

Park Ridge Community Church

April 2026

In This Issue:

Pastor's Note_____	2
Board Update_____	3
Stephen Ministry_____	4
Birthdays/Calendar_____	5
Spring News_____	6
Volunteer Spotlight/ Second Mile_____	7
Creation Care Opportunities_____	8
Music Notes_____	9
Outreach News_____	10
Children's Ministry_____	12
Youth Ministry_____	14
Holy Week Services_____	16
Snapshots_____	17
Our Prayer Ministry_____	18

Just Love

“BY THIS EVERYONE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER.”

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9 am - 3 pm

The office is closed from 12-12:30 pm for lunch.

*Pastors' Days off are Fridays and Saturdays.
Please only contact in an emergency.*

LOVE



April 2: A Command: Love.

7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service

John 13:1-17

April 3: Good Friday: My God, My God

Noon Ecumenical Service at St. Luke's

7:30 pm Service w/ Rutter's Requiem

Luke 23:32-49

April 5: EASTER SUNDAY: Because I Live

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Luke 24:1-12

Holy Communion by Intinction

April 12: Just Love...Your Planet.

JAZZ SUNDAY

Revelation 22:1-7, Ezekiel 47:1-12

ONE SERVICE at 10 am

April 19: Just Love...Your Whole Self.

New Member Sunday; Baptism at 10 am

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Bob Campbell

Psalm 88; Luke 8:26-39

April 26: Just Love...Even When It's Hard.

Confirmation Sunday

Luke 6:27-36, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Pastor Mollie Foster preaching



The Pastor's Note

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister
pastorcarol@parkridgecommunitychurch.org



Resurrected Hope

Holy Week always feels heavy to me, as the importance of the events, conveying the power of what Jesus accomplished, trying to wrap words around the evil of the crucifixion, and helping all of us move through each day with understanding, reflection, and real-life applications...well, it's hugely significant to my faith, and I'm so afraid of not doing a good job. Palm Sunday's arrival on the heels of a nationwide (and even around the world) protest comprised of 8 million people was differently inspiring as it felt like we were on the same wavelength as that Palm Sunday long ago. So that's certainly a good start...stay tuned for the rest of the week...

One of my issues with Holy Week and Easter is wrapping my mind around the enormity of the opposing emotions. The message of love and service embodied in Maundy Thursday is almost certainly overwhelmed by the grief of Good Friday, when Jesus is executed. In order to experience and be present on those days, I have to suspend my knowledge of Easter (even though we know how the story ends). But similarly difficult is experiencing the joy of Easter while still feeling the nauseating truth that before he could be resurrected, Jesus had to die. It's hard to get past that to be 100% full of "alleluias" and "Christ is risen indeed" when I'm still a bit shaken from the whole violent death at age 33, having done nothing wrong. It's a lot to process over only a few days.

Balancing grief and hope is perhaps one of the biggest challenges of our faith walk.

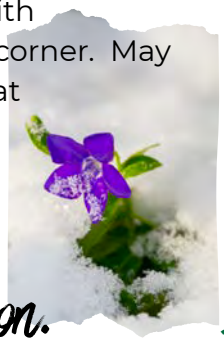
On Good Friday, all hope is lost, or rather killed. And on Easter, hope gets resuscitated, or rather resurrected. **How do you resurrect HOPE?**

I believe that resurrecting hope when it's been lost is nothing short of a miracle and evidence of God's grace working in our lives. We simply cannot do it on our own. When this transformation happens, it's because of God's presence, which might be disappointing for those of us who want an enumerated "how-to" process. Much like a butterfly emerging from a cocoon, or like a flower emerging after a winter's snow, when hope blossoms and possibilities are felt - look down because you're standing on holy ground.

Where have you experienced resurrected hope lately?

- a loved one experiencing recovery after addiction
- a new job opportunity
- finally catching your breath when you've been under water...

The good does not, it cannot, erase the bad, nor does it undo the harm...but the resurrected hope gives us a new day that reminds us that the bad part wasn't the end of the story. We've all wrestled through some devastating experiences...and God has brought us to this point with opportunities around the corner. May the hope of today and what God is still unfolding help us each endure the hard moments, knowing that the story's not over yet...



hope is on the horizon.

Thank you, Dan Smith!

