

FIRST (PARK) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

March 2, 2025



Order of Worship for March 2, 2025

Gathering, Centering, Announcements - 10:15am

Sanctuary Worship - 10:30am

Gathering Music

The River Rogues
David Wells, director

Undecided

Charles Shaver/Sid Robin

You're Nobody 'Til Somebody Loves You

Russ Morgan/Larry Stock/ James Cavanaugh

Royal Garden Blues

Clarence Williams/Spencer Williams

Welcome

Pastor Darryl

The Moment for the Young & Young-at-Heart

Carol Choir and The River Rogues
Standing In The Need Of Prayer

Children are dismissed for Worship Center. Middle and High School Youth remain in worship today.

Visitors, you are welcome to go with your children to see their classrooms and to meet their teachers.

Then come back and join us for worship!

Invitation to Worship

Reading Responsively
Carrie Smith, liturgist

One: We have been brought together in this place, to be fed, to be renewed, to seek understanding.

All: **Here God will challenge us, and we will embrace God's challenge, trusting that through challenge we grow in faith.**

One: Here we hope that God will be revealed to us, sometimes through God's word, sometimes in the face of a friend or a stranger, sometimes in shining glory, sometimes in tears and struggle.

All: **As we worship, may God refresh, renew, and challenge us so that the Light of God's Love can be revealed through us as we strive to walk the path of discipleship.**

Prelude

The River Rogues
I Love to Tell the Story
Katherine Hankey/William Fischer

+ Invocation

Reading in Unison
Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle, liturgist

God of mountaintops and valleys and everywhere in between, we thank you for meeting us where we are. We thank you also for leading us to this place of prayer and renewal. Enlighten our minds, radiate our hearts, and ready us for Love. Let it shine in and through us, lighting a path of grace, hope, and joy. May the same transfiguring power, shown forth in Jesus Christ, also shine in us for the good of the world. Amen.

+ Hymn of Praise - No. 837

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
Tune: SHOWALTER

Lenten Alms Moment

Kathy Lipnicki, Cherry Health

Scripture Reading

Luke 9:28-36
Carrie Smith, liturgist

About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)

While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.

(continued...)

A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

Special Music

The River Rogues
It Had to Be You
Isham Jones

Sermon: *Mardis Gras on the Mountaintop*

Pastor Darryl

Meditation

The River Rogues
I'm Beginning to See the Light
Duke Ellington/Johnny Hodges/Harry James

Prayers of the People

Pastor Darryl

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 Anthem

The River Rogues
That's-a-Plenty
Lew Pollock/Ray Gilbert

+ 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
Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle, liturgist

Glorious God, basking in the light of your presence in our worship and in our lives, we bring these gifts as a testament to your transforming power. As Jesus was transfigured before his disciples, transform us to reflect your love and grace. Use these offerings to shine your light in the world, bringing hope and healing. Amen.

(Based on Luke 9:28-26)

+ Hymn - No. 729

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
Tune: I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

+ 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

The River Rogues
At the Mardi Gras
Johnny Mercer / Alfred Opler

Wednesday, March 5: Ash Wednesday

7:00pm in Merriam Hall

From dust you have come, and to dust you shall return ...

BUT

... God's steadfast love endures forever.

Join us in Merriam Hall at 7:00pm on March 5 for a contemplative Ash Wednesday service including the Sacrament of Communion and the Imposition of Ashes with music provided by The Choral Scholars.

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

P.O.P. Table: Pick up your Lenten Devotional and find out more about Almsgiving and the Behavioral Health services available from Cherry Health. (There are activities!)

4:00pm The Burning of the Palms at the Paul and Beth Kelly home

Thank you to our special guests, The River Rogues!

Greg Wells - Trumpet
Ken Huisman - Clarinet
David Wells - Trombone
Paul Keen - Tuba
Jim Everhart - Piano
David Kadwell - Banjo
Tom Davis - Drums

The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the Altar

In memory of Elaine Kelly's birthday.

Given by the Kelly family.

The flowers at the Pulpit

Happy 90th Birthday to Rev. Ruth McCarty.

Given by her Lunch Ladies.

