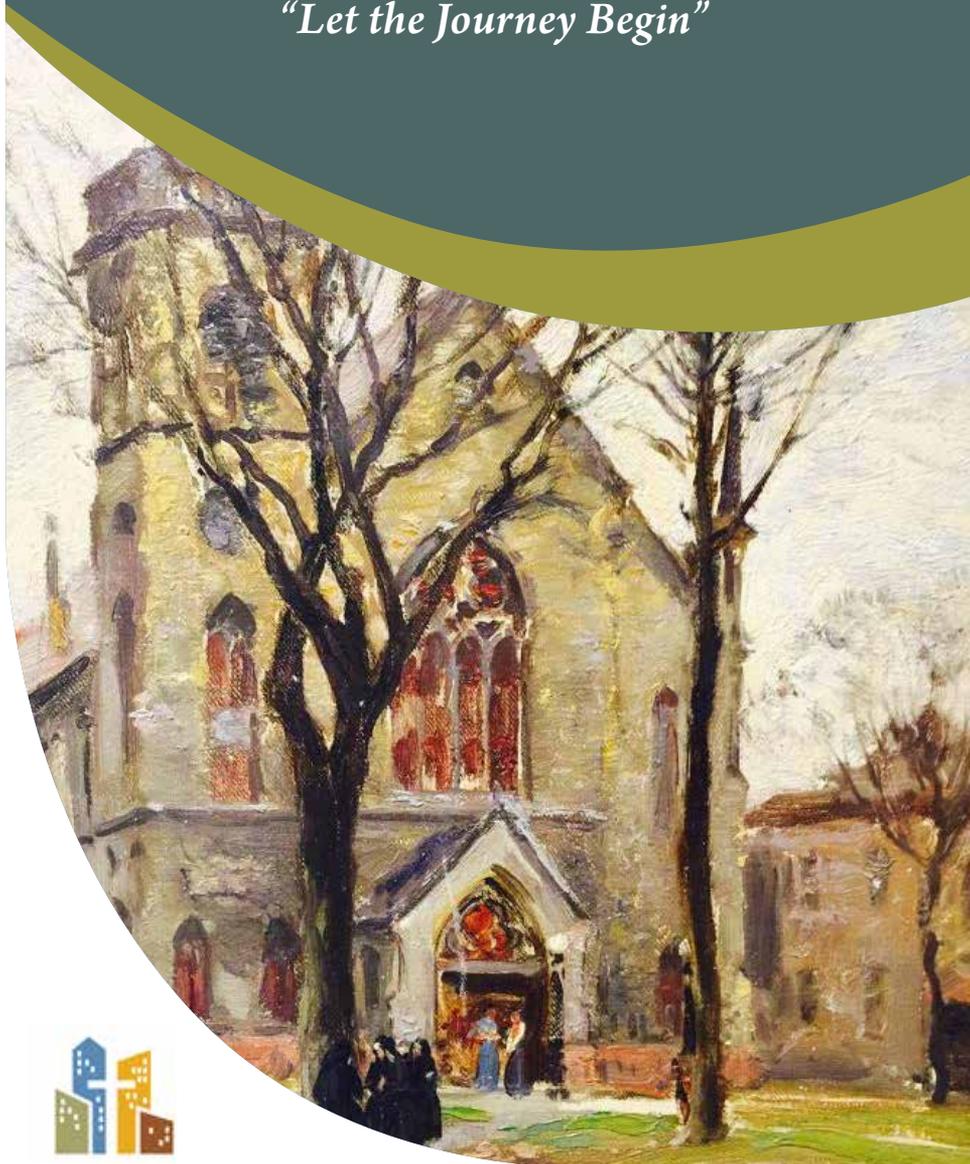


First (Park) Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

June 19, 2022

“Let the Journey Begin”



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR JUNE 19, 2022

Gathering and Centering - 10:15am

Announcements - 10:25am

Sanctuary Worship - 10:30am

Gathering Music Patrick Coyle, piano

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle

Prelude Phyllis Ann Miner, organ
This Is Our Creator's World
Arr. Anna Laura Page

Call to Worship Reading Responsively

One: Though these times in which we live are difficult times with war, shootings in our schools and in our streets, Covid and much fear. Lord, God, we come into this sanctuary to worship and to be refreshed in your grace.

All: **Though these times in which we live are difficult times, we still hunger for peace; a sincere acceptance of our differences, safety, healing, and the awareness of your quieting Spirit among us.**

One: It is in these times that we come to worship.

