

FIRST (PARK) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023



JUSTICE

fairness

EMPATHY

compassion

Order of Worship for January 29, 2023

Gathering and Centering - 10:15am

Announcements - 10:25am

Sanctuary Worship - 10:30am

Gathering Music

Steven B. Smith, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Darryl Kistler

Prelude

Mighty God, We Humbly Pray

Jacob B. Weber

*Mighty God we humbly pray, let your spirit guide our way,
That in all things we may show that we in your likeness grow.*

+ Call To Worship

Reading Responsively

Paula Ellison, liturgist

One: Blessed:

**All: the poor in spirit,
those who mourn,
the meek.**

One: We gather to hear who Christ calls blessed;

**All: those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
the merciful, the pure in heart,
the peacemakers, the persecuted.**

One: Blessed.

+ Hymn of Praise - No. 19

God of Great and God of Small

Tune: GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

+ Opening Prayer

+ Chimes

Blessing of the Children and Youth

Anthem

The Choral Scholars

Esto Ies Digo

Arr. Kinley Lange

Translation:

*This is what I tell you...
If two of you agree here on earth
To ask for something in prayer,
My God (who is in heaven) will give it to you.
Because where two or three gather in my name,
There I am, in their midst.
This is what I tell you.*

Text: Matthew 18:19–20

The Prayers of the People and Our Savior's Prayer

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 Chancel Choir

O for a Closer Walk with God

Tune: CAITHNESS

*O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame,
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb!*

Scripture Reading

Micah 6:1-8
Paula Ellison, liturgist

One: The Word of God for the People of God...
All: Thanks be to God.

+Congregational Response - No. 581

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.**

Sermon

Rev. Darryl Kistler

Meditation

O for a Closer Walk with God
Charles Callahan

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

The Chancel Choir
Offertory
John Ness Beck

*With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings;
shall I come before Him with yearling calves?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul.
He has shown you, O mortal; he has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you,
but to do justice and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

+ Doxology - No. 606

Praise God, From Who 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

**Gracious and Compassionate God,
We offer ourselves to you again,
in worship, in listening and in giving,
in lives committed to the purposes and practices
of your love and grace;
We give of what we have, for in this way,
we know we are blessed
to be a blessing to humankind. Amen.**

+ Hymn - See Bulletin Page 6

Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service

Tune: BEECH SPRING

+ Our Common Commission

**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.**

Postlude

Steven B. Smith, organ
Let Justice Flow Like Streams
Douglas E. Wagner

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

1. Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2. Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
 3. Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,

who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 to the child, the youth, the ag - ed, love in liv - ing deeds to show;

we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 hope and health, good will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid and peace we give,

con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Joys and Concerns

Marilyn Steele, long-time Park Church member, fell recently and is recuperating at a rehab facility. She would appreciate a note or get-well wish for her recovery. Cards may be sent to: Autumn Care of Suffolk; 2580 Pruden Blvd. Room 410; Suffolk, VA, 23434.

Ruth McCarty had reverse shoulder replacement surgery recently and is convalescing at home. 2510 Lake Michigan Drive NW, B307, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Lloyd Winer has had surgery related to a fall and is expecting to be discharged to Mary Free Bed soon. Send cards C/O Greg and Sue: 2134 Innwood SE, Kentwood, MI 49508.

It has been 2 years since Carolyn Molica's beloved husband Dieter Schrapers passed away. Continue to hold her close in this time of remembrance.

Sue Winer's mother, Bev VanDuinen, is in hospice care at Rose Garden. You may send messages of support to 2134 Innwood SE, Kentwood, MI 49508.

Please pray for those managing illness and treatment: including: Dave Haebich, Steve Jasperse, Christine McMullin, and Bill Smith.

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

The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the Altar are
in memory of my husband.
Given by Susan Sochanek

The flowers on the Children's Altar are
in honor of all the children.
Given by Kathy Miller.

