



# SUMMER ROAD TRIP:

*A Journey Through Scripture and  
the National Parks*

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2026**



PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
[www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org](http://www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org)



# PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

A Journey Through Scripture and the National Parks  
September 6, 2026

Campfire Stories  
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

*Serenade*

Franz Schubert

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

All creation, all people: praise the Lord!

**stars shooting across the sky, sing glad songs to our God!**

Storm clouds approaching, birds sitting on a branch: praise the Lord!

**Sleeping cats and barking dogs, sing new choruses of praise!**

Rich and poor, leaders and followers: praise the Lord!

**Old and young, families and singles, we will lift our joy to our God!**

### \*HYMN

*Called As Partners In Christ's Service*

see insert

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of delight, we confess that we have grown numb to the beauty of this world. We have not protected what is good and true and enchanting. We have forgotten how to marvel at the mundane with the same gravity as we would behold the mountain or valley. We have not looked up to witness the miracle of our architecture. And in our self-hatred, we have failed to delight in and honor the faces we pass each day, including our own. Forgive us our inattention, and in your mercy remind us that we are so much more than our pain. Guide our gaze toward the beautiful.**

*Silent prayers are offered.*

### \*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Let your soul receive this rest: The same God who makes the death of the tree burst with color can draw us into wonder even in the midst of tragedy. May the divine have mercy on our inattention, that we could grieve what should not be and delight in all that survives us. **Amen.**

### \*SONG OF RESPONSE

*Tune: Terra Patris (This is My Father's World)*

*God gifts us with this world, with creatures everywhere,*

*With sounds and sights, with great delights, For all to love and share.*

*So let us love this world, with all our heart and soul.*

*Be open, learn and in return, This earth will make us whole.*

### \*PASSING THE PEACE

### FIRST LESSON

Psalm 148

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC (10 am)

*Tempo di Menuetto from String Quartet K. 156*

W. A. Mozart

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10 am)

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### MUSICAL RESPONSE (8:30 am)

*Open My Eyes, v. 3*

## \*PREACHING LESSON

Matthew 6:25-33

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

"What a WONDERful World"

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

**Lord, your greatness is so considerable we'd need a cosmic chorus to proclaim it. If we invited every vocalist in heaven– sun, Mercury, moon, Big Dipper, and all the angels; and we summoned every singer on earth– Humpback whales, the Rockies, apple trees, mice, eagles, kings, presidents, boys, girls, non-binary children and adults; men and women; Our glee club would still be powerless to truly proclaim the praise you deserve. We give you thanks and praise for all the wonders, near and far. We unite our voices with the cacophony of creation in singing your praises now and forevermore. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Give thanks to the Lord. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...With songs of praise that are always in our hearts, with silence which walks with us each day, we offer thanksgiving to you in these moments:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, Author of all life. Creation joins with those of every age and place in praising You. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who teaches us songs of wonder. Hosanna in the highest!**

...As we move on from the celebration of creation to learning what it means to follow Jesus into life and death, we seek to proclaim that mystery called faith:

**Dying, Christ sought to do everything in God's name; raised to new life, Christ gave thanks to God; returning to us, Christ will clothe us in resurrection's grace.**

...and when all time comes to an end, no one will stay behind, but all Your children will be gathered around Your Table of grace and live, where we will sing canticles of hope and wonder to You, God in Community, Holy in One. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

**Our Father, which 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.**

## RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

## PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

## \*HYMN

*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

see insert

## \*BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Presto from Divertimento No. 1*

W. A. Mozart

*\* 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  
Nate Jarvis, Lector

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries  
Sue Douglass, Organist  
Angie & Andrew Weber, Musicians  
Karen Nelson, Violin  
Dave Belden, Violin  
Naomi Hildner, Viola  
Melissa Bach, Cello

CREDITS: Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance and Benediction written by Cole Arthur Riley in Black Liturgies, © 2024, p.38-39. Song of Response text written by Timothy Kocher-Hillner © 1995, used with permission. Prayer of Thanksgiving adapted from Chris Altmann, on his TrueNorth blog. <http://chrisaltrock.com>. Call to Worship and The Great Thanksgiving written by © Thom M. Shuman 2015. <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/search?q=Psalm+148>

PLEASE SEE AN USHER...for seat cushions and/or hearing assistance devices for use during worship. Thank you to our September Ushers: Bill Barsanti (captain), Tom Brunet, Lorel Brunet, Cindy Klimmick, and Sharon Kemerer

## 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.

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!



Altar Flowers- This Week's Altar Flowers are sponsored by Patrice Conaway in celebration of Keith & Delores Stenerson's 78th Wedding Anniversary! Altar flowers are a beautiful way to celebrate, honor, or remember someone special, as well as to mark meaningful moments in the lives of you and your loved ones. Altar flower sponsorships are \$60. If you would like to sponsor the flowers, please select your Sunday by signing your name on the Flower Chart located by the office. Thank you for helping to beautify our sanctuary and celebrate the special people and moments in our lives!

