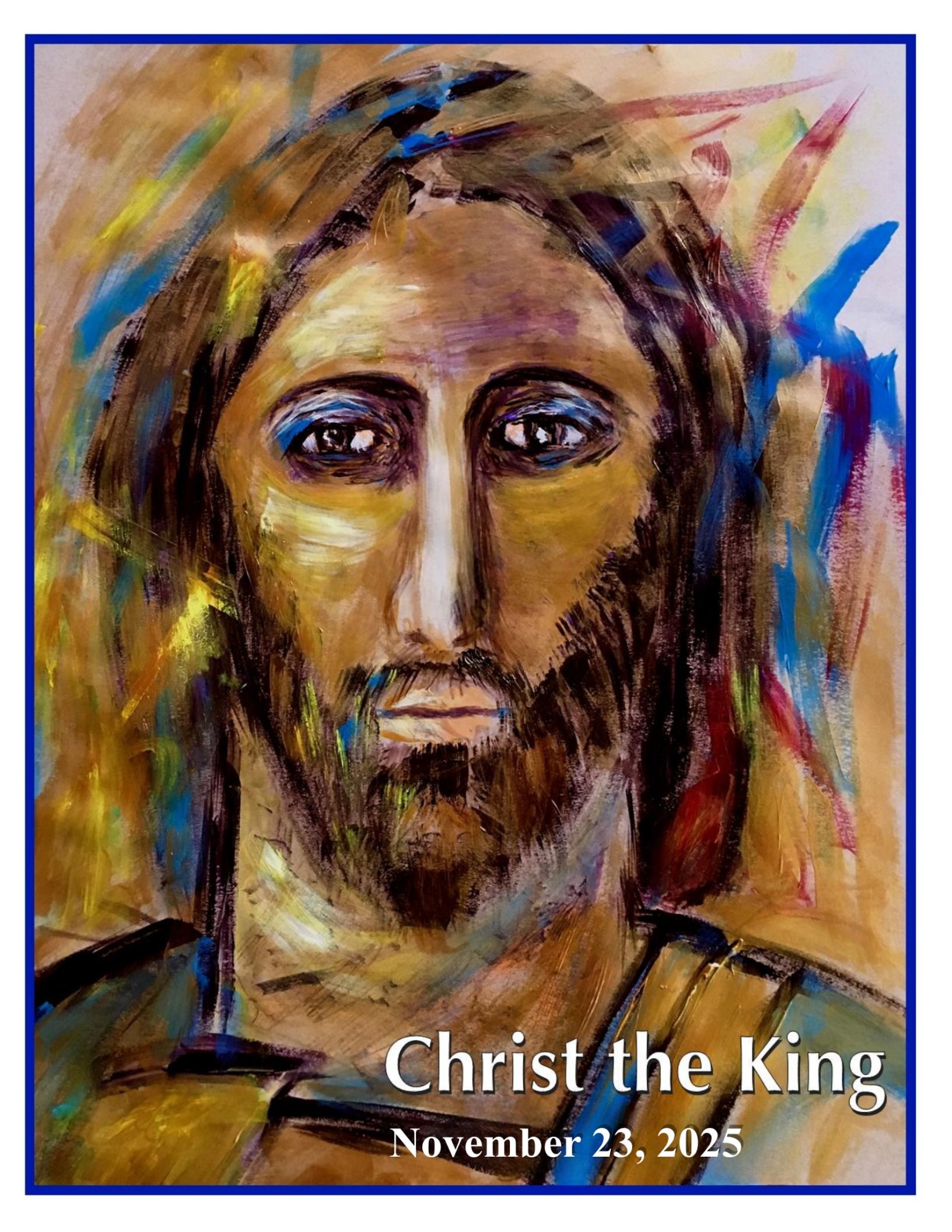


An abstract, expressive painting of Christ the King. The face is rendered with warm, golden-yellow and brown tones, with a prominent white vertical line down the center of the nose. The eyes are dark and intense, surrounded by blue and purple hues. The hair and beard are depicted with dark, textured brushstrokes. The background is a mix of vibrant colors like blue, red, and yellow, with visible, energetic brushwork. The entire image is framed by a thick blue border.

