



Park Ridge Community Church

March 2026

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“

*I am the vine; you are the
branches. If you remain in me and
I in you, you will bear much fruit;
apart from me you can do
nothing.
John 15:5*

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

MARCH 1: Cultivating Courage.

Letting Go of Fear.

Psalm 27; Luke 13:31-35

Pastor Mollie preaching; Holy Communion

MARCH 8: Cultivating Patience.

Letting Go of Easy Answers.

Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9

MARCH 15: Cultivating Grace.

Letting Go of Shame.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

MARCH 22: Cultivating Belief.

Letting Go of Self-Righteousness.

Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8

Pastor Mollie preaching

MARCH 29: PALM SUNDAY

Cultivating Hope.

Letting Go of Empire Thinking.

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19: 28-40





The Pastor's Note

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

The Why

This year, Pastor Mollie, the Confirmation mentors and I have taken our Confirmation students on a series of "field trips" introducing them to different places of worship and different faith traditions. As they consider their own beliefs, our practices at PRCC, and the variety of traditions, they are (hopefully) building their spiritual identity - and more importantly, their "Why." Why would you be a Christian, a Christ-follower, a person of faith in a world filled with evil, injustice, doubt, and suffering? During Lent, we are cultivating and letting go, deepening our own spiritual lives and finding nourishment through our connection to the vine. What would be your why? Why are you a Christian? Why do you choose to practice your faith at PRCC?

My faith grew within me before I was really aware of it, but I am deeply aware of it now. I follow Jesus because I believe he was and is God with us. I feel the presence of the Holy Spirit giving me strength and comfort and laughter at times when I don't feel it myself. I love the stories of Jesus and the disciples, and I love the rich tradition of the Hebrew scriptures which constantly remind me of the ways imperfect people have been used by God to accomplish God's purposes in the world, often in spite of themselves.

I try really hard to reflect God's love into the world, though I do so imperfectly. I trust that Jesus understands the human condition and all of our disappointments and joys because he's walked this earth too. I believe God desires for humanity to work together to heal each other and heal the planet, and I believe God is giving us the knowledge, skills, and resources to do just that! I am so grateful to serve a God, who offers grace to me as well as the encouragement and expectation that I will use the time and resources I have to serve him and love our neighbor - leaving the world better than we found it.

...growing in faith...



We face so much. We carry so much. We feel so much. And we follow the One who created us and knows us better than anyone else. Our God walks this road and cultivates possibilities within us. God instills resilience, hope, perseverance, and goodness with us so we are ready for the road ahead.

Holy Week is a heavy week. It's a holy journey that we are all invited to take seriously and with intention, knowing that we do not travel it alone - nor did Jesus. Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem? Why did he suffer? Why do you follow him? All questions worth contemplating as we grow.





Board Update

Hello, PRCC Friends!

I hope this letter finds you well as we start the Lenten season! You may have noticed that the major projects at church are wrapping up, with both the windows and the roof projects fully complete at this time, and the safety alarm system installation making significant progress towards final stages as the actual detectors are being installed. Please reach out to the Trustees and let them know how much we appreciate all their efforts in managing these projects, they are huge to our building and ministry and could not have been completed without the whole team working together to coordinate the projects. All of these projects were fully funded and executed with so much generosity, care, and grace and truly are a blessing to our church!

The Executive Committee held our regularly scheduled monthly meeting. 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



Our Nominations Committee is hard at work filling roles in our church leadership and we appreciate all those considering our accepting the call to join the leadership team! We are a church of volunteers and the fact that so many continue to show up is a blessing! There is still time to get involved, if you are interested please contact Tim Lapp, Pastor Carol, or myself.

Peace to all,

Dan Smith

Chair of the Congregation





CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

Lent & Holy Week 2026

HOLY WEEK 2026

March 29 - Palm Sunday - Sunday services with Palm branches

April 2 - Maundy Thursday - 7:30 pm Service with Communion

April 3 - Good Friday - 12 pm Seven Last Words Ecumenical Service at St. Luke's Lutheran Church; 7:30 pm Good Friday service

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."

