there is NO need to bring anything in order to participate. The meal is available to everyone.

EVERYONE COUNTS at Park Church. Our Second Annual Park Church Count Day is Sunday, October 27 and we want to count you!

- if you sing in the choir or greet in the parking lot,
- if you are a snowbird or take summers off,
- if you have been here for generations or for the very first time,
- if you are a Little Lamb, a Park Church Woman, or a Deacon,
- if you teach in the Worship Center or Youth Group,
- if you watch services online...

YOU COUNT!

“Count von Count” will be visiting from his home on Sesame Street to be our very special guest greeter. He has generously offered to donate \$1.00 to Kids’ Food Basket for every person present. Today and next week we will have Lunch bags available to color. These bags will then be given to the Kid’s food basket to put Sack Suppers in. All supplies will be available for you to write encouraging words and color happy pictures. No matter who you are, where you are on life’s journey, or whether you join us in-person, online, or in spirit...**YOU COUNT!**

Music at Midday Tuesdays at 12:15pm from October 8 - December 3 **a free community concert series in downtown Grand Rapids.**

October 15: Robert Edwards, classical piano

October 22: Dr. Chris Dekker, organ

October 29: Judy VanderWeg, cello and Robert Byrens, piano

An optional \$7.00 lunch (11:15am - 1:15pm) is available before or after the concert. Soups, sandwiches, beverages, and cookies are served.

Veteran's Day Weekend Community Breakfast & Lunch
Saturday, November 9: Breakfast at 9:45 and Lunch at 12:00
Volunteers needed 9:00-3:00



We are providing a delicious free breakfast and lunch to our friends and neighbors in the Heartside community and we need your help to prepare and serve the meals. We will honor those who have served in the Armed Forces and raise awareness of the many challenges facing our unhoused veterans. During this drop in event, on the hour, we will recognize and thank our veterans and collect an offering to benefit specific veteran's organizations.

You can volunteer to greet, host, prepare food, serve, and wash dishes. There are three shifts during the day and it is important to fully staff each of them. More information will be in future Congregationalists and bulletins. You can sign up now using the QR code or by calling the office (616)459-3203.

From the United Church of Christ
Hurricane Disaster Relief Appeal

The impact of Hurricane Helene is widespread and devastating, as more than 100 people have been confirmed dead, over 2 million people are without power, and damages are estimated to be over \$140 billion. We know of two UCC congregations on Florida's Gulf Coast whose church buildings suffered significant flood damage, and another building that experienced structural damage from high winds. We continue to be in touch with our Southern, Southeast, and Florida Conferences as they work to contact local congregations and become aware of their needs.

The United Church of Christ has a long history of supporting communities as they recover from disaster well after their plight fades from the headlines. As we continue to pray for and respond to those who have experienced unimaginable loss this past week, please consider a gift to the Hurricane Helene Recovery Appeal. Your gifts matter. This is something you can do to help alleviate suffering, rebuild homes, and restore communities. Your gifts will make a difference to those who are struggling during these difficult times and enable needed assistance as we stand with impacted communities in the years ahead. Visit www.ucc.org for more information.

Coming up at Park Church

- Mon. Oct. 14** at 9:00am Cooking for Degage at Park
- Tues. Oct. 15** at 11:00am Serving lunch at Degage
at 12:15pm Music at Midday: Robert Edwards, piano
- Wed. Oct. 16** at 1:00pm Allinder Ten meeting
at 7:00pm Bible Study does NOT meet this week
- Thurs. Oct. 17** at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group does NOT meet this week
at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal
at 6:30pm Parkmeisters rehearsal
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Fri. Oct. 18** at 9:00am Cooking for Degage at Park
- Sat. Oct. 19** at 7:00am Serving breakfast at Degage
- Sun. Oct. 20** at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship
at 9:00 Beyond Religion Book Study
at 9:30 Carol Choir rehearsal in the Children's Worship Center
at 9:30 Chapel Choir rehearsal in the 3rd floor youth choir room
Continental breakfast before worship/coffee fellowship after worship
Confirmation Class meets after worship
P.O.P. Table: Decorate a Kids' Food Basket bag.
- Mon. Oct. 21** The office is closed for staff development.
- Tues. Oct. 22** at 12:15pm Music at Midday: Dr. Christopher Dekker, organ
- Wed. Oct. 23** at 4:30pm Mobile Food Pantry
at 7:00pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew (zoom link available)
- Thurs. Oct. 24** at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group
at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Updated Office Hours

The church office is open to the public Monday - Thursday from 9:00am- 3:00pm. Should you need to visit the office outside of those hours, please make an appointment or call ahead to make sure staff is available. The building is generally staffed the entire day, but advance notice will ensure you are able to park and get into the building without delay. Email (office@parkchurchgr.org) and voice mails (616-459-3202) are monitored 24/7 with priority given to pastoral care concerns.

From Park Church Women:

Fall 2024 Thank Offering - ongoing through November 13

The Park Church Women invite all of the women of the church to participate in the annual Fall Thank Offering. All money collected will be distributed to benefit various organizations serving the community beyond the walls of Park Church. Contributions in the amount of your choosing can be turned in at your Ten meetings or directly to the church office by November 13. Please mark to the attention of Marcia Hammontree.

Serving With You Today

Ushers: Mike Mitchell, captain; Jan Edwards, Jeff Liggett, Janet Mitchell,
Gary VanderHeiden, Bob Wolford

Parking Lot Greeter: Kevin Larr

Greeters: Eileen Larr, Kris Tuszynski, Carrie Corbin

Carol Choir: Cheryl Wells

Chapel Choir: Heidi Hertel

Sound: Sam Johnson-Begay

Video: Kevin Arnett

Flower Care: Marcia Bishop



Degage Volunteer
sign up



We are an Open and Affirming Congregation

No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

Ministerial and Office Staff:

Rev. Darryl Kistler, Senior Minister

dkistler@parkchurchgr.org

Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle, Minister of Music

pcoyle@parkchurchgr.org

Peter Smith, Spiritual Formation & Education Minister

psmith@parkchurchgr.org

Terrie Hunter, Congregational Life Coordinator

thunter@parkchurchgr.org

Gene Gess, Finance Director

ggess@parkchurchgr.org

Camille DeBoer, Communications Coordinator

cdeboer@parkchurchgr.org

Tim Persenaire, Lead Custodian

tpersenaire@parkchurchgr.org

Marty Butler, Parish Life Assistant

mbutler@parkchurchgr.org

Phyllis Ann Miner, Events Coordinator

pminer@parkchurchgr.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 3:00

10 E Park Pl. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503



Access the online donor and
payment portal by using the
camera on your phone and
clicking the link that appears.

616-459-3203

office@parkchurchgr.org

www.parkchurchgr.org

www.facebook.com/parkchurchgr

The wifi password is parkchurchguest.