

FIRST (PARK) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

October 6, 2024 ~ World Communion Sunday



Order of Worship for October 6, 2024
World Communion Sunday

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: 'But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ...and the fish of the sea will declare to you. In God's hand is the life of every living thing...' (Job 12: 7, 8b, 10a)

All: God of Creation, be with us as we worship. Amen.

Prelude

Steven B. Smith, organ
Prelude on "Royal Oak" (All Things Bright and Beautiful)
Dale Wood

+ Prayer of Invocation

Reading in Unison
Rev. Richard Sherlock, liturgist

One: Most high, Loving Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of our Savior, Jesus the Christ, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy.

All: O God, you have made us and all living things. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for the animals of the world. As you take care of us, so also we ask your help that we might take care of them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Christ's blessed name. Amen.

(a prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi)

Scripture Reading

Numbers 22:21-39

Rev. Richard Sherlock, liturgist

[Then] Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the officials of Moab. God's anger was kindled because [Balaam] was going, and the angel of the Lord took his stand in the road as his adversary. Now Balaam was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. The donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand, so the donkey turned off the road and went into the field, and Balaam struck the donkey, to turn it back onto the road. Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it scraped against the wall and scraped Balaam's foot against the wall, so he struck it again. Then the angel of the Lord went ahead and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it lay down under Balaam, and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me! I wish I had a sword in my hand! I would kill you right now!" But the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I been in the habit of treating you this way?" And he said, "No."

Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with his drawn sword in his hand, and he bowed down, falling on his face. The angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? I have come out as an adversary because your way is perverse before me. The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let it live." Then Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now therefore, if it is displeasing to you, I will return home." The angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but speak only what I tell you to speak." So Balaam went on with the officials of Balak.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Darryl

Meditation

Steven B. Smith, organ
Meditation on "For the Fruit of All Creation"
Mark Winchester

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table and Words of Institution

One: Once upon a time, God made a garden, and every creature lived in it happily with God. We took long walks with God in the cool of the evening, humans and snails, kangaroos and spiders, kitties and larks. And when we all sat down with God to eat, the curling vines gave up their fruit, the tall gold wheat gave up its grain, and we ate delicious bread and drank from a cup of blessing, singing songs under stars 'till morning.

All: And the grateful creation was at peace.

One: Ever since, whenever we honor the earth by eating and drinking with heartfelt thanks, God walks with us again. God sits with us and eats. Our tables become the garden, the whole creation sighs with peace, and we see again how life was meant to be. Come, now, everyone, to this table, to the garden God planted in the East, in Eden.

All: Come, taste and remember, taste and see how good God is.

One: Let us pray. Thank you, Creator God, for sharing your life with us in every good thing of this world. Thank you most of all for Jesus, who sat us down to eat good bread and drink good wine, so that in tasting how good they are we could remember how good you are.

Christ is our East, our Eden, our Garden of peace. In him we find the fullness of life you desired for us from the start— walking together, sharing food, living in peace. Send the Spirit to his table now where he still sits us down, where we still remember you. Bless the bread and the cup, fruit of the earth and work of our hands.

All: May they become by your grace the taste of Eden in our hearts.

One: As we eat and drink together, let us see more clearly a vision of life as you meant it to be.

All: Consecrate us to the ministry of making it so, by sharing earth's goodness with all, in reverence and hope, with justice, and joy.

One: Dear friends in Christ, this is the bread Jesus blessed and broke and gave us to share in remembrance of him. (*the bread is broken for all*) This is the cup Jesus blessed and poured and gave us to drink in remembrance of him. (*the cup is poured out for all*) Eating and drinking together, we remember his death, we rejoice in his rising, and we wait for him to come again,

All: to judge with mercy, to welcome in love, to restore all creation, to establish the Peaceable Reign in praise and glory of God. Amen!

~ Communion liturgy for World Communion Sunday
written by Rev. Jan Richardson. Used with permission.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Steven B. Smith, organ
Variations on "As We Gather at Your Table"
Gordon Young

Meditation on "Wondrous Love"
Charles Callahan

Prayer after Communion

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.

Invitation to Generosity and Stewardship

Offertory Music

The Chancel Choir
We Plough the Fields and Scatter
Music by John Rutter; Text by Mathias Claudius, 1782

(text continued...)

