

FIRST (PARK) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

January 12, 2025



Order of Worship for January 12, 2025

Gathering, Centering, Announcements - 10:15am

Sanctuary Worship - 10:30am

Gathering Music

Phyllis Ann Miner, piano

*“It’s easier to face the future without fear
when we know that we do not do so alone.”*

Rabbi Jonathan Sachs

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle

The Moment for the Young & Young-at-Heart

Peter Smith

+ Invitation to Worship

Reading Responsively
Martin Grant, liturgist

One: Whether we are sure of God’s work in the world, or still waiting for a sign,

All: Let us worship God, encouraging one another in hope.

One: Whether we are confident in what the future will bring or carry more questions than answers,

All: Let us worship God as together we live into the answers.

Prelude

Steven B. Smith
Variations on “Puer Nobis”
Michael Burkhardt

V4: O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on
to seek your face,
Let not our slothful hearts
refuse the guidance of your light to use.

**Creator God,
at the baptism of Jesus
you revealed him to be your Son
and anointed him with the Holy Spirit.
Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit
faithful to our calling as your people;
through Jesus Christ,
one with the Creator and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

+ Hymn of Praise - No. 401

Here in this Place
Tune: GATHER US IN

Scripture Reading

Exodus 16:1-15
Martin Grant, liturgist

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim and came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the

evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’ ” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’ ”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Anthem

The Chancel Choir
From Generation to Generation
Tom Trenney

*From out of darkness you have shown us light;
Your Word has been a lamp unto our way.
O God, from the beginning, you have been our life;
You've led us to this day.*

Refrain:

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
You love is faithful and steadfast from generation to generation.*

*We strive to love our neighbors as ourselves,
Becoming one beloved community.
We long to bring your justice, freedom, peace.
You lead us on this day! (Refrain)*

*We pray that all who seek God's grace may find Christ's welcome here.
Lord, be our children's children's strength as year succeeds to year,
From generation to generation.
Lord, lead us from this day! (Refrain)*

Sermon: *A New Beginning*

Rev. Dr. Riley Jensen

Meditation

Steven B. Smith, organ
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
Mark Winchester

v2. Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

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
Baptized in Water
Tune: BUNESSAN

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

Invitation to Generosity and Stewardship

Offertory Anthem

Evan Snyder, tenor
Jason Coffey, baritone
Be Thou My Vision
Arr. Craig Courtney

(For text, see hymn 450.)

+ 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

Loving God, who guides us with your everlasting presence, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts. As Jesus stood with us in the waters of baptism, may these offerings stand as a testament to your love and grace. Use them to bring hope, healing, and transformation to our world. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

(based on Luke 3:15-17)

Hymn - No. 372

O For a World

Tune: AZMON

+ 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
On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Phil Lehenbauer

2024 Christmas Offering

You have heard that the Christmas Offering for Undue Medical Debt was a tremendous success! We are able to report now that, due to your amazing generosity, Park Church raised **\$29,326.72**...almost doubling our goal of \$15,000 for our Christmas Offering partner, Undue Medical Debt. This gift results in **\$3,000,000** in medical debt relief for our neighbors in Kent County and West Michigan: literally a life changing opportunity for many, many people. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

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

Sign up to dedicate Sanctuary flowers

Birthday Cake and coffee in Merriam Hall after worship

The Annual Budget meeting will be Sunday, January 26, following worship in the Sanctuary. The 2025 Budget Summary is available in the Narthex of the Sanctuary and is included in the current Congregationalists. Detailed budgets are available upon request from Gene Gess, Director of Finance. Join us in worship at 10:30 to hear Pastor Darryl's annual State of the Church Address.

The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the Altar

In loving memory of Tom and Jo-An Riegling.

Given by Fred Riegling and family, Nancy Miner, John Juster and family.

The flowers at the Pulpit

In loving memory of Chalmers and Bessie Erickson, and Mrs. Anne Hilborn.

Given by the family of the late David and Mary Erickson.

The flowers at the Lectern

In celebration of Henry and Addie Weibel's 11th birthdays.

Given by Jim and Nancy Beaver.

The flowers on the Children's Altar

In memory of Theodore James Uffelmann.

Given by Grandma and Papa Pettee.

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

Joys and Concerns

Keep Judy and Don Strock and their family in your prayers. Judy has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is beginning treatment. Please send cards of support and well wishes to her at 4265 Redbush Dr. Grandville, MI 49418.

Please keep Sherrie and Tom Peterson and their family in your prayers. Sherrie's father, Jim Wildey, passed away on December 26 at the age of 90. Send condolences to the family at 1524 Giddings SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507.

