



Park Ridge Community Church

February 2026

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“—

*Every plant that my heavenly Father
has not planted will be uprooted.”*

Jesus (Matthew 15:13)

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.*

CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

February 1: The Vision that Sustains Us

Acts 4:32-37; Luke 9:11-17

Pastor Mollie preaching; Holy Communion

February 8: The Vision that Requires Commitment

1 Peter 5:5b-10; Luke 9:18-20, 23-27

February 15: The Vision that Inspires Us

Transfiguration Sunday; Baptism

ONE SERVICE at 10 followed by pancakes!

Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36

February 18: ASH WEDNESDAY

Services at 7 am & 7:30 pm

with the imposition of ashes

February 22: First Sunday in Lent

Cultivating Identity & Letting Go of Control

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Luke 4:1-13



The Pastor's Note

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

Loving Lent

I don't think I have ever heard anyone exclaim, "I LOVE Lent!" We have become accustomed to Lent being a season of preparation, which often means fasting from things that are unhealthy or adding practices that are better for us...both of which can begin to feel like an obligatory chore that we do reluctantly rather than with joy. In the current realities we are facing this Lent, I don't think God desires for us to add more burdens to our already overwhelmed spirits.

Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
 - Jesus (Matt. 11:28)

This Lent, our series will invite us onto a journey that is much like tending plants (not one of my skills). We will be considering what to cultivate and what to let go. The hope is that the scriptures might lead us to better balance, more holistic healing, more sustainable rhythms. Our goal is that this Lent will be meaningful and what your soul most needs - a Lent that you might LOVE and appreciate.

Our annual theme is "Just Love," and after Easter, that will be our sermon series. All year, we have striven to emphasize love in all that we do, teach, preach, and embody. The world needs Christ's radical love, and if love is our compass point - our true north, then we can have an easier time setting our priorities, cultivating habits that enrich us and avoid that which depletes us. As we consider which relationships and practices to cultivate and what pieces of our lives we need to let go - perhaps LOVE is a helpful clarifier. Is this relationship based in love, are these practices infusing love, do I feel loved or loving when I participate in this or that? Where is God calling you to love more deeply and what is God inviting you to release?

May this Lenten journey be one that we



A Blessing With Roots

Tug at this blessing
and you will find
it is a thing
with roots.

This is a blessing
that has gone deep
into good soil,
into the sacred dark,
into the luminous hidden.

It has been months
since the ground
gathered the seed
of this blessing
into itself,
years since the earth
enfolded it.

Sometimes
that's how long
a blessing takes.

And the fact that this
blessing
should finally show
its first fruits
on the day
you happened by -

well perhaps we shall
simply call the timing
a mystery
and a sweet grace.

Take all you want
of this blessing.
Take every morsel
you need for
the path ahead.
Let its fruits fall
into your hands;
gather them into
the basket of your arms.

Let this blessing
be one place
where you are willing
to receive
in unmeasured portions,
to lay aside
for a moment
the way you ration
your delights.

Let yourself accept
its inexplicable plenitude;
allow it to give itself
to sustain you,

not simply for yourself-
though on this bright day,
I might be persuaded
to think that would
be enough -

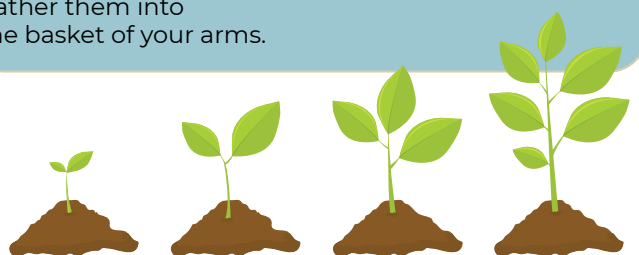
but that you may
gather its seeds
into yourself,
like the ground
where this blessing began,

and wait
with the patience
of seasons
and of years

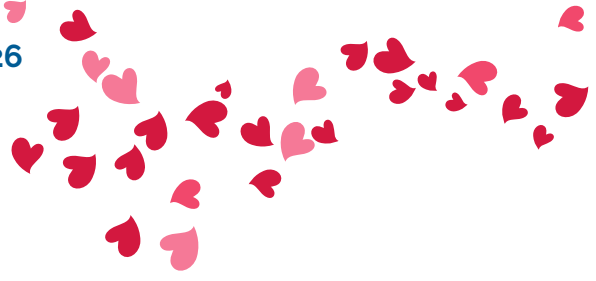
to bear forth
in the fullness of time
a stunning harvest,
a plenteous feast.

- Jan Richardson
*How the Stars Get In Your
 Bones: A Book of Blessings*

love!



Board Update



Hello, PRCC Friends!

