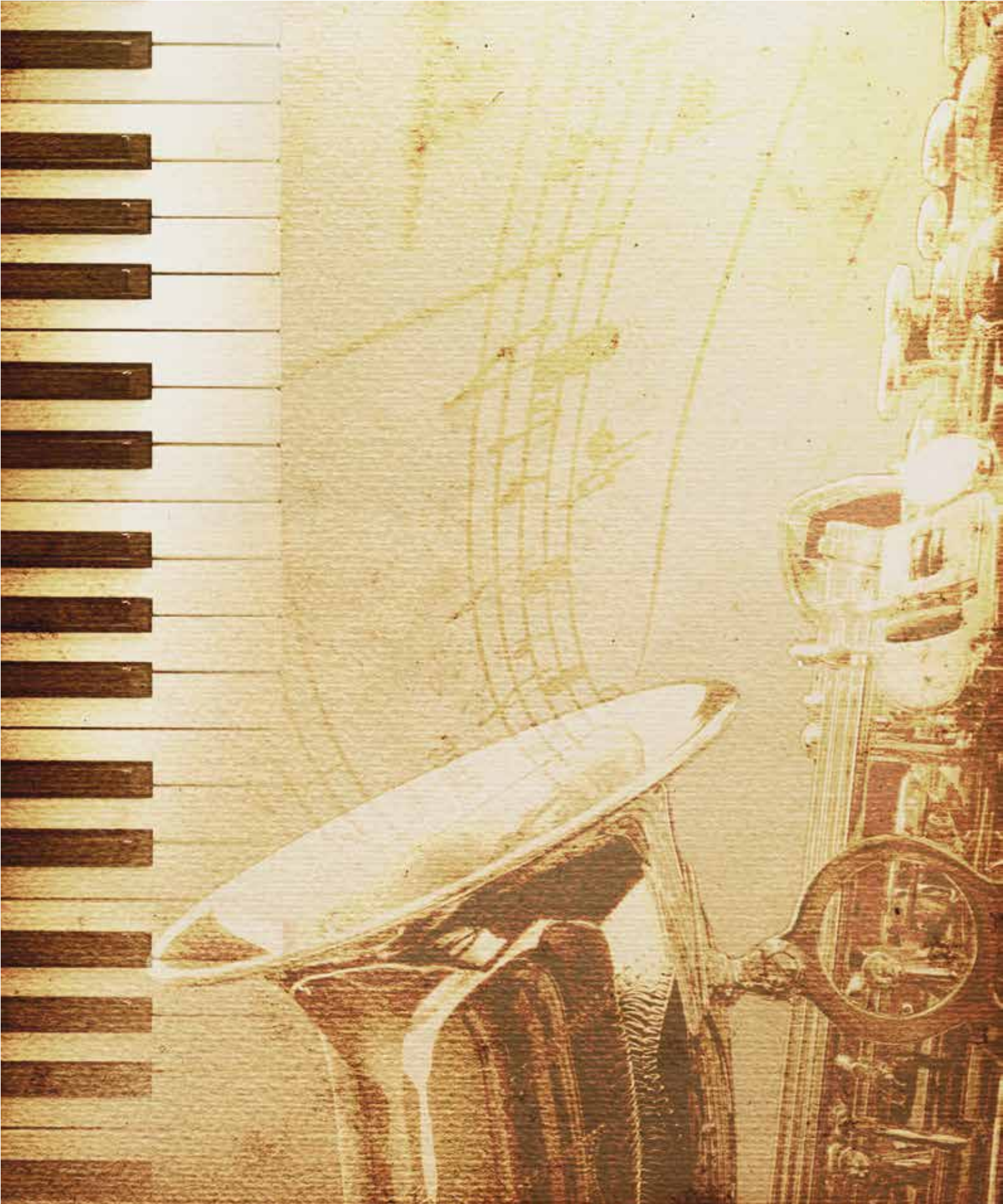


First (Park) Congregational Church

February 15, 2026



Welcome to First (Park) Congregational Church!

While at Park Church if you need directions to the rest rooms, classrooms, fellowship spaces, or you need any help at all, please speak to a greeter or usher and we will do our best to assist you. The Sanctuary and Merriam Hall are equipped with the Loop System and other hearing-assist devices are available from an usher. The wifi password is parkchurchguest.