Sanctuary Flowers: If you would like to mark an occasion by dedicating flowers, contact Marcia Streeter. (mabit1@gmail.com)

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 information card and place it in the offering plate.

Join us downstairs in Merriam Hall after worship for coffee, cookies, and fellowship following the service. The Carnation Callers will be meeting in Spindler Dining Room after worship.

P. O. P. Puzzle Exchange

This morning after worship

There are a number of puzzle aficionados in our Park Church family and we invite you all to a puzzle swap! Select a few puzzles you are willing to part with, bring them to church, and exchange them for "new" ones at the P. O. P. table in Allinder Commons this week. February can be a little bit brighter for everyone if we share our puzzles! Make sure your puzzles are in good condition and with all of the pieces please!

Burning of the Palms

This afternoon at 4:00pm

Everyone is invited to join the youth group for the annual Burning of the Palms. We will meet at the Paul and Beth Kelly home at 4:00 for a liturgical and fellowship experience as we burn the palms from last Palm Sunday and ready the ashes for use on the upcoming Ash Wednesday. Please dress for the weather, **bring your own chairs** and plan to stay for about an hour. 6669 Egypt Valley Rd, Rockford, MI 49341

Nimble Needles (handcrafting group)

Sundays after worship

There is a new needlework group at Park Church! Nimble Needles welcomes anyone who enjoys any form of needlework (knitting, crochet, sewing...). We meet every Sunday after the service in Merriam Hall (Look for the sign on the table with our name, Nimble Needles.). Even if you don't ply any needles or hooks, you are welcome to join us for refreshments and conversation.

Love is All, Love is You: The Spirituality of the Beatles Led by Charley Honey

Thursdays, February 2, 9, and 16 from 6:30-7:30pm

The music of the Beatles “remains fresh and vital to listeners across a wide spectrum of age, race and religion. And, their message continues to connect in a way that is not at all religious but is deeply and spiritually resonant....In the Beatles’ songbook, the concept of love recurs not just as a romantic feeling between two people, but as a force that, if truly lived out, could change the world.” ~ Charley Honey

Each week will focus on a theme: Beatlemania, the middle (maturing) years, and the studio years. The program includes video clips of Beatles songs and performances, discussion of their songs’ messages and values, and audience reflections on what the Beatles’ music has meant to them.

Highly regarded as a freelance writer, Charley Honey specializes in issues of faith, values, education and spirituality. He retired from the Grand Rapids Press in 2015 after 20 years as a columnist on faith and values and is currently a staff writer for School News Network, an online publication covering public schools in Kent County.

Pastor Darryl’s Installation Service

Sunday, February 5 at 3:00pm

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Service of Installation for Rev. Darryl Kistler!

Installation is the liturgical celebration of the covenantal relationship among the ordained minister, the local church, and the Association. It is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

The message will be delivered by The Rev. Dr. Daniel Deleon of Friends Congregational United Church of Christ in College Station, Texas. You are all invited to attend along with conference representatives, guests and friends in support and celebration of this significant moment for our church. A fellowship reception will follow in Merriam Hall.

Clergy are invited to wear robes and/or stoles as you are moved and as is your tradition. If you intend to process, please arrive at 2:40. The color of the day is red.

Days For Girls Kit Creation Days

Tuesday, February 7 at 5:30

Days for Girls Rockford South Michigan Team will be hosting “kit creation days” in Merriam Hall in 2023 and we are calling all Park Church women and men to help!

Without access to safe and affordable period products, women and girls experience health concerns, stigma and shame, and are challenged by chronic absenteeism, wage loss and learning difficulties. Join us to find out more about this ministry, how it impacts women and girls around the world and how you can participate...sewing is just one way!

Come ready to pin, cut, sew or serge as we make Days for Girls kit components. No experience necessary...we will show you step by step! Stop by the P.O.P. table next week for more information and ways to help.

Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 12 after worship

Ofield Ten is selling super soups for the Super Bowl. You can purchase small and large containers of a variety of homemade soups to enjoy while you watch the game! Vegetarian options are available. Stop by Allinder Commons after worship to purchase.

