



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

- Jesus

April 26, 2026

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Just Love
April 26, 2026

Even When It's Hard
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

Pavane "Lachrimae Antiquae"

Dowland

*CALL TO WORSHIP

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. (1 Cor. 13:1)

As we speak, as we act, as we show up in the world, God invites us to love.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. (1 John 4:16)

As we abide in God, as we worship, as we pray, as we go to school and go to work, God invites us to love.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. (John 13:34)

Jesus demonstrated love without end, and Jesus invites us to love.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, (Matthew 5:43-44)

Even when it's hard, the Holy Spirit gives us the strength to just love.

*HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

267

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, the hardest thing you asked was that we love our enemies.

We know how we'd like to love them: We'd love our enemies to be far away. We'd love them not to compromise our security. We'd love them not to scare us or change the way we live. We'd love them to be lovable.

You know, God, we'd love it to be popular to love enemies. We'd love our neighbors to respect us for this good deed. We'd love the people on the news to provide examples of how to love.

But then, if loving enemies were easy, Jesus wouldn't have told us about the tax collectors and gentiles, who love only their friends.

If loving enemies were easy, we know:

We wouldn't need God's strong arms to bear us up in difficult times.

We wouldn't need Jesus' death to show us the power of love.

We wouldn't need the Spirit flowing among us, wiping our tears.

We wouldn't need the Bible to tell us what the world does not.

God of all mercy, who loved us when we were yet sinful, who saved us through your immeasurable grace, who gave us a gift we did not deserve, Let us imitate you by loving those who are yet our enemies.

Teach us to know how to love enemies,

To wish them the best of the life you intend each human to have, and then pray and act so those wishes come true.

Teach us hope,

so we know that with your blessing, impossible dreams become reality.

Teach us faith,

so we know that only the strength to stop hating will halt the cycles of violence and revenge.

Teach us forgiveness,

which we know is suffering love through piercing tears.

Teach us, O Lord, your ways.

When our community looks at our congregation, hears our words and sees our deeds, help them to know that you, the God of love, live among us.

Teach us to love all of your children, O God.

Silent Prayers are offered

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

The steadfast, enduring love of God is always with us, forgiving us, loving us, and offering us a new beginning.

May our lives reflect that same love. Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF RESPONSE**

Though I May Speak, v.1

***Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.***

***PASSING THE PEACE**

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

MINISTRY OF MUSIC (10 am)

Sing for Joy!

Ellingboe

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10 am)

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.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC (8:30 am)

Let the Whole Creation Cry, v.2

***PREACHING LESSON**

Luke 6:27-36

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Love Anyway

Pastor Mollie Foster

SPECIAL MUSIC (10 am)

Calling All Children Home

CELEBRATING THE CONFIRMATION OF FAITH of Layla Chacko, Archer Geye, Adrian Hill, Jr., Rae Hill, Ella McCarty, Owen Smith

INTRODUCTION AND RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

CONFIRMATION WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION

...Yes! Yes! Yes! We affirm our love and support to these new members to the church family and covenant our support as we all move forward to a deeper faith in Christ Jesus.

Loving God, send your Holy Spirit to be among us, knitting us one to another. Help us to grow with each other, to love each other, to support each other. That by our common life in this community we may come to know and serve you and all our siblings in Christ, in Jesus name, we pray.

WELCOME

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Lento from Etude No. 3

Chopin

*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

We have the means to give, we have the reason to give, and there are many waiting for us to give. Yet often, our hands hold back, and we hoard what we have for ourselves. God of grace, help us live and give in your kingdom of love, where there are no enemies, only brothers and sisters, our kinfolk. May kindness be the air we breathe. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*HYMN

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

263

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION (10 am)

The Lord Bless You & Keep You

Lutkin

POSTLUDE

Corrente

Corelli

* 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
Mark Holihan, Lector

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries
Angie & Andrew Weber, Musicians
Sue Douglass, Organist
Jane Kenas-Heller, Pianist
Chancel Choir
Karen Nelson, Violin
Dave Belden, Violin
Naomi Hildner, Viola
Melissa Bach, Cello

CREDITS: Call to Worship - written by Rev. Carol Hill, 2026. Prayer of Confession written by Susan Mark Landis. Posted on Prayers for Enemies. <http://prayersforenemies.blogspot.ca/>
Prayer of Thanksgiving written by Carol Penner, and posted on Leading in Worship. <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/>

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!



OUTREACH

LOVING LUNCHES - May 10



Help pack lunches for those in need with Loving Lunches on May 10th after the 10 am service! The Christian Outreach Committee provides lunchmeat and cheese for sandwiches as well as fresh fruit. We are always in need of items for the lunches: individual chips, granola bars, juice boxes, and baggies.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

My Communion My Communion continues this week! Children will meet with Sue Laurie in Jordan Hall. You can pick your child up following worship in Jordan Hall.

Sunday School (Pre-K-5th Grade) Please join us for Sunday School this week! Children will learn the story of Saul to Paul through a Bible story, music, and crafts. They will meet in grade-level groups and you can pick them up from Sunday School following worship.

6th-12th Grades Youth will remain in worship today for Confirmation!

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". This text takes a look at cherished biblical texts that have been co-opted. 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!

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 19th:

- We celebrate the joy of adding 17 new members and the baptism of Ella McCarty this week!
- We pray for Jimmy and Peter M.'s aunt, Carol, who is facing health challenges.
- Seth asks for prayers as he prepares for an overseas job search.
- We pray for a family member who is hospitalized struggling with alcohol abuse.
- We pray for Lisa as she recovers from her medical procedure.
- Julie B. asks for continued prayers for friends Kathy and Mike, who recently lost their son unexpectedly.
- We pray for Paul, a friend of Janet J.'s, who is home after a long hospitalization, but is now struggling with depression.
- We pray for Julie B.'s friend, Holly, who has been struggling with illness.
- We hold in prayer Janet J.'s friend, Barb, whose sister passed away unexpectedly in April.



PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH YOUTH

CLEAN CARS = CHECKED BAGS!

50 PEOPLE. LOTS OF BAGS. 1 MISSION.

MAY 9 | 1:00-4:00 PM
PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH LOT

Support the PRCC Youth Service Team with a donation based car wash. All funds will help cover the expense of transporting our luggage and supplies to Portland, OR this June!



SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting- May 3
Annual Reports due April 19

CHURCH EVENTS

SUNDAY, April 26 - Confirmation Sunday!

8:30 am - Worship Service (Chapel)

10:00 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary)

12:20 pm - Private Event (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, April 27

11:30 am - PEO Chapter DA

TUESDAY, April 28

12:00 pm - Kindred Spirits Cafe (Jordan Hall)

7:30 pm - Stephen Ministries Supervision (Library)

WEDNESDAY, April 29

10:00 am - Women's AA (Parlor)

10:00 am - Staff Meeting (Pastoral Office)

2:30 pm - Wacky Wednesday (Great Hall)

3:30 pm - Youth Choir (Music Room)

7:00 pm - Bible Study (Ellinger Transept)

7:00 pm - Youth Mission Trip Meeting (Zoom)

THURSDAY, April 30

9:00 am - Men's Breakfast (Library)

6:30 pm - Private Event (Library)

6:30 pm - Bells on High (Balcony)

7:30 pm - Chancel Choir (Music Room)



04/26 Allen Cherry
4/27 Jillian Blackburn
4/27 Anita Rifkind
4/27 Greg Sarlo
04/30 Nancy Lynch
05/01 Marc Erlandson
05/01 Emmit Tone
05/02 Dale Reynolds