

**FIRST (PARK) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC**

**September 29, 2024**



# Order of Worship for September 29, 2024

*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	Pastor Darryl; Peter Smith
The Invitation to Worship and the Ringing of the Chimes	Reading Responsively

One: The world is hard  
Our losses real  
Our grief tangible  
Our fear palpable

**All: Merciful God, quiet our rush to judgment.**

One: The world is heavy  
Our anxiety clawing  
Our confusion large  
Our responsibility tenuous

**All: Brooding God, slow our impulsive actions.**

One: The world is beautiful  
Our faith rooting  
Our hope kindling  
Our love blossoming

**All: Loving God, quicken our spirits to answer your call.**

One: Let us worship this day.

Prelude

Steven B. Smith, organ  
*Someone's Crying, Lord* (from "Variations on Kum Ba Yah")  
John A. Behnke

+ Invocation

Reading in Unison  
Mary Bartling, liturgist

**Creator God, inspire us to be faithful to one another. Open our hearts to meet the needs in our midst and in the wider world. Open our minds to notice the beauty and gift of your creation. Open our mouths to sing your blessings, joyfully and gratefully. Open our lives to welcome the stranger, seek the lost, and create a peaceful place of respite in a troubled world.  
Amen.**

+ Hymn of Praise - No. 761

*Called As Partners in Christ's Service*  
Tune: BEECHER

A Park Church Faith Journey

Gregg Hampshire

Scripture Reading

James 5:13-20  
Mary Bartling, liturgist

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

Elijah was a human like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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

**All:** Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Darryl

Meditation

Steven B. Smith, organ  
*Someone's Praying Lord* (from "Variations on Kum Ba Yah")  
John A. Behnke

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  
*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*  
Ken Medema

*Lord, listen to your children praying.  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.  
Lord, listen to your children praying.  
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.*

Invitation to Generosity and Stewardship

Offertory Music

The Chancel Choir  
Jason Coffey, soloist  
*If I Can Help Somebody*  
Arr. André Thomas

*If I can help somebody as I pass along,  
If I can cheer somebody with a word or a song,  
If I can show somebody he is travelling wrong,  
Then my living shall not be in vain!*

*If I can do my duty as a Christian ought,  
If I can bring back beauty to a world up wrought,  
If I can spread love's message that the Master taught,  
Then my living shall not be in vain!*

*Then my living shall not be in vain,  
Then my living shall not be in vain!  
If I can help somebody as I pass along,  
Then my living shall not be in vain!*

+ 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

**Faithful God, you ask us to be faithful people. In this community, you ask us to be people of generosity. In this community, you ask us to be people of mercy. In this community, you ask us to be people of peace. Be with us as we try to be faithful in our giving and in our living, so your eternal community may come to earth in every way. Amen.**

+ Hymn - No. 757

*Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

Tune: KINGSFOLD

+ 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.**

Recessional

Steven B. Smith, organ

*Someone's Singing Lord (from "Variations on Kum Ba Yah")*

John A. Behnke

## ***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

P.O.P. Table: Sign up for the October 6th Blood Drive and buy tickets to Voctave.

Make a fashion statement: Wear your name tag!

The new name tags are in. Check yours out!

## ***Joys and Concerns***

**Congratulations to Kristin Leshinsky-Bofysil and Bridget Bofysil.** They 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](mailto:dkistler@parkchurchgr.org).

## ***The Sanctuary Flowers***

### **The flowers on the Altar**

In loving memory of Edward Nowlin.  
given by the Judy Furman Family.

### **The flowers on the Children's Altar**

In honor of Caden Turner Gess' 12th birthday.  
Given by his grandparents, Gene and Carol Gess.

If you would like to dedicate Sanctuary flowers, email Marcia Streeter. [mabiti1@gmail.com](mailto:mabiti1@gmail.com)

### **From the Personnel Committee**

It's that time of year! In preparation for Pastor Darryl's annual review, the personnel committee is asking for your input. You can complete a short survey included in your bulletin and leave it in the drop box by the entrance or submit it online by clicking the QR code on the form. Surveys are anonymous and are due by Friday, October 4.

