

FIRST (PARK) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

October 20, 2024 ~ The Children's Sabbath



Order of Worship for October 20, 2024

The Children's Sabbath

Gathering, Centering, Announcements - 10:15am

Sanctuary Worship - 10:30am

Gathering Music

Phyllis Ann Miner

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Darryl Kistler

Blessing of the Children and Youth

The Invitation to Worship and the Ringing of the Chimes

Reading Responsively

One: Come worship our God the Creator who made each child in God's image!

All: **We will praise our Creator by recognizing each child's sacred worth.**

One: Come follow the Christ who blessed the children!

All: **We will walk with Christ by being a blessing to children in need.**

One: Come be transformed by the Holy Spirit who moves among us!

All: **We will open ourselves to the Holy Spirit by working for mercy and justice.**

One: Come let us worship God!

Prelude

Steven B. Smith

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

John Behnke

+ Invocation

Reading in Unison

Katie Bradley, liturgist

In this sacred time of worship, O God, as we lift our songs, offer our prayers, and hear your Good News, tug on our hearts, like a child tugging a parent's sleeve. Whisper in our ear, like a child sharing an important secret. Clamor for our attention, like a young one who can't wait any longer. Redirect our sights, like a child pointing out a wonder we almost missed. Do not let us miss your blessing for us, nor miss your call on our lives, we pray. Amen.

+ Hymn of Praise - No. 487

These Treasured Children
Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Stewardship Moment

Imagine Together: *A Community Where All Children are Fed*
Tamara VanderArk-Potter
Kids' Food Basket

Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 4:1-8
Katie Bradley, liturgist

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

The Parkmeisters
The Invitation
Craig Courtney

*Come, you who thirst, come to the water,
and you who have nothing, come by and eat.*

Come to me.

*Seek me while I may be found;
call on me while I am near.*

~ Isaiah 55:1,6

Sermon

Pastor Darryl

Meditation

Steven B. Smith, organ
Paraphrase on "Jesus Loves Me"

Robert Hebble

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

As a Child Rests

Christopher Walker

As a child rests in its mother's arms, so will I rest in you.

As a child rests in its mother's arms, so will I rest in you.

My God, I trust in you.

You care for me, you give me peace.

~Text from Psalm 131

Invitation to Generosity and Stewardship

Offertory Music

The Chancel Choir

Come By Here

Kyle Pederson

Come by here, my Lord, come by here;

O Lord, come by here.

Someone's prayin', Lord...

Someone's cryin', Lord...

*In the morning, Lord; in the evening, Lord,
In my waking, Lord; in my sleeping, Lord, You are here.
In my pleading, waiting, caring, loving, grieving,
You are here.*

*In my longing, falling, hiding, rising,
In my healing, aching, laughing, praising,
In my seeking, finding, breathing, dying,
Lord, You are here.*

+ 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 Responsively

One: In a world where children hunger and starve, where they sicken and die, where they face bullets and bombs, where they know the exile of prison and refugee camp, help us protect and defend them, we pray:

All: Lord, bless these gifts that they may be an answer to a child's prayer.

One: For ourselves and our community, that we let our eyes weep over injustice, our hearts burn with determination, our voices speak out to demand change, and our hands move to make a difference, we pray:

All: Lord, bless our voices that they may be an answer to a child's prayer.

One: For our nation's more than 16 million children in poverty, that we use what we have and who we are to empower and raise up the next generation, we pray:

All: Lord, bless us and our ministries that we may be an answer to a child's prayer. Amen.

+ Hymn - No. 377

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Tune: HOUSTON

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

Steven B. Smith, organ
This Little Light of Mine
John Behnke

The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the Altar

In honor of Matthew Myers' birthday.
Given by Kurt and Cindy Myers.

The flowers on the Children's Altar

In honor of our granddaughter's, Emma Elizabeth Tilley, birthday.
Given by Jim and Nancy Beaver.

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.

Following Worship

Coffee Fellowship in Allinder Commons

Confirmation Class meets after worship

P.O.P. Table: Decorate a Kids' Food Basket bag.

Joys and Concerns

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

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.

Pastoral care is always available. Contact Pastor Darryl at dkistler@parkchurchgr.org.