Our Congregational Commitments:

Vision Statement

...to build a community of relentless compassion and courageous hope, where all are seen and known, and the God of extravagant Love is revealed.

Inclusion Statement

As Jesus demonstrated by his life and teachings, we fully welcome into the life of Park Church and value all people regardless of beliefs or doubts, age, race, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical, intellectual or emotional ability, or economic status. Park Church is a place where all are welcome and equal. We value and celebrate the rich diversity of all God's creation. *(adopted 2015, updated 2020 and 2025)*

Safe Church Statement

Park Church is a designated Safe Church of the United Church of Christ. Park Church is committed to create a safe environment for all members, attendees, and visitors, especially children and youth, and to address any concerns about abuse, harassment or misconduct.

Accessible to All (A2A) Statement

Park Church welcomes people of all abilities and disabilities into the full life of the congregation. Called to participate in Christ's ministry, we pledge to continue expanding our views and attitudes as we evolve to meet the needs of our church and community.

In this way, Park Church is fully committed to being *Accessible to All*. *(adopted 2025)*

Bulletin Cover Art: untitled by Hasenonkel @ Getty Images

To find out about what is happening at Park Church,
click the QR code for the current Congregationalist.



Order of Worship for February 15, 2026

The + symbol indicates standing in body or in spirit.

Words in bold type are spoken or sung in unison.

Gathering Music

The River Rogues
The Original Dixieland One Step
Nick LaRocca, 1917

Fidgety Feet
Nick Larocca/Larry Shields, 1918

Welcome

Rev. Darryl Kistler

Ringling of the Chimes

*The Chimes give us an opportunity to center ourselves as we
prepare our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to receive the message God has for us.*

Prelude

The River Rogues
I Can't Give You Anything But Love
Jimmy McHugh/Dorothy Fields 1928

+ Prayer of Invocation

Reading Responsively
David Kutsche, liturgist

One: God of change, on this Transfiguration Sunday, we gather on the mountaintop with Jesus,
wondering what we will encounter.

All: We come to encounter Your glory revealed.

One: We witness the revelation of Christ's divinity made human before us.

All: We come to witness Your glory revealed.

One: We remember that God's glory is not about spectacle but truth, not about show but
about Love made real among us.

All: We come to remember Your glory revealed.

One: We follow Jesus down from the mountaintop into the valleys, as God's glory goes before
us and behind us.

All: We come to be sent out to share God's glory revealed. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Precious Lord, take my hand;
lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near;
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

Moment for the Young and Young-at-Heart

Pastor Darryl

Prayers of the People and Our Savior's Prayer

concluding, the congregation prays in unison (continued...)

...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.

Response

The Chancel Choir
Lord, Transfigure Our Perceptions
Tune: GENEVA

*Lord, transfigure our perception with the purest light that shines,
and recast our life's intentions to the shape of your designs,
till we seek no other glory than what lies past Calvary's hill
and our living and our dying and our rising by your will.*

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Melodia Treble Ensemble
Karen Albert, director
Song of Light
Marianne Forman

*The tune of the lark awakens the dawn,
Melodies rising and shadows are gone.
Come hear nature's choir, its anthem begun,
Welcome a new day! Now morning has come.*

*A song in the air, the music of light,
Golden sun rising to vanquish the night.
Then hope is alive when darkness is done,
Welcome a new day! Now morning has come.*

*Lift your voices, join in singing,
Raise the chorus dawn is bringing!
Welcome a new day! Now morning has come.*

Sermon

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson
Senior Minister, Mayflower Congregational Church

Meditation

What A Wonderful World
Bob Thiele/George David Weiss (1967)

Invitation to Generosity and Stewardship

Offertory Music

That's A Plenty
Lew Pollack/Ray Gilbert (1912)

+ 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

Generous God, you meet us in moments of mystery and transformation, calling us to listen, to follow, and to give ourselves in love. As we offer these gifts, we confess our impatience with waiting and our longing for clarity, even when you speak from the cloud. Let these offerings be more than habit; let them reflect the light of Christ we have glimpsed on the mountaintop and the hope we carry into the valleys below. Use them—and us—to shine your love where shadows linger, until all your beloved children know they are seen, named, and cherished. In the name of your Beloved Son, we pray. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn - No. 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Charles Wesley (1747)

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

+ 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

When the Saints Go Marching In
Traditional Gospel Hymn (1800's)

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 in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.