Christ the King

November 23, 2025

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Christ the King Sunday

November 23, 2025

8:30 am & 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

Give Thanks

Geschke

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come once again, **and feed your flock like a shepherd.**

Come once again, **and gather up the children, the oppressed, the sick, the lonely, the humble, and the rejected of the earth.**

Turn our hearts to the least of your children, for if we lose them, we become lost.

On this Christ the King Sunday, join us together with neighbors, with strangers, and especially with our own household.

Bring us into your light in spite of the darkness.

*HYMN

We Gather Together

559

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Imagining your reign can be difficult, Eternal God. It is difficult to picture a world governed by your justice and righteousness alone. Our minds are held captive by the worst images of human kings, rulers, and powers. When nobler visions fail and we settle for kingdoms of our own making, correct and forgive us. Free the borders of our imaginations, that we may envision your greater good and celebrate the coming of your reign on earth as in heaven.

Silent Prayers are Offered

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the prophecy of Zechariah: Tender mercy and forgiveness are the ways of God. We are forgiven. Let the church say, **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

Celebrating the Baptism of Kellen Thomas Joyce (10 am)

Parents: Tom & Brittney Joyce

Godparents: Brenden & KC Hennigan

Beloved of God... water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Here we come to the water, to baptize Kellen, and in each other's presence to renew our commitments to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new.

QUESTIONS OF THE FAMILY AND GODPARENTS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care for Kellen being baptized as he grows in faith?

We promise our love, support and care.

BLESSING OF THE WATER AND BAPTISM

LIGHTING OF THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of wonder and grace, we thank you for your love revealed here this day to this community, these parents, and this child. We pray that this community will always provide a safe shelter of your love in which all children may grow and play. We pray that these parents may continue to feel the sweet wonder of your presence so transparent here today. We pray that Kellen will bask in your love as he journeys through this life. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE CONGREGATION

God Claims You

Refrain



Kellen, Kellen, God claims you, God helps you, pro - tects you, and loves you too. *Fine*



1. We this day do all a - gree a child of God you'll al - ways be.
2. We your fam - ily love you so, we vow to help your faith to grow.
3. And if you should tire or cry then we will sing this lul - la by. *D.C.*

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 23:1-6

MINISTRY OF MUSIC (10 am)

Praise Waltz

Mazzatenta

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10 am)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Our Father, 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.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Now Thank We All Our God

Cruger

*PREACHING LESSON

Luke 23:33-43

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Follow Who?

Rev. Mollie Foster

OFFERTORY

Gymnopedie No. 2

Satie

*DOXOLOGY

593/592

***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.***

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Compassionate Shepherd, You do not abandon your flock, even when we wander or divide. You gather us in Christ, our righteousness, and teach us to live in unity, mercy, and peace. As we bring these gifts, may they be signs of our desire to follow your way—offering compassion where there has been hurt, justice where there has been harm, and hope where there has been despair. Strengthen us to live as people waiting not in fear, but in faith—serving the reign of Christ not just with words, but with lives

shaped by generosity and love. In the name of the One who gathers and leads us always. Amen.

*HYMN	<i>Let All Things Now Living</i>	554
*BENEDICTION	<i>The Lord Bless You & Keep You</i>	Lutkin
POSTLUDE	<i>Gigue</i>	Handel

* 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. Mollie Foster, Associate Minister
Sarah Hibbard, Lector

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries
Sue Douglass, Organist
Chancel Choir
Bells on High, Sandy Bowen Director
Karen Nelson, Violin
Dave Belden, Violin
Naomi Hildner, Viola
Melissa Bach, Cello

CREDITS: Call to Worship Adapted from First Sunday of Advent Prayers and Litanies, posted on the Ministry Matters website, www.ministrymatters.com/; reposted on re:Worship, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/10/advent-prayer-come-once-again.html>. Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance written by Hans Holznagel, "Worship Elements: November 20, 2022," Ministry Matters, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4410/worship-elements-november-20-2022>. Prayer of Thanksgiving from UMC Discipleship Ministries "Offertory Prayer" for Christ the King Sunday. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/the-days-are-surely-coming/christ-the-king-reign-of-christ-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/christ-the-king-reign-of-christ-year-c-offertory-prayer> Benediction written by Nancy C. Townley, "Worship Connection: November 20, 2022," Ministry Matters, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4411/worship-connection-november-20-2022>.