Hope this letter finds you warm! As we are going through our sermon series on Vision, our church leaders continue to work towards bringing the vision for our church in God's world today and into the future. At the January Board of Directors meeting, we passed this year's budget, which is balanced AND represents growth in many of our ministries. Thank you to our Vice Chair Colleen Moriarty, our Treasurer Mary Biardo, and the whole Finance Committee for putting all the work into a great financial plan! We also amended our by-laws to clarify our financial audit process and updated our contract review process with the church attorney. The Board of Directors voted to allow the Senior Pastor to have the administrator role of our church software system. All of these changes allow us to be more nimble and better able to meet the needs of our church. This is huge work, thank you Board of Directors!

Both the Executive Committee and Board of Directors met in January. We continue to pursue our annual 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



Not to be a broken record, but I want to make sure we all know that we are beginning our nominations process, and we want to hear from you if God is calling you to help our church in 2026. We are always blessed to have folks stepping up and would love to add more to our number of church leaders and volunteers!

So thankful for each of you!

Dan Smith
Chair of the Congregation



A Word on Finance

Greetings and good tidings to all of our PRCC family!

It is with great joy that the Finance Committee reports we ended 2025 with 100% of pledges met and we have had generous pledges made for 2026 totaling approximately \$600,000 from 104 pledges, which represents an increase of \$45,000 from 2025. Healthy pledges, several generous, anonymous project donations along with good stewardship has kept us on solid footing going into 2026. Our Treasurer, Mary Biardo, has prepared the 2026 Budget and it was approved by the Board of Directors in January. Mary has worked on providing updated financial statements for each PRCC ministry area, committees and teams several times throughout the year to allow them to plan better how to use the funds allocated to them.

The roof, windows and external steeple projects are pretty much completed. The air conditioning and fire alarm system projects are moving along. And the internal steeple, Sunday School safety doors and Butler Place door security system are in the planning/bidding phase. Maintaining our buildings and improvements, such as air conditioning, are part of the legacy we will leave for the future PRCC. This could not happen without an amazing Trustee Committee and your continued financial support.

PRCC is filled with so many talented and knowledgeable congregants to draw upon. In the spirit of using our resources wisely, the Finance Committee and the PRCC Leadership has opted for an internal audit to take place this year. An Audit Team has been convened and will begin their work in early 2026. Our goal is to provide transparency, ensure we are utilizing best practices and engender trust that all donations are being put to good use.

A Church Use team has drafted a new fee schedule to standardize the church use fees to allow members and non-member groups quick and accurate invoices so we can hopefully share our space which will contribute to the care and upkeep of the buildings we know and love. The Board of Directors is currently reviewing this proposal before voting to implement.

It is with a full heart I thank you for sharing your talents, time and financial resources with PRCC. I am looking forward to continuing to build the future here at PRCC.

God bless,

Colleen Moriarty
Chair of Finance Committee



February Birthdays!

02/01 Berty Stevens
 02/02 Ben Curtis
 02/02 Joe DeYoung
 02/03 Chris Barsanti
 02/03 Bernice Zabawski
 02/04 Mollie Foster
 02/04 Connie Wojtowicz
 02/05 Tom Curtis
 02/05 Abigail Makar
 02/05 Ariel Makar
 02/05 Kevin Plach, Jr
 02/06 Lisa Irwin

02/07 Teri Biedke
 02/10 Mindy Schrimpf
 02/11 Jamie Knoblauch
 02/13 Jennifer Wang
 02/14 William Hammond
 02/14 Tim Lapp
 02/15 John Sasser
 02/16 Eliza Hinton
 02/26 Emma Hollingsworth
 02/26 Pam Johnson
 02/27 Susan Greenwood
 02/27 Tom Klimmeck