Following Worship

Coffee Fellowship after worship in Merriam Hall

Chanticleer Concert ticket sale

Drop off handheld treats for Degage

P.O.P. Table: Pick up your Lenten Devotional (\$15.00 for those who can pay)

Wild Hope by Gail Boss

“Lent,” at its root, means “spring,” a time for our stiff hearts to thaw and open to a fuller compassion. From polar bears to pangolins, animals magnificent, delicate, and intricate are vanishing at a rate faster than at any time in Earth’s history. In *Wild Hope*, vivid stories of 25 of these wild ones wake in us wonder—and grief at what they suffer on a planet shaped by human choices. Their stories wake in us a wild hope that from all this death and ruin something new might rise. The promise of Lent is that something new will rise.

Open Door Bakery Cookie Sale

You can buy delicious cookies (individually or in packs of four) after worship on Sunday. All forms of payment welcome. *Open Door Bakery* offers hope and opportunity through the communal art of baking, providing women with an opportunity for meaningful work, and delicious baked goods to our wider community. The passionate team of bakers includes past and present residents of the Open Door Women’s Center at Degage Ministries. All of the bakery profits directly support this overnight shelter for women in crisis.

Serving With You Today

Greeters: Fritz Crabb, Tim and Don Fitzhugh

Ushers: John Miller, Jim Butler, Cindy Dexter, Kathy Miller, Susan Sochanek, Harlan Wilson

Audio/Video: Sam Begay-Johnson, Bruce Robey, Kevin Arnett

Flower Care: Diane LaWarre

Joys and Concerns

Please pray for those navigating illness/treatment: Betsy Melton, Steve Smith

Military Personnel: Jesse Campbell, Devon Goetz & Andy MacGregor, Matthew Quick.

Pastoral care is always available. Contact Pastor Darryl at dkistler@parkchurchgr.org.

We are thrilled to welcome as our guest preacher today the Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson. Rev. Olsson is the current Senior Minister of Mayflower Congregational Church. Before being called to Mayflower, she spent decades traveling and ministering in some of the hardest places in the world, working to address chronic issues of injustice and disparity. Ruth is a lifelong learner who earned her BA in philosophy from Wheaton College and her MA in global leadership from Fuller Seminary. Rev. Olsson lives in East Grand Rapids and is part of a transracial family, including her husband and their three children. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to Rev. Olsson and to welcome her to Park Church.

Thank you to our good friends, **The River Rogues**, for leading our music this morning!

Greg Wells - Trumpet
Ken Huisman - Clarinet
David Wells - Trombone/Vocals
Paul Keen - Tuba
Bill Huyge - Piano
Dave Kadwell - Banjo
Tom Davis - Drums

The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the Altar

In loving memory of Stuart Kutsche, Sr.,
son Ben Kutsche, and grandson Matthew Kutsche.

Given by Ruth Kutsche.

The flowers at the Pulpit

In loving memory of Frances Streeter.

Given by Bill and Marcia Streeter.

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



Click the QR code to sign up for Degage cooking and serving.

Melt the ICE Benefit Concert
Sunday, February 15 from 2:00-7:00pm
Fountain Street Church



The Park Church parking lot will be open at no charge for this event

A suggested donation of \$25 per person allows you to join us for a benefit concert bringing together music, food, and community care in support of immigrant families in the Grand Rapids area living under the daily fear of I.C.E. actions. All proceeds will directly support SECOM, Movimiento Cosecha Grand Rapids, and Kent County Indivisible, providing legal aid, emergency financial assistance, sanctuary and housing support, and community advocacy for humane local policies. Scan the QR code above to donate/find out more.

Together West Michigan: A Time for Light to Shine

Together West Michigan's immigrant/Refugee issue team has begun "A Time for Light to Shine" Initiative. TWM is seeking signatures on a letter asking ICE, commissioners and legislators, faith communities, schools and community organizations to let Light Shine on the darkness caused by ICE. As of January 26, there are over 850 signatures on the Light to Shine document and the goal is 1500 by February 15. Scan the QR code above to sign/find out more.

Women's Discussion Group @ Park Church
Tuesday, February 17 from 6:30-8pm

New for 2026, the women of our community are invited to meet together on the third Tuesday of the month for fellowship and discussion. Facilitated by Cheri Stanard, the February 17 meeting will be a time of orientation and introduction. The topics will vary but for the first few months we will focus on women in the Bible. For more information, please contact Peter Smith at psmith@parkchurchgr.org.

