

just

LOVE



“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- Jesus

April 12, 2026

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Just Love...the Trees
April 12, 2026

Jazz Sunday
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

Whats Going On

Marvin Gaye

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord!

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

Praise the Lord, sun and moon, and all you shining stars!

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Praise the Lord from the earth,

Praise the Lord you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost, and stormy wind,

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Let heaven celebrate! Let the earth rejoice!

Let the sea and everything in it roar!

Let the countryside and everything in it celebrate!

Then all the trees of the forest too

will shout out joyfully before the Lord because the Lord is coming!

The Lord is coming to establish justice on the earth!

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

*HYMN

Welcome to This House

Welcome to this house, open and affirming. In God's Son we are all one.

Hand in hand we stand. Welcome to this house, caring and accepting. In God's Son we are all one. Welcome to this house of God.

Welcome to this house, there is room for everyone. All will sing, praises we bring.

Let us all be one. Welcome to this house, where God gives the call to serve. All will sing, raises we bring. Welcome to this house of God.

Welcome to this house, blessed by word and harmony. Child of God, born from above.

Know Christ is Love. Welcome to this house, filled with peace and charity. Child of God, born from above. Welcome to this house of God.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Precious God, we humbly come before you this day. We acknowledge that all creation comes from and is a reflection of you.

Lush trees created to provide food, shelter, and protection for creatures as you intended.

Their roots break down hard rock to form soil and filter pollutants from runoff, while maintaining the air balance through photosynthesis.

They stretch their branches out to you in worship and adoration.

By your creative will and design, all life forms took shape out of your holy breath - each for its particular purpose and yet all interdependent.

May we remember that before we became different races, ethnicities, and genders, we were cocooned in your holy creative intent alongside the possibility of all creation that was to come - all of us fearfully and wonderfully made, our very design and purpose glorifying you.

Our hearts are heavy with grief at the harm we cause our human and nonhuman kin. We ask your forgiveness. We pray for ourselves and all people to repent and change our consumeristic ways. Beloved Creator-God, through your power that is as gentle as a lamb and as capable as to call worlds into being, we ask that you speak to all hearts to change our ways.

Silent Prayers are Offered

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

By God's grace, our chaotic choices become creative grace for others; our foolishness can be transformed by God's goodness; our lives can become new by the Spirit of our God.

The good news is as true as it was on creation's first morning: Creator God is the redeeming Word who is the Breath of life for all people, even us. Thanks be to God for forgiveness and grace in our lives. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

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

Revelation 22:1-7

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Overjoyed

Stevie Wonder

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE 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.

***PREACHING LESSON**

Ezekiel 47:1-12

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

For the Love of Trees

Rev. Carol Hill

OFFERTORY

Put A Little Love In Your Heart

***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

Giver of every good gift, we give you thanks for the beauty of Creation. We give you thanks for the love we receive from the waters, land, and plants that sustain us. Use these gifts that we offer to restore, reconcile, and replenish your creation. Help us to take up the mantle of being the caretakers of creation, stewarding these precious resources. Amen.

*HYMN

What the World Need Now

What the world needs now, is love, sweet love, It's the only thing that there's just too little of. What the world needs now, is love, sweet love, No, not just for some, but for everyone.

Lord, we don't need another mountain, There are mountains and hillsides enough to climb. There are oceans and rivers enough to cross, Enough to last 'til the end of time.

What the world needs now, is love, sweet love, It's the only thing that there's just too little of. What the world needs now, is love, sweet love, No, not just for some, but for everyone. Lord, we don't need another meadow. There are cornfields and wheatfields enough to grow. There are sunbeams and moonbeams enough to shine. Oh listen, Lord, if you want to know.

What the world needs now, is love, sweet love, It's the only thing that there's just too little of. What the world needs now, is love, sweet love, No, not just for some, but for every, every, everyone.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Peace Love and Understanding

Elvis Costello

* 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
Sara Born, Lector

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries
Neal Wehman, Drums
Bryan Doherty, Bass
Kent Wehman, Piano
Michael Levin, Saxophone
Bruce Nelson, Percussion
Paul Mabin, Vocals

CREDITS: Today's liturgy is from the UCC Creation Justice Ministries "Canopy of Creation" resource for 2026.