Read daily reflections by 17 different authors from the "God is Still Speaking: The Writers Group."

Devotions are 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!



March Birthdays!



- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 03/01 Eric Biedke | 03/09 Sam McCarty | 03/20 John Hurd |
| 03/01 Zander Gilliam | 03/09 Fred Siebert | 03/20 Mike Laginess |
| 03/01 Ben Sacor | 03/10 Dan Stewart | 03/21 Owen Smith |
| 03/01 Andrea Smith | 03/11 Danny Brewer | 03/22 Sally Mauery |
| 03/03 Jaclyn Weir | 03/12 Nancy Skiersch | 03/23 Becca Lapp |
| 03/06 Kenna Garcia | 03/12 Therese Wehman | 03/25 Janet Parker |
| 03/06 Seamus Lynch | 03/14 Molly O'Brien | 03/26 Kylie Figgins |
| 03/06 Judy Matzen | 03/15 Nancy Fabisch | 03/26 Megan Hinton |
| 03/07 Lorenzo Formosa | 03/17 Sharon Cooney | 03/28 Amalia Hogle |
| 03/07 Norma Simmons | 03/18 Adrian Hill | 03/29 Timothy Anderson |
| 03/07 Elizabeth Woo | 03/19 Judy Foster | 03/30 Kelsi Garcia |
| 03/08 John Davis | 03/19 Judy Sindt | 03/30 Gary Johnson |

March 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30 am Chapel Service 9:30 am Faithful First Prayer 10 am Worship Service 11:00 Creation Care Table 11:45 am Holy Chow	2 7 pm Trustees	3 12 pm Kindred Spirits Café 6:30 pm Ministry Council 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training	4 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 2:30 pm Wacky Weds 3:30 pm Youth Choir 7 pm Bible Study w/ guest Cathy Clarkin	5 9 am Men's Breakfast 10:30 Lincoln Park Cooking 6:00 pm Nominating 6:30 pm Bells on High 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	6	7 8:30 am Stephen Ministry Training
8 Daylight Savings 8:30 am Chapel Service 10 am Worship Service 11 am Loving Lunches 12:00 pm Confirmation	9	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 6:00 pm Outreach Mtg. 6:00 pm Finance Mtg. 6:30 pm Bells on High 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	13	14
15 8:30 am Chapel Service 10 am Worship Service 2:00 pm Ginny F. Memorial	16 5:30 am Envision Team 6:30 pm Exec Committee 7:30 pm Board of Directors	17 ELECTION DAY! 10:15am Chair Yoga 12 pm Kindred Spirits Café 7 pm Stephen Ministry Training	18 10 am Staff Mtg. 2:30 pm Wacky Weds 3:30 pm Youth Choir 6 pm SPRC Mtg. 7 pm Bible Study	19 9 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 pm Pride in PR 6:30 pm Bells on High 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	20	21
22 8:30 am Chapel Service 10 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	26 9 am Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm Bells on High 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	27	28 NO KINGS RALLY
29 PALM SUNDAY 8:30 am Chapel Service 10:00 am Worship Service	30 7 pm Yoga	31 12 pm Kindred Spirits Café 7 pm Stephen Ministry Training	HOLY WEEK			
8:30 am Chapel Service 10:00 am Worship Service	7 pm Yoga	12 pm Kindred Spirits Café 7 pm Stephen Ministry Training	7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service	7:30 pm Good Friday Service	12 pm Seven Last Words	

stephen MINISTRY



By Naomi Siebert

“to provide for those who grieve in Zion — to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor” Isaiah 61: 3 (NIV)

As I am writing this, I have just returned from the Ash Wednesday service. It felt so wonderful to breathe deeply and settle into sacred space. Pastor Carol shared the beautiful verses from John 15 and the imagery of being connected to God's lifegiving vine; cultivating what is giving us strength and letting go of things that are no longer sustaining us.

This past month, my pre-Lenten time was spent re-reading and following along in the audiobook *Man's Search for Meaning* by Dr. Viktor Frankl. As I listened to the narrator share Frankl's experiences, it enabled me to lean into his strength and wisdom, as he was faced with unfathomable circumstances. The image of Frankl struggling to survive in the camps, yet continuing to persevere, is testament to the strength of God's indelible vine and its limitless possibilities.