For the past four years, Dan Smith has served as our Congregation's Vice Chair alongside Naomi Siebert and then as the Chair, with Colleen Moriarty as his Vice Chair. Prior to filling these important roles, Dan had served as a Co-Chair of the Deacons, organized the PRCC Dads group, led the Fellowship Committee, served on the Senior Minister Search Committee, Structure Taskforce and on the Board of Directors for many years. He brought all of those experiences as well as his understandings of business and being a member of this church into the leadership conversations. Over his tenure, Dan has helped clarify



the importance of vision; begin the important work of creating an all new policy and procedure manual for PRCC; articulate goals and highlighting progress made; strengthen communication across areas and people groups of the church; and launch a new fundraising initiative, which he will continue to coordinate alongside Sasha Gerritson. Dan is a big-picture guy, and he has consistently insisted that PRCC consider the ways we are serving God's kin-dom and how we can expand, grow, and strengthen the ways we serve. He has event written a Board Update for the CC News every month!! Dan, for all the ways you have given of your whole self - your heart, your mind, your passion, your prayers, your vision...we say THANK YOU!!

BOD Progress

The Board of Directors met on March 16. At that meeting, we heard from the Social Justice Team and approved the beginning of two task forces to help educate and lead the congregation through a process to consider becoming an official "Accessible to All" and/or "WISE" congregation - two designations in the United Church of Christ. In addition to hearing regular financial and other reports, the Nominating Slate was presented, and we began to look more in depth at additional sections of the Personnel section of the Policy and Procedures Manual. The internal Financial Audit team is about to begin an audit of 2025. And, the Board approved becoming part of the local network coordinated by Action Ridge of Inclusive and LGBTQ Welcoming organizations, in alignment with our Open and Affirming affirmation. Our next meeting will be to transition to the newly elected leaders on May 18. **Don't forget to turn in your Annual Reports!**

Our 2025-2026 Goals:

1. **Engaging Our Church Body**
 - a. Growing in Numbers of Active Members
 - b. Engaging the Faith of all ages - in Love of God and Love of Neighbor
 - c. Empowering Ministry Involvement/Leadership
 - d. Meaningful Connections - Small Group
 - e. Encouraging "Sweat Equity"
2. **Invitation into Faithful Fellowship**
 - a. To Build Our Connections with one another
 - b. Clarifying Our identity & What PRCC is about
 - c. Projecting Our Values Outward to Invite Others In
 - d. Broaden Our Impact on the World
3. **Updating Our Resources to Facilitate Ministry**
 - a. Teaching Faithful Stewardship
 - b. Building a Foundation for Generations to Come
 - c. Investing in Safe and Welcoming Spaces
 - d. Updating our Technology



stephen MINISTRY



By: Liz Swanson

Let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.

Some of you are gardeners and are well versed in the art of growing plants. Early in our marriage, I started a vegetable garden and was very excited about growing things. What I didn't know is that some things are harvested quickly, some things are harvested at the end of the growing season and other things take longer before they bear fruit. Things like lettuce can be planted and harvested growing back again and again. Things like cucumbers, tomatoes and peppers grow over the course of the summer and are picked in the fall. What a lesson it was for our family to do the work, wait for the growth to happen and then eat our harvest. Over time we tried new things like peanuts, brussel sprouts and asparagus.

We planted asparagus in a section of our yard knowing that we would have to wait at least 3 years before it yielded edible asparagus. In the spring of the third year, we had started a big addition at our house and when we were gone, a dumpster was placed in our yard. Unfortunately, it was placed on top of our garden! Since it was early spring, for most of our plantings, it didn't matter. For the asparagus, it was the end.

The experiment with asparagus reminded me of the sermon that Pastor Carol preached on about the fig tree. The vineyard owner wanted to cut down the tree because it wasn't bearing fruit. The caretaker asked for one more year to nurture and fertilize it before giving up on it. After the dumpster disaster, I gave up on the asparagus much like the landowner who wanted to give up on the fig tree. I now strive to be more like the caretaker who knew what the fig tree needed and was willing to give it the time and care required for growth.

We all sometimes need the patience and loving support of the caretaker - Someone to listen to us while giving us the time and opportunity to grow. A Stephen Minister is that kind of person. Walking with a Stephen Minister allows you to take the time you need to work through the challenges and hurts of life so that you can heal and find healthy, wholeness. If you find yourself stuck and long for healing & wholeness, talk to someone about Stephen Ministry. You can reach out to any minister or Stephen Leader.

STEPHEN LEADERS:

Sarah McCarty: sarah.mccarty@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Anita Rifkind: anitar@att.net

Naomi Siebert: naomi.siebert@gmail.com

Laura Sissman: lsissman741@gmail.com

Liz Swanson: liz@parkridgecommunitychurch.org



A heart felt thank you for all your support and prayers for our Aunt Ginny over the years. We are thankful to see so many people celebrating her life.

We appreciate how this church has been present for her.

Thank you, Tracy and Erik

APRIL BIRTHDAYS!