PLEASE SEE AN USHER...for seat cushions and/or hearing assistance devices for use during worship. Thank you to our April ushers: Barbra Madro (CAPTAIN), Ace Steele, Dave Figgins, Dave Kapolnek, Gretchen Kapolnek, Christopher Browning, Marylynn Collentine, 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 (Ages 0-5) Our nursery is open from 9:30-11:15 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) Please join us for Sunday School this week! Children will learn the story of the Road to Emmaus through a Bible story, music, and crafts. They will meet in grade-level groups and then rejoin their parents in worship after the offertory to participate in Jazz Sunday

6th-12th Grades Following the children's message, youth will meet in the library for Sunday School. Today's topic, "Now what? Post Easter"

Confirmation Class We will gather in Jordan Hall from 11:30 am -1:00 pm for our last class of the school year! Confirmation Sunday will be on April 26th!

Wacky Wednesday and Youth Choir 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 "Who Stole My Bible". 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!

OUTREACH

LOVING LUNCHESES - TODAY! And May 10th



Help pack lunches for those in need with Loving Lunches today during coffee hour and on May 10th after the 10am service! Sign up to help assemble 160 lunches or supply items. The Christian Outreach Committee provides lunchmeat and cheese for sandwiches as well as fresh fruit using our Committee budget (the bread is generously donated). We are always in need of items for the lunches: individual chips, granola bars, juice boxes, and baggies.



Sunday, April 19th at 10 am

We have folks who are ready to join in fellowship and communion with this congregation, and it is our joy to welcome them on Sunday, April 19. If you are interested in becoming a member, [please let us know!](#)

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 April 5th:

- Charlie and Kym wish everyone a happy Easter!
- We pray for Susan G. who will have knee surgery on Monday, April 6.
- We pray for Cindy K. as she prepares for hip replacement surgery on April 7.
- Blaire S. asks for prayers of peace and comfort for her neighbor, Kathleen, whose mother is entering end of life care.
- Jim M. asks for prayers for his beloved aunt who is hospitalized and awaiting a heart procedure, as well as for Viola in the Philippines, who is struggling with blood pressure issues.
- We hold in prayer Keith R.'s mom, Dottie, as she prepares to return home after a hospitalization.
- Shelley O. asks for prayers for her father, Fred, who is in the hospital.
- We continue to pray for Winnie E. as she transitions home after a period in the hospital.
- We hold Sandra A. and family as her grandmother Carol Joshua entered Life in the Resurrection on March 30.
- We hold the Steele family in our prayers as they mourn the loss of their father and grandfather, Cecil Steele, as he entered into Life in the Resurrection on March 31.



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

CALLING ALL FORMER BRIDGE PLAYERS AND FRIENDS

The Memorial Gifts Team is seeking to refresh and replace several of our well-worn card tables. Before making new purchases, we would like to reach out to our congregation for assistance.

If you have a gently used card table that you are willing to donate, please consider giving it a new home. Tables may be dropped off at Butler Place, or you may contact Kathy Erlandson to arrange for pick-up.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

CHURCH EVENTS

SUNDAY, April 12- JAZZ SUNDAY!

- 10:00 am** - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 am** - Loving Lunches (Parlor)
- 11:30 am** - Confirmation Class (Jordan Hall)

MONDAY, April 13

- 9:00 am** - PEO Chapt GZ (Library)
- 7:00 pm** - Social Justice Meeting (Library)
- 7:00 pm** - Yoga (Great Hall)

TUESDAY, April 14

- 12:00 pm** - Kindred Spirits Cafe (Jordan Hall)
- 5:30 pm** - Rainbows for All Children
- 7:00 pm** - Stephen Ministries Supervision (Library)

WEDNESDAY, April 15

- 10:00 am** - Women's AA (Parlor)
- 1:00 pm** - Knitting Knights (Jordan Hall)
- 2:30 pm** - Wacky Wednesday (Great Hall)
- 2:45 pm** - Girl Scout Meeting (Jordan Hall)
- 3:30 pm** - Youth Choir (Music Room)
- 7:00 pm** - Bible Study (Ellinger Transept)

THURSDAY, April 16

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

SATURDAY, April 18

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



04/12 Luke Kapolnek
04/14 George Newman
04/16 Marilyn Andersen
04/16 Ella McCarty
04/16 Bennett Smith
04/17 Clark Simpson
04/18 Tim Mauery