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

Joys and Concerns

We would like to thank the Park Church family for the cards and support after the passing of Sue's father, J. Michael (Mike) VanDuinen. A special Thank You to the entire Park Church staff, Darryl, the Park Church Women, particularly Allinder Ten, and Tim Persenaire for making the family visitation and private service a special affair. It was very appreciated! ~ Sue and Greg Winer

Steve Smith wishes to thank all the members of the Park Church Community for the many cards, emails, and prayers over the past several weeks following surgery. "It is such a privilege to be a part of such a caring community and I look forward to being back in worship with all of you very soon."

Keep Doug and Carolyn Rubingh in your prayers. Doug's mother, Geraldine Rubingh, passed away last week at the age of 96. Arrangements are pending. Condolences may be sent to 2101 High Bluff NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

Carol King is recovering from a procedure. You can send cards of support and best wishes to 8708 Algoma Ave NE, Rockford, MI 49341.

Please keep Bob and Pam Nichols in your prayers as Bob deals with recent health issues. Share your encouragement with them at 1509 Alexander SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Grace McClary remains in the ICU at Blodgett Hospital where she is recovering from flu and double pneumonia. Grace's husband Kevin requests your prayers. Cards may be sent to 5883 Freeton Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49548.

Please pray for those navigating illness/treatment including: Ron Bickel, Margaret Bilsky, Kurt Myers, Steve Smith, 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 Burning of the Palms

This afternoon at 4:00pm

Do you wonder where the ashes for Ash Wednesday come from? After the Palm Sunday service, the palms are collected and dried. The Sunday before Ash Wednesday (that's today!) we burn the palms which are then ground into the ashes that are put upon our foreheads in the shape of a cross on Ash Wednesday. Everyone is invited to the *Burning of the Palms* today at 4:00pm at the home of Paul and Beth Kelly (6669 Egypt Valley Road, Rockford MI 49341). The activities take place out of doors and we'll enjoy delicious chili (veg. and reg.) so dress for the weather and plan to stay about an hour.

The 2025 Stillspeaking Lent Devotional

Available at the P.O.P. Table starting today.

Our 2025 Lent Devotional invites reflection on God's mysterious depths. As the introduction states, "God inhabits the depths of life, love, loss, ecstasy, and pain, God dwells in the profundities of prayer, in sighs too deep for words. God loves the deep." What courage, what faith, what reckoning, what wonder might find us as we go deep into God's depths this Lent? Pick up your copy at the P.O.P. Table starting today. If you would like yours mailed to you, please let Terrie know. thunter@parkchurchgr.org

March Madness

Sunday, March 16 after worship

Enjoy "walking tacos" as you draw names for your team. This year we will be watching the men's AND women's brackets!!! Thank you Brian Bradley!

ParkPrize 2025: A showcase of creative expression!

Thank you to everyone who visited the first ParkPrize! There were also many people behind the scenes that worked very hard to make this a success including Mike Mitchell, Wayne Edwards, Amy Virkstis, Eileen Larr, Kris Tuszynski, Lynda and Chris O'Malley, Karen Kelly, Tim Persenaire, and Mark Kelly.

From the Park Church Women

You are invited to support the annual Spring Thank Offering. Your donations (of whatever amount you see fit) can be delivered by hand or post to your Ten leader or to the church office. Please make your check out to Park Church Women and mark your envelope to the attention of Marcia Hammontree. The collection wraps up in a few weeks.

2025 Lenten Almsgiving
HEALING THE BODY INSIDE AND OUT
with Cherry Health Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center



One of the classic disciplines of Lent is the giving of alms, an outward sign of Christian love for others. Almsgiving involves some type of sacrifice on behalf of the giver in order to provide for the needs of another, strengthening the bonds of community.

In Kent County, one in four adults has been diagnosed with depression and, too often, help only arrives after a crisis. Our community has spoken: Together we can remove barriers to mental health care. **The 2025 Almsgiving recipient is Cherry Health focusing on their new Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center.** This is a walk-in program designed to provide urgently needed immediate care. We will learn together how Cherry Health is healing clients **inside** with mental health services and **out** with wound care and clinic services. Together we are striving to remove barriers to these critical services for our neighbors and their families.

