

The First Sunday of Christmas
January 4, 2026

THE
VISION
WORTH FOLLOWING



I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your elders shall dream dreams,
and your young people shall see visions.
Even on the most unexpected people,
in those days I will pour out my spirit.
Joel 2:28

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

The First Sunday of Christmas
January 4, 2026

A Vision that Beckons Us
10:00 am

WELCOME!

We welcome you to worship today. Park Ridge Community Church affirms that all people are made in the image of God and are worthy of God's love and grace. We commit to the ongoing work of being a church journeying together to deepen our understanding of the nature of God's love and to fulfill our responsibility to embody the Christ Spirit in the world. No matter who you are or where you are on this journey, you are welcome and loved.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Throughout time and space, God has beckoned to God's people,
Instilling a vision of hope, a calling of truth, an identity of love.
The vision of God took the form of a wandering people,
a baby in Bethlehem, and a faithful people stepping forward in faith.
God's vision for this new day, this new year, tugs at our hearts.
God's vision is a vision worth following, wherever it leads us.
**May we faithfully respond with persistence and tenacity
as we commit to make that vision a reality. Amen.**

***HYMN**

Star So Bright

68

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We search for your vision and light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those radical gifts of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, may we embrace and fulfill your vision of light, joy and love.

Silent Prayers are Offered

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Up, on your feet! Grace has been poured into our hearts,
love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

**This is the vision which has come to all, the light we will carry
and share with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***GLORIA PATRI**

577/579

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

FIRST LESSON	Exodus 13:17-22	
MINISTRY OF MUSIC	<i>What Child is This?</i>	Traditional
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE		
PASTORAL PRAYER		
*PREACHING LESSON	Matthew 2:1-12	
	This is the Word of God for the people of God.	
	Thanks be to God.	
SERMON	Beckoning Call	Rev. Mollie Foster
OFFERTORY	<i>Night of Silence</i>	Smith
*DOXOLOGY	<i>Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.</i>	

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Receive these gifts, glorious God, as if they were those same precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh first offered to your child, Christ Jesus. Shine through these gifts, that they may become lights of hope and joy in a world dark with despair and sorrow. Shine through us, that we may be beacons of justice and love in all that we say and in all that we do. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

People of Advent: the Lord be with you!

And also with you!

People of Christmas, lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts overwhelmed with grace to the One who was born for us.

People of the Star, offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.

**We will sing our praises to the One
who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.**

...And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, holy, holy, God of bright dawns!

All creation renders tributes of praise to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who saves the lives of the needy.

Hosanna in the highest!

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts and signs of light and life in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as signs of light and life in union with Christ's offering for us as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ came, the morning star of love;

Christ died, the night star of salvation;

Christ arose, the radiant star of resurrection;

Christ will come again, the constellation of hope.

And when eternity's time begins and we are gathered around your Table, with friends and family we loved, with those we ignored and mistreated, with all our sisters and brothers of grace, we will lift our songs of glad joy to you, God in Community, Holy in One. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

Our Father, which 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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

HYMN

We Three Kings

66

*BENEDICTION

Edelweiss

*POSTLUDE

We Three Kings

66

* INDICATES TO PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT

BOLD INDICATES TO SPEAK ALOUD IN ONE VOICE

In the event of an emergency, please follow the direction of the ushers.

Leading Us in Worship:

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister
Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries
Sue Douglass, Organist
Dave Swanson, Guitar

CREDITS: Call to Worship written by Rev. Carol Hill, 2025. Prayers and Communion liturgy adapted from Thom M. Shuman © 2017 lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com

PLEASE SEE AN USHER...for seat cushions and/or hearing assistance devices for use during worship. Thank you to our January Ushers: Bill Barsanti (captain), Tom Brunet, Lorel Brunet, Cindy Klimmick, Rich Roecker, and Sharon Kemerer, Sandy Bowen and Katie Reboletti.

ITEMS OF NOTE

WELCOME GUESTS! We are glad you are joining us in worship today. Please fill out a postcard found in the pew baskets or in the narthex to share your information with us!

Please email office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org if you have any questions.

ALTAR FLOWERS are \$60 to sponsor! You can sign up to sponsor flowers on the sign-up sheet on the office bulletin board.

RESTROOMS are located on the lower level at each end of the church. All-gender/family restrooms are located at the bottom of the stairs at the back of the sanctuary.

ONLINE DONATIONS can be made via Zelle (our Zelle email is giving@parkridgecommunitychurch.org), or via our new online giving platform! You can text "GIVE" to (847)-908-9088 or scan the QR code to make a donation!



CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nursery (0-5 years old) Our nursery is open from 9:15 am to 11:15 am for children up to 5 years old. It's a safe and welcoming space located downstairs, just next to Jordan Hall.

Pre-K – 5th Grade Christmas Break! Sunday School resumes January 11th! Children's activities are available in the Narthex.

6th-12th Grades Christmas Break! Sunday School resumes January 11th!

Wacky Wednesday (6th-8th Grades) Wacky Wednesday provides a fun and safe space at PRCC for Middle School Students on Early Release Wednesdays from 2:30-3:30 pm. WW resumes on Jan. 7.