04/02 Lyle Nicholson
 04/04 Jan Cannon
 04/04 Bev Lay
 04/05 Barb Madro
 04/06 Bill Barsanti
 04/06 Logan Hinton
 04/06 Michele Regnier
 04/08 Steffi Beery
 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
 04/19 Barbara Scharringhausen
 04/20 Lynn Duffy
 04/20 Scott Hollingsworth
 04/23 Jack Tone

04/24 Alex Honzen
 04/24 Bria Sanderson
 04/24 Dave Swanson
 04/25 Sheila Blackburn
 04/26 Allen Cherry
 04/27 Jillian Blackburn
 04/27 Anita Rifkind
 04/27 Greg Sarlo
 04/30 Nancy Lynch

SAVE THE DATE
 Annual Meeting- May 3
 Annual Reports due April 19

April 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 2:30 pm Wacky Weds 3:30 pm Youth Choir	2 9 am Men's Breakfast 10:30 Lincoln Park Cooking 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service	3 12 pm Seven Last Words (St. Luke's Lutheran) 7:30 pm Good Friday Service	4
HOLY WEEK						
5 EASTER!!! Easter Breakfast 8:30 am EASTER Service 10 am EASTER Service 11:30 Easter Egg Hunt	6 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm Trustees	7 10:15 am Chair Yoga 12 pm Kindred Spirits Café 7 pm Getting To Know You - Info Session	8 10 am Staff Mtg. 1 pm Knitting Knights 2:30 pm Wacky Weds 3:30 pm Youth Choir 7 pm Bible Study	9 9 am Men's Breakfast 6 pm Outreach Mtg. 6:30 pm Bells on High 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	10	11
12 JAZZ SUNDAY 10 am ONE Worship Service 11:30 am Loving Lunches 11:30 am Confirmation Class	13 7 pm Yoga	14 10:15am Chair Yoga 12 pm Kindred Spirits Café 7 pm Stephen Ministry Training	15 2:30 pm Wacky Weds 3:30 pm Youth Choir 7 pm Bible Study	16 9 am Men's Breakfast 5 pm Exodus Celebration of Hope (offsite) 6:30 pm Bells on High 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	17	18 9-11 am Bernie's Books 1-3 pm Forest Preserve Clean-Up
19 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 8:30 am Chapel Service 10 am Worship Service 11:45 am: ALL Holy Chow DEADLINE: Eric Nelson Scholarships & Second Mile & Annual Reports DUE	20 5:30 pm Finance 6:30 pm Exec Committee	21 10:15 am Chair Yoga 12 pm Kindred Spirits Café 7 pm Circle 10	22 10 am Staff Mtg 2:30 pm Wacky Weds 3:30 pm Youth Choir 7 pm Bible Study	23 9 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 pm Pride in PR 6:30 pm Bells on High 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	24	25
26 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 8:30 am Chapel Service 10:00 am Worship Service	27 7 pm Yoga 7 pm Envision Team Mtg.	28 10:15 am Chair Yoga 12 pm Kindred Spirits Café 7 pm Stephen Ministry Training	29 10 am Staff Mtg 2:30 pm Wacky Weds 3:30 pm Youth Choir 7 pm Portland Mission Trip Mtg. (virtual) 7 pm Bible Study	30 9 am Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm Bells on High 7:30 pm Chancel Choir		

Spring News

Get To Know PRCC! IN PERSON!

♥ **What**
Informational Session

♥ **When**
Tuesday, April 7

♥ **Time**
7pm - 8pm

♥ We will welcome new members in worship on Sunday, April 19th If you have been considering membership, come learn more about what it means to be a member of PRCC.



Knitting Knights

The Knitting Knights will be meeting on a new day in April on Wednesday, 4/8 at 1:00 in Jordan Hall. Our next project will honor the memory of Ginny Feuer by making Twiddle Muffs and donating them to the Central Baptist Village memory care area. If you need more information about this project or would like to help, please reach out to Liz Swanson.

Kindred Spirits Café

Tuesdays at 12:00 pm

Free for lunch on Tuesdays? Join us for an hour of fun and fellowship each week in Jordan Hall! Bring your lunch and we'll provide dessert. Our programming changes monthly, so see the schedule below for our April plans. Contact Sarah to be added to our email list: sarah.mccarty@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

- **Apr. 7:** April Birthdays & Travel Tales with Liz S. - Australia & New Zealand!
- **Apr. 14:** Share your favorite Spring Thing
- **Apr. 21:** Flower Potting Fun
- **Apr. 28:** Bingo!



WALK WITH PRCC IN THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE!



- **May 24: Parade Prep Party**
6:30 pm, Carriage House Driveway
- **May 25: Parade Day!** Line up time and place TBD



Volunteer Spotlight

Each month we highlight one of many extraordinary volunteers whose contributions are making a difference at PRCC!

