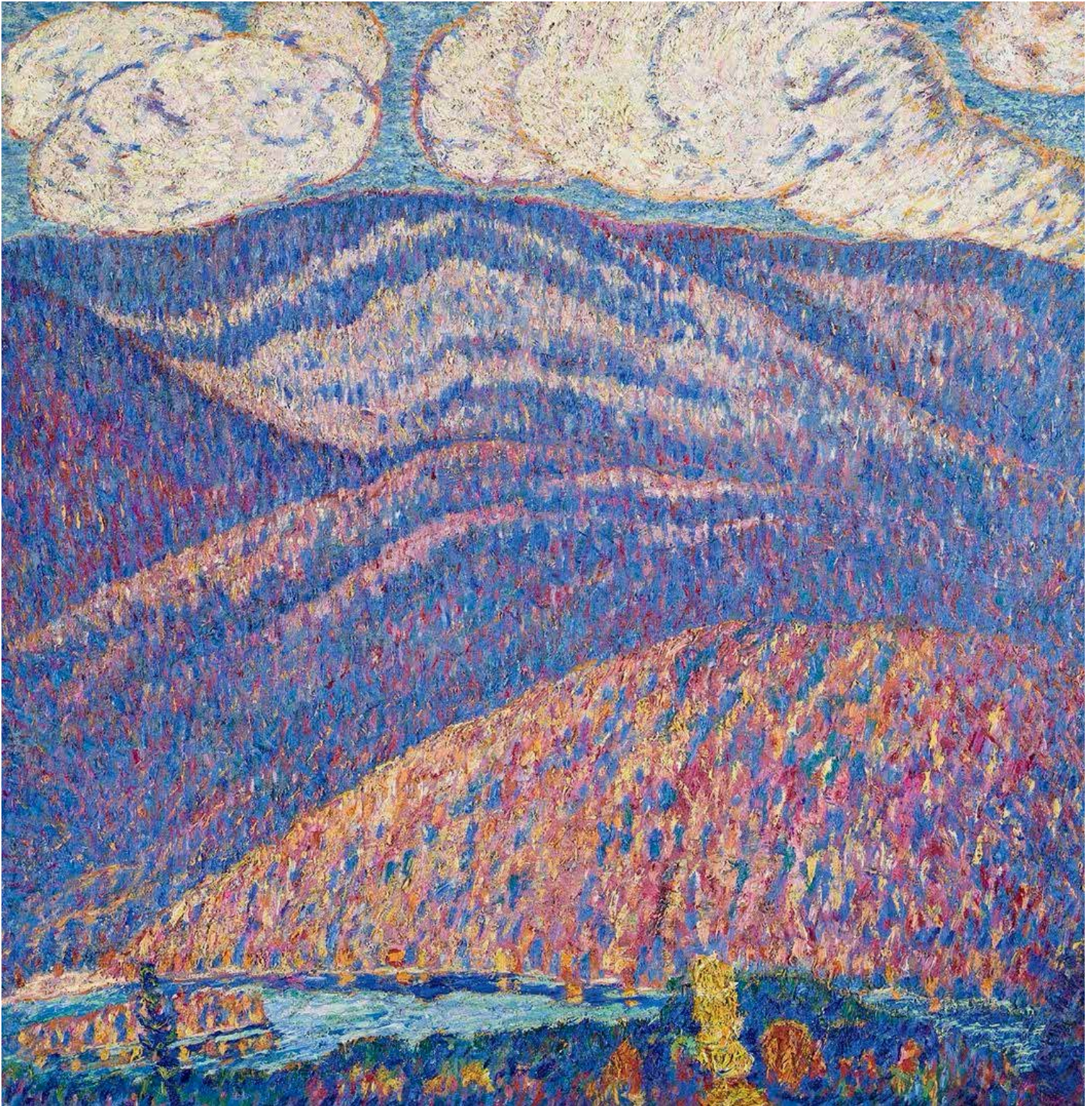


**First (Park) Congregational Church**

**February 22, 2026**

**First Sunday of Lent**



## ***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:** Marsden Hartley, *Hall of the Mountain King*, ca. 1908-1909, oil on canvas, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

To find out about what is happening in the coming weeks at Park Church, click the QR code.



## Order of Worship for February 22, 2026

*The + symbol indicates standing in body or in spirit.*

*Words in bold type are spoken or sung in unison.*

Gathering Music

String Quartet-in-Residence

*Be Thou My Vision*

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Arr. Michael Tyree

*What Wondrous Love Is This?*

Arr. Joseph I. Corperon

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

Jubiloso!

