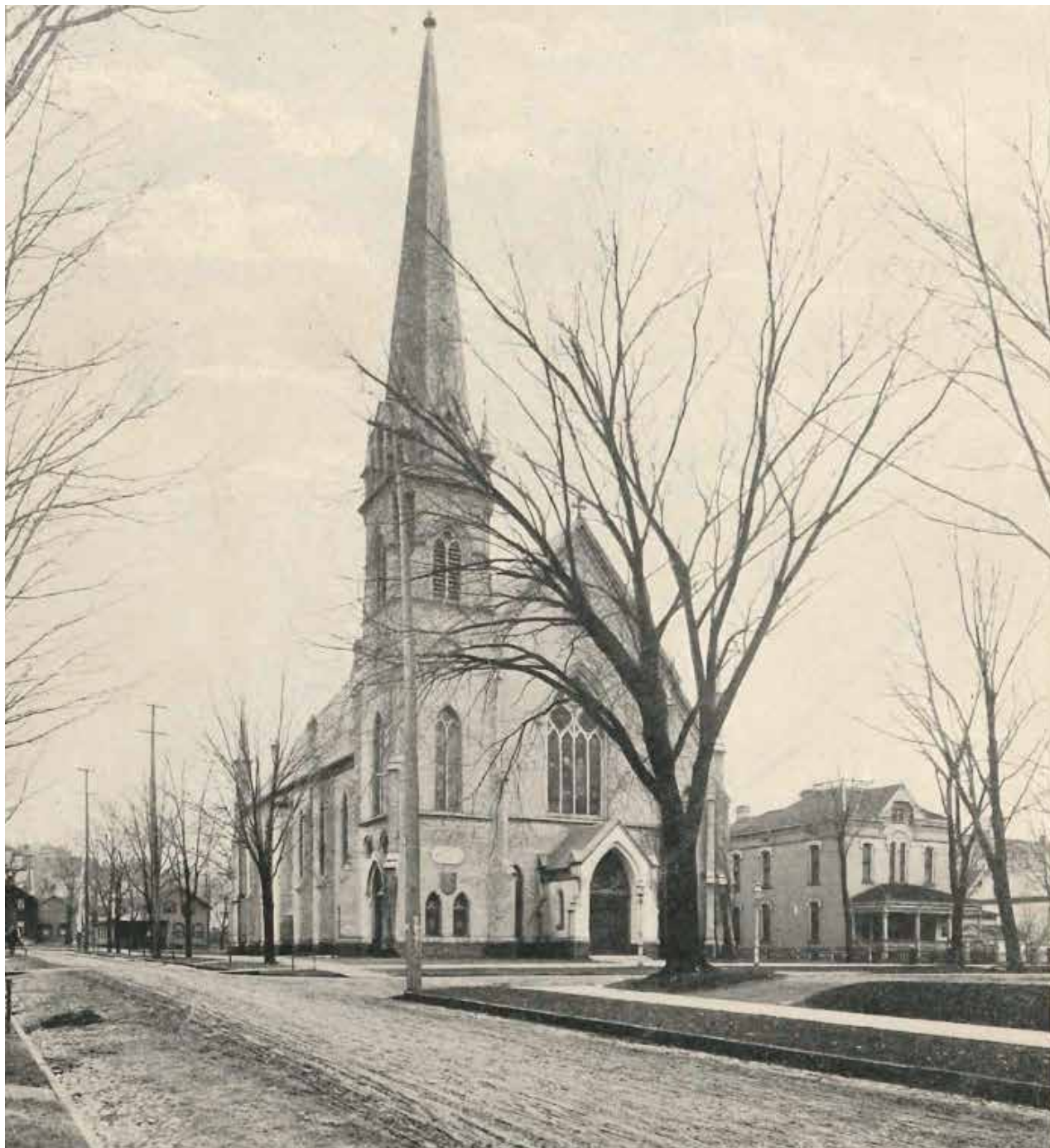


# FIRST (PARK) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

January 26, 2025 - The State of Park Church



# Order of Worship for January 26, 2025

*Gathering, Centering, Announcements - 10:15am*

*Sanctuary Worship - 10:30am*

Gathering Music

Patrick Coyle, piano  
*Holy, Holy, Holy*  
Arr. Patrick Coyle

*As the Deer*  
Arr. Mark Hayes

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*  
Arr. Jeffrey Bennett

Welcome

Rev. Darryl Kistler

The Moment for the Young & Young-at-Heart

Invitation to Worship

Reading Responsively  
Tim Cameron, liturgist

**One:** Good friends, come into this place with joy in your hearts! Gather in Beloved Community where you are loved and affirmed. Feast on words of unusual wisdom and deep insight that have fulfilled the yearnings of ancestors. See God's vision of a radically renewed and reordered world of justice and mercy being unfolded before us. Know that God is as close and real as our breathing. Good friends, come into this place with joy in your hearts.