This month we recognize Naomi Siebert



Naomi and her husband Fred came to PRCC in the 1990s and raised their 2 daughters, Maddie and Hannah, in PRCC.

Naomi has been a Sunday School teacher and Superintendent, Circle 2 member, Pumpkin Patch Leader, Christian Outreach Committee member, Chair of the Congregation, a Stephen Minister and Leader, and most recently heading up the Carnival fundraiser! Naomi always serves with wisdom and a joyous heart.

Thank you for all that you have done, Naomi, to make PRCC the place we all call home!

Second Mile Award

"If anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you...Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."
Matthew 5:41-42, 48

Since 1978, The Park Ridge Community Church has sought to recognize and honor those individuals from the congregation who give of themselves "above and beyond," those who go the second mile to love and serve God and neighbor. The Second Mile Award links past, present and future ministries and the individuals who have been instrumental in creating and sustaining the outreach, service, worship, fellowship, and learning that take place here and beyond the walls of our church.

We are asking you to nominate an individual or couple who exemplify the genuine spirit of Christian love, fellowship, and service within the life of Park Ridge Community Church and in the living of their daily lives. Some Guidance: (1) Must be a member of Park Ridge Community Church; (2) Individuals or couples may be nominated (3) Consider all aspects of the church's mission: Education, Outreach, Service, Ministries of the Church, fellowship life, Church facilities, etc. (4) Consider length of service to PRCC (5) Contributions should be extensive (6) Not a current Officer of the Church (Chair, Vice-Chair, Clerk, Treasurer) (7) Not a member of the staff

The entire PRCC membership is invited to join in the selection process. Email nominations to office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org with Nominee's Name and reason why you think they are a candidate for the 2026 Second Mile Award. Nominations must be received by April 19 and will be voted on by the Board of Directors. Recipient will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

Previous 2nd Mile Award recipients:

Gretchen & Dave Kapolnek
Sue & Dave Douglass
Bob Patterson
Alayne Richards
Earlene and Richard Beile
Charlie Giera
Keith & Katie Reboletti
Fred & Naomi Siebert
Nancy Ady

Barbara & Bill Scharringhausen
Ginny Feuer
Tom & Cindy Klimmeck
Phyllis & Dean Whitford
Bob & Paula Mack
Luan Zoellner
Bruce & Kathy Webster
Scott & Siri Nelson
Barb Pfaff

Kathy and John Davis
Sandy Bowen
Tim & Laura Lapp
Marty McHugh
Bill & Tricia Williams
Jan Steiner
Ann Swindell
Colleen Moriarty & Lonn Naudzius
Mark Holihan





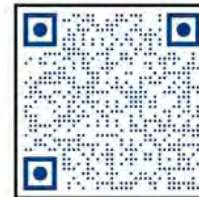
Creation Care Opportunities

In honor of Earth Day - Wed, Apr 22, 2026...

Composting makes sense but we also need education on what items are compostable in a commercial setting.

**CHECK YOUR
COMPOST
KNOWLEDGE
HERE**

(5 questions)
Click "View Accuracy" to
view your results



Join Us as We Celebrate Earth Day by Recycling SOFT Plastic!!

Bring your soft plastic to church during the month of April. See list below of items you can recycle. Put plastic in the Butler Place lounge box. If you'd like to help with this project, contact Tricia Williams or Susan Greenwood.

We are partnering with Clean Up-Give Back which facilitates the upcycling of pliable plastic bags and soft plastic items. In 2025, they partnered with over 200 locations to collect over 30,000 POUNDS of plastic! The plastic collected is delivered to NextTrex who up-cycles it into usable composite decking and furniture. You can find more information at <https://cleanupgiveback.org/> YES! Recycle these Plastic Items:

GROCERY BAGS

BUBBLE WRAP

BREAD BAGS

NEWSPAPER SLEEVES

PLASTIC SHIPPING ENVELOPES (AMAZON)

DRY CLEANING BAGS

SHRINK WRAP

STRETCH FILM

PRODUCE BAGS

ZIPLOCK FOOD BAGS

OTHER PLIABLE PLASTIC

OUTSIDE PLASTIC CASING FOR PAPER TOWELS/TOILET PAPER

OPPORTUNITIES IN



Plastic Bag Collection

Let's recycle those plastic bags you've been collecting! Bring all your plastic bags into the collection bin, which will be located in Butler Place Room throughout April.

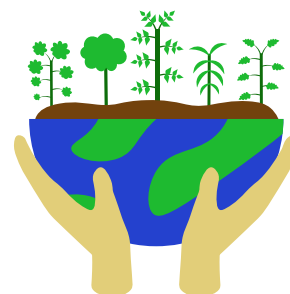
"Not On My Walk!" A Community Clean Up Challenge

Throughout the month of April, we are all challenged to walk more (less driving) and pick up garbage along your walking route! Let's clean up our communities!