Kurt Stroh, director

*Nocturne #2*

Michael Helman

+ Prayer of Invocation

Reading in Unison

Megan Cottrell, liturgist

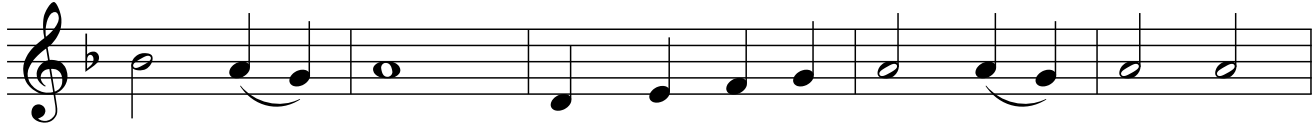
**O God, who makes all things new,  
new stars, new dust, new life;  
take my heart, every hardened edge and measured beat,  
and create something new in me.**

**I need your newness, God,  
the rough parts of me made smooth;  
the stagnant, stirred;  
the stuck, freed;  
the unkind, forgiven.**

**And then, by the power of your Spirit, I need to be turned toward Love again. Amen.**



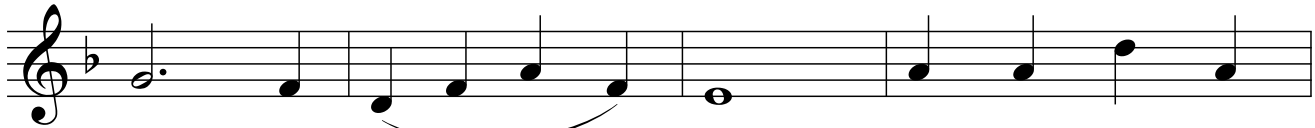
1. Love will be our Lent - en\_\_ call - ing, Love to shake and  
 2. Peace will be our Lent - en\_\_ liv - ing As we turn for  
 3. Truth will be our Lent - en\_\_ learn - ing: Hear the Cru - ci -



shat - ter\_\_ sin, Wak - ing ev' - ry closed, cold spi - rit,  
 home a - gain, Long - ing for the words of\_\_ par - don,  
 fied One call! Shad - owed by the Sav - ior's pas - sion,



Stir - ring new life deep with - in, 'Til the quick - en'd  
 Stripping off old grief and\_\_ pain, 'Til we stand, re -  
 I - ma - ges and i - dols fall, And, in Eas - ter's



heart re - mem - bers What our Eas - ter  
 stored and joy - ful, With the church on  
 ho - ly splen - dour, God a - lone is



birth can \_\_\_\_\_ mean.  
 Eas - ter \_\_\_\_\_ day.  
 All in \_\_\_\_\_ All.

Moment for the Young and Young-at-Heart

Pastor Darryl

Almsgiving Moment

Erik Keener Executive Director,  
United Church Outreach Ministries (UCOM)

## 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  
*Forty Days and Forty Nights*  
Tune: AUS DER TIEFE RUFE ICH

*Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.  
Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side,  
that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.*

Scripture Reading

Psalm 15  
Megan Cottrell, liturgist

Who can live in your tent, Lord?

Who can dwell on your holy mountain?

The person who

lives free of blame,

does what is right,

and speaks the truth sincerely;

who does no damage with their talk,

does no harm to a friend,

doesn't insult a neighbor;

someone who despises

those who act wickedly,

but who honors those

who honor the Lord;

someone who keeps their promise even when it hurts;

someone who doesn't lend money with interest,

who won't accept a bribe against any innocent person.

Whoever does these things will never stumble.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

*I may not be all that you are,  
I may not be a shining star,  
but what I am, I thank the Lord, for making me His child.*

*Thank you, Lord, for hearing every prayer,  
Thank you, Lord, for just being there,  
Thank you, Lord, for making me worthy of your Love.*

*So don't use me or abuse me, for I am His child.  
Don't tease me, or mistreat me, for I'm still His child.  
You can even talk about me. But I'm still His child.*

Sermon: *The Sermon on the Mount*

Pastor Darryl

Meditation

String Quartet-in-Residence  
*Ah, Holy Jesus*  
Arr. Joseph I. Corperon

Invitation to Generosity and Stewardship

Offertory Music

Olivia Vargas, mezzo-soprano  
Christopher Martin, violin  
*Arise, My Soul, Arise*  
Dan Forrest

*1. Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;  
The blessed sacrifice on my behalf appears;  
Before the throne salvation stands;  
My name is written on his hands.*

*2. He ever lives above for me to intercede;  
His all-redeeming love, his sacrifice to plead;  
His death atoned the human race  
And loves now from the throne of grace.*

*3. Creator hears him pray, God's dear Anointed One;  
Who cannot turn away the presence of his Son;  
His Spirit calls, with love unscarred,  
and tells me I'm a child of God.*

*4. My Lord is reconciled, the pardoning voice I hear;  
God owns me for his child; I can no longer fear;  
With confidence I now draw nigh,  
Creator, Abba, Savior, cry!*

+ 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

**Just and Merciful God, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves. May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen**

