

February 8, 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 Vision Worth Following: The Vision that Requires Commitment
February 8, 2026 8:30 & 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**

Jesus invites us to a vision of celebration, meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus beckons us to a vision of risk, letting go of our security.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus challenges us to listen to the voices of those who have nothing to lose.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus points us to a way of self-giving, where power and status are overturned.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross,

where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

Let us walk his way with joy.

***HYMN**

Let Us With A Gladsome Mind

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***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Let us pray:

Today, Lord, I once again take up my cross and follow you.

Forgive me for choosing daily to be complacent.

Happiness has been my god and I have believed I'm entitled to it.

Forgive me for all the excuses I have

for not responding to you immediately, with urgency, and sacrificially.

Forgive me for complaining about being bored

as I sit and do nothing.

Forgive me for the times I have tried to make carrying my cross more comfortable.

I have been too concerned with finding things to make it easier; gadgets and toys to make my cross lighter, smaller, and cushioned.

Forgive me for making excuses and not going with you because I was worried about my health, safety, reputation, loneliness, financial security, and ability to handle extreme weather and getting dirty.

Forgive me for focusing on my comfort rather than my character.

Forgive me for the times I have not followed you because it wasn't convenient.

I didn't want to go out of my way to see the needs around me because then I would feel guilty for not doing something about them.

Forgive me for not loving my neighbors- I don't even know their names.

Forgive me for trying to pacify my conscience by giving just enough to feel good about myself but not enough to inconvenience my lifestyle.

Today, Lord, I once again take up my cross and follow you.

Shake me of my complacency; I want to live daily with an urgency to radically be the change you call me to be.

Strip me of my comforts; may my love for you be a driving force to live with joyful surrender.

Scratch out my schedule;

I don't want my circumstances or timeline to influence my dedication and obedience to take up my cross and follow you.

Here I am; Send Me.

May your word pour out of me like water to the thirsty, and may my life be full of the fruit of the Spirit. All I am and have I give back to you with open hands knowing that all my needs you will meet as I go with you. Today I take up my cross and follow you.

Silent Prayers are Offered

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Hear the good news: Our God has heard the cries of our hearts, receives our confession and offers us forgiveness, steadfast love, and endless grace.

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**

FIRST LESSON

1 Peter 5:5b-10

MINISTRY OF MUSIC (10 am)

Unto the Hills

Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10 am)

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORDS 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 (8:30 am)

Live Into Hope , v. 4

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***PREACHING LESSON**

Luke 9:18-20, 23-27

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

How Much?

Rev. Carol Hill

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

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**

Holy God, we know that following you requires us to step out in faith. We long for your vision to become a reality here and now. Use these gifts that we offer. Give us the strength to give more than we think we can in service to your kingdom. Help us take up the mantle and fill the world with your love. Amen.

***HYMN**

Be Thou My Vision

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***BENEDICTION**

* 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
Susan Greenwood, Lector

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries
Angie & Andrew Weber, Musicians
Sue Douglass, Organist
Jane Kenas-Heller, Pianist
Chancel Choir

CREDITS: Prayer of Confession excerpted from a prayer by Hila, and posted on the Love God, Love Neighbour website.
<http://www.lovegodloveneighbor.com/take-up-my-cross-and-follow-you-a-prayer-by-hila/> Prayer of Thanksgiving written by Rev. Carol Hill, 2026.

PLEASE SEE AN USHER...for seat cushions and/or hearing assistance devices for use during worship. Thank you to our February Ushers: Tim Lapp (captain), Adrian Hill, Lonn Naudzus, Bruce Nelson, Anita Rifkind, Fred Siebert, and Laura Sissman.

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 this Sunday - in loving memory of Aileen McGowen. Alter 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 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pre-K-5th Grade Children are invited to attend Sunday School following the Children's Message during worship. They will head to the Sunday School Wing to explore the Bible story of the Disciples through hands-on crafts and engaging, interactive activities. Families may pick up children in the Sunday School Wing after the service.

6th-12th Grades Youth will meet in the Library following the Children's Message for Sunday School! Today's lesson is "The Great Commission".

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.

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 is discussing "The Bible and the Transgender Experience. Books are \$10 from the Church Office. This study is convened in person with a [zoom option](#).

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, March 1 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). March 1: Lectio Divina.

OUTREACH

100 YARDS 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!

Creation Care: An Interactive Conversation



Wednesday, March 4 at 7 pm in the Ellinger Transept - Cathy Clarkin, environmental educator and Executive Director of Accelerate Climate Solutions, will discuss the pressing need to advocate and engage for climate change. "Climate Change is part of the current humanitarian crisis," she says. Cathy welcomes questions about climate change and how you can help. Hosted by Creation Care and Social Justice teams.

Creation Care: Educational Tables, Sunday, March 1, during Coffee Hour

Engage with ways you can be part of Creation Care. Suggestions include small and large activities for you and your family. (Hint: you can compost greasy pizza boxes!) Bonus: taste chili simmering on an induction electric countertop burner, part of the movement to electrify kitchens. Hosted by Creation Care and Social Justice teams.