April 18: Forest Preserve Clean-Up Day, 1- 3 PM

Bring your gloves and buckets to help keep our earth clean by picking up trash around the Forest Preserve! We will meet at Axehead Lake, unless we get assigned to another location. Come spend time in Creation, caring for it with our time and energy!





MEET THE EASTER MUSICIANS



The BRASS ROOTS TRIO redefines the chamber music genre with the fusion of classical, jazz, Americana and Latin styles. With TRUMPET, FRENCH HORN and PIANO, (plus the bonus of a brilliant operatic tenor) the trio has won acclaim for its adventurous programming, breathtaking virtuosity and artistic passion since 2004. In 2009 Brass Roots Trio was honored to perform for President and Mrs. Obama and their guests at the White House.

The founding member of Brass Roots Trio, pianist and arranger **Rosetta Senkus Bacon** has performed throughout North America, Europe and Asia with concerts at the Kennedy Center in Washington, Taipei Cultural Center in Taiwan, St. Moritz Cultural Center in Switzerland, and Kaunas Philharmonic Hall in Lithuania. Rosetta served on faculties and performed at The International Chamber Music Festival in Taiwan and The International School of Performing Arts in PA where she accompanied Master Classes of Metropolitan Opera stars Sherrill Milnes and Gilda Cruz-Roma. She concertized with Metropolitan Opera soprano Judith Raskin and in a lighter vein was one of the duo-pianists in "Side By Side By Sondheim" starring Arlene Francis and Hermione Gingold. A native of West Virginia, Rosetta graduated from West Virginia University and received a Master's Degree from the Manhattan School of Music in New York.

Dr. Douglas Lundeen was originally trained as an opera singer with Frank Baselice of the Metropolitan Opera. Self-taught on the French horn, he won first prize for solo natural horn in the 1987 American Horn Competition. Since then Dr. Lundeen has played principal horn with period instrument orchestras in New York City, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Vancouver and Washington, DC under such conductors as Hogwood, Norrington, Brüggem, Parrott, and Koopman. He has been a featured recitalist and master clinician at many conferences of the International Horn Society and the International Early Brass Society. Dr. Lundeen has been a featured artist/clinician in China at the Beijing Central Conservatory and the International French Horn Arts Festival in Tianjin. On the modern horn, he has soloed and played principal horn with orchestras in Costa Rica, Cincinnati, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh as well as on Broadway. Dr. Lundeen is currently Principal Horn of the Princeton Symphony and Associate Professor of Music at Rutgers University. He has recordings on the Sony, Newport Classics, Musical Heritage Society, and Centaur labels. Doug's family was adopted into a Cheyenne River Lakota (Sioux) family in 2005 and his sister Manitowah gifted him his first Native American flute. He has many friends now in the traditional Native community including on the Navajo, Blackfeet and Northern Cheyenne reservations, and learned about the Northern Cheyenne flute tradition from the award-winning artist Joseph Firecrow

Dr. Travis Heath is Associate Professor of Trumpet at Northeastern Illinois University where he teaches Applied Lessons, Brass Methods, and conducts the Brass Ensemble. Equally at home with classical and jazz genres, Travis Heath's international performances have included solo works, big band, and chamber music. Travis has been a soloist, featured artist and clinician in 43 states and abroad with performances on live radio, television, and webcasts. Throughout his career, Travis has had the honor of sharing the stage with musical legends including Ray Charles, Kansas, Moody Blues, Larry Combs, and Arturo Sandoval, to name a few. Outside of the US, Dr. Heath has performed in Japan, England, Ireland, France, Italy, The Czech Republic and Canada at prestigious musical festivals. His performances can also be heard on the Naxos, BRT, and Mark recording labels. As a brass clinician, he has presented his work at several universities throughout the country and at ITG Festivals. Dr. Heath's articles have been published in the Instrumentalist Magazines and ITG Journal. He currently resides in Chicago, IL and is director and founder of the Chicago Brass Festival. Travis received a Bachelor of Music Degree at the University of Central Florida and a Masters and DMA at Rutgers University.

Bells On High Practice: Thursdays, 6:30 pm & Chancel Choir Practice: Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Youth Choir Practice: Wednesdays, 3:30 pm

Outreach News

SUPPLIES ARE LOW!



CAN YOU HELP?

Each month PRCC assists Loving Lunches by preparing 160 lunches that will be delivered to those experiencing housing and food insecurity in the Chicagoland area. We look forward to serving alongside you as we support those in need!