Happy
Birthday



February 2026

If you notice an error on the calendar, please share that information with office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30 am Chapel Service 9:30 am Faithful First Prayer 10 am Worship Service 11 am Team Talk 11:45 am MS Holy Chow 12 pm Worship Comm.	2 7 pm Trustees 7 pm Yoga	3 12 pm Kindred Spirits Café 6:30 pm Faith Dev. Meeting 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training	4 12:00 pm Staff Lunch 2:30 pm Wacky Weds 3:30 pm Youth Choir 6 pm Candlelight Vigil 7 pm Bible Study	5 9 am Men's Breakfast 10:30 Lincoln Park Cooking 6:00 pm Nominating 6:00 pm Outreach Mtg 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	6 5:15 pm Confirmation Trip to Synagogue	7 9:00 am Feed My Starving Children
8 8:30 am Chapel Service 10 am Worship Service 11 am Loving Lunches YOUTH COOKIE SALE	9 6 pm Finance Mtg. 7 pm Yoga 7 pm Social Justice Mtg.	10 12 pm Kindred Spirits Café 7 pm Welcome/ Membership Comm 7:30 pm Stephen Min Supr	11 10 am Staff Mtg. 2:30 pm Wacky Weds 3:30 pm Youth Choir 7 pm Bible Study 7 pm Action Ridge	12 9 am Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm Bells on High 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	13	14 8:30 am Stephen Ministry Training Happy Valentine's Day!
15 10:00 am ONE Worship Service 11:00 am Pancake Breakfast	16 OFFICE CLOSED President's Day 6:30 pm Exec Committee 7 pm Yoga 7 pm Gathering Warmth	17 12 pm Kindred Spirits Café 7 pm Stephen Ministry Training	18 <i>Ash</i> <i>wednesday</i> 7 am Worship Service 2:30 pm Wacky Weds 3:30 pm Youth Choir 7:30 Ash Wednesday Worship	19 9 am Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm Bells on High 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	20	21
22 8:30 am Chapel Service 10:00 am Worship Service 11:45 am: HS Holy Chow	23 7 pm Yoga	24 12 pm Kindred Spirits Café 7:30 pm Stephen Min. Supr	25 10 am Staff Mtg 2:30 pm Wacky Weds 3:30 pm Youth Choir 7 pm Bible Study	26 9 am Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm Bells on High 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	27	28 5:00 pm Carnival Benefit Night



stephen MINISTRY

*For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God
rather than burnt offerings. Hosea 6:6 (NIV)*

Rabbi Abraham Heschel is best known for his spiritual wisdom, and his prayerful dedication to his religious tradition. At the same time he worked for inter-religious dialogue and cooperation. My favorite quote of his is "Just to be is blessing. Just to live is holy." Born in 1907, Heschel escaped from Germany to the United States in 1940 as the Shoah descended on Germany. Other members of his family were not so fortunate.

Shoah is the preferred name among Jewish theologians for what we call the Holocaust. Shoah is a catastrophe, a ruinous disaster as opposed to a holocaust, which alludes to a burnt offering. The reference to a burnt sacrifice reminds Christians as well as Jews of God's words to Abraham when God stopped him from sacrificing Isaac, and beyond that, God's true desire for mercy and spiritual awareness.

Heschel's own painful losses and the brutality he observed in Germany informed another side of his religious views. He became a vocal advocate for civil rights because he understood justice was integral to faith. By 1963 he was calling for people to choose which leadership vision they would follow, that of Pharaoh or Moses.

After marching with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and other religious leaders from Selma to Montgomery, Heschel wrote: "For many of us the march ... was about protest and prayer. Legs are not lips, and marching is not kneeling, and yet our legs uttered songs. Even without words, our march was worship. I felt my legs were praying."

Heschel also said, "Prayer is no panacea, no substitute for action." I think we know where he would have been in the past weeks: marching in Minneapolis, praying and being arrested at the airport, walking down the street in Broadview, or responding to the pleas of children to be let out of the DHS prison in Texas.

In these painful times we are reminded that quiet actions we take as individuals are just as important as prayer and public protest. We have begun a new training class for Stephen Ministers, four of whom are PRCC congregants: Julie Bruno, Sharon Kemerer, Lauri McCleneghan, and Sharon Peterson. There are five others from local churches who are interested in the program, and have been included in our class. Please pray for all of these compassionate and dedicated people of faith as they begin this journey of both prayer, and action.

Do not hesitate to contact Pastor Carol, Pastor Mollie, Sarah McCarty, or any Stephen Leader to talk about Stephen Ministry and how it might help you through some difficult days.

STEPHEN LEADERS:

Sarah McCarty: sarah.mccarty@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Anita Rifkind: anitar@att.net

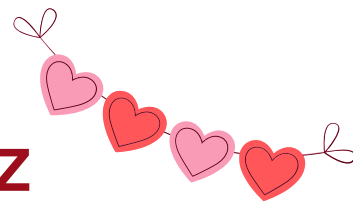
Naomi Siebert: naomi.siebert@gmail.com

Laura Sissman: lsissman741@gmail.com

Liz Swanson: liz@parkridgecommunitychurch.org



Is the idea of praying in front of others daunting? Do you ever feel like you just don't know what to say? Join the Stephen Ministers for Faithful First Sundays as we explore different approaches to prayer the first Sunday of the month. We'll meet in Ellinger Transept (off the sanctuary opposite the chapel) from 9:30-9:50 am and we'll cover a different perspective each month. On tap for Feb 1: Native American Directional Prayer.



Faith Development Love Quiz

For February and Valentines Day we LOVE the chance to emphasize our PRCC theme for this year! **Just Love!**



Paul wrote to the people of Corinth, "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

Where does one find so much love? Here is a matching test... give it a try!