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, Kym Giera, Christine Kotecki, Michelle Leach, Joey M., Michael McDonough, Tracy McKenzie, Kappy Muenzer, Pete Muenzer, Sandra, Greg Sarlo, Brian Stevens, Kathleen Weller, Joyce Wright, and Bernice Zabawski.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM February 1st:

- We give thanks for the storytelling and ministry of Exodus World Service, and we continue to pray for refugees awaiting a safe place, for countries to open their doors, and dreams to become realities.
- We pray for the work of the Nominating Committee, which begins this week as we seek to match willing volunteers with the leadership needs of our church. We pray for God's Spirit to guide each of us into the right role and ministry for the year ahead.
- We give thanks that Greg S. was able to go home, and continue to pray for Greg and Danny as they navigate the everyday journey with this cancer.
- We pray for Jim and Judy as they navigate layers of challenges with their home, health, and next chapter.
- Our prayers are with Kym and her sister in law as they prepare for surgery this week.
- We pray for the prayer vigil that healing and hope would be experienced as we shine light into this difficult point in history.
- We pray for Brendan's parents, John and Darlene J. as they travel to Honduras for a medical mission trip with their church.
- We hold in prayer Rick B.'s brother, Mark, as he has completed radiation for prostate cancer and is now awaiting follow-up test results

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+



CARNIVAL

[Click Here for more!](#)

WHAT

Carnival will include a silent auction, a live auction, appetizers and cocktails, Latin-themed dinner, desserts, live music, and casino games! Enter through Butler Place, enjoy pre-dinner fun in the Great Hall, dine in Jordan Hall with the live auction, and resume in the Great Hall for the band, casino, and dessert!

WHO

Our target audience is ADULTS 21+ who want to have fun and support our ministries. Church members, friends, neighbors, family, community leaders...all are welcome to come out and have a good time! Don't forget your credit cards and/or checkbook!

WHY

Carnival 2026 is the follow-up event to Mardi Gras 2025! This annual fundraiser seeks to provide a big evening of fun and festivity to support the annual budget, youth ministry, and other fundraising needs for the church, reducing the need for many small fundraising efforts by hosting this one bigger scale event.

HOW

There are many ways to participate! WE NEED YOU!!

- Buy tickets (individual \$100 or a table of 8 for \$750)! Drink tickets, raffle tickets, and casino cash will be available for purchase!
- Be a sponsor to help cover the costs of the evening - or invite your company or business to sponsor and be featured in our program!
- Donate items, services, property, entertainment, tickets, and more for the silent and live auctions!

AUCTION PREVIEW



- A week's vacation in Mexico at the property of your choice: Cancun, Cabo, Loretto or Puerto Vallarta, Mexico! This stay will be at a Universal Vacation Club property. The value of this week-long stay is \$2,500.
- A year-long reserved parking spot at Park Ridge Community Church!
- An Evening of Live Music, Appetizers, Homemade Pie, and Fellowship for a group of 10 hosted at the Carriage House!
- Jewelry; Cubs, Bears, White Sox and Bulls Tickets; Raffle Prizes to local establishments; AND MORE!!!

CHURCH EVENTS

SUNDAY, February 8

- 8:30 am - Chapel Worship
- 10:00 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 am - Cookie by the Dozen Sale (Jordan Hall)
- 11:00 am - Loving Lunches (Parlor)
- 12:00 pm - Private Event (Great Hall)

MONDAY, February 9

- 9:00 am - PEO Sisterhood, Chapter GZ (Library)
- 1:00 pm - PEO Sisterhood, Chapter DA (Jordan Hall)
- 6:00 pm - Finance Meeting (Library)
- 7:00 pm - Yoga (Great Hall)
- 7:00 pm - Action Ridge Book Group (Parlor)

TUESDAY, February 10

- 12:00 pm - Kindred Spirits Cafe (Jordan Hall)
- 5:30 pm - Rainbow for Children
- 6:00 pm - Carnival Planning Team (Parlor)
- 7:00 pm - Stephen Ministry Supervision (Library)

WEDNESDAY, February 11

- 10:00 am - Staff Meeting (Pastoral Office)
- 10:00 am - Women's AA (Parlor)
- 2:30 pm - Wacky Wednesday (Great Hall)
- 3:45 pm - Youth Choir (Music Room)
- 6:00 pm - Girl Scout Meeting (Jordan Hall)
- 7:00 pm - Bible Study (Ellinger Transept)
- 7:00 pm - Action Ridge (Jordan Hall)

THURSDAY, February 12

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

SATURDAY, February 14

- 8:30 am - Stephen Ministry Training 2026 (Parlor)



COOKIES
by the dozen

Sunday, Feb. 8
Jordan Hall

The Youth will be selling
pre-plated cookies by the dozen!
All proceeds support the travel
expenses for the 2026 Youth Trip!