Items Needed:

Non-perishables

- juice boxes
- protein or granola bars
- individually packaged chips
- individually packaged cookies
- ziplock sandwich size bags

*Drop non-perishable items in PRCC's Auxiliary Kitchen and mark them Loving Lunches

Monetary / gift card donations:

These donations are especially welcome to supply Loving Lunches with essential perishable items of bread, lunch meat and cheese for sandwiches, as well as fresh fruit.

*Drop off/send a donation to the PRCC office in person, by check or Zelle with the words Loving Lunches in the memo section.



On Thursday, April 16, Outreach Team members will be attending Celebration of Hope, a meaningful evening hosted by Exodus World Service at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace.

At Celebration, you'll hear local refugees' stories of fleeing war and persecution—and building new lives with the help of Exodus volunteers. You'll learn about current challenges affecting resettled refugees—and those left behind in camps overseas. You'll also have an opportunity to partner financially, launching new ways to bring hope to refugees when they need it most. To save your seat, contact Laura Lapp or Pastor Mollie **by April 1st!**



Outreach News



Lincoln Park Community Shelter

April 2

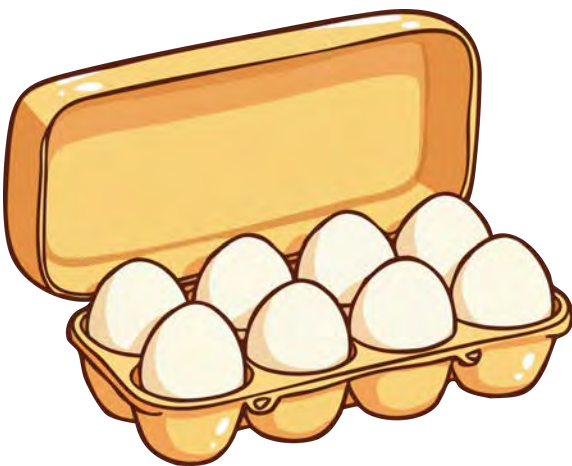
We prepare and cook a healthy meal for approximately 35 adults who are experiencing homelessness on the first Thursday of each month. Our prep/cook time is 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. SIGN UP if you are available to help. We need 3 people to prep/cook and 1 person to deliver the prepared meal to Lincoln Park.



Loving Lunches

April 12

Help pack lunches for those in need with Loving Lunches! Please SIGN UP HERE 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.



No more!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE MAINE TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY with egg cartons!

They are NO LONGER IN NEED of cartons, therefore we will no longer be collecting them!

JOIN US for a meeting and see what we're all about!

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 9th at 6:00 pm in the PRCC Parlor.

EMAIL US at outreach@parkridgecommunitychurch.org with questions or suggestions.



Children's Ministry

Morgan Tone, Director of Children's Ministry

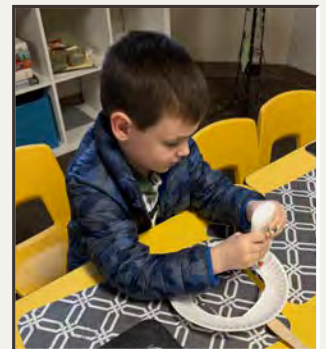
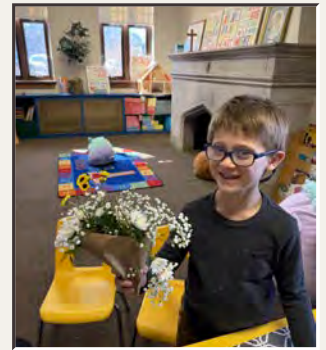


Sunday School News





March was a wonderful month in Sunday School! We were so glad to welcome both new and returning families into our community. Through a variety of hands-on activities—like a “lost sheep” hunt, music with The Webers, bouquet-making, and stained glass art—the children explored meaningful Bible stories, including the Prodigal Son, the parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin, and Mary anointing Jesus. It was a joyful month of learning, creativity, and growing in faith together.

Family Service Project:

This month, Sunday School families are invited to serve together at Bernie’s Book Bank. Sign up [HERE](#) to join us on **April 18th**—everyone is welcome, and all ages are encouraged to participate!



APRIL SUNDAY SCHOOL

-  5: EASTER-NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
EASTER EGG HUNT-11:30 AM
-  12:SUNDAY SCHOOL-EMPTY TOMB
-  19: SUNDAY SCHOOL-ROAD TO EMMAUS
-  26: SUNDAY SCHOOL-DOUBTING THOMAS



Children's Ministry

PARK RIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 5 | 11:30 AM

CHURCH LAWN

ALL AGES WELCOME-SPECIAL
AREA FOR 2 AND UNDER

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

SCHOOL'S OUT CARNIVAL

MAY 17 - 11:30-1:30

faith - food - family - fun

CELEBRATE THE END OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR WITH US ON THE CHURCH LAWN!
ENJOY HOT DOGS, A BOUNCE HOUSE, GAMES, AND PLENTY OF FUN FOR ALL AGES.