Because of Frankl's steadfast faith and desire to unite with his family, he extended love and compassion to his fellow prisoners, persevering despite it all. His time in Auschwitz reinforced his conviction that life is not a quest for pleasure or power, but a quest for meaning. Frankl believed that this meaning came from three sources: work doing something significant, love caring for another person, and courage during difficult times. Frankl also believed that forces in life can take away everything that you possess, except for your freedom to choose how you will respond. The suffering that Frankl survived was because he chose beauty for ashes and helped others do the same.

Frankl's unwavering faith was his lamp in the darkness and a light for so many others too. This Shema prayer was a source of constant comfort for the Jewish captives in the camps, and I hope you will find peace in these verses from Deuteronomy 6: 4 - 9 (Tree of Life Translation).

“Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love Adonai your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These words, which I am commanding you today, are to be on your heart. You are to teach them diligently to your children, and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up. Bind them as a sign on your hand, they are to be as frontlets between your eyes, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

As you spend time in quiet reflection this Lenten season, know that the Stephen Ministers are here if you need a listening presence to walk alongside you during your life's circumstances. If you would like the care of a Stephen Minister, please reach out to Sarah McCarty or any of our Stephen Leaders to help you get connected.

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 March 1: Lectio Divina

Lessons Learned



Actual quotes from Bible Study participants...

Eunuchs are the main group of gender variant people in biblical times. In Matthew 19:3-12 Jesus describes the different type of Eunuchs and ends with "the One who can accept this should accept it." -Karen Olson

I learned when old friends learn that I am open, they tell me about their trans family members I didn't know. I learned more about the differences between states in gender care...and the dangers for people in some states. - Sue Laurie

Isiah 56:4-5 For this is what the Lord says, "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant-- to them I will give within my temples and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever.

I learned that transgender is not a noun, it's an adjective. Don't assume pronouns. This study helped me learn a lot. I'm going to keep the book for future reference. - Liz Ewald

I know someone who was gay and now is a woman who changed their name. This class helped me to know to be more understanding. - Charlie Giera

There are specific verses that address transgender experiences. There is hope for transgender people looking for a relationship with Jesus. - Jim Davis

I learned that two things cannot express the entirety of the continuum. For example - it's not just day and night, there's dawn and dusk. There's not just plants and animals or land and sea or male and female...there is much diversity in between. - Karen Nelson

Romans 8:1 - There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

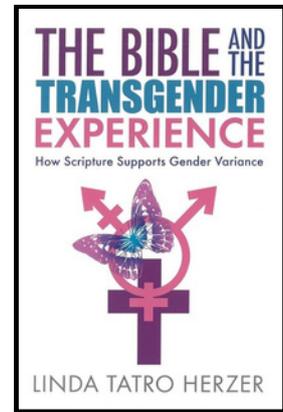
The disciples want to know why a man is blind - "who sinned?" This idea that diversity displays the works of God and that we should appreciate all the different gifts people bring into the world.

Trans people in the Bible? Well, there was Joseph, whose father gave him a garment often worn by virgin daughters of Kings - the coat of many colors. God made THEM in God's image - male AND female God created them. Most people bury the lead here and skip to the binary, but to make male and female in God's image shows that God contains both (and more!) - Rick Graham

I learned that the transgender experience is shared as frequently as 1/1000 births and that there are 4 different types of intersex realities. - Bruce Nelson

One of the lost sheep got separated from the other 99 - we shouldn't put up road blocks or barriers to prevent them from getting back. I learned native people use the term "Two Spirit" to refer to trans or multiple gender persons.

I learned that 70% of trans folks consider or attempt suicide, and yet the government has eliminated this suicide phone number. How can keep these beloveds safe?