PLEASE SEE AN USHER...for seat cushions and/or hearing assistance devices for use during worship. Thank you to our November Ushers: Scott Nelson (captain), Dan Smith, Michael Laginess, Haukur Gudmundsson, Bud Shinn, and Kent Ulery.

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 sponsored this week in honor of Josh Jarvis 15th Birthday and Sasha & Eugene's 19th Anniversary! Alter flowers \$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 8:30 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.

PK-5th Grades:

Children are invited to leave the worship service following the Children's Message and head to the Sunday School Wing for an all ages Kids Club. You can pick your child up following service in the Sunday School Wing.

6th-12th Grades:

No Youth Sunday School today due to Thanksgiving Break!

YOUTH GROUP:

Today is High School Holy Chow! We will gather in the Butler Place Entry at 11:45 am and walk Uptown for a meal together with meaningful discussion with Pastor Mollie! We will return to PRCC at 1:00 pm. No money needed!

Wacky Wednesday (6th-8th Grades)

There is no WW this week due to Thanksgiving Break!

Youth Choir

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

Christmas Pageant Registration Open



Children from preschool through high school are invited to participate in singing or speaking roles. Each child will wear a beautifully handmade costume by the talented Ann Swindell. This heartwarming, joy-filled pageant is carefully scripted and rehearsed under the direction of Sasha Gerritson, and there's a role for everyone! An important rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 13th from 10:00 am-11:45 am, and songs will be practiced during regular music time in November and December. We will also need many adults to help make these productions a success!

Save the Date: Advent Festival December 7th

Join us for a family-friendly Advent Festival at PRCC! Come and experience the joy of the season with activities, fellowship, and fun for all ages. We're also looking for volunteers to help plan and run the event—if you'd like to get involved, we'd love your help!

ADULT MINISTRY

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

Join our weekly Bible Study class as we study the Prophets. We will learn from a variety of theologians using the Disciple Bible Study materials. Through DVD, scripture reading, and additional background, we will explore the meaning of these ancient texts and what they say to us today. All are welcome! We will use this study through December!

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, December 7 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). December - Topic: "Meditation- Finding the Quiet Place."

OUTREACH

The Night Ministry: The Outreach Team is collecting boots for the Night Ministry during the months of November and December. The Night Ministry is a Chicago based organization that provides housing support and healthcare to the unhoused and those experiencing poverty. They are in need of men's new and gently used warm, weatherproof outdoor boots. Larger sizes are preferred. Please drop off your donation in the Park place room. Thank you in advance, for all you do to support those who are in need!

Giving Tree: Avalon Park Community Church

We are partnering with Avalon Park Community Church to provide gifts for 100 children in their neighborhood again this Christmas! Grab a gift tag on the Butler Place Tree starting Nov. 30th or purchase any toy, craft, or art supplies for ages 0-17. Drop off UNWRAPPED gifts by Dec. 14th!