*We plough the fields, and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand;
He sends the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine,
And soft refreshing rain:
All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
For all his love.*

*He only is the Maker
Of all things near and far,
He paints the wayside flower,
He lights the evening star.
The winds and waves obey him,
By him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, his children,
He gives our daily bread:
All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
For all his love.*

*We thank thee then, O Father,
For all things bright and good;
The seed-time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
For all thy love imparts,
But that which thou desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts:
All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
For all his love.*

+ 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

God of blessings, the universe sings of your glory. Deepen our gratitude for all you have made and awaken in us a renewed commitment to care for the earth and each other. Inspire us with openness to listen to those most affected by climate change and use these gifts and offerings to be a blessing so that our common home may be healed and restored and the generations to come may delight in it. Amen.

+ Hymn - No. 20

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Tune: ROYAL OAK

+ Common Commission

Reading in Unison

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
Fanfare on "Lasst uns erfreuen"
(All Creatures of Our God and King)

Phil Lehenbauer

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

New Member Orientation in Thompson Chapel

P.O.P. Table: Voctave ticket sales

Ofield Ten World Communion Sunday Bread Sale

Joys and Concerns

Rachael (Laage) and Curtis Bineham welcomed daughter Annie Lynn Bineham. Annie is the granddaughter of Tamera and Charlie Laage. The family is doing well! You can send congratulations to Tamera and Charlie at 362 Grayfield Ct. Ada, MI 49301.

Kristin Leshinsky-Bofysil and Bridget Bofysil welcomed daughter Drew Kaylynn Bofysil into the world on September 23, happily reporting that everyone is thriving! Send your celebratory messages to 6300 11 Mile Rd. NE, Rockford, MI 49341.

Kim Hall's mother, Charlene Hall, passed away on September 15 at the age of 97. Condolences may be sent to Kim at 2510 Lake Michigan Dr. NW #B-207, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. Services have taken place.

Please pray for those navigating illness/treatment including: Ron Bickel, John Duiven, 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.

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

The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the Altar

In memory of Ken and Jackie Johnson.

Given by their family.

The flowers at the Pulpit

Celebrating family birthdays (Brooklyn, Emily, Kate and Kim Larsen)
and anniversaries. (Ben & Kaylyn and Alex & Emily)

Given by Ken and Linda Larsen.

The flowers at the Lectern

In honor of Luke Barnum's 21st birthday.

Given by his Grandma, Gloria Eckert.

The flowers on the Children's Altar

In honor of our daughter's and granddaughter's birthday.

Given by Libby and Andrew Wahlstrom and Grandpa Fritz.

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

Veteran's Day Weekend Community Breakfast & Lunch Saturday November 9

Save this date and make plans to prepare and serve a delicious breakfast and lunch for our neighbors of the Heartside community. We will honor those who have served in the Armed Forces and raise awareness of the many challenges facing our unhoused veterans. Many volunteers will be needed to provide a delicious meal to our community. More details to come soon so please check your emails and read your newsletter.

Days For Girls Kit Creation Days

Thursday, October 10 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm

(so you can still get to Chancel Choir rehearsal on time !)

Days for Girls Rockford South Michigan Team will be hosting “kit creation days” at Park this fall and we are calling all Park Church women and men to help! This is your opportunity to find out more about this ministry, how it impacts women and girls around the world and how you can participate...sewing is just one way! Come ready to pin, cut, sew or serge as we make Days for Girls kit components. No experience necessary...we will show you step by step! Bring your sewing machine or serger in good working order if you have one. The next meeting is on November 14.

Ground Crew Fall Clean Up Day

Saturday, October 12 at 10:00am

Join us for fall grounds cleanup on Saturday, October 12 at 10:00am. No experience is necessary and there will be a job for everyone including cutting back perennials, picking up litter, and cleaning up debris. It promises to be a beautiful day, so please mark your calendars! if you have any questions, contact Kelly Jasperse. kellyjjasperse@gmail.com

Great American Voices presents: Voctave

Sunday, October 13 at 7:30pm

We are excited to kick off another Great American Voices concert season with the world renowned *Voctave* in concert. Join us on October 13 at 7:30pm for a memorable concert featuring one of the premier vocal ensembles touring today. Tickets are \$25.00 (\$10.00 for students) and available for purchase after the service today, by clicking the link in the Congregationalist, by contacting the church office during regular business hours, or from www.parkchurchgr.org.