**Say yes, to an open Bible quiz. Hint: if Jesus is speaking, then it is one of the four gospels. Just Love - so basic and so profound! We are ready!!*

A. John 15:12-13

B. Ephesians 4:32

C. Hebrews 4:14-16

D. Galatians 5:22-23

E. John 15:15-17

F. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

G. John 14:15-17

H. Matthew 5:43-44

I. Psalm 31:7-8

J. Matthew 22:34-40

K. 1 John 4:11-12

L. 1 John 4:16

1. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. ... it rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
2. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of Truth." -Jesus
3. We have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession... Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
4. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self- control. There is no law against such things.
5. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." - Jesus
6. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.
7. You have heard it 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." - Jesus
8. I will rejoice in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction; you have taken heed of my adversities, and have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy; you have set my feet in a broad place.
9. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is Love, and those who abide in love, abide in God, and God abides in them.
10. Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."
11. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.
12. "I do not call you servants any longer... But I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father." -Jesus



Gathering Warmth: Practices for Hard Seasons **Monday, Feb. 16, 7:00-8:30: PRCC Parlor**

*A workshop hosted by Stephen Ministry and the Social Justice Team
Facilitated by Pastor Mollie and Sarah McCarty*

Join us for a gentle, supportive workshop for those navigating emotional heaviness during the winter months. When the world feels cold or dim, we will explore ways of creating steadiness, comfort, and connection—both within ourselves and with one another.

Through guided discussions and simple rituals, we will offer opportunities to slow down, honor what has been lost, and tend to the parts of ourselves that need warmth and rest. Together, we will explore practices that help cultivate a sense of nourishment and quiet resilience during hard seasons.

You're encouraged to wear comfortable attire and bring along something that embodies coziness to you: a blanket, your favorite mug, slippers, etc. Warm drinks and fresh baked treats will be provided.

If you're able, please let us know you're coming. If not, you're still warmly welcome.

[**Register Here!**](#)

Volunteer Spotlight

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

This month we recognize Bill Barsanti!



Bill came to PRCC in the early 1990s with his wife Chris and they raised their 2 sons and daughter in PRCC. Bill and Chris were Sunday School teachers for the Middle and High schoolers for many years. Bill has been a Deacon and is still an Usher but most impressively, Bill has been a Trustee, on and off, for about 20 years! Holy Cow!! Most recently Bill has been the leader on the air conditioning project and also helped with the new roof project! Thank you Bill for your many years of service!

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

to honor Alex Pretti, Reneé Nicole Good,
and all of those who have been killed by immigration enforcement

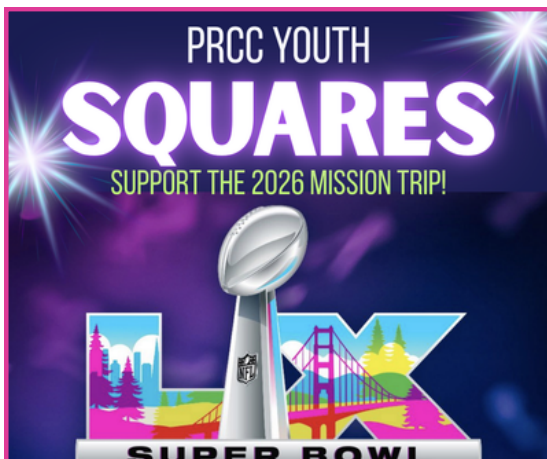
Wednesday, Feb. 4th

6:00 pm

front steps of PRCC



Action
RIDGE



Play Super Bowl Squares & Support Our Youth!

Join the fun and support the Park Ridge
Community Church Youth Mission Trip to
Portland, OR (June 2026)!

\$20 per square (and all proceeds help fund
this meaningful mission)

CLICK & PICK YOUR SQUARES!

OR



How to pay:

- Zelle: giving@parkridgecommunitychurch.org
- Cash or check
- *Include "Youth Mission Trip" on memo lines

Grab a square, cheer on the game, and make a difference!

Nominations Begins!

The Nominating Committee is chaired by Tim Lapp, and the Committee will meet for the first time this season on Thursday, February 5 at 6:00 pm. At this initial meeting, they will begin brainstorming individuals to serve as leaders and on committees for the upcoming season. **WE NEED YOU!!**



If you are interested in serving, you can reach out to us! We want to help you get connected! If you have questions about various roles or committees, we have answers! We know there are upcoming needs for Vice Chair, Deacons, Trustee, Staff Parish Relations Committee, and MORE!! If you want to learn about each role, try reading last year's Annual Report!