PRAYER REQUESTS

One of the gifts of community is that we hold one another in prayer. Each week, we share our joys and sorrows with one another so that we might feel the support of the community. No one is alone. God is with us, and we are supporting one another.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR CONGREGATION AND OUR LOVED ONES:

Laura Beaudion, Tom Berry, Evan Curtis, Amber Douglass, Wylie Douglass, Jon Forsythe, Ginny Feurer, Kym Giera, Christine Kotecki, Michelle Leach, Joey M., Tommy Mack, Michael McDonough, Tracy McKenzie, Kappy Muenzer, Pete Muenzer, Sandra, Brian Stevens, Kathleen Weller, Joyce Wright, and Bernice Zabawski.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM November 16:

- We give thanks for the joy of Consecration Sunday and for all the energy throughout our Stewardship journey!
- We celebrate an exciting Confirmation trip to St. Moses the Black Catholic Church and for the faith formation taking place in our children and youth.
- We celebrate the birth of Margot Mack Clark born last Sunday, Nov. 9, to new parents Kelly and Alex, and new grandparents, Bob & Paula
- We pray for Lisa I. and her son Joe as he also experiences heart trouble.
- We pray for the McGuffey family as they navigate a family challenge.
- We pray for the mother of one of our members, whose disease is progressing, resulting in weakness, loss of speech, and a trip to the hospital after a fall.
- We hold the Klimmeck family in our prayers as they mourn the loss of Tom's mother Kathy Klimmeck, who entered Life in the Resurrection on Nov. 5
- We pray for Siri's sister Samantha as she copes with job loss and other stressors.
- We pray for a son as he finds his way in life.

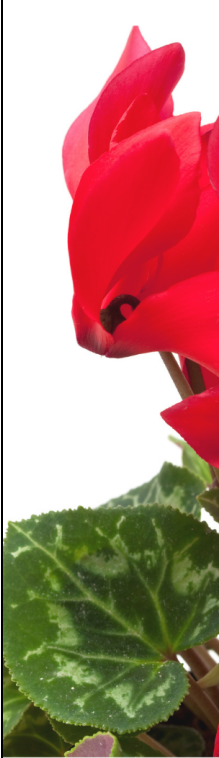


**WALL OF
SOUND**

supporting
PRCC ministries

--
@ Harp & Fiddle
110 Main St, Park Ridge, IL 60068
Nov 23 | 6:00 PM

Make sure to mention PRCC when you place your order!



ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS TODAY!

Orders must be placed by December 12.

Help us fill the sanctuary with beauty and warmth for our Christmas Eve worship services. Christmas flowers are a cherished tradition, and the names of those who purchase them—as well as anyone you wish to honor or remember—will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

This year's flowers are 6" Christmas Cyclamen from Lurvey's Florist, wrapped in festive green foil. You may request red or white, and we'll do our best to honor your preference. The cost is \$15 per plant, payable by cash, check, Shelby Online Giving, or Zelle.

Please note: We will not have live poinsettias at PRCC this year, as Pastor Carol is highly allergic. Thank you for your understanding!

We invite you to place your order by December 12 and help make our Christmas Eve services extra special.



ADVENT FESTIVAL: DECEMBER 7TH

Join us for a family-friendly Advent Festival at PRCC! Come and experience the joy of the season with activities, fellowship, and fun for all ages.

We're also looking for volunteers to help plan and run the event—if you'd like to get involved, we'd love your help!

CHURCH EVENTS

SUNDAY, November 23

8:30 am - Worship Service (Chapel)

10:00 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary)

11:45 am - High School "Holy Chow"

MONDAY, November 24

7:00 pm - Yoga (Great Hall)

TUESDAY, November 25

10:15 am - Chair Yoga (Great Hall)

WEDNESDAY, November 26

10:00 am - Women's AA (Parlor)

THURSDAY, November 27 Office Closed- Thanksgiving Holiday!

FRIDAY, November 28 Office Closed- Thanksgiving Holiday!

Happy Birthday

11/24 Karen Davis

11/24 Liam Krizman

11/24 Jon Woo

11/26 Karen Heckmann

11/27 Mary Belke

11/27 Evan Sullivan

11/29 Janet Johnson



Let's help our new neighbors stay warm this winter! All are invited to join in by providing mens boots, warm socks, hats, gloves, and scarves for the Night Ministry. Donations can be dropped off in the Butler Place collection bin through December!

Park Ridge Community Church
100 Courtland Ave. Park Ridge, IL 60068
www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org