Volunteer Spotlight

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

This month we recognize

Ryan McGuffey



Ryan came to PRCC in the 2018 with his wife Candace and they are raising their son Jackson and daughter Reese in PRCC! Ryan has been participating in Loving Lunches, Feed My Starving Children and went on a Youth trip to Madison, WI. Ryan is the Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the 2 time MC for Mardi Gras and Carnival fundraisers! Thank you Ryan for all that you do! You help make PRCC the place we all love!



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 Feurer
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 & Lonnn Naudzius
Mark Holihan





Creation Care Opportunities

March 1
11:00 am

Learn and Go! Come to the Creation Care Table during Coffee Hour to learn a little more about compost, induction burners, and simple ways to care for our planet! Chili will be provided!

March 4
7:00 pm



An Interactive Conversation with Guest Presenter, Cathy Clarkin, environmental educator and Executive Director of Accelerate Climate Solutions, will discuss the pressing need to advocate and engage for climate change. "Climate Change is part of the current humanitarian crisis," she says. Cathy welcomes questions about climate change and how you can help. Hosted by Creation Care and Social Justice teams. Presentation also available on Zoom.

Weds.
7:00 pm

"Sustaining Creation: Sowing Seeds of Climate Hope" Bible Study
What is our mandate to care for creation? What does the Bible say about the planet? Come hear from Rev. Dr. Terry Gallagher as we discuss humanity's role in solving the climate crisis. Feb. 25, March 4, 11, and 18 from 7-8:30 pm in Ellinger Transept.

COMING IN April

April 18
1:00 pm

Forest Preserve Clean-Up Day from 1 - 3 pm!
Bring your gloves and buckets to help keep our earth clean by picking up trash around the Forest Preserve!



April

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.

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!





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

Introducing Theresa Egan!

Theresa began working with Angeli Choir in 2010 and joined the Chancel Choir in 2018 as one of our Soprano soloists. She earned her Bachelors in Music in Vocal Performance from University of Colorado at Boulder and her Master of Arts in Applied Vocal Pedagogy from Northeastern Illinois University. She is fortunate to sing regularly with professional musical theater and opera companies all over Chicagoland. Theresa's favorite style of music to sing is musical theatre which is tied with Mozart. Her favorite hymn is *How Can I Keep From Singing* and favorite anthem is *I Believe*. One of her favorite music memories at PRCC is going on a tour with the Angeli Choir to Boston and Memphis, TN.



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

- **Mar. 3:** March Birthdays
- **Mar. 10:** Bingo!
- **Mar. 17:** St. Patrick's Day Fun
- **Mar. 24:** Guest: Liz S. & a Knitting Knights' Project
- **Mar. 31:** Easter Egg Stuffing