Voctave is an 11-member a cappella group from the Central Florida area. Formed in the winter of 2015 by producer and arranger Jamey Ray, the voices that bring their artistic arrangements to life represent a wealth of diverse backgrounds and musical experiences. Voctave members have roots in musical theater, contemporary Christian music, barber-shop, pop and choral music. Members of Voctave have performed all over the world and can be heard on countless recordings.

Count Day and Harvest Potluck

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. On October 13 and 20 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!**

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.

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.

Ongoing Opportunities

Beyond Religion Book Study

...meets on Sundays at 9:00am, September 15 - October 20 in Thompson Chapel. Hosted by Dr. Craig Vander Maas and Rev. Dick Sherlock, this series of discussions will focus Dr. Vander Maas' book Beyond Religion: Finding Meaning in Evolution.

Fall Bible Study: Gospel of Matthew

...meets on Wednesday from 7:00pm -8:00pm, Sept. 18 - Dec. 11 in Spindler Dining Room with an online option using Zoom The Zoom link is found in the Congregationalist or by calling the office. Contact Pastor Darryl with questions about the Bible study

Men's Discussion Group

...meets Thursday from 8:30am-9:30am, Sept. 19 - Dec. 12 in Spindler Dining Room. Contact Pastor Darryl with questions about this ongoing discussion group.

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

October 8: Rhonda Edgington, organ

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.

Youth Choirs

Children 4 - 8 years old are invited to join the Carol Choir which meets every Sunday from 9:30 - 10:15 in the Children's Worship Center. Email cherylwells71@yahoo.com

Youth 9 - 13 years old are invited to join the Chapel Choir which meets every Sunday from 9:30 - 10:15 in the third floor youth choir room. Email misssheidisings@gmail.com

**The IDEA Committee of Park Church
Invites you to attend the Together West Michigan
Candidate Accountability Session
Saturday, October 12th, 10:00am-12:00pm
Oakdale Park Church, 961 Temple St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507**

Join your neighbors as we share our stories and experiences with Candidates who will be elected in November. We will be asking for real commitments to work with us if they are elected. We will be discussing with them:

- Affordable, quality childcare
- Neighborhood safety and investment
- Workplace conditions and safety



Please RSVP using this QR code

**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

- Tues. Oct. 8** at 12:15pm Music at Midday: Rhonda Edgington, organ
at 6:30pm Board of Trustee's meeting
- Wed. Oct. 9** at 10:00am Park Church Women board meeting
at 7:00pm Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew
- Thurs. Oct. 10** at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group
at 5:30pm Days for Girls Kit Creation Day
at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal
at 6:30pm Parkmeisters rehearsal
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Sun. Oct. 13** at **10:30am Sanctuary Worship**
at 9:00am Beyond Religion Book Study
at 9:30am Carol Choir rehearsal in the Children's Worship Center
at 9:30am Chapel Choir rehearsal in the 3rd floor youth choir room
Continental breakfast before worship/coffee fellowship after worship
P.O.P. Table: Purchase tickets to Voctave and
Music at Midday information
Common Commission plaques available for purchase \$15:00.
Decorate a Kids' Food Basket bag.
at 7:30pm Great American Voices presents Voctave in Concert
- 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 on the Gospel of Matthew
- Thurs. Oct. 17** at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group
at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal
at 6:30pm Parkmeisters 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.

Serving With You Today

| | | |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|
| Ushers: | Mike Cairns | Kathy Cairns |
| | Jim McGlothlin | Nancy McGlothlin, |
| | Doris Robey | Richard Rowe |

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Communion Servers: | Pastor Darryl | Rev. Patrick Coyle |
| | Chris Krive | Karen Kelly |
| | Tom Zvirgzds | David Wells |
| | Andrew Bialk | |

Parking Lot Greeter: Kevin Larr
Greeters: Marcia Streeter, Amy Virkstis
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



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.