## ADULT MINISTRY

### **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!

## 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.

**Sunday School Registration Happening Now!** Sunday School kicks off on Sept. 20th. Children will enjoy bible stories, songs, games, crafts, and more! Register your children today! Contact Kate with any questions [Kate@ParkRidgeCommunityChurch.org](mailto:Kate@ParkRidgeCommunityChurch.org).

**Backpack Blessing!** All children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to service NEXT Sunday, Sept. 13th for a special backpack blessing.

**Wacky Wednesday** is back for Middle School Youth from 2:30-3:30 pm in the Great Hall! Contact Pastor Mollie for more information. Youth Choir will begin this week from 3:30-4:45 in the Choir Room!

## FELLOWSHIP

**Women's Circle 10-Circle 10 Swap-a-looza! Tuesday, September 15 @ 7:00 pm** All are invited to an evening of good company and guilt-free "shopping"! Let's catch up over dessert and drinks while we pass along a few beloved goodies. Here's how it works: Bring 3 home decor or personal accessory items you're ready to part with—those charming treasures that deserve a second life. Then, shop the swap and go home with 3 "new to you" finds from someone else's collection! Suggested \$5 cash donation goes to the Women's Circle 10 Fund, supporting our Bereavement Ministry. Bring your friends, your treasures, and find something new.

**Monday Night Football Tailgate** Join us for our PRCC Monday Night Football Tailgate Party on Monday, September 28, starting at 6:00 pm on the Carriage House Driveway (Pastor Mollie's House)! All ages are welcome to come enjoy grilled hotdogs, s'mores, yard games, and the Bears vs. Eagles game. BYOB! In case of rain, we'll meet in the Great Hall.

## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

**September Diaper Drive** PRCC is partnering with Exodus World Service to collect diapers, wipes, and cream for refugee families in our community. Because many families have limited access to government assistance and other resources, everyday essentials like diapers can be a significant expense. Join us throughout September in supporting our neighbors and helping ensure that families have what they need to care for their little ones with dignity and peace of mind. Items can be dropped off in Butler Place.

## 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, Brian Stevens, Kathleen Weller, Joyce Wright, and Bernice Zabawski.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS FROM August 30th:**

- We celebrate Kym's renewal of baptism today.
- We pray for Mark H. as he mourns the loss of his second mom, Ruth, who entered Life in the Resurrection on Wed. August 26.
- Our prayers are with Grace C.'s cousin, Mark, who underwent a double lung transplant surgery this week. May his recovery be swift and uncomplicated.
- We pray for Jimmy M.'s friend, Dave.
- We hold Michael P. and his mother, Lucille, in our prayers as she has entered hospice care.
- We celebrate with Luan the marriage of her son.
- We pray for the son of Luan's friend, who is in the ICU following a cardiac event last week.
- We continue to pray for Gary and Janet J. as Gary is in the hospital recovering from surgery and a subsequent infection.



# Called as Partners in Christ's Service 343



1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, Called to min-is-tries of grace,  
 2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
 3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, In a small or glob-al sense,  
 4. So God grant us for to-mor-row Ways to or-der hu-man life




We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, Rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.  
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, Break-ing down each wall or fence.  
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row With a calm that con-quests strife.




May we learn the art of shar-ing, Side by side and friend with friend,  
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, All God's peo-ple, young and old,  
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, Words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, Our com-pas-sion to in-crease,




E-equal part-ners in our car-ing To ful-fill God's cho-sen end.  
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er Gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.  
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, Make us col-leagues, free and fair.  
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing Hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



HOLY SPIRIT

# 326 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

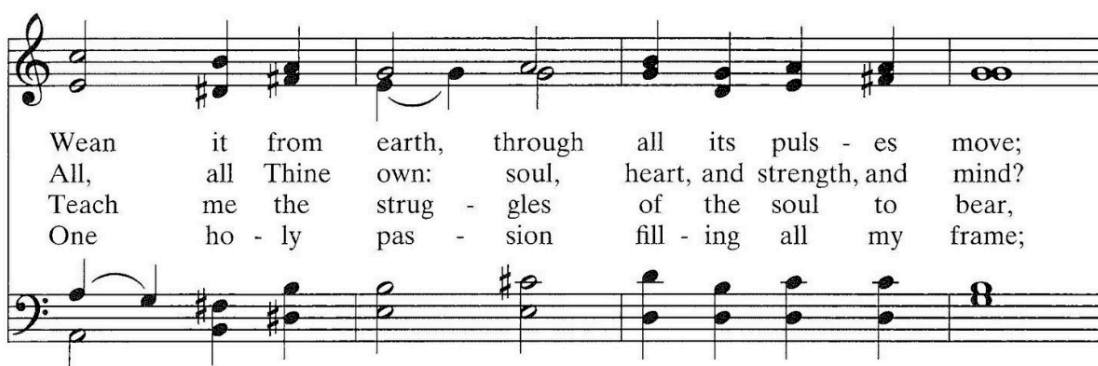
MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10