+ Closing Hymn - No. 716

*God Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

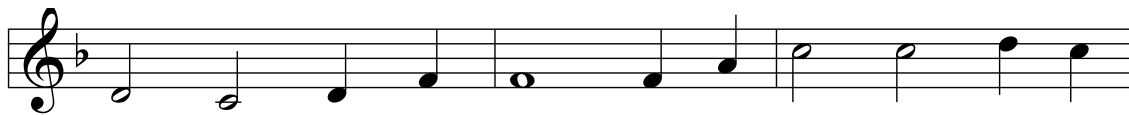
Tune: BEACH SPRING



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of  
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your



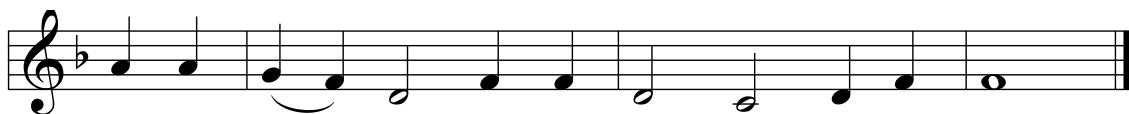
end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly  
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es  
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn  
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly  
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - fering up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall  
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,  
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

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  
*Prelude in C Minor*  
J. S. Bach

***String Quartet-in-Residence:***

Christopher Martin, violin  
Clara Schubilske, violin  
Leslie Van Becker, viola  
Alicia Eppinga, cello

***The Sanctuary Flowers***

**The flowers on the Altar**

In memory of deceased members of Martenson Ten

**The flowers at the Pulpit**

In memory of Tom and Ann VandenBerg.  
Given by Mark, Jennifer, Mallory and Avery Hagemann.

**The flowers at the Lectern**

In memory of the anniversary of Toddy Johnston's birth on February 26, 1927.  
Given by her family.

**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)

## ***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**

**View a display of historic items from past Olympics in Merriam Hall.**

**Meet Erik Keener and learn about UCOM and the Lenten Almsgiving**

**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.

### ***Serving With You Today***

**Greeters: Pam Nichols, Dave Kutsche**

**Ushers: Bob Nichols, Brian Bradley, Jim and Nancy McGlothlin, Diane and Dick Sherlock**

**Audio/Video: Sam Begay-Johnson, Kevin Arnett**

**Flower Care: Diane LaWarre**

### **Joys and Concerns**

**Steve Smith would like to thank the members of Park Church for the multitude of cards and letter expressing concern for his recovery following his knee replacement. Such kindness makes it extra special to be a part of this wonderful faith community.**

**Please pray for those navigating illness/treatment**

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

**Pastoral care is always available. Contact Pastor Darryl at [dkistler@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:dkistler@parkchurchgr.org).**



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

## 2026 Lenten Almsgiving

### Taking Care of EveryBODY: a collection for United Church Outreach Ministries

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.

Basic necessities aren't basic when you can't afford them. Hygiene products are not a luxury; they are necessary for maintaining health and well-being, both physical and mental. Personal hygiene should be everyone's right. This is where the community can step in and make a difference. The 2026 Almsgiving recipient is United Church Outreach Ministries\* with a focus on specific personal care items requested by UCOM clients.

You are invited to support the almsgiving by:

- giving a designated gift in the offering.
- giving a gift using the QR code.
- collecting requested items for distribution: All sizes of shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, bar soap, razors.

\*We are grateful to the Park Church Women for their support of the Lenten Almsgiving and their selection of the recipient. The PCW Spring Thank Offering fundraiser has merged with Almsgiving. If you have traditionally supported the PCW Thank Offering, please consider giving to this effort.

## Chanticleer in Concert @ Park Church

Friday, February 27 at 7:30pm

Park Church welcomes Chanticleer back this Friday at 7:30pm for their fourth appearance as part of the Great American Voices concert series. 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](mailto:office@parkchurchgr.org).

## A note from Open Door Bakery@ Degage

Thank you so much for making us feel welcome, for letting us sit in on the service, and generally for being a good partner in the work of serving others. With combined sales and donations, we raised \$1,071.25! We are grateful to the congregation for their generosity, and sweet tooth!

**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](mailto: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

- Wed. Feb. 25 at 4:30pm Mobile Food Pantry  
at 7:00pm Bible Study: World Religions
- Thurs. Feb 26 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group  
at 6:30pm Jubilosos! rehearsal  
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Fri. Feb. 27 at 7:00pm Chanticleer in Concert
- Sun. March 1 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship - Communion  
Coffee Fellowship before and after worship in Merriam Hall  
P.O.P. Table: Lenten Almsgiving  
Pick up your Lenten Devotional (\$15.00 for those who can pay)  
Youth Group meets after worship
- Tues. March 3 at 6:30pm Board of Deacons meeting
- Wed. March 4 at 1:00pm Allinder Ten meeting  
at 7:00pm Bible Study: World Religions
- Thurs. March 5 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group  
at 6:30pm Jubilosos! rehearsal  
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

**Ministerial and Office Staff:**

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

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.