All: **It is in these times that we come together and we worship God ...in this place. Amen!**

+ Hymn of Praise - No. 821

My Life Flows On
(How Can I Keep from Singing?)
Tune: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING
See bulletin page 10

Gracious God; renewing Spirit, it is in relationship with you that we find the quieting and transforming power of love and true acceptance. We come to you as seekers, for we live in difficult times. We can be worn-down as life events flood our minds and our senses; shaking our confidence and fogging our vision. But in you, O Gracious God, we are renewed and strengthened. In our awareness of your presence we are emboldened to goodness, renewed in faith and empowered. Open our eyes to your presence; let our mouths speak forth your praise and our actions reflect your grace and love. Lord, God, we are yours. Amen

+ The Chimes

The Chimes give us an opportunity to center ourselves as we stand in silence and prepare our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to receive the message God has for us.

Solo

Bruce Robey, tenor
Just a Closer Walk with Thee
Arr. Richard Walters

(For text, see hymn 835.)

Prayers of the People / Our Savior's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Roger LaWarre

concluding, the congregation prays in unison:

...Our Father/Mother/God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Choral Response

The Summer Singers
God is My Strong Salvation
Tune: WEDLOCK

*God is my strong salvation; what foe have I to fear?
In peril and temptation my light, my help, is near.
God's might thy heart shall strengthen;
God's love thy joy increase;
Mercy thy days shall lengthen; the Lord will give thee peace.*

Scripture Lesson

Luke 8:32-39
II Timothy 3:14-17
Pam Liggett, liturgist

One: The Word of God for the People of God...

All: **Thanks be to God.**

+ Congregational Response

Gloria Patri

***Glory be to the Father (Creator),
and to the Son (Christ) and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, amen.***

The Sermon

Rev. Dr. Roger LaWarre

"Let the Journey Begin"

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle

Offertory Music

The Summer Singers
Be Thou My Vision
Arr. Patrick Coyle

(For text, see hymn 450.)

+ Doxology - No. 606

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him (God) all creatures here below;
Praise him (God) above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
(Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost). Amen.*

+ Prayer of Dedication

Reading in Unison
Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle

Divine God: We promise to use these gifts for good. We promise to use these gifts in furthering God's vision of equality, mercy and peace. We commit to using these gifts in love and kindness for others. Amen.

+ Hymn - No. 761

Called As Partners in Christ's Service

Tune: BEECHER

See bulletin page 11

+ Our Common Commission

Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle

Let us now go forth into the world in peace; being of good courage; holding fast to that which is good; rendering to no one evil for evil; strengthening the faint hearted; supporting the weak; helping the afflicted; honoring all people; loving and serving the Lord and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The service of worship concludes with Our Common Commission.

*If you are leaving the Sanctuary during the Postlude,
please be respectful of the musician and those who are listening.*

Recessional

Phyllis Ann Miner, organ
The Golden Trumpet
Lani Smith

Thank you for joining us this morning!

We'd like to know that you were here, answer any questions you have, and support you in prayer. Please fill out the card in your bulletin and place it in the plate during the offering.

Please join us for a “Walk in the Park” ing lot this morning after worship. Did you know that one of the first “fast food” restaurants in Grand Rapids used to be located right where some of you park every week? Look at some of the historic pictures on display in Allinder Commons and then take a tour with Mary Forslund to see our beautiful grounds and learn more about how they came to be.

Our virtual services are all available to watch on our website:
www.parkchurchgr.org.

Looking ahead: **Sundae Sunday is June 26 after worship.**

Ofield Ten is inviting everyone to Merriam Hall after worship on June 26 for ice cream treats. This will be a great opportunity to welcome Darryl and Tammie on their first Sunday with us while enjoying ice cream, coffee, and fellowship together. Don't miss it!

The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the Altar are
given by the Park Church Women.

The flowers on the Children's Altar are
in honor of the 7th birthday of our granddaughter,
Lillian Gess.
Given by Gene and Carol Gess.

*If you would like to mark an occasion by dedicating Altar flowers,
please contact Marcia Streeter (mabit1@gmail.com).*

Joys and Concerns

Please keep Richard Rowe in your prayers. He was recently admitted to Blodgett Hospital and will be there for several days. Cards may be sent to 1828 Woodward SE, GR, 49506.

Please keep Emma Youngquist in your prayers. Emma is Chris Krive's daughter and she was recently diagnosed with thyroid cancer. The family is hopeful and reports that surgery will be scheduled soon. You can send encouragement to 2986 N. German Church Rd., Oregon, IL 61061.

Please keep Tom and Mary Hollen and their family in your prayers. Their 16-year old granddaughter, Sydney Mott, has recently been diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. Pray for strength and wisdom as Sydney's family and her doctors develop a treatment plan.

Keep Dave and Gloria Haebich in your prayers. Dave continues his recovery from a recent fall. You can send greetings to Dave and Gloria at 1919 Boston St SE Apt. C007, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Keep Evelyn Huyser in your prayers as she undergoes cancer treatments. Cards of support can be sent to 1510 Lancashire Dr. Grand Rapids 49508.