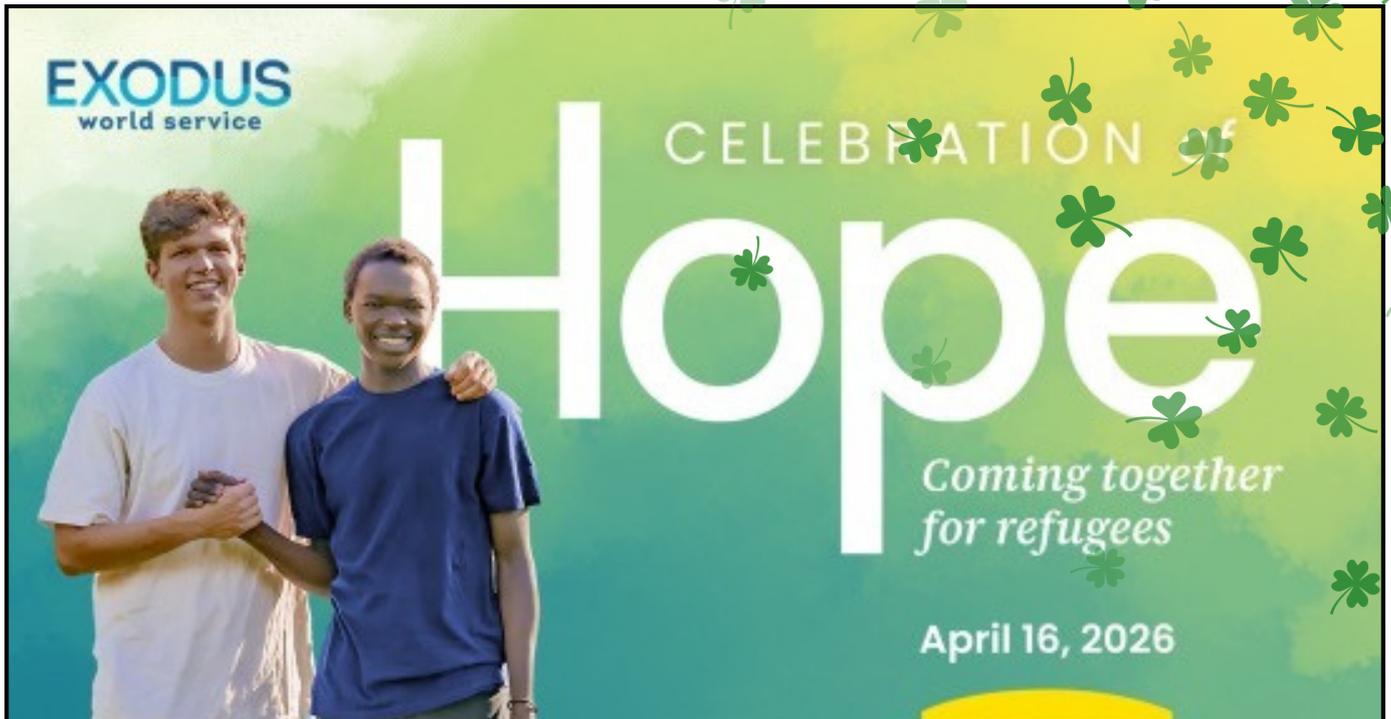


Knitting Knights

The Knitting Knights group is excited to be making a variety of hearts as part of the Just Love sermon series this spring. Handcrafted hearts like the ones in this picture will be assembled with encouraging notes and then left in random places for people to find and enjoy. If you are a crafter or would like to learn how to make these adorable hearts, please join us on Monday 3/16 at 1:00 in Jordan Hall. We will be meeting then to gather up the hearts and on Tuesday, 3/24 Kindred Spirits Cafe will help to assemble the hearts with the notes. If you have any questions, please reach out to Liz Swanson.



Outreach News



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. We'd love for you to join us for a complimentary dinner, powerful program, and an opportunity to make a difference for refugees. Exodus' mission of mobilizing the Christian community to welcome and befriend refugees is near to our hearts!

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

MARCH 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.



Loving Lunches

MARCH 8

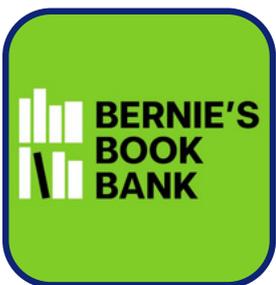
Help pack lunches for those in need with Loving Lunches! Please SIGN UP HERE to help assemble 160 lunches or supply items. The Christian Outreach Committee provides lunchmeat and cheese for sandwiches as well as fresh fruit using our Committee budget (the bread is generously donated). We are always in need of items for the lunches: individual chips, granola bars, juice boxes, and baggies.



100 Yards of Food - THANK YOU!

Our second annual 100 Yards of Food drive for the Maine Township Food Pantry was a great success! Altogether for the month, we collected 102 Yards of Food. Thank you to everyone who donated food and personal items.

Because the need continues, you can always view and shop the MTFP online wishlist conveniently from home -or- use the cart in our Butler Place as a drop off spot for food items, empty egg cartons, and recyclable or paper grocery bags and we will ensure your donations are distributed where most needed.



Bernie's Book Bank

We are joining forces with the Children's Ministry to collect children's books with Bernie's Book Bank throughout March! Volunteer with us on April 18th to pack books for local schools!

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

Our next meeting is Thursday, MARCH 12th 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

We're excited for a month full of meaningful, joy-filled moments! Last month, 7 My Bible kids explored God's Word with Sue Laurie and were celebrated for their dedication. We also brought a group of 54 people to Feed My Starving Children. It was an absolute joy to serve alongside so many wonderful people.