Roles to be Nominated in 2026:

SECOND TERM NOMINATIONS

Chair of the Congregation: Colleen Moriarty

Clerk: Justin McCarty

Receipts Treasurer: Laura Lapp

Welcome & Membership Co-Chairs: Susie Hollingsworth and Kate Joyce

Nominating Chair: Tim Lapp

At Large Board Members: Keith Reboletti and Liz Swanson

Fellowship Co-Chair: Mark Holihan

Memorial Gifts Co-Chairs: Kathy Erlandson and Sandy Bowen

Creation Care Chair: Jenny Sanderson

Social Justice Team Co-Chairs: Rick Graham

Children's Ministry Team Chair: Jason Hinton

JOIN OUR TEAM

VACANT POSITIONS:

Vice Chair of the Congregation (VACANCY)

Faith Development Chair: (VACANCY)

Deacons: (VACANCY)

Trustees: (VACANCY)

Nominating Committee: (VACANCY)

SPRC: (VACANCY)



WANTED

Volunteers to serve on: Teams & Committees

Faith Development, Youth, Children, Adult; Fellowship; Worship; Creation Care; Social Justice; Outreach; Pride in Park Ridge Planning Team; Memorial Gifts; Senior Outreach; Trustee Helpers; Sunday School teachers; VBS helper...and MORE!



Music Notes

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



MEET THE MUSIC STAFF

Hi! I'm Jane Kenas-Heller and I have the pleasure of being the accompanist for PRCC's Chancel Choir, playing for their Thursday night rehearsals, their Sunday morning anthems, and for the extra services throughout the church year. I also enjoy playing for our amazing soloists from the choir and for the wonderful instrumental guest soloists such as John Bruce Yeh (Chicago Symphony Orchestra clarinetist) and Irwin Heller (clarinetist and husband!)

My tenure at PRCC began in January of 2020 when Sasha Gerritson asked me to be the choir's accompanist. I met Sasha when she was a freshman vocal student at Northeastern Illinois University where I served as the full-time staff accompanist for the Music Department from 1978-2010 and then on a part-time basis from 2011-2022. Sasha had asked me to sub occasionally through the years for the Chancel Choir rehearsals, so I knew what a talented (and fun!) group they were and happily accepted her offer.

Like Angie and Andrew Weber, I'm a Wisconsin native and earned my Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, my hometown! While a student at UWSP, I was lucky enough to serve as the pianist for two USO tours with the university theatre department: one to US Strategic Air Command (SAC) bases in Greenland, Iceland, and Canada and a second, 8-week tour to US Army bases in Germany. After college I moved to the Chicago area and while working at NEIU earned my Master of Arts in Music/ Vocal Pedagogy degree there.

During my first years in the Chicago area my music jobs were as a free-lance vocalist: Chicago Opera Theatre, touring with the Lyric Opera of Chicago Young Artist Program, singing in churches and Jewish temples (they didn't mind that I was Presbyterian!) In 1978, my job at NEIU included accompanying many evening rehearsals and recitals, so my vocal work was limited to weekends only.

I feel very blessed that I have been able to make my living in music as a full-time accompanist. Before starting at PRCC, I was very familiar with Park Ridge, as I was hired to accompany the Park Ridge Chorale (originally the Maine South Alumni Choir) in 1988. I retired from that position after our recent Holiday Concert, having played for them for 38 years. So many wonderful memories to cherish!

I have already gathered an amazing number of wonderful musical memories to cherish here at PRCC. Two that stand out are both from Good Friday services: the Faure Requiem and The Seven Last Words of Christ by Dubois. The challenge for me was to make the piano sound as much as possible like a full orchestra for those two works and I enjoyed the challenge very much. I can't wait to see what Sasha is planning next!

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 February plans. Contact Sarah to be added to our email list: sarah.mccarty@parkridgecommunitychurch.org

- **Feb. 3: No KSC**
- **Feb. 10: Feb. Birthdays & 2026 Conundrums**
- **Feb. 17 Paczki Day**
- **Feb. 24 Bingo!**



Knitting Knights

The Knitting Knights group will be making hearts in February and March as part of the Little Heart Project. These handcrafted hearts will have an encouraging message attached to them and then left in random places to share love and hope with anyone who finds them. This is a project that will include various other groups in PRCC and tie into the "Just Love" sermon series.

The Knitting Knights will be working from home in February and meeting in-person in March so be on the lookout for those details. If you need more details, yarn, patterns or anything else to make some hearts from home, just reach out to Liz Swanson.



PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



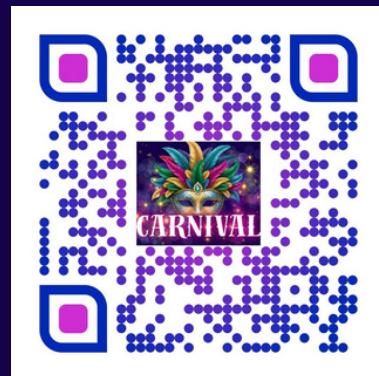
CARNIVAL

FEBRUARY 28, 2026

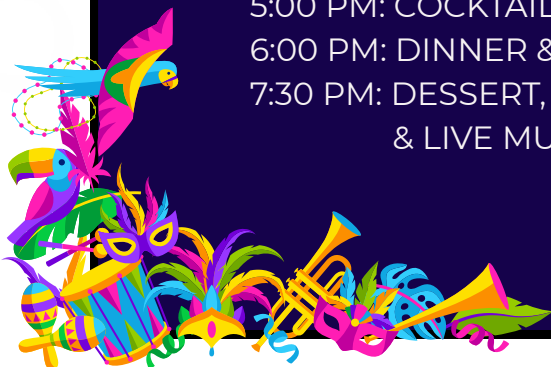
A NIGHT OF CASINO GAMES, DINNER, COCKTAILS,
LIVE MUSIC, AND AMAZING AUCTION ITEMS--
CARNIVAL STYLE!

\$100 PER TICKET
\$750 A TABLE OF EIGHT
\$50 AFTER DINNER TICKET

5:00 PM: COCKTAILS
6:00 PM: DINNER & LIVE AUCTION
7:30 PM: DESSERT, CASINO GAMES,
& LIVE MUSIC



This event is for ages 21+



CARNIVAL

[Click Here for more!](#)

WHAT

Carnival will include a silent auction, a live auction, appetizers and cocktails, Latin-themed dinner, desserts, live music, and casino games! Enter through Butler Place, enjoy pre-dinner fun in the Great Hall, dine in Jordan Hall with the live auction, and resume in the Great Hall for the band, casino, and dessert!

WHO

Our target audience is ADULTS 21+ who want to have fun and support our ministries. Church members, friends, neighbors, family, community leaders...all are welcome to come out and have a good time! Don't forget your credit cards and/or checkbook!

WHY

Carnival 2026 is the follow-up event to Mardi Gras 2025! This annual fundraiser seeks to provide a big evening of fun and festivity to support the annual budget, youth ministry, and other fundraising needs for the church, reducing the need for many small fundraising efforts by hosting this one bigger scale event.

HOW

There are many ways to participate! WE NEED YOU!!

- Buy tickets (individual \$100 or a table of 8 for \$750)! Drink tickets, raffle tickets, and casino cash will be available for purchase!
- Be a sponsor to help cover the costs of the evening - or invite your company or business to sponsor and be featured in our program!
- Donate items, services, property, entertainment, tickets, and more for the silent and live auctions!


AUCTION PREVIEW



- A week's vacation in Mexico at the property of your choice: Cancun, Cabo, Loretto or Puerto Vallarta, Mexico! This stay will be at a Universal Vacation Club property. The value of this week-long stay is \$2,500.
- A year-long reserved parking spot at Park Ridge Community Church!
- An Evening of Live Music, Appetizers, Homemade Pie, and Fellowship for a group of 10 hosted at the Carriage House!
- Jewelry; Cubs, Bears, White Sox and Bulls Tickets; Raffle Prizes to local establishments; AND MORE!!!



Outreach News

COOKIES

by the dozen

Sunday, Feb. 8
Jordan Hall

The Youth will be selling pre-plated cookies by the dozen! All proceeds support the travel expenses for the 2026 Youth Trip!



JAN 4- FEB 8

SUPER BOWL

FOOD DRIVE!

TACKLE HUNGER!
Bring your A-Game to donate 100 yards of food for the Maine Township Food Pantry!

Drop off non-perishable food in Ellinger Chapel. Items will be measured each week!



FOOD ITEMS

Canned Goods: soup, tomato sauce, vegetables, beans, fruits

Condiments: salt & pepper, mustard, catsup, mayo, vinegar, vegetable oil, jam, applesauce, peanut butter

Dry Goods: lentils, bouillon cubes, cereal, coffee, pancake mix, cake mix, sugar, flour, instant pudding or Jello, crackers, ramen noodles, cookies

Snack Foods: fruit cups, juice boxes, popcorn, pudding cups, granola bars & other snacks

You can also view and shop the [MTFP online wishlist](#) conveniently from home!

Outreach News



Ronald McDonald House **@ Advocate Lutheran General Hospital** **February 17**

The Christian Outreach Committee provides lunches quarterly for the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Let Kathy Erlandson know if you wish to help that day. You are always welcome to contribute food/snacks for families of children undergoing treatment; please use their WISHLIST.



Loving Lunches

February 8

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.