Please remember those serving in the military including: Joe Birkhold, Jesse Campbell, Kit Grant, Andy MacGregor, Stefan Pawelka, and Matthew Quick.

Thank You:

My heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who helped with the funeral and reception for Eric. I appreciate all the help and personal attention all of you at the church have extended to me and my family. And thank you for the notes and expressions of care so many of you have sent. Our time away because of Covid and Eric's condition hasn't seemed to matter to you at all. Thank you—Jan Thorsen

Summer Book Club Meeting
June 21 at 7:00pm
at the DeBoer home (2222 Onekama Dr. SE)

Low-Key, Low-Commitment Summer Book Club: Come Join Us! Thought-provoking books, fun and friendly people - what's not to love? Gina VanderHeiden and Megan Cottrell of the Board of Deacon's IDEA committee are hosting a summer book club to get folks talking and connecting around interesting and meaningful topics. We'll read three different books, one for each summer month, and have a get-together to discuss each one. Read them all or just pick just one - we'd love to have you when it works for you!

June's Book: **The Lonely Century** by Noreena Hertz. Books are available from the library, bookstore, online, or in the church office. Questions? Contact Megan at megan.m.cottrell@gmail.com

Upcoming meetings: July 19 to discuss **Fortune** by Lisa Sharon Harper and August 30 to discuss the **Opposite of Hate** by Sally Kohn.

Please let the office know if you are planning to attend. 616-459-3203.

LGBTQ+ and Supporters: A Day in Saugatuck
July 3 after worship

LGBTQ+ and supporters are invited to A Day in Saugatuck on July 3. We will meet at Saugatuck Center for the Arts to see the musical "Legally Blonde" at 2:00 PM, followed by a cookout at Patrick Coyle and Greg Frey's home (988 Singapore Drive, Saugatuck).

Tickets for the show are available on a sliding scale (pay what you can), with a maximum of \$45, and no cost for the cookout. Checks payable to Park Church. Reserve your ticket by emailing Patrick (PCoyle@Park-ChurchGR.org).

Tickets are limited so send in your RSVP now!
We hope to see you there!!!

Park Church Calendar

Mon. Jun 20 - The office is closed in recognition of Juneteenth

Tues. June 21 at 7:00 - Summer Book Club Meeting (offsite)

Wed. June 22 at 4:30 - Mobile Food Pantry

Thurs. June 23 at 6:00pm - free chair yoga in Spindler Dining Room

Sun. June 26 - Sanctuary Worship

Welcome to Rev. Darryl Kistler, Senior Minister

It's Sundae Sunday! Ofield Ten invites everyone to Merriam Hall after worship for ice creams treats and fellowship.

Thurs. June 30 at 6:00pm - free chair yoga in Spindler Dining Room

Sun. July 3 - Sanctuary Worship

Rev. Darryl Kistler, Senior Minister

LGBTQ and friends social event in Saugatuck. Details to come.

Tues. July 5 at 6:30pm - Board of Deacons meeting

Thurs. July 7 at 6:00pm - free chair yoga in Spindler Dining Room

Sun. July 10 - Sanctuary Worship - Communion Sunday

Rev. Darryl Kistler, Senior Minister

Tues. July 12 at 6:30pm - Board of Trustees meeting

Serving With You Today

Ushers: Doris Robey, Bob Smith, Bob Nichols, Paul Davison

Greeters: Steve and Kelly Jasperse

Sound: Sam Johnson

Video: Bruce Robey

Flower Care: Kathy Miller

Grounds Crew: Kelly Jasperse

Summer Childcare: Caitlin Watson, Gloria Eckert

821

My Life Flows On How Can I Keep from Singing?

1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

In the *New York Observer* of August 7, 1868, this text was titled "Always Rejoicing," and was attributed to "Pauline T." This may well be where the Baptist pastor and musician to whom it is usually credited encountered the words that he later published with his tune.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761



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



we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-ques-trife.



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



e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.



An Open and Affirming Congregation

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

Statement of Welcome and Inclusion

As Jesus demonstrated by his life and teachings, we fully value and welcome all people into the life of Park Church, regardless of beliefs or doubts, age, color, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical, mental, or emotional ability, or economic status. In fact, we value and celebrate the rich diversity of all God's creation.

Our Vision

To build a community of relentless compassion
and courageous hope where all are seen and known, and
the God of extravagant love is revealed.

10 E Park Pl NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616-459-3203 / office@parkchurchgr.org / www.parkchurchgr.org
www.facebook.com/parkchurchgr

OFFICE HOURS

Summer Hours: Monday - Friday from 9:00 - 3:00

The wifi password is *parkchurchguest*.