

FIRST (PARK) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

February 9, 2025



Order of Worship for February 9, 2025

Gathering, Centering, Announcements - 10:15am

Sanctuary Worship - 10:30am

Gathering Music

Phyllis Ann Miner, piano

Welcome

Peter Smith

The Moment for the Young & Young-at-Heart

Invitation to Worship

Reading Responsively

Tom Zvirgds, liturgist

One: Community of faith, the Creator calls to you. Will you follow?

All: **God, help us let go of anything that would hold us back, and follow.**

One: Christ's call persists through the clouds of doubt, fear, and worry that descend on our path. Will you follow?

All: **God, help us to trust, to know that You will lead, and to follow.**

One: Christ calls us to shift our priorities, to leave behind the baggage of prejudice and the grasping for position so we can truly love God and our neighbors well. Will you follow?

All: **God, help us leave everything and follow.**

One: Beloved, receive this good news: you are not alone! Today as we worship, we answer Christ's call together!

All: **God, help us leave everything and follow your path of Love everywhere we go! Amen.**

Ringling of the Chimes and Prelude

Phyllis Ann Miner, organ

Toccata in G Major

William Hieronymous Pachelbel (1685-1764)

One: Loving God, some are here under pressure.

All: Some have come out of curiosity.

One: Some have come out of a great need.

All: Some have come out of tradition.

One: Whatever our reason for being in this place in this time, all of us will find the Spirit here; all will have the opportunity to be blessed, empowered, inspired.

All: We will decide how to live and speak based on how we allow ourselves to be moved by the Spirit this day. May we decide to walk in love with Christ and each other. Amen.

+ Hymn of Praise - No. 1

Holy, Holy, Holy

Tune: NICAEA

Scripture Reading

Luke 5:1-11

Tom Zvirgzds, liturgist

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were astounded at the

(continued...)

catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Anthem

Parkmeisters
David Wells, director
Vincent Frank, solo
Been in the Storm
Spiritual, Arr. Cantus

*I been in the storm so long,
I been in the storm so long children,
O, give me little time to pray.*

*O, my Lord done just what he said.
He healed the sick and he raised the dead.*

*I been in the storm so long,
I been in the storm so long children,
O, give me little time to pray.*

Sermon

Pastor Darryl

Meditation

Phyllis Ann Miner, organ
Benedictus
John March

Prayers of the People

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
Will You Come and Follow Me?
Tune: KELVINGROVE

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

Invitation to Generosity and Stewardship

Offertory Anthem

The Chancel Choir
Evan Snyder, director
You Do Not Walk Alone
Elaine Hagenburg

*May you see God's light on the path ahead
when the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow,
the gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone,
May you always remember
when the shadows fall – you do not walk alone.*

~ Traditional Irish Blessing

+ Doxology

Praise God, From Whom 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
(Inspired by Luke 5:1-11)

Ever-faithful God, you call us into the deep waters of faith and trust, and we offer these gifts with open hearts. Transform our offerings into acts of love and service, so that we may catch glimpses of your kingdom of empathy and peace, leading others into your embrace. Guide us to live deeply and follow Christ's call to be people of abundant grace. Amen.

+ Hymn - No. 69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky
Tune: HERE I AM

+ 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

Phyllis Ann Miner, organ
The Brightest Trumpet
Franklin Ritter

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 Spindler Dining Room

“Soup”er Bowl Sunday soup sale in Allinder Commons; \$5.00 / \$10.00. Cash preferred!

Confirmation Class meets

Joys and Concerns

Carrie Corbin is managing some health concerns. Send her good wishes during this stressful time. 2510 Lake Michigan Dr. NW, Apt. #F102, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Steve Smith, our principal organist, will be away from the organ bench for a time while he is recovering at home from knee replacement surgery. Please send Steve (and Eric too!) cheerful support and best wishes for a speedy and uneventful recovery. 857 Chancel Circle. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

Cathy Crabb's sister passed away recently in Boston. Condolences can be sent to Fritz Crabb and Libby Wahlstrom at 4322 Willow Ln Dr NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

Keep Sue and Greg Winer in your prayers. Sue's father, Mike VanDuinen passed away on January 18. A visitation will be held at Park Church on Saturday, February 15 from 10:30 - 12:00. A private family service will follow. Please share your condolences with Sue and Greg at 2134 Innwood SE, Kentwood, MI 49508.

Please pray for those navigating illness/treatment including: Ron Bickel, Margaret Bilsky, Kurt Myers, Judy Strock, and Liz Taylor.

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

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 honor of Doris Robey's birthday.

Given by her family.

The flowers at the Pulpit

Happy 90th Birthday to our Mother and Grandmother, Mary Forslund.

Given by John & Sharon, Peter & Jen, Lauren & Patrick,

Drew, Anna & Cam and David & Mariah.

The flowers on the Children's Altar

In honor of Emmett Charles' 6th birthday,

who is the son of Molly and Philip Weaver.

Given by his grandparents Kathy and John Miller.

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

Pastor Darryl will be attending a clergy conference and visiting family in Texas from Monday, Feb 10, through Thursday, Feb 13. He will be available to receive email during that time away. But please be patient with him as he will respond as soon as possible. If you need immediate pastoral assistance, please contact the church office.

From Pastor Darryl

Thank you, Park Church, for all your love and well-wishes for my 50th Birthday.