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

TRUE NORTH

Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 15-18



THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Bernie's Book Drive! We filled 4 bins that will be distributed to schools in the Chicagoland!

Volunteer with us to pack books at the bank on April 18th! Sign up by April 4th! All ages welcome!

SIGN UP HERE!

Since its founding in 2009, Bernie's Book Bank has served countless children in Chicagoland. In 2024, local children attending over 950 Title 1 schools and early childhood programs received 2,409,599 free, age-appropriate, high-interest, and culturally relevant books.

The Chicagoland Chapter is powered annually by over 17,700 dedicated volunteers, collectively contributing over 46,801 volunteer hours.



Eric Nelson Youth Scholarship

The Eric Nelson Scholarship Application is now available! The Eric Nelson Youth Scholarship recognizes senior youth (12th grade) who have made an extraordinary commitment to the mission and life of Park Ridge Community Church through their presence, their gifts, and their service during their high school years.

It is the intention of the Youth Committee to choose one outstanding senior, who is actively engaged at PRCC, with a \$1,000 scholarship award. Seniors can access the scholarship application through [this link](#) or by contacting the Pastor Mollie. Seniors are encouraged to contact Pastor Mollie for more information or questions!

Applications are due April 19th and will be awarded at the Annual Meeting on May 3rd.



PRCC Youth

6TH-12TH GRADES



Final Holy Chow of the School Year!

April 19

ALL YOUTH

11:45 am-1:00 pm

We will gather in the Butler Place Entry and walk Uptown for a meal together with meaningful discussion with Pastor Mollie!



April 12:

11:30 am-1:00 pm

Final Class Celebration!

April 26

Confirmation Sunday!

Youth being Confirmed:

Layla Chacko, Archer Geye, Deuce Hill, Rae Hill, Ella McCarty, Owen Smith



Wednesdays

2:30 - 3:30 pm

Open gym and homework time!
All Middle Schoolers are welcome!



**PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH
YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2026**

Participant & Parent Meeting

April 29th @ 7pm

via Zoom

It is important that YOUTH attend this meeting along with parents! We will go over detailed information for our week together to include: packing info, travel info, service projects, etc!

APRIL:

5- STAY IN WORSHIP / EASTER

12- NOW WHAT?--POST EASTER

19- JUST LOVE

26- STAY IN WORSHIP / CONFIRMATION



JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK!