You are invited to support the almsgiving by:

1. giving a designated gift in the offering.
2. giving a gift using the QR code above.
3. helping assemble wound care kits

Cut and Stitch for Cuts and Stitches

Mondays, March 10 and 14 from 1:00-3:00pm

4. collecting requested items for distribution

Band-aids: all shapes, all colors, all sizes

lip balm and chapstick

healing, unscented foot cream. Such as O'Keefe

healing, unscented hand cream. Such as Eucerin

Vaseline: all sizes

Aquaphor: all sizes

Triple antibiotic ointment Such as Neosporin

A Cherry Health Representative will join us today to tell us about this important mental health service. Stop by the P.O.P. Table after worship to get more information.

God Is Still Speaking To Us ... Through the Cinema! Park Church Lenten Wednesday Nights Program

6:00 to 7:00pm – *Personal Centering Prayer in Thompson Chapel*

Each Wednesday night of Lent, you are invited to spend some time in personal prayer and meditation utilizing the spiritual discipline of Centering Prayer developed by Father Thomas Keating. Thompson Chapel will be open from 6:00-7:00pm.

6:00 to 7:00pm – *Pilgrim Dinner in Spindler Dining Room*

Each Wednesday night of Lent, we will gather in Spindler Dining room for a simple Pilgrim Dinner (provided by church) of soup, salad, bread, and cheese. Come make a new friend or catch up with an old friend while we break bread together.

7:00 to 8:00pm – *Guided Presentation and Reflection* on the theological, socio-economic-political, moral, ethical, and cultural themes of a chosen film .

Three Ways to Watch

1. Watch the film on your own time.
2. Communal Viewing in Martenson Parlor at 12:00pm on the Sunday before the film is discussed. Snacks and popcorn will be provided ...
3. Clips of the film will be shown during the discussion. If you miss one of the films, these clips will help you participate in the reflection. But we highly recommend watching each film in its entirety.

Guiding Questions While You Watch the Film

Guiding questions to help you ponder the themes of the film will be available for you the Wednesday prior to the film discussion (starting on Ash Wednesday.) These same questions will also be printed in the bulletin and newsletter for your convenience.

March 12: *Origin* (PG-13, 141 min)

March 19: *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951) (G, 92 min)

March 26: *Just Mercy* (PG-13, 136 min)

April 2: *The Wild Robot* (PG, 102 min)

April 9: *Mass* (PG-13, 111 min)

Coming up at Park Church

- Tues. March 4 at 6:30pm Board of Deacons meeting
- Wed. March 5 at 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service in Merriam Hall
- Thurs. March 6 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group
at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal
at 6:30pm Parkmasters rehearsal
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Sun. March 9 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship - First Sunday of Lent; Communion Sunday
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: Cherry Health information and Almsgiving
Screening of *Origin* for discussion on 3/12
- Mon. March 10 at 1:00pm Almsgiving *Cut and Stitch* wound kit assembly
- Tues. March 11 at 12:15pm Music at Midday: Larry Visser, organ; Rob Hobgood, piano
at 7:00pm Board of Trustees meeting
- Wed. March 12 at 10:00am Park Church Women board meeting
at 6:00pm Lenten Wednesday Night: Dinner and a Movie (discussion)
- Thurs. March 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 6:30pm Parkmasters rehearsal
at 7:00pm West Michigan Survivors of Suicide Loss support group
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Save the Dates - more information to come:

- University of Michigan Men's Glee Club in Concert, Saturday, April 5 at 7:00pm
- Palm Sunday Service, Sunday, April 13 at 10:30am
- Maundy Thursday Service, Thursday, April 17 at 7:00pm
- Good Friday Community Service at Park Church, Friday, April 18 at 12:00 noon
- Easter Sunday Service, Sunday, April 20 at 10:30am



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: Paul Davison, captain; Colleen Czarnecki, Amy Rains, Doris Robey,
Richard Rowe, Doug Rubingh

Greeters: Colleen Czarnecki, Ellen Bristol

Parking Lot Greeter: Kevin Larr

Sound: Sam Johnson-Begay

Video: Bruce Robey

Carol Choir: Cheryl Wells

Chapel Choir: Heidi Hertel

Flower Care: Ellie Pettee

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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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.