This busy lenten season offers many ways to get involved – volunteering in Sunday School, joining our Lenten Neighborhood Prayer Walk, donating for the Easter Egg Hunt, or participating in our Book Drive. Come grow in faith and community with us!

MARCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

-  1: SUNDAY SCHOOL: THE PRODIGAL SON
-  8: SUNDAY SCHOOL: MARY ANOINTS JESUS
-  15: SUNDAY SCHOOL: THE LOST SHEEP
-  22: KIDS CLUB
-  29: SUNDAY SCHOOL: THE EMPTY TOMB



NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALK

This Lent, take a special journey with your family through your neighborhood! Pick up a prayer booklet in the Sunday School wing or from Morgan, and use it as a guide to pause, reflect, and thank God for the many blessings in your life. It's a simple, meaningful way to grow closer to God together as a family.



Children's Ministry




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

EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 5 | 11:30 AM

CHURCH LAWN

ALL AGES WELCOME-SPECIAL
AREA FOR 2 AND UNDER



PARK RIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

DONATIONS NEEDED

PLEASE CONSIDER
DONATING SMALL CANDY,
TOYS AND EGGS TO
SUPPORT THE SUCCESS OF
OUR ANNUAL EASTER EGG
HUNT!

KINDLY PLACE ANY DONATIONS
IN THE BIN IN BUTLER PLACE
ROOM

Thank you



PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH & BERNIE'S BOOK BANK

CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE

Donate new or gently used children's books throughout March. Then volunteer with us on April 18th to help get them ready for kids – if you can put a sticker on, you can volunteer!

<p>BOOK DRIVE DEPOSIT BOOKS IN BINS THROUGHOUT MARCH</p>	<p>VOLUNTEER APRIL 18TH 9-11 AM BERNIE'S BOOK BANK</p> <p>REGISTER</p>
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BOOK CRITERIA:

<p><i>Yes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEW & GENTLY USED CHILDREN'S BOOKS BIRTH-6TH GRADE READING LEVEL 	<p><i>No!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BOOKS WITH YELLOWED PAGES BOOKS FOR ADULTS ACTIVITY BOOKS COOKBOOKS RELIGIOUS BOOKS PARTIALLY STICKERED BOOKS
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ANY QUESTIONS? SEE TRICIA WILLIAMS, MORGAN TONE OR PASTOR MOLLIE

Children's Book Drive!

Throughout March, we will be collecting children's books for Bernie's Book Bank!

Here's what we will take:

- NEW & GENTLY USED CHILDREN'S BOOKS
- BIRTH-6TH GRADE READING LEVEL

Here's what we will not take:

- BOOKS WITH YELLOWED PAGES
- BOOKS FOR ADULTS
- ACTIVITY BOOKS
- COOKBOOKS
- RELIGIOUS BOOKS
- PARTIALLY STICKERED BOOKS

Join us as we volunteer at Bernie's Book Bank on April 18th!
All ages welcome!

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 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



Middle School: March 1

High School: March 29

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!



March 8:

12:00 pm-1:30 pm

During our time together, we will learn about the Islamic faith through activities and discussion! We will also have time to reflect on our year of field trips!

Save the Dates:

Confirmation Party: April 12

Confirmation Sunday: April 26

Wednesdays

2:30 - 3:30 pm

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



MARCH:

1- STAY IN WORSHIP / COMMUNION DAY

8- WHAT IS LENT

15- MAUNDY WHAT?