Thank you to everyone who made time to donate blood at our Fall Blood Drive. And thank you for your patience as the Versiti staff was challenged by being short handed. In a Park Church record setting day, 7 of you were first time donors and 72 recipients will benefit from the 28 units donated!

The stewardship campaign for 2025 is underway. If you haven't received the letter from Pastor Darryl this week, you can find a copy in the Narthex. Pledge materials will be sent out shortly. Additionally, you will hear from speakers in the worship services about the role of stewardship in our evolving relationships with our community. Prayerfully consider how you can continue to support the work of Park Church financially in the coming year. November 10 is Stewardship Sunday. That's when we will ask you for an estimate of giving which will help us craft a responsible budget for 2025. Please note: The mission budget is dependent on your response as is it 12% of pledges received.

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 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 22: Dr. Chris Dekker, organ

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

November 5: Dr. Julia Brown, organ

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. You can sign up now using the QR code above, by clicking the link in the Congregationalist, or by calling the office (616)459-3203.

Lunch and Learn: with Carol Dodge
The Mayor, the Maestro, and the Mansion
Sunday, November 10 after worship

Perhaps you have passed the Sweet House, former home of the Women's City Club, on your way down Fulton to church. Did you know the name, Sweet House, was the home of Martin Sweet, former member of Park Church? Martin and his wife, Desdemona, were prominent members of Park, contributing \$3,000 in 1868 for the construction of our present building. Besides his relationship with to Park, Martin was a prominent businessman, owner of the Sweet Hotel on the present site of the Amway Grand Plaza, and a former Mayor.

Carol Dodge, former Park Member and President of the Women's City Club has published a wonderful book on the life of Martin Sweet and the history of the house, now an event space managed by the Sweet House Foundation, and the location of Pastor Darryl's and Tammie's wedding reception. Carol will join us for an informative lunch and learn in the small dining room after church on Sunday, November 10. There is no cost to attend, and Carol will have books for sale. If you have questions, contact Fritz Crabb, Park Historian, at fritz.crabb@gmail.com.

Coming up at Park Church

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

Sun. Oct. 27 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship - COUNT DAY!

New Member Sunday and Church-wide Harvest Potluck

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

P.O.P Table: Meet Count von Count and sign up to be a greeter!

Church-wide Harvest Potluck in Merriam Hall

Tues. Oct. 29 at 12:15pm Music at Midday:

Judy VanderWeg, cello; Robert Byrens, piano

Wed. Oct. 30 at 7:00pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew (zoom link available)

Thurs. Oct. 31 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group

at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal

at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sun. Nov. 3 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship - All Saints Sunday

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

Youth Group meets in the 3rd floor youth room (lunch provided)

Holiday Bazaar, Pie Sale, and Hanging of the Greens Sunday, November 24 after worship

The Park Church Bazaar will take place on November 24 after the worship service in Merriam Hall. You can shop for pickles, preserves, sweet treats and other pantry delights, and hand crafted items. Martenson Ten will be selling whole pies to take home and slices to eat while you enjoy coffee and fellowship.

You are invited to join the youth group in transforming the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. All you have to do is show up in the Sanctuary after worship! Many hands make light work and you will still have time to shop the bazaar and enjoy pie and coffee.

From Park Church Women:

Fall 2024 Thank Offering - ongoing through November 13

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: John Miller captain; Jim Butler, Cindy Dexter, Kathy Miller,
Susan Sochanek, Harlan Wilson

Parking Lot Greeter: Michael Waite-Kress

Greeters: Mike Cairns, Kathy Cairns, Katie Bradley

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
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Tim Persenaire, Lead Custodian	tpersenaire@parkchurchgr.org
Marty Butler, Parish Life Assistant	mbutler@parkchurchgr.org
Phyllis Ann Miner, Events Coordinator	pminer@parkchurchgr.org

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. Email (office@parkchurchgr.org) and voice mails (616-459-3202) are monitored 24/7 with priority given to pastoral care concerns.

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



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

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

616-459-3203

office@parkchurchgr.org

www.parkchurchgr.org

www.facebook.com/parkchurchgr

The wifi password is parkchurchguest.