Lincoln Park Community Shelter

February 5

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.



Journeys | The Road Home

Throughout January, we collected small toiletries and cold weather gear for JOURNEYS | The Road Home, a non-profit agency based in Palatine, IL that provides shelter, social services, and housing to people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. Knitting Knights also made soap sacks for the Journey's collection.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this cause.

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

Our next meeting is Thursday, February 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the PRCC Parlor.

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

Children's Ministry

Morgan Tone, Director of Children's Ministry

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Sunday School News

A FEBRUARY FULL OF FAITH, SERVICE AND JOY

As we begin the month of February, the Children's Ministry at PRCC is excited to share all the meaningful and joy-filled moments ahead. We have so much happening, and it's all rooted in connection, service, and growing together in faith.

Last month marked a special first as our children and Sunday School families served Coffee Hour together. The new energy, big smiles, and shared purpose filled Jordan Hall and truly felt like a gift to our whole community. This month, our children will create cherished Valentine cards for our homebound seniors—a tradition we hold close to our hearts. We love nurturing the connection between our amazing seniors and our children and reminding them just how deeply valued and remembered they are at PRCC.

We will also come together for our beloved Feed My Starving Children service day, packing meals for those experiencing food insecurity. This intergenerational experience—open to ages 5 to 105—gives us a powerful opportunity to serve side by side and live out Jesus' call to love and care for others.

Finally, our My Bible class begins February 1st. This class helps students learn how to use the Bible as an important tool for faith development. Whether you have a third grader or a child who has not yet taken the class, we still have room and would love to welcome your family.



Children's Ministry

FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

- ♥ 1: SUNDAY SCHOOL: JEREMIAH
MY BIBLE CLASS #1
- ♥ 7: FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
- ♥ 8: SUNDAY SCHOOL: THE DISCIPLES
MY BIBLE CLASS #2
- ♥ 15: KIDS CLUB
MY BIBLE CLASS #3
- ♥ 22: SUNDAY SCHOOL: THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE
MY BIBLE RECOGNITION & WRAP UP SESSION



VOLUNTEER
WITH PRCC!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN



FAMILY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

FEBRUARY 7 | 9:00 AM
740 Wiley Farm Ct, Schaumburg

REGISTER HERE



Be a part of our annual Family Service outing at Feed My Starving Children. Everyone aged 5 and older is invited to join us!

2026
MY BIBLE CLASS



MEETING DATES
HELD DURING REGULAR SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME

February 1
February 8
February 15
My Bible Recognition:
February 22
OPEN TO 3RD GRADE AND UP!

PRCC Youth

6TH-12TH GRADES

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

JUNE 7-13, 2026



REGISTER YOUTH HERE!

WHAT: We will travel to PORTLAND, OR in collaboration with Praying Pelican to learn and serve in the city and beyond! We will learn of the community needs due to those displaced from their homes, environmental issues, and more!

WHO: All youth who will have completed 6th-12th grades are invited to attend-- 40 youth spots available!

COST: \$800.00 PER PERSON / SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!!!

PLEASE DO NOT let the cost detour youth from participating! Please speak to Pastor Mollie for assistance! We are very blessed with a memorial gift and other generous gifts!

What does my payment cover? Payment covers registration cost and "some" of our transportation. Overall trip expenses equate to \$1,200.00 per person. The \$400 difference between overall expenses and your payments will be covered by generous donations and fundraising. Youth meals (except for airport travel days), transportation, t-shirts, and sleeping accommodations will be covered for the week!

HOW WILL WE GET THERE: Flying to Portland, vans rentals once we arrive

HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE TRIP: We are in need of youth scholarships, baggage and transportation expenses! If you would like to financially help support this trip, please reach out to Pastor Mollie!





PRCC Youth

6TH-12TH GRADES



Middle School: Feb 1

High School: Feb 22

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!
No money needed!



Feb 6: Field Trip

Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation,
Evanston (JRC)

We will gather at PRCC at 5:30pm and have pizza with the JRC staff prior to worship and they will fill our class in on what to expect during worship and Q&A! Worship will begin at 7:00pm. We will return to PRCC at 8:45pm.



FEBRUARY:

1- STAY IN WORSHIP / COMMUNION DAY

8- THE GREAT COMMISSION

15- WHAT IS TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY?

22- WHY ASHES?



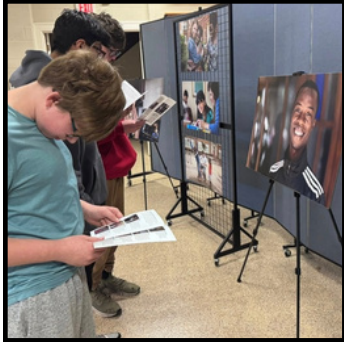
Wednesdays

2:30 - 3:30 pm

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



Celebrating Our Story





CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

A Lenten Journey for 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

We start the season of Lent with a reminder of our own mortality and the finitude of this life.



