

December 28, 2025
The First Sunday of Christmas



How does a
weary world
rejoice?

WE SING!



PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

The First Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 2025

We Sing!
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

I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest tossed days,
Candles of grace for heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.
We will light candles this Christmas.

*HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful, v. 1 & 2

41/42

*OPENING PRAYER

**Holy Child, we have come to your manger again this year,
filled with wonder and awe for your presence among us.
As you came to us on that first Christmas, come to us now.
Enter our hearts and our worship, that we might recognize the
shining light of your love and grace. In your loving name we pray. Amen.**

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CELEBRATING THE BAPTISM OF Fynn Lightning Parker

Parents: Alex and Michele Parker

Godparents: Cristina Tobias and Tyler Buenting

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

**Here we come to the water, to baptize Fynn, 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 Fynn 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 Fynn will bask in your love as he journeys through this life. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE CONGREGATION


God Claims You

Refrain *Fine*



Fynn Fynn God claims you, God helps you, pro - tects you, and loves you too.

D.C.



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.

LESSON

Isaiah 9:1-7

CAROL

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, v. 1 & 3

9

LESSON

Micah 5:2-4

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem, v. 1 & 4

44

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S 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.

LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

*CAROL

The First Nowell, v. 1-2

56

LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

CAROL

Away in a Manger, v. 1 - 2

25

LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High, v. 1 & 3

23

LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

CAROL

Silent Night, v. 1 - 2

60

LESSON

John 1:1-14

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing v. 1 - 2

31

OFFERTORY

Christmas Must Be Tonight

*RESPONSE

In the Bleak Midwinter, v. 4
**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise One, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give him: give my heart.**

36

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

These gifts we bring to you, as the Magi brought their gifts before you. Bless them and use them to extend your light, your love, your justice for all the earth. May our lives shine with the hope we experience in your presence. Amen.

LESSON

Matthew 28:16-20

CAROL

Go! Tell it on the Mountain, v. 1 & 3

29

*BENEDICTION

Edelweiss

*POSTLUDE

** 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

Sue Douglass, Organist
Dave Swanson, Guitar

CREDITS: Call to Worship written by Howard Thurman.

PLEASE SEE AN USHER...for seat cushions and/or hearing assistance devices for use during worship. Thank you to our December Ushers: Barbra Madro (CAPTAIN), Ace Steele, Dave Figgins, Dave Kapolnek, Gretchen Kapolnek, Christopher Browning, Marylyn & Dick Collentine, and Mike Proue.

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

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.

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

WINTER COLLECTION 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!

SUNDAY NIGHT SUPPER - 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.

We need 4 cooks and 12 servers for our next assigned date on January 4, 2026. Sign up with the QR Code!



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



SCAN FOR TICKETS!

**This event is for ages 21+*



Christmas Flowers

Given in honor of:

Our Congregation by Mary Biardo
Flowers for Christmas by Patrica Conaway
The birth of Jesus by Marc and Kathy Erlandson
Our Family by Scott and Susie Hollingsworth
PRCC Staff by Janet Johnson
Elsie Jarvis by Eugene Jarvis and Family
Vince and Marva McCarty by the McCarty Family
Barbara Scharringhausen for her many years of service to PRCC by Bill Scharringhausen
Flowers for Christmas by Laura Sissman
Loved Ones by Andrea and Will Smith
The Wonderful PRCC Staff by Liz Swanson
Anne and Emily Zoellner's holiday birthdays by Luan Zoellner

Given in memory of:

David Douglass by Susan Douglass
Of our loved ones by Marc and Kathy Erlandson
Alicen McGowan and Irene McGowan by Sasha Gerritson
Roy Shepard by Jason and Megan Hinton
Clarissa Boyd by Laura Lapp
Richard Lenke by Maureen Lenke
Dennis Ofenloch by Leslie Ofenloch
Maxine and Tio DiDomenico by Anita Rifkind
Hans and Corry Regnier by Megan and Michele Thomas-Regnier

CHURCH EVENTS

SUNDAY, January 4, 2026

10:00 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary)

*****Note-** The Church Office will be closed Dec 24 thru Jan 1. Staff will be working remotely.

