



March 15



CULTIVATING  
& LETTING GO

# PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Cultivating & Letting Go:  
March 15, 2026

Cultivating Grace; Letting Go of Shame  
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

*After the Storm*

Lamb

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

God of this day, Cultivate in us a spirit of worship—

**Hearts that pray, Ears that hear, Eyes that see, Minds that believe.**

God of this space, Cultivate in us a spirit of worship—

**Letting go of distractions and fears, isolation and doubt.**

God of this day, Cultivate in us a spirit of worship—

**For you are love, our new beginning, and we will always need that.**

Let us worship Holy God.

### \*HYMN

*Open My Eyes*

324

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**On this very day, Waiting God, we admit all the lengths to which we go so we might avoid you. You offer us that kingdom of joy and wonder, yet we would hide in places where temptation waits. You invite us to feast on your grace and peace, but we stubbornly refuse. We are quick to see all the mistakes that those around us make, but hope you will ignore our foolish choices. Celebrating God, before we come to our senses, we find you running towards us, sweeping us up in your arms, tears of grace mingling with our cries of confession, a mighty river washing away our sinful ways to restore us to new life. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we find no limitations on your grace, no reservations about your love, but a feast that overflows with wonder, a place we can finally call home. Cultivate a sense of your grace within us, even as we let go of our guilt and shame. Amen.**

### FIRST LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC (10 am)

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

M. Githum

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10 am)

### PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.**

### MUSICAL RESPONSE (8:30 am)

*What Wondrous Love, v. 3*

**\*PREACHING LESSON**

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Amazing Grace*

Rev. Carol Hill

**OFFERTORY**

*Wade in the Water - arr.*

Moses Hogan

**\*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**

**God of Creation- You gave the wildflower soil to stand in, sunlight to grow in, and water to rest in. You have done the same for us, but so much more. In gratitude for the countless gifts you have given us—for community and love, food and shelter, dreams and hope—we give back this small sign of our appreciation. Use it for your good. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*The Glory of these Forty Days*

87

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*Christ, We Do All Adore Thee*

DuBois

**\*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  
Rev. Mollie Foster, Associate Minister  
Julie Smith, Lector

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries  
Angie & Andrew Weber, Musicians  
Sue Douglass, Organist  
Jane Kenas-Heller, Pianist  
Chancel Choir  
Bells on High  
Jack Tilles, Flute

CREBITS: Prayers and Liturgy by Sarah Are Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org). Prayer of Confession adapted from © 2016 Thom M. Shuman.

PLEASE SEE AN USHER...for seat cushions and/or hearing assistance devices for use during worship. Thank you to our March 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](mailto: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. Flowers will not be available to sponsor during Lent.

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](mailto: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 (Ages 0-5)** Our nursery is open from 8:30-11:15 am for children up to 5 years old. The nursery is a safe, welcoming space located downstairs next to Jordan Hall.

**Sunday School (Pre-K-5th Grade)** Children are invited to come to Sunday School following the Children's Message during worship. After music, we will meet in two grade leveled groups. This week we will learn the Bible story The Lost Sheep and The Lost Coin. You can pick your child up following worship in the Sunday School wing.

**6th-12th Grades** Youth will meet in the Library following the Children's Message for Sunday School! Today's lesson is "Maundy What?"

**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 "Sowing Seeds of Climate Hope" is the theme of the Bible Study. The study ties together the theme of worship "Cultivating and Letting Go" with lessons shared by Rev. Dr. Terry Gallagher. Through video, discussion, and scripture we will consider the ways we are called to be caretakers of creation. No book to buy. "Sustaining Creation" (no book to purchase). This study is convened in person with a [zoom option](#). Wednesday, March 18 will be the last bible study until after Easter.

## **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!

## **LENTEN PRAYER STATIONS, SUNDAYS DURING LENT**

Lent invites us into a slower, more reflective rhythm of faith. During this sacred season, the Stephen Ministers invite you to journey through seven Lenten Prayer Stations. Each station offers simple, meaningful practices to help you pause, pray, and listen for God's presence in the midst of everyday life. Come at your own pace and allow this time to gently renew your heart and spirit. A map guiding you to each station can be found in the Butler Place Room.

## **HOLY WEEK 2026**

**March 29 - Palm Sunday** - Sunday services with Palm branches

**April 2 - Maundy Thursday** - 7:30 pm Service with Communion

**April 3 - Good Friday** - 12 pm Seven Last Words Ecumenical Service at St. Luke's Lutheran Church; 7:30 pm Good Friday service

# OUTREACH

## Children's Book Drive!

Throughout March, we will be collecting children's books for Bernie's Book Bank!

Here's what we will take:

- NEW & GENTLY USED **CHILDREN'S** BOOKS
- BIRTH-6TH GRADE READING LEVEL

Here's what we will not take:

- BOOKS WITH YELLOWED PAGES
- BOOKS FOR ADULTS
- ACTIVITY BOOKS
- COOKBOOKS
- RELIGIOUS BOOKS
- PARTIALLY STICKERED BOOKS

Join us as we volunteer at Bernie's Book Bank  
On April 18th! All ages welcome!

**PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH & BERNIE'S BOOK BANK**

# CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE

Donate new or gently used children's books throughout March. Then volunteer with us on April 18th to help get them ready for kids — if you can put a sticker on, you can volunteer!