Y'all definitely made my day so very special. And thank you for coming to the party after worship. It was fun! I want to say a HUGE Thank you to Alicia Johnson for her scrumptious cakes, to Sara Haines for the great PCW punch, and to Amy Virkstis, Kris Tuszynski, Terrie Hunter, and Karen Kelly for their help with the party logistics. I loved receiving and reading all the birthday cards (y'all made me laugh) and I am so grateful for the contributions to my Pastor's Discretionary Fund. I feel loved and I love y'all! Thank you.

Why Christianity Must Change or Die Book Study
Sundays, February 9, 16, 23, and March 2 at 9:15am

You are all invited to a 4-week book study on *Why Christianity Must Change or Die* by John Shelby Spong led by Rev. Dick Sherlock. The group will meet in-person on Sunday mornings in Martenson Parlor. Grab your breakfast and join us! You'll be finished with plenty of time to head upstairs for the worship service. If you missed this week, be sure to join us next week. We have plenty of chairs!

Days for Girls Kit Creation Days
Thursday, February 13 at 5:30pm

Days for Girls Rockford South Michigan Team hosts "kit creation days" in Spindler Dining Room and all of you can help! Join us 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! No experience necessary...we will show you step by step!

Announcing ParkPrize 2025: A showcase of creative expression!
February 16-23 in Merriam Hall

You know ALL about ArtPrize. We are excited to introduce you to ParkPrize 2025. We know our congregation is full of amazing artists and we are celebrating creativity. Soon Merriam Hall will be our own ParkPrize 2025 gallery featuring over 25 works of art by the very talented Park Church artists. This is the perfect time to make a day of it and invite your friends to church with you! Visit the ParkPrize 2025 displays after worship on February 16 and 23 and enjoy the artistic talent of your church friends and neighbors.

Help Wanted/Needed: Children's Worship Center Assistants and Subs!

The Children's Worship Center is in need of an additional Teacher's Assistant to help out for the months of February and April. The teachers and teacher's assistants commit to being nurturing the faith of our children every other month. We also need occasional subs to help out as well. Our children's ministry continues to grow here at Park Church! And this growth means that we are in need for additional support. If you are inspired to help, or are interested, or would like more information, please contact Peter Smith, our Spiritual Education Minister at psmith@parkchurchgr.org.

Winter/Spring Bible Study

Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm

in Spindler Dining Room or online via Zoom

Even more so than the Torah, the Gospels and Jesus himself quoted and looked to the prophets...it is only right and good for us to do so as well. Given that we only have four sessions before we will take a break for Lent, we will look at some of the Minor Prophets before returning after Lent to dig into Isaiah.

Winter Bible Study Schedule

Wednesday, February 12 - NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK

Wednesday, February 19, 7:00pm: Hosea

Wednesday, February 26, 7:00pm: Micah

Wednesday, March 5 - Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)

A Note from our Accessible to All (A2A) Team

I humbly serve as Vice Moderator of Park Church and am a passionate member of the A2A team. I am also someone who lives with a hearing disability. There are more than a few of us at Park Church. Several people have commented over the last couple of years about having difficulty hearing everything from the front of the church. Changes have been made to the microphones on the pulpit and lectern, and our audio team in the church have worked hard to address this problem. We also have "Hearing Assistance Devices" available for people to use every Sunday. Please see an usher if you need one. Despite these efforts, some people are still having difficulties.

One thing I recently learned is that the church has additional support for people who wear hearing aids. Bluetooth software has been installed so that people with hearing aids can connect directly to the sound system for clearer reception of what is happening. For me, this has added levels of clarity and richness to the service. Unfortunately, not all hearing aids are compatible. But I encourage you to check. You need only to speak with an usher before the service. Or you can call the church office for more information. A2A is working to make Park Church more accessible. It is heartening to know that we already have a spirit of A2A though much more needs to be done.

~ Randy Velzen

Coming up at Park Church

- Tues. Feb 11 at 6:30pm Board of Trustees meeting
- Wed. Feb. 12 at 10:00am Park Church Women board meeting
at 7:00pm Bible Study (in-person with zoom option)
- Thurs. Feb. 13 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group
at 5:30pm Days for Girls Kit Creation Day
at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal
at 7:00pm West Michigan Survivors of Suicide Loss in Martenson Parlor
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Fri. Feb. 14 at 9:00am Cooking for Degage at Park
- Sat. Feb 15 at 7:30am Serving breakfast at Degage
- Sun. Feb 16 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship
at 9:15 Book Study: *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*. Martenson Parlor
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
ParkPrize 2025 opens in Merriam Hall
- Mon. Feb. 17 The office is closed for President's Day
at 9:00am Cooking for Degage at Park
- Wed. Feb. 19 at 7:00pm Bible Study (in-person with zoom option)
- Thurs. Feb. 20 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group
at 6:15pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Sun. Feb. 23 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship
at 9:15 Book Study: *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*. Martenson Parlor
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
ParkPrize 2025 continues in Merriam Hall



The Degage sign-up sheet has been updated through 2025.
Click the QR code to 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.

Serving With You Today

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

Greeters: Kate Meengs, Mark Meengs

Parking Lot Greeter: Tom Johnson

Sound: Sam Johnson-Begay

Video: Andrew DeBoer

Carol Choir: Cheryl Wells

Chapel Choir: Heidi Hertel

Flower Care: Diane LaWarre

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

Judi Stroh, Events Coordinator

dkistler@parkchurchgr.org

pcoyle@parkchurchgr.org

psmith@parkchurchgr.org

thunter@parkchurchgr.org

ggess@parkchurchgr.org

cdeboer@parkchurchgr.org

tpersenaire@parkchurchgr.org

mbutler@parkchurchgr.org

jstroh@parkchurchgr.org

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

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.



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