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

### **New Member Orientation Class**

**Sunday, October 6 at 11:45 (Please RSVP by October 2)**

A new member orientation class will be held Sunday, October 6, from 11:45 AM until 1:30 PM for all who may be interested in membership with Park Church. New members will be received into the church family on October 27. RSVP by Wed. October 2. Email Marty ([mbutler@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:mbutler@parkchurchgr.org)) or call her at the church office, 459-3203. You are welcome to attend the class even if you are unsure about membership. We look forward to meeting you!

## **Park Church Semi-Annual Blood Drive**

**Sunday, October 6 before, during, and after worship**

Our Park Church semi-annual blood drive will be held on October 6. Blood supplies continue to be critically low. If you have historically been deferred for one reason or another, it is very possible that you are now eligible to donate. Please check the most recent FDA eligibility guidelines to see if your deferral has changed. Dave Kutsche will be at the P.O.P table after worship today to sign you up. Dave can also be reached by calling 616-901-3550.

## **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.

## **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 at [www.parkchurchgr.org](http://www.parkchurchgr.org), by clicking the link in the Congregationalist, or by contacting the church office during regular business hours.

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. Bring a dish to share of your own choosing if you would like to but there is **NO** need to bring anything in order to participate. The meal is available to everyone.

**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.

## 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 on 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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:misssheidisings@gmail.com)

## 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.

### Ofield 10 Bread Sale - October 6 after worship in Allinder Commons

Plan to celebrate World Communion Sunday *and* support the Park Church Women by purchasing delicious home baked breads after worship on October 6.

## **Coming up at Park Church**

- Tues. Oct. 1** at 6:30pm Board of Deacon's meeting
- Wed. Oct. 2** at 7:00pm Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew
- Thurs. Oct. 3** 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
- Sun. Oct. 6** at **10:30am Sanctuary Worship ~ World Communion Sunday**  
Before, During, After worship: Blood Drive in Merriam Hall  
at 9:00am 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  
at 11:45 New Member Orientation in Thompson Chapel  
P.O.P. Table: Purchase tickets to Voctave and Ofield 10 Bread Sale
- 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 9:30 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: Purchase tickets to Voctave / Music at Midday information  
Common Commission plaques available for purchase \$15:00.  
Decorate a Kids' Food Basket bag.  
at 7:30 Great American Voices presents Voctave in Concert



*We are an Open and Affirming Congregation*  
No matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.

***Serving With You Today***

Ushers: Bob Nichols, Captain  
Brian Bradley, Jim McGlothlin, Nancy McGlothlin  
Diane Sherlock, Dick Sherlock  
Parking Lot Greeter: Ben Lundquist  
Greeters: Ellen Bristol, Colleen Czarnecki, Deb McDonald  
Carol Choir: Cheryl Wells  
Chapel Choir: Heidi Hertel  
Sound: Sam Johnson-Begay  
Video: Bruce Robey  
Flower Care: Marcia Bishop



Degage Volunteer  
sign up

***Ministerial and Office Staff:***

Rev. Darryl Kistler, Senior Minister  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle, Minister of Music  
Peter Smith, Spiritual Formation & Education Minister  
Terrie Hunter, Congregational Life Coordinator  
Gene Gess, Finance Director  
Camille DeBoer, Communications Coordinator  
Tim Persenaire, Lead Custodian  
Marty Butler, Parish Life Assistant  
Phyllis Ann Miner, Events Coordinator

[dkistler@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:dkistler@parkchurchgr.org)  
[pcoyle@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:pcoyle@parkchurchgr.org)  
[psmith@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:psmith@parkchurchgr.org)  
[thunter@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:thunter@parkchurchgr.org)  
[ggess@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:ggess@parkchurchgr.org)  
[cdeboer@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:cdeboer@parkchurchgr.org)  
[tpersenaire@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:tpersenaire@parkchurchgr.org)  
[mbutler@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:mbutler@parkchurchgr.org)  
[pminer@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:pminer@parkchurchgr.org)

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

10 E Park Pl. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
616-459-3203



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

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The wifi password is parkchurchguest.