Chanticleer in Concert @ Park Church
Friday, February 27 at 7:30pm

Park Church welcomes Chanticleer back on February 27 at 7:30pm for their fourth appearance as part of the Great American Voices concert series. Don't miss this chance to hear these exquisite voices in the historic Park Church sanctuary. Tickets are \$30.00 for adults and \$15.00 for students. There are no fees for online purchases. Scan the QR code or stop by the P.O.P. Table after worship to purchase.



We want the Great American Voices concerts to be available for everyone and understand that the ticket cost can be prohibitive. We have limited supply of donated tickets available. If cost is a barrier for you, please contact the office. office@parkchurchgr.org.

Wednesday, February 18: Ash Wednesday

7:00 PM in Merriam Hall

*“Release. Let go. This season too shall pass. For from dust you have come,
and to dust you shall return ... but ... God’s steadfast love endures forever.”*

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion, observe the Imposition of Ashes, and participate in a Ritual of Release.

Music at Midday begins on March 10 (concerts begin at 12:15 and are free of charge.)

3/10 Dr. Larry Visser, Organ

3/17 Grand Rapids Christian High School, Candice Sytsma, Director

3/24 Karen Albert, mezzo-soprano, and Robert Byrens, piano

3/31 Easter Break

4/7 Caleb Wenzel and Friends

4/14 Perugino String Quartet

4/21 Outside Pocket with Greg Scheer

4/28 Eric Strand, organ

5/5 Bruce Robey and Friends

Pi (Pie) Potluck and March Madness Selection

Sunday, March 15 after worship in Merriam Hall

Join us after worship on March 15 for a Pi (Pie) pot luck! We are never short of food at Park Church potlucks. There is no need to bring anything except yourselves but if you would like to contribute to the meal and if your last name begins with A-M, please bring savory pie. If your last name begins with N-Z, please bring a sweet pie...homemade, store-bought, whatever suits you. You will have the opportunity to join in the March Madness team selection. We understand no skills are required to participate.

Inquire and Connect Class

Sunday, March 29 11:45am-1:30pm in Spindler Dining Room

Would you like to know about the ministry and history of Park Church? Have you thought about becoming a member of Park Church? Join us for Inquire and Connect to learn more! At this informal get-together, members of the church will share their stories about membership, including ways to become involved and serve, within the church and in the wider community. Light refreshments with vegetarian and gluten-free options will be provided. New members will be received into the church family on Sunday, April 19, during the worship service.

Please RSVP to mbutler@parkchurchgr.org or by calling Marty in the church office, 616-459-3203, by Wednesday, March 25. All are welcome to attend even if you are unsure about membership.

Coming Up @ Park Church

- Mon. Feb. 16 The church office is closed
 at 9:00am Cooking at Park for Degage
- Tues. Feb. 17 at 7:00am Serving breakfast at Degage
 at 6:30pm Women's Spirituality Group meeting
- Wed. Feb. 18 at 1:00pm Martenson Ten meeting
 at 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service in Merriam Hall
- Thurs. Feb. 19 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group
 at 6:30pm Jubiloso! rehearsal
 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Fri. Feb. 20 at 9:00am Cooking at Park for Degage
- Sat. Feb. 21 at 7:00am Serving breakfast at Degage
- Sun. Feb. 22 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship
 Coffee Fellowship before and after worship in Merriam Hall
 Chanticleer Concert ticket sale
 P.O.P.Table:Almsgiving and UCOM information
 Pick up your Lenten Devotional (\$15.00 for those who can pay)

Ministerial and Office Staff:

Rev. Darryl Kistler, Senior Minister	dkistler@parkchurchgr.org
Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle, Minister of Music	pcoyles@parkchurchgr.org
Peter Smith, Spiritual Formation & Education Minister	psmith@parkchurchgr.org
Terrie Hunter, Congregational Life Coordinator	thunter@parkchurchgr.org
Julie Anderson, Finance Director	janderson@parkchurchgr.org
Camille DeBoer, Communications Coordinator	cdeboer@parkchurchgr.org
Tim Persenaire, Lead Custodian	tpersenaire@parkchurchgr.org
Marty Butler, Parish Life Assistant	mbutler@parkchurchgr.org
Judi Stroh, Office Administrator & Event Coordinator	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.