

March 8



CULTIVATING
& LETTING GO

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Cultivating & Letting Go: Cultivating Patience; Letting Go of Easy Answers
March 8, 2026 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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In this hour we will pray, **because we long to draw near to God.**

In this hour we will sing, **because words are hardly ever enough.**

In this hour we will sit side by side, **as a reminder that we belong together.**

And in this hour, we will cultivate faith—together. **So let us worship with open hearts.**

Let us worship Holy God.

*HYMN

Near to the Heart of God

527

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace— You ask us to care for the poor and the hungry, but that makes us uncomfortable. You ask us to care for the environment, but that requires sacrifice. You ask us to love our neighbor as ourselves, but that requires vulnerability. Instead, we hide our hands, avert our eyes, and choose ourselves. Forgive us for holding tight to our own agendas and letting go of your call to love. Cultivate in us more faithful spirits—hearts that are strong enough to choose one another and minds smart enough to make the sacrifice. Forever grateful we pray, Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-9

MINISTRY OF MUSIC (10 am)

Prayer: Together in Song

G. Walker

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)

Blest Be the Tie that Binds, v. 1

438

*PREACHING LESSON

Luke 13:1-9

SERMON

It's Complicated

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

Gracious God, For the morning dawn, which promises new life; and for your love, which knows our name,

We give you thanks.

For a place to belong—for this place to belong- and for grace that is always bigger than we deserve,

We give you thanks.

For the promise of justice that will roll down like a mighty stream and light that shines in the darkness,

We give you thanks.

We have so much to thank you for, gracious God, so in gratitude, we offer you these gifts. May they help cultivate your promised day here.

May we help cultivate your promised day here. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

*HYMN

Great Day!

445

*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
Will Smith, Lector

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

CREDITS: Prayers and Liturgy by Sarah Are Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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 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), 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 Mary Anoints Jesus. 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 "What is Lent?"

Confirmation Class TODAY, 11:30 am-1:00 pm Our Confirmation class will remain at PRCC today as we eat lunch and learn about the Islamic faith tradition. We welcome a special guest to help us understand this Abrahamic faith and its practices. We will also discuss all of our field trips this year and what we've learned. Meet in the Library at 11:30 am.

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 starting Wednesday, Feb. 25. 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](#).

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.

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 1 th:

- We pray for Adrienne W. as she prepares for eye surgery on Mar. 4. May God comfort her as she anticipates this surgery, and grant her strength and swift healing following the procedure.
- Bill and Tricia W. ask for prayers for Bill's goddaughter, Elspeth, who was diagnosed at age 37 with a very aggressive form of breast cancer. We pray for Elspeth, her husband, and their two young children, as they navigate the road ahead.
- Our prayers are with Rose J. and her son, William. Rose has been hospitalized due to cancer, so we pray for her care.
- Julie H. asks for prayers for her sister, Maria, as she searches for the cause of a concerning medical condition.
- Sharon K. asks for prayers for John as he navigates the side effects of chemotherapy.



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



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 8

- 8:30 am - Worship Service (Chapel)
- 10:00 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 am - Loving Lunches (Parlor)
- 11:30 pm - Confirmation

MONDAY, March 9

- 9:00 am - PEO Chapter GZ (Library)
- 1:00 pm - PEO Chapter DA (Jordan Hall)

TUESDAY, March 10

- 12:00 pm - Kindred Spirits Cafe (Jordan Hall)
- 5:30 pm - Rainbow for Children
- 7:00 pm - Welcome & Membership Mtg. (Parlor)
- 7:30 pm - Stephen Ministry Supervision (Library)

WEDNESDAY, March 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)
- 7:00 pm - Bible Study (Ellinger Transept)
- 7:00 pm - Action Ridge Jordan Hall)

THURSDAY, March 12

- 9:00 am - Men's Breakfast (Library)
- 6:00 pm - Finance Meeting (Library)
- 6:00 pm - Outreach Committee Meeting (Parlor)
- 6:30 pm - Bells on High (Balcony)
- 7:30 pm - Carnival Debriefing Meeting (Library)
- 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir (Music Room)

SATURDAY, March 14

- 11:00 am - Memorial Gifts Meeting (Library)

SUNDAY, March 15

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

A graphic with the words "Happy Birthday" written in a large, black, cursive script font. The text is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

03/09 Sam McCarty
03/09 Fred Siebert
03/10 Dan Stewart
03/11 Danny Brewer
03/12 Therese Wehman
03/14 Molly O'Brien