Please keep Sara and Maurice Fetty and their families in your prayers. Sara has been diagnosed with advanced liver cancer and is in the care of hospice in her home at Beacon Hill. Please send your love and support to Sara and Maurice at 1919 Boston SE, Apt. A220, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Congratulations to Renae and TJ Hurtman on the birth of their son Julian Ray who arrived on Christmas Day. Julian is the grandchild of Carolyn and Doug Rubingh and the 21st great-grandchild of Ruth Kutsche. Send your good wishes to Renae and TJ at 1015 Northlawn St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

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

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.

A Note about Pastor Darryl's Schedule:

Pastor Darryl will be attending two conferences back-to-back starting Thursday, January 9 through Saturday, January 18 in St. Pete Beach, Florida, and Lansing, MI. During this time, he will be responding to correspondence as best he can. Please be patient as it may take longer than expected for him to get back to you. If you are in need of pastoral care while he is away, please contact the church office. We welcome Rev. Dr. Riley Jensen back to our pulpit on Jan 12, and Pastor Darryl will be in worship on January 19.

United Church Outreach Ministries (UCOM) Collection Drive

Martenson Ten is sponsoring a collection drive for all manner of soaps for UCOM clients. You can help in this effort:

On **Wednesday, January 15 at 1:00pm** you are invited to attend the Martenson Ten meeting in Spindler Dining Room to hear guest speaker Erik Keener, new executive director of UCOM, talk about the state of UCOM and how we can all help our partner in ministry support our neighbors. We will save you a seat!

On **Sundays, January 19 and 26** at the POP Table, you can drop off donated soaps for delivery to UCOM. Specifically requested items are: *laundry soaps, dish soaps, bar soaps, and shampoo.*

Days for Girls Afternoon Kit Creation Day

Thursday, January 16 from 2:00-4:00pm

The January Days for Girls work session is in the afternoon. If you haven't been able to join us, but always wanted to give it a try, this is your chance. In fact, you could bring a friend or two to help. Our fearless leader, Christina, is unable to be with us in January so we are charging ahead on our own! Please bring your serger or regular sewing machine and join in the fun! No machine? No problem! This is so much to do! We will have ripping and ironing and marking and measuring...*OH MY!*

Puzzle Exchange

Sundays, January 19 and 26 at the POP Table

Feeling a little housebound? There are a number of puzzle aficionados in our Park Church family and we invite you all to a puzzle swap! Select a few puzzles you are willing to part with, bring them to church, and exchange them for "new" ones on January 19 and 26. Make sure your used puzzles are in good condition and with all of the pieces please!

Park Church Justice in Action Committee (formerly the IDEA Committee) invites you to join your neighbors at the Together West Michigan Immigration Convening, Friday, January 17 from 6:00-8:00 PM (hosted by St. Dominic's Catholic Church, 50 Bellevue St SW, 49548). This meeting will be an opportunity to build community relationships and learn how to engage in next steps to support immigrant families and communities. Dinner will be provided. For more information and to register for the event please visit: https://togetherwmi.nationbuilder.com/twm_immigration_convening

Coming up at Park Church

- Tues. Jan 14 at 6:30pm Board of Trustees meeting
- Wed. Jan. 15 at 1:00pm Martenson Ten meeting
- Thurs. Jan 16 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group
at 2:00pm Days for Girls Kit Creation Workday
at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Fri. Jan. 17 at 9:00am Cooking for Degage at Park
- Sat. Jan. 18 at 7:00am Serving breakfast at Degage
- Sun. Jan. 19 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship ~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 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
Drop off cookies for Degage
Martenson Ten soaps collection for UCOM
- Mon. Jan. 20 the office is closed in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
at 9:00am Cooking for Degage at Park
- Tues. Jan. 21 at 11:30am Serving lunch at Degage
- Wed. Jan 22 at 4:30pm Mobile Food Pantry
~~at 7:00pm Bible Study in Spindler Dining Room~~ Postponed to 1/29.
- Thurs. Jan 23 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group
at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Sun. Jan. 26 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship ~ Annual Budget Meeting
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
Martenson Ten soaps collection for UCOM
Semi-Annual Park Church jigsaw puzzle exchange
Why Christianity Must Change or Die book sale: \$10.00



The Degage sign-up sheet has been updated through 2025.

There is room for you to volunteer once, twice, or many times!

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: Gary and Kathy Olsen

Sound: Sam Johnson-Begay

Video: Kevin Arnett

Flower Care: Nancy Beaver

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

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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.