Youth Choir The Youth Choir meets on Wednesdays from 3:30-4:45 pm.

ADULT MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY - 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm in Ellinger Transept

Wednesday Night Bible Study will resume on January 7th with a new study "The Bible and the Transgender Experience. Books are \$10 from the Church Office.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Thursdays at 9:00 am

Calling Men of all ages! Join us for coffee and pastries at 9 am every Thursday in the Church Library. We chat about the latest news, check in with each other about life, and enjoy the absence of an agenda! All are welcome! Join us on Zoom!

FAITHFUL FIRST SUNDAYS, Sunday, January 4 at 9:30 am

Is the idea of praying in front of others daunting? Do you ever feel like you just don't know what to say? Join the Stephen Ministers for Faithful First Sundays, a monthly gathering to explore different approaches to prayer. We meet on the first Sunday of each month from 9:30-9:50 am in the Ellinger Transept (off the sanctuary, opposite the chapel). January - Topic: "Meditation- Finding the Quiet Place."

OUTREACH

100 YARD FOOD DRIVE Help tackle hunger and bring your A-Game to donate 100 yards of food by Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 8) for the Maine Township Food Pantry. Drop off non-perishable food in Ellinger. Items will be measured each week!

JOURNEY'S TOILETRY COLLECTION Throughout January, we are collecting small, travel size toiletries such as shampoo (no conditioner needed), bar soap, hand/body moisturizer, toothpaste, etc. for JOURNEYS: The Road Home. They are also in need of women's and men's new packs of underwear, warm socks, hats, and gloves. Look for the drop off location in the Butler Place Entry!

SUNDAY NIGHT SUPPER - TODAY, January 4th

We are enlisting help for volunteers to prepare and cook a healthy meal for 75 people in the PRCC Kitchen and serve it at Park Ridge United Methodist Church. Sign up with the QR Code!



TODAY!

12TH NIGHT
BRUNCH
JANUARY 4TH
11:00 AM
THE GREAT HALL



Everyone is invited to our 12th Night Brunch on Sunday, January 4, following worship in the Great Hall! Enjoy a delicious brunch provided by Circle 2 and great fellowship with friends in the New Year! Suggested ticket cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under, with all proceeds benefiting the Angel Fund. Gluten-free options will be available.

We hope to see you there!



Expanding our Welcome: A Mental Wellness Perspective

January 25, 2026, 3:00-5:00 pm

Join in the conversation as we welcome Rev. Gilbert Martinez from Christ Church UCC in Des Plaines. Rev. Martinez will share the impact and importance of welcoming those living with mental health challenges, supporting all who are affected by mental health conditions, and engaging in ways to live out a congregational commitment to mental wellness.



"Courage and Connection Art Gallery:

Stories of Refugee Neighbors"

Saturday, January 31, 7-8 pm, Jordan Hall

All are welcome to come and hear stories, see powerful portraits, experience the resilience of refugee neighbors as they have made their homes in the United States. Over coffee and dessert, we will learn about how refugees connect with the volunteers who walk beside them and what opportunities exist for involvement! A free-will collection will be received to benefit Exodus World Service.

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



CARNIVAL

FEBRUARY 28, 2026

A NIGHT OF CASINO GAMES, DINNER, COCKTAILS,
LIVE MUSIC, AND AMAZING AUCTION ITEMS--
CARNIVAL STYLE!

\$100 PER TICKET
\$750 A TABLE OF EIGHT
\$50 AFTER DINNER TICKET

5:00 PM: COCKTAILS
6:00 PM: DINNER & LIVE AUCTION
7:30 PM: DESSERT, CASINO GAMES,
& LIVE MUSIC



**This event is for ages 21+*

CHURCH EVENTS

SUNDAY, January 4

- 10:00 am** - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 am** - 12th Night Brunch (Great Hall)
- 3:00 pm** - Sunday Night Suppers (FUMC PR)

MONDAY, January 5

- 7:00 pm** - Yoga (Great Hall)
- 7:00 pm** - Trustees Meeting (Library)

TUESDAY, January 6

- 10:15 am** - Chair Yoga (Great Hall)
- 12:00 pm** - Kindred Spirits Cafe (Jordan Hall)
- 6:00 pm** - Adult Education
- 7:00 pm** - Social Justice Team (Library)

WEDNESDAY, January 7

- 10:00 am** - Staff Meeting (Pastoral Office)
- 10:00 am** - Women's AA (Parlor)
- 2:30 pm** - Wacky Wednesday (Great Hall)
- 2:45 pm** - Girl Scout Meeting (Jordan Hall)
- 3:45 pm** - Youth Choir (Music Room)
- 7:00 pm** - Bible Study (Ellinger Transept)

THURSDAY, January 8

- 9:00 am** - Men's Breakfast (Library)
- 6:00 pm** - Christian Outreach (Parlor)
- 6:30 pm** - Bells on High (Balcony)
- 7:30 pm** - Chancel Choir (Music Room)

Sunday, January 11

- 8:30 am** - Chapel Worship
- 10:00 am** - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 am** - Loving Lunches (Kitchen)
- 2:00 pm** - A Celebration of Life of Marty McHugh