22- HOLY WEEK





CULTIVATING & LETTING GO Celebrating Our Story

EXODUS STORY TELLING EXHIBIT



CONFIRMATION TRIP TO SYNAGOGUE



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN



VIGIL FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM



GATHERING WARMTH



CARNIVAL TEAM PLANNING



PANCAKE BREAKFAST





Our Prayer Ministry

In this sacred season of Lent—a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal—we are reminded that God draws us together as one family of faith. As we journey toward the promise of resurrection, we are called not only to share in one another's joys, but also to gently accompany one another through struggle, sorrow, and uncertainty. With humility and hope, we lift up the joys, concerns, and quiet burdens of our community, trusting that every prayer is held with tender mercy and steadfast love. 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 give thanks for Dillon's baptism and the joy of family shared.
- We celebrate the hope felt at Wednesday's candlelight vigil.
- We celebrate 54 volunteers helping feed my starving children.
- We celebrate 100 yards of food collected.
- We celebrate with Andrew and Courtney D. on the birth of their daughter Finley.
- Bill and Barbara celebrate their 69th anniversary on 2/23.
- Marc E. celebrates the good news of their granddaughter's bday. It's nice to have good news.
- We give thanks for the beauty of "Gathering Warmth" evening where hearts were shared.

General Prayers

- We give thanks for the storytelling and ministry of Exodus World Service, and we continue to pray for refugees awaiting a safe place, for countries to open their doors, and dreams to become realities.
- We pray for the work of the Nominating Committee, which begins this week as we seek to match willing volunteers with the leadership needs of our church. We pray for God's Spirit to guide each of us into the right role and ministry for the year ahead.
- We pray for Jim and Judy as they navigate layers of challenges with their home, health, and next chapter.
- We pray for Brendan's parents, John and Darlene J. as they travel to Honduras for a medical mission trip with their church.
- We give thanks for the Youth who spent hours baking to support their mission trip going to Portland.
- We pray for safety at the Superbowl game - for athletes, for women and girls, for all of those traveling and all participating.
- Our prayers are with Adrienne W. as she awaits test results that will guide future treatment. My she be surrounded by God's peace during this anxious time.
- Janet asks for prayer for grandson Andrew's safe return from NYC trip with high school in the blizzard.

Our Prayer Ministry

Healing & Recovery

- Our prayers are with Kym and her sister in law as they prepare for upcoming surgeries.
- We hold in prayer Rick B.'s brother, Mark, as he has completed radiation for prostate cancer and is now awaiting follow-up test results.
- We pray for Lisa I. as she prepares for multiple medical procedures.
- We pray for survivors of sexual abuse and violence, as trauma is revisited.
- We pray for Mark H.'s friend Janine, diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Janet asks for prayer for friend Paul W. as he deals with a reaction to chemo.
- We pray for Kym's ankle
- Prayers for Bernice Z. to regain strength and mobility to be able to return home.
- Prayers for Bernice's friend Carmen.
- Prayers for Megan L., sister of Katelyn P., who is undergoing a final round of fertility treatments after previous unsuccessful attempts.
- We hold in prayer Lisa I.'s son, Joe, as he prepares for spinal fusion surgery on Monday, 2/16.
- Mike L. asks for prayers for his best friend, Aaron M., who was just diagnosed with bone cancer. May God give him strength in the journey ahead.
- We pray for Beckham, who was just diagnosed with type 1 diabetes and his parents Ambrea and Piotr as they navigate what this means moving forward, mixed with the joy of being pregnant.
- Penny C. asks for prayers as she struggles to recover from the flu.

Life in the Resurrection

- Sarah M. requests prayers for a dear family friend, Everett S., who entered Life in the Resurrection this morning. May his wife of 64 years, Grace, feel surrounded by God's love and peace amidst her grief.
- Prayers for Jill W. as they grieve the death of her brother John Conrardy this week.

“Blessing that Knows” by Jan Richardson

This blessing has been aching with a heart broken and lost and tired.
It does not have it all together. It sometimes wakes us anxious and afraid.
This blessing had to be quiet, had to let itself sit in stillness and sorrow,
had to let itself stop and rest.

This blessing knows you carry your own sorrow, your own grief.
It knows the weariness that visits you, the questions that attend your road.

It knows, too, how you keep turning yourself toward mystery,
keep turning yourself toward hope,
keep turning yourself toward this world
with the beautiful stubbornness by which a way is made.

And so this blessing is glad to cross your path,
to see your face, to speak your name, to offer thanks.

It meets you with glad welcome and fierce love both ancient and present.

This blessing comes to you with heart impossibly open
for the blessing that you bear, the blessing that you are.



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Save the Date



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Like us on **Facebook!**

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