**BOOK DRIVE**  
DEPOSIT BOOKS IN BINS  
THROUGHOUT MARCH

**VOLUNTEER**  
APRIL 18TH 9-11 AM  
BERNIE'S BOOK BANK

**REGISTER**

**BOOK CRITERIA:**

**Yes**

- NEW & GENTLY USED CHILDREN'S BOOKS
- BIRTH-6TH GRADE READING LEVEL

**No!**

- BOOKS WITH YELLOWED PAGES
- BOOKS FOR ADULTS
- ACTIVITY BOOKS
- COOKBOOKS
- RELIGIOUS BOOKS
- PARTIALLY STICKERED BOOKS

**ANY QUESTIONS? SEE TRICIA WILLIAMS, MORGAN TONE OR PASTOR MOLLIE**

# 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 March 8th:

- Janet J. asks for continued prayers for her friend, Paul, who's been transferred to a third hospital as they seek treatment for his reaction to chemotherapy.
- We hold Lisa I. in prayer as she prepares for an oral procedure this week.
- We pray that Kym feels surrounded by God's peace as she prepares for cataract surgery on Thursday, Mar. 12 and we celebrate with Charlie that he won't need cataract surgery himself.
- We pray for Janet J.'s nieces, Maria & Linnea, as they each recover from recent hospitalizations.
- Sharon K. and Kent U. ask for prayers for those impacted by the tornadoes in Michigan on Friday, especially First Congregation and UCC of Union City.
- Our prayers are with all of the troops who are being deployed, their families, and the leaders guiding their actions. We pray for peace.
- We continue to pray for Greg S. and Danny B. as Greg maintains his chemo treatments. May they be surrounded by love and support during these difficult days.
- We pray for our friends at Redeemer Church as they mourn the loss of a dear friend and congregant.
- Kathy E. requests prayers for her mother, Nancy, who has entered hospice care.
- We pray for a brother who is struggling with addiction.
- Our prayers are with the Pringle family as they mourn the unexpected loss of Jordan's uncle, Tim Tofson, on Feb. 24.



## EASTER FLOWERS



**Place your order for Easter flowers, by Monday, March 23,** indicating your preferences. Flowers will be placed around our sanctuary for worship to add to the beauty of these services. The names of those who purchase flowers and those for whom the flowers are dedicated will be listed in the Easter bulletin.

PRCC'S 2026  
**MY COMMUNION CLASS**  
MEETING DATES:  
APRIL 19 & APRIL 26  
MY COMMUNION RECOGNITION  
ON MAY 3  
OPEN TO CHILDREN IN GRADES 2 AND UP  
TO SIGN UP:  
EMAIL MORGAN  
[MORGAN@PARKRIDGECOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG](mailto:MORGAN@PARKRIDGECOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG)



PARK RIDGE  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

# EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 5 | 11:30 AM

CHURCH LAWN

ALL AGES WELCOME-SPECIAL  
AREA FOR 2 AND UNDER



PARK RIDGE  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

# DONATIONS NEEDED

PLEASE CONSIDER  
DONATING SMALL CANDY,  
TOYS AND EGGS TO  
SUPPORT THE SUCCESS OF  
OUR ANNUAL EASTER EGG  
HUNT!

KINDLY PLACE ANY DONATIONS  
IN THE BIN IN BUTLER PLACE  
ROOM

*Thank  
you*

## Lenten Prayer Stations



During the sacred season of Lent, the Stephen Ministers invite you into a quiet, intentional journey of reflection and renewal. Rooted in the contemplative spirit of these forty days—echoing Jesus' time in the wilderness—this self-guided experience offers seven thoughtfully designed stations: Gratitude, Waiting, Deep Tiredness, Love & Service, When Life Feels "Meh", God's Love, and Letting Go. Each station creates space to pause, breathe, and encounter God honestly within the realities of daily life. Come move at your own pace, engaging simple prayers and practices that gently open the heart, trusting that even in stillness, God is at work within us.

# CHURCH EVENTS

## SUNDAY, March 15

- 8:30 am - Worship Service (Chapel)
- 10:00 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 2:00 pm - A Celebration of Life for Ginny Feurer

## MONDAY, March 16

- 9:00 am - PEO Chapter GZ (Library)
- 1:00 pm - PEO Chapter DA (Jordan Hall)
- 6:30 pm - Executive Committee (Library)
- 7:30 pm - Board of Directors (Jordan Hall)

## TUESDAY, March 17 ELECTION DAY!! Be sure you VOTE!

- 12:00 pm - Kindred Spirits Cafe (Jordan Hall)
- 5:30 pm - Rainbow for Children
- 7:00 pm - Stephen Ministry Training (Library)

## WEDNESDAY, March 18

- 10:00 am - Women's AA (Parlor)
- 2:30 pm - Wacky Wednesday (Great Hall)
- 3:45 pm - Youth Choir (Music Room)
- 6:00 pm - SPRC Committee (Library)
- 7:00 pm - Bible Study (Ellinger Transept)
- 7:00 pm - Action Ridge Jordan Hall)

## THURSDAY, March 19

- 9:00 am - Men's Breakfast (Library)
- 5:30 pm - Pride in Park Ridge Planning Team (Library)
- 6:30 pm - Bells on High (Balcony)
- 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir (Music Room)



- 03/15 Nancy Fabisch
- 03/17 Sharon Cooney
- 03/18 Adrian Hill
- 03/19 Judy Foster
- 03/19 Judy Sindt
- 03/20 John Hurd
- 03/20 Mike Laginess
- 03/21 Owen Smith