**All:** Let us worship God with thanksgiving and praise!

Prelude

Steven B. Smith, organ  
*Open Now the Gates of Beauty*  
Phil Lehenbauer

**One:** God of Love and God of Grace, we come to you in prayer asking, “May the doors of this church be wide enough to receive all who hunger for love, all who are lonely for fellowship.”

**All:** **May we welcome all who have cares to unburden, thanks to express, hopes to nurture.**

**One:** May the doors of this church be narrow enough to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity.

**All:** **May its threshold be no stumbling block to young or straying feet. May it be too high to admit complacency, selfishness, and harshness.**

**One:** May this church be, for all who enter, the doorway to a richer and more meaningful life.

**All:** **May it be so. Amen.**

+ Hymn of Praise - bulletin page 7

*Sing a New World Into Being*

Tune: NETTLETON

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:1, 13-16

Tim Cameron, liturgist

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Anthem

The Chancel Choir  
Evan Snyder, director  
*This Little Light of Mine*  
Arr. Howard Helvey

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
Everywhere I go...  
Jesus gave it to me...  
This little light of mine...*

Sermon: *The State of Park Church*

Pastor Darryl

Meditation

Steven B. Smith, organ  
*Improvisation on "Lattimer"*  
*("This Little Light of Mine")*  
Charles Callahan

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  
*Take Us As We Are, O God*  
Alfred E. Fedak

*Give us to the world you love as light and salt and yeast,  
that we may nourish in your name the last, the lost, the least,  
until at length you call us all to your unending feast.*

Invitation to Generosity and Stewardship

Offertory Anthem

Vincent Frank, Evan Snyder – tenor  
Mark Jackson, Jason Coffey - bass  
*The Steady Light*  
Reginald Unterseher

*Let my footfall on this sacred earth  
tread lightly as a falling leaf.  
Let my shadow from this blessed sun  
shut no one from the light.  
Let my dance beneath these holy stars  
grow stronger with the years.  
Let my heart expand with sky-wide love.  
Those who go before  
hold high the steady light that shows me where I am.*

~Sheila Dunlop, September, 2003

+ 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

**Gracious God, source of every good gift, we thank you for the light you shine in our lives; we thank you for the joy you bring to our hearts. Receive the gifts we bring this day, that they may loose the bonds of injustice, undo the yoke of dehumanization, feed the hungry, and comfort the suffering. Bless this offering and the ministries they support so that your light may shine in this community and world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

+ A Renewal of Our Charge

+ Hymn - No. 300

*We Are One in the Spirit*  
Tune: THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

+ 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  
*Toccata on "Nettleton"*  
(*"Sing a New World into Being"*)  
Gordon Young

**The Annual Budget meeting is today, following worship in the Sanctuary.  
All are welcome to attend. Church membership is requirement to vote.  
The 2025 Budget Summary is available in the Narthex of the Sanctuary.**

# Sing a New World into Being


Mary Louise Bringle

NETTLETON

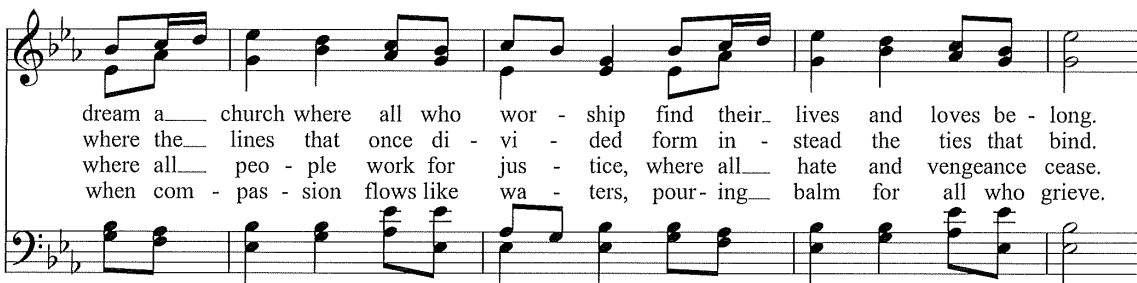
*Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second 1813*



1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.  
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race  
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.  
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry



Find a tune for si - lent year - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:  
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;  
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;  
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;



dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.  
where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.  
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.  
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.



Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

## ***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

Martenson Ten soaps collection for UCOM

Semi-Annual Park Church jigsaw puzzle exchange

*Why Christianity Must Change or Die* book sale: \$10.00

### ***Joys and Concerns***

**Congratulations to Julie Ngongo and Sebastian Kaposho**, both members of Park, on the birth of their daughter, Grace, who arrived January 17. Grace was welcomed home by her sisters, Lona and Claris, and by her brother, Aenga. Congratulations may be sent to 1801 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507.

**Keep Sue and Greg Winer in your prayers.** Sue's father, Mike VanDuinen passed away at the age of 87 on Saturday, January 18. A visitation will be held at Park Church on Saturday, February 15. The time is to be determined. Please share your condolences with Sue and Greg at 2134 Innwood SE, Kentwood, MI 49508.

**Rev. Sara Fetty passed away on Sunday, January 12 at the age of 89.** Please keep her husband Maurice, their family, and her many friends in your prayers. Services were held yesterday in the Park Church Sanctuary. Condolences may be sent to 1919 Boston SE, Apt. A220, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

**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](mailto:dkistler@parkchurchgr.org).



### ***The Sanctuary Flowers***

**The flowers on the Altar**  
In memory of my husband.  
Given by Sue Sochanek.

**The flowers on the Children's Altar**  
In honor of all the children.  
Given by Kathy Miller.

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

### **Winter/Spring Bible Study**

**Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm**

**in Spindler Dining Room or online via Zoom**

Join Pastor Darryl and your Park friends for an engaging study every Wednesday night starting January 29. 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 and the Lenten Wednesday Night programs, we will look at some of the Minor Prophets before digging into probably the most influential prophet on Jesus and Christianity, Isaiah.

### ***Winter Bible Study Schedule***

Wednesday, January 29, 7:00pm: Overview of the Hebrew Prophets

Wednesday, February 5, 7:00pm: Amos

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)

**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. The book will be available at the POP Table in the coming weeks for \$10:00.

**Souper Bowl Sunday**  
**Sunday, February 9 after worship**

Ofield Ten is selling super soups for the Super Bowl. You can purchase small and large containers of a variety of homemade soups to enjoy while you watch the game! Vegetarian options are available. Stop by Allinder Commons after worship to purchase.

**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 want to celebrate your creativity. On February 16 and 23, Merriam Hall will be our own ParkPrize 2025 gallery which is where you come in! If you have art you would like to display (whatever medium suits you: photos, textile, models, sculptures, paper art, needleworks, yarn, drawings, paintings, Legos...any artistic expression) please contact Terrie Hunter [thunter@parkchurch-gr.org](mailto:thunter@parkchurch-gr.org) and plan to visit the ParkPrize 2025 displays in February and enjoy the artistic talent of your church friends and neighbors.

**Calling all Park Church History Buffs**

Are you “good with faces”? There is a NEW batch of OLD pictures on the table in Spindler Dining Room waiting for your help with identification and context. If you can identify any of these people, please let Fritz Crabb, our Park Church Historian know! [fritz.crabb@gmail.com](mailto:fritz.crabb@gmail.com). While you are at it, check out a NEW batch of NEW pictures that we used for our bulletin boards and take home the ones you would like to keep.

## **Coming up at Park Church**

- Wed. Jan. 29 at 7:00pm Bible Study (in-person with zoom option)
- Thurs. Jan. 30 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. Feb. 2 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship - Communion 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  
Pastor Darryl's 50th birthday party in Merriam Hall after worship  
*Why Christianity Must Change or Die* book sale: \$10.00
- Tues. Feb 4 at 6:30pm Board of Deacons meeting
- Wed. Feb 5 at 7:00pm Bible Study (in-person with zoom option)
- Thurs. Feb 6 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. Feb. 9 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  
"Soup" er Bowl Sunday soup sale in Allinder Commons  
Confirmation Class meets



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: Bob Nichols, captain; Brian Bradley, Jim McGlothlin, Nancy McGlothlin,  
Dick Sherlock, Diane Sherlock

Greeters: Mike and Kathy Cairns

Parking Lot Greeter: Bill Streeter

Sound: Sam Johnson-Begay

Video: Kevin Arnett, Andrew DeBoer

Carol Choir: Cheryl Wells

Chapel Choir: Heidi Hertel

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

[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)

[jstroh@parkchurchgr.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@parkchurchgr.org)

[www.parkchurchgr.org](http://www.parkchurchgr.org)

[www.facebook.com/parkchurchgr](https://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.