George Croly, 1854

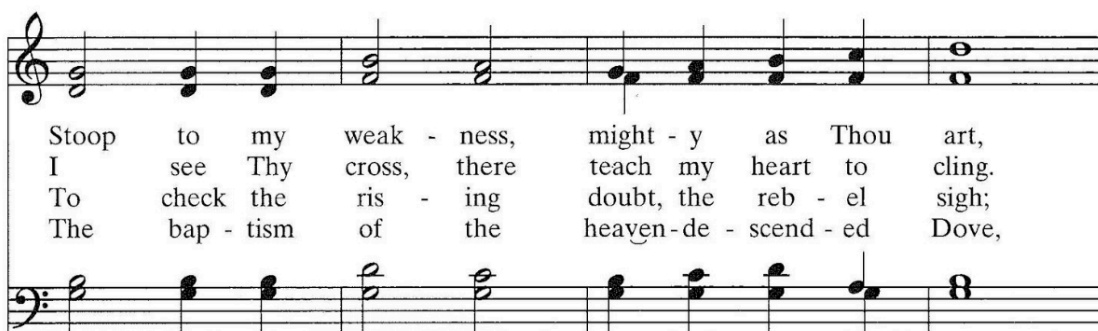
Frederick Cook Atkinson, 1870



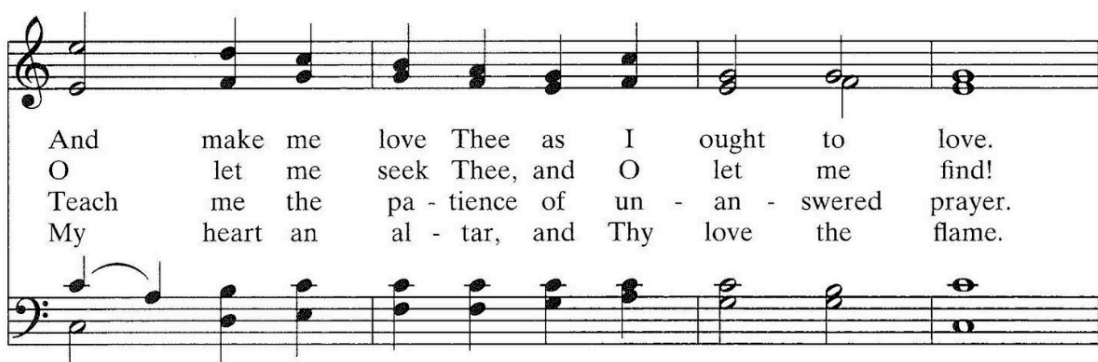
1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 2. Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;  
 3. Teach me to feel that Thou art al - ways nigh;  
 4. Teach me to love Thee as Thine an - gels love,



Wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
 All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
 Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,  
 One ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;



Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as Thou art,  
 I see Thy cross, there teach my heart to cling.  
 To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;  
 The bap - tism of the heaven-de - scend - ed Dove,



And make me love Thee as I ought to love.  
 O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!  
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.  
 My heart an al - tar, and Thy love the flame.

# CHURCH EVENTS

## SUNDAY, September 6

8:30 am - Garden Worship

10:00 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary)

## MONDAY, September 7 - Labor Day Office Closed!

7:00 pm - Yoga (Great Hall)

## TUESDAY, September 8

10:15 am - Chair Yoga (Great Hall)

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

6:30 pm - Floor Pilates (Great Hall)

7:00 pm - Welcome & Membership Meeting (Parlor)

7:30 pm - Stephen Ministry Supervision (Library)

## WEDNESDAY, September 9

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

10:00 am - Staff Meeting (Pastoral Office)

2:30 pm - Wacky Wednesday (Great Hall)

7:00 pm - Action Ridge (Jordan Hall)

7:00 pm - Bible Study (Ellinger Transept)

7:00 pm - Crop Walk (Library)

## THURSDAY, September 10

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

10:15 am - Chair Yoga (Great Hall)

6:00 pm - Outreach Meeting (Ellinger Transept)

7:30 pm - Chancel Choir (Music Room)



**Come one and ALL to Rally Day 2026!!**

ONE SERVICE at 10 am in the sanctuary

Chancel Choir returns to worship!

Bouncy House with a slide!

## LUNCH & FUN!!

Inflatable Derby Race!

Cotton Candy, Hot Dogs,  
Whiffle Ball Toss AND MORE!!

Weekly programming resumes!

ALL ARE WELCOME - Invite your friends!

**Park Ridge Community Church**  
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