7:00 am

Brief Service in the Chapel w/ Scripture, Prayer & Ashes

7:30 pm

Service in the Sanctuary w/ Music, Sermon, Prayer & Ashes

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

"We know the testing time is here. And we also know how far we've come to get here. Trials this season will not relent. But neither will our growth in the Spirit." p. 2

Read daily reflections by 17 different authors from the "God is Still Speaking: The Writers Group." Devotions will be emailed and limited print copies are available.



BIBLE STUDY

On Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 pm, we will consider "Sowing Seeds of Climate Hope," tying together the themes 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! All are welcome! No book to buy!



Our Prayer Ministry

In this season of deepening awareness, we remember how God gathers us into one family of faith—calling us not only to rejoice together, but also to walk alongside one another through struggle, sorrow, and uncertainty. As we turn our hearts toward reflection, prayer, and renewal, we open ourselves to God's presence made known among us. With humility and trust, we lift up the joys, concerns, and blessings of our community, confident that each prayer is received with compassion 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 with the Joyce family that they are expecting a new arrival in June!
- We give thanks for birthdays, especially Eugene J and Katie H.
- Julie B. celebrates that AJ's bone marrow transplant has worked. He is officially in remission.
- We pray for our Confirmation students as they experience worship at Trinity UCC this morning.
- Janet J. gives thanks that her niece, Maria, is recovering and returning to work after a recent hospitalization.

General Prayers

- We pray for Pastor Carol and the immigration protesters as they go to court.
- We pray for the people of Venezuela and all of those living in fear because of war and violence around the world.
- We pray for family who are traveling from the Caribbean.
- We continue to pray for Ryan, Candace, Reese and Jackson M. We pray for the newness of this year, for strength in resolve, forgiveness, healing, and hope in the weeks, months, and years to come.
- We pray for Seth in this next chapter that God would prepare him, guide him, and lead him in every decision and every step forward.
- Yvonne asks for prayers for an ongoing legal battle, for strength, patience, and peace throughout.
- We pray for Kathy C.'s mother Ruth P. as she continues her hospice journey.
- We pray for all of those who are facing unspeakable hardship - loss of employment, loss of healthcare, loss of freedom, loss of housing and so much more.
- We pray for our Transgender friends, family and members that grace would protect their spirit, as decisions are made at federal level about their lives.
- We pray for Susan C. and family as their loved one experiences new health challenges.
- We pray for Angie P. and her mother as her mother has begun hospice care.
- We hold the communities traumatized by ICE agents in our prayers, especially the families and loved ones who have been kidnapped, beaten and killed.
- We pray for the Mauery family.

Our Prayer Ministry

Healing & Recovery

- Emma H. asks for prayers for her cousin Owen R. who is struggling to walk.
- We pray for Kym and her sister in law as they both are preparing for surgery.
- Grace C. asks for prayers for her cousin, Mark, who will undergo heart surgery on Wednesday.
- We hold Bernice Z. in prayer as she experiences some medical complications.
- We pray for Pete and Jimmy's brother Victor M.
- We pray for Greg S. and Danny B. as Greg was just diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer and has begun chemo.
- Bill B. asks for prayers for his friend, Tina P., who is navigating knee replacement surgery while also undergoing chemotherapy.
- Sheila B. asks for prayers for her aunt, whose spinal fusion was successful and now has begun the healing journey.
- Sally M. asks for prayers for her best friend who has been diagnosed with frontal temporal dementia and is struggling with balance issues and double vision.
- Sue asks for prayers for a coworker's brother Mario, who is experiencing swelling in the brain.
- We pray for Brendan J.'s Uncle John, who is undergoing surgery.
- We pray for Kathy's mom Nancy, as she experiences additional health challenges, for Kathy and Marc as they care for her.
- We hold Marc E. in our prayers as he is experiencing some health challenges. We all God to be with him and his medical team as they work to diagnose the issue.
- We pray for Sharon's dear friend John who is battling cancer and the impact of his treatment.

Life in the Resurrection

- We pray for the McHugh family and all those who are grieving the death of Marty M, whose life will be celebrated on Jan 11.
- We pray for Jake, Ava and family, whose grandfather entered life in the resurrection this week.
- Our prayers are with all the loved ones of Ginny Feurer who entered life in the resurrection on Thursday, Jan. 16.
- Our prayers are with Tom and Grace C. as they mourn the death of their beloved dog, Bo.
- We pray for the loved ones of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti, both killed by ICE officers in Minnesota.

"Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8



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