Pie Sunday (take two)

Sunday, February 19 after worship

Martenson Ten was disappointed that inclement weather cancelled the annual Pie Sunday in November. You will get your chance to once again buy delicious homemade pies on Sunday, February 19!

You can purchase a slice(s) to enjoy with your fellowship coffee as well as whole pies to bring home for your families. (Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 22 so if your Lenten practice includes foregoing pie...you'll still have 3 days to indulge in this treat!)

Park Church Calendar

Wed. Feb. 1 at 7:00pm - Bible Study on Mark led by Pastor Darryl via Zoom.

Thurs. Feb. 2 at 6:00pm - Free Chair Yoga

Thurs. Feb. 2 at 6:30pm - Charley Honey, guest speaker

Sun. Feb. 5 Sanctuary Worship - Communion Sunday

Rev. Darryl Kistler, Senior Minister

Find out more about Days for Girls at the P. O. P. table in Allinder Commons.

Sun. Feb. 5 at 3:00pm - Service of Installation of Rev. Darryl Kistler as our Senior Minister.

Tues. Feb. 7 at 5:30pm - Days for Girls Kit Creation Day

Tues. Feb. 7 at 6:30pm - Board of Deacons Meeting

Wed. Feb. 15 at 10:00am - Park Church Women board meeting

Wed. Feb. 8 at 7:00pm - Bible Study on Mark led by Pastor Darryl via Zoom.

Thurs. Feb. 9 at 6:00pm - Free Chair Yoga

Thurs. Feb. 9 at 6:30pm - Charley Honey, guest speaker

Sun. Feb. 12 Sanctuary Worship - Rev. Darryl Kistler, Senior Minister

Souper Bowl Sunday. Ofield Ten will be selling soup after worship.

P.O. P. table - *Bigger Table* book sale.

Wed. Feb. 15 at 7:00pm - Zoom Bible Study will resume on March 1

Thurs. Feb. 16 at 6:00pm - Free Chair Yoga

Thurs. Feb. 16 at 6:30pm - Charley Honey, guest speaker

Sun. Feb. 19 Sanctuary Worship - Jazz Sunday with musical guests *The River Rogues*

Rev. Richard Sherlock, guest preaching minister

Martenson Ten Pie Sale after worship

P.O. P. table - *Bigger Table* book sale.

Tues. Feb. 21 at 7:00pm - Board of Trustees Meeting

Wed. Feb. 22 at 4:00pm - Mobile Food Pantry

Wed. Feb. 22 at 7:00pm - Ash Wednesday Service in Thompson Chapel

Thurs. Feb. 23 at 6:00pm - Free Chair Yoga

Sat. Feb. 25 at 3:30pm - *Considering Matthew Shepherd* presented by the Chancel Choir
with guest musicians under the direction of Patrick Coyle.



IN THE CITY FOR THE CITY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



We are an Open and Affirming Congregation

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

Serving With You Today

Ushers: Kathy Miller, John Miller, Cindy Dexter, Susan Sochanek, Harlan Wilson, Chuck Dietiker

Greeters:

Parking Lot Greeter: Tom Johnson

Sound: Sam Johnson

Video: Bruce Robey

Flower Care: Nancy Beaver

Nursery: Mary Newton

Little Lambs: Alexia Dominguez

Pre-K & K: Lori Riegling, Mary Hoksbergen

Grades 1, 2 & 3: Donna Boersma, Amy Rains

Grades 4 & 5: Megan Cottrell, Jason King

Carol Choir: Cheryl Wells

Cantando and Chapel Choirs: Heidi Hertel, Vonda Karnazes

Middle School: Kristin Bofysil, Heidi Hertel

High School: Gregg Hampshire

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Access the online donor and
payment portal by using the
camera on your phone and
clicking the link that appears.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday from 9:00 - 4:00.

The wifi password is parkchurchguest.