Holy Thursday

April 2

7:30 pm

Disciples' Drama

Good Friday

April 3

7:30 pm

Rutter's *Requiem*



Easter Sunday

April 5

8:30 am & 10:00 am

Breakfast, Choir,

Brass Roots Trio,

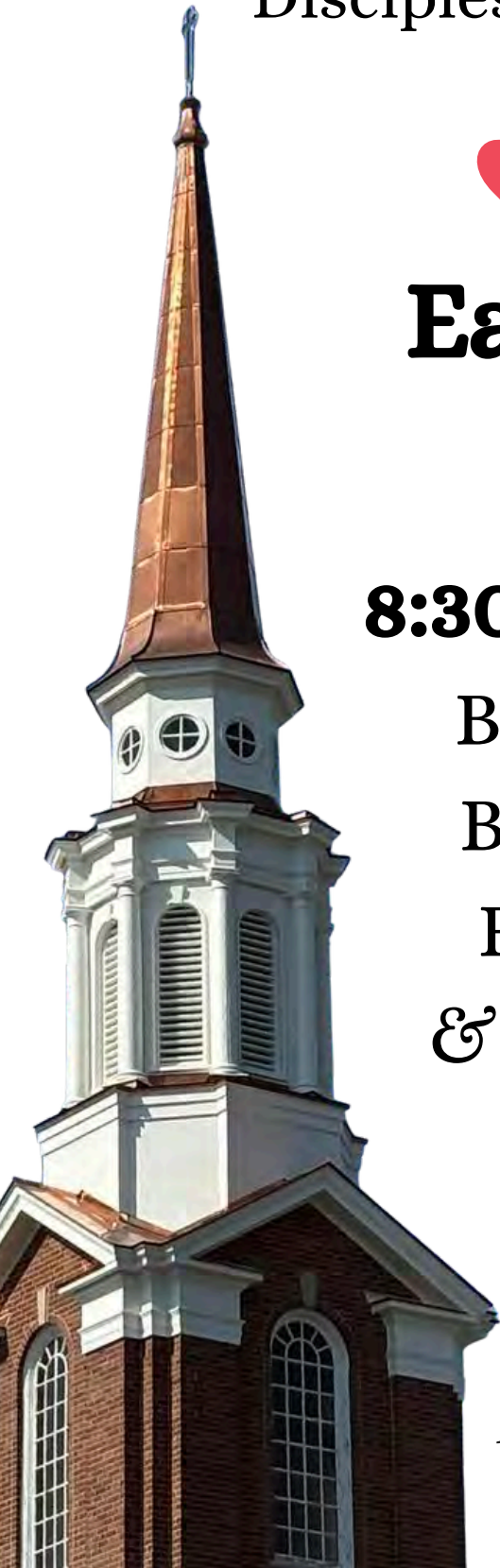
Easter Message

& Easter Egg Hunt

Childcare provided.

All services may be viewed

via livestream.





CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

Celebrating Our Story



CARNIVAL



KINDRED SPIRITS



CONFIRMATION CLASS



SUNDAY SCHOOL



PALM SUNDAY



Our Prayer Ministry

As we step into April and the joy of the Easter season, we rejoice in the promise of resurrection and new life that surrounds us. Having journeyed through Lent, we are reminded that God continues to gather us as one family of faith—calling us to celebrate one another's joys and to walk with compassion alongside those facing struggle, sorrow, and uncertainty, trusting that every prayer is held in God's abiding love and grace. We especially remember those on our long-term prayer list:

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, Bernice Zabawski

Joys

- We celebrate Sasha's leadership of opera and our youth's middle school musical held this weekend, highlighting how incredibly talented and special our youth are!
- We celebrate with Tim Mauery that he completed his accelerated graduate program this week!
- We give thanks for Spring - for breaks and pauses, for time spent connecting to creation and to our loved ones, for travel and time at home - we give God thanks.
- We give thanks for Kym's successful cataract surgery and pray for the recovery ahead.
- We give thanks for the resistance to empire that was embodied in the No Kings Gatherings around the nation as communities gathered and rallied around shared values of liberty and justice for all God's children.

General Prayers

- Sharon K. asks for prayers for those impacted by the tornadoes in Michigan.
- Our prayers are with the troops who are being deployed, their families, and the leaders guiding their actions. We pray for peace.
- We pray for the election this week.
- We pray for all those traveling near and far.
- We pray for Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, Ukraine, and areas around the world devastated by war. We pray for our troops who are being deployed, for leaders who are making decisions, and for a way of peace to prevail.
- We pray for Rich S.'s friend, Bob, whose son is abroad and in harm's way.

*As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.*

Psalm 42:1-2

Our Prayer Ministry

Healing & Recovery

- 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.
- 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 pray for Janet J's neices, Maria & Linnea, as they each recover from recent hospitalizations.
- Our prayers are with Sarah M.'s mom, Cathy, as she prepares for knee surgery on Mar. 16.
- Please pray for Bernice Z. as she recovers from Covid, continues physical therapy and prepares for a possible transition home.
- We hold in prayer Keith R.'s mom, Dottie, who broke several ribs after taking a fall. We pray for her healing and comfort as she recovers.
- We hold in prayer Delilah, a young woman who was recently injured in a car accident.
- We pray for Winnie E. who is in rehab after being hospitalized after a fall.
- We pray for Mark H. as he heals from hip replacement surgery.
- We hold Ginger in prayer as she recovers from hip replacement surgery last week.
- We continue to pray for Greg S. and Danny B. as Greg maintains his chemo treatments.
- We give thanks for a successful surgery for Sasha's friend, Julie, and pray that she has a swift recovery.
- We pray for a brother who is struggling with addiction.

Life in the Resurrection

- We hold several members in our church who have recently said goodbye to beloved pets.
- Ace, Trevor, and Logan S. ask for prayers of peace for their grandfather as he nears the end of his earthly life.
- We pray for our friends at Redeemer Church as they mourn the loss of a dear friend and congregant.
- Our prayers are with the Pringle family as they mourn the unexpected loss of Jordan's uncle, Tim Tofson, on Feb. 24.
- We give thanks for the life of longtime PRCC member Norma Simmons, who entered Life in the Resurrection on March 6.
- We pray for Kathy E and family as her mother, Nancy Showalter, entered life in the resurrection.
- We pray for the loved ones who gather today to celebrate the life of Ginny Feurer.
- Andrea S. asks for prayer for the family of Chelsea, whose life ended too soon after a stroke, leaving behind a devastated husband and 3 young children.
- We pray for Kathy and Mike, friends of Sue L., who experienced the sudden and unexpected loss of their son.



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Save the Date



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Like us on [Facebook!](#)

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