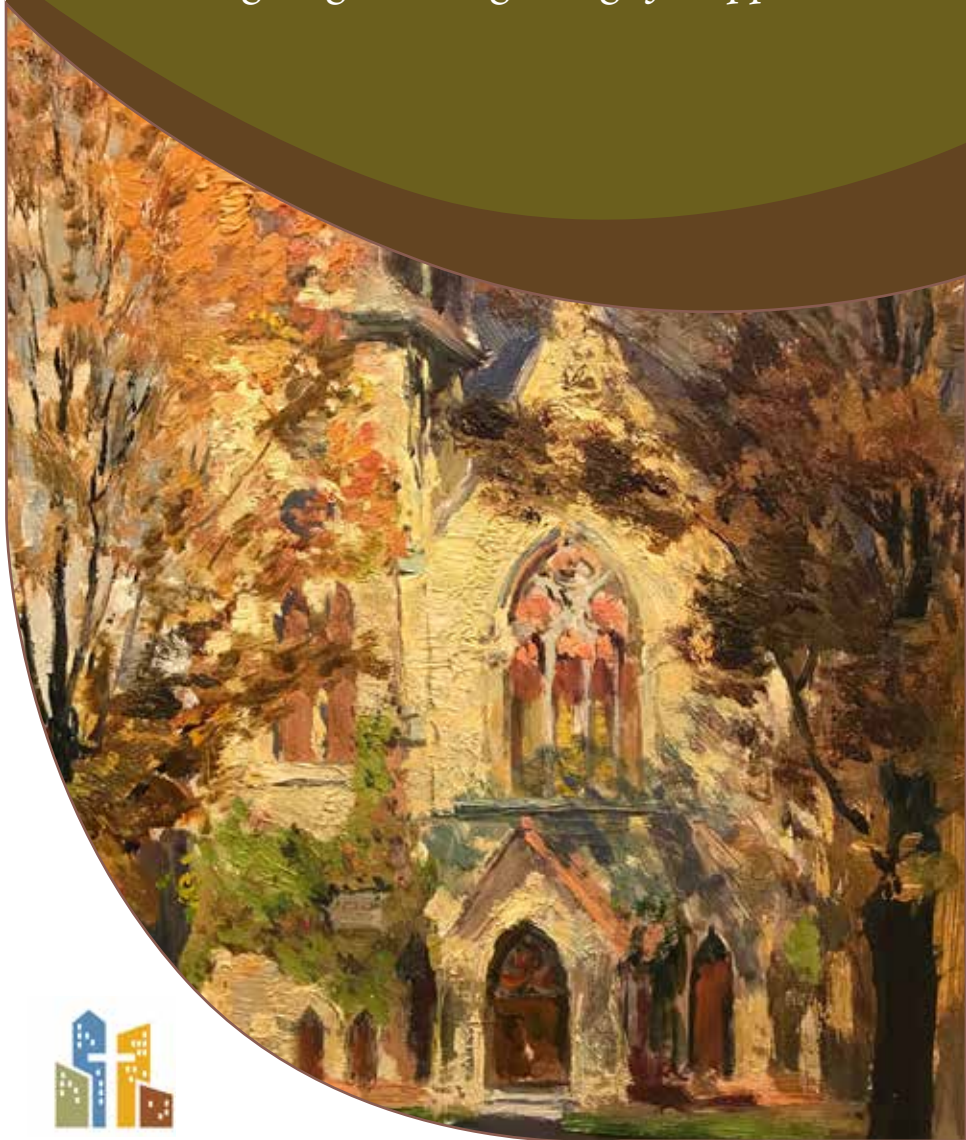


First (Park) Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
November 21, 2021

“Thanksgiving: The Beginning of Happiness”



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2021

Gathering and Centering - 10:15am

Announcements - 10:25am

Sanctuary Worship - 10:30am

+ Stand as you are able

Gathering Music Phyllis Ann Miner, piano

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Riley Jensen

Prelude Steven B. Smith, organ
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
Setting by Don Hustad

+ Call to Worship Reading Responsively

One: Give thanks, O people of God!

All: For God has blessed the world with life and showered the earth with love.

One: Give thanks, O people of God!

All: For Christ has given us his life and washed us in healing waters.

One: Give thanks, O people of God!

All: For the Spirit has not stopped moving in the world, calling us to lives of grateful praise.

+ Hymn of Praise - No. 336

We Gather Together

Tune: Kremser

(see page 6)

+ Opening Prayer

Reading in Unison

**God of all blessings, source of all life,
giver of all grace:**

**We thank you for the gift of life:
for the breath that sustains life,
for the food of this earth that nurtures life,**

**for the love of family and friends
without which there would be no life.**

**We thank you for the mystery of creation:
for the beauty that the eye can see,
for the joy that the ear may hear,
for the unknown
that we cannot behold filling the universe with wonder,
for the expanse of space
that draws us beyond the definitions of our selves.**

**We thank you for this day:
for life and one more day to love,
for opportunity
and one more day to work for justice and peace,
for neighbors and one more person to love
and by whom to be loved,
for your grace
and one more experience of your presence,
for your promise: to be with us, to be our God,
and to give salvation.**

**For these, and all blessings,
we give you thanks, eternal, loving God,
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

Vienna Cobb Anderson

+ The Chimes

The Chimes give us an opportunity to center ourselves as we stand in reverent silence and prepare to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to the message God may have for us this day.

Children's Blessing

Reading Responsively

Leader: People of God, what is your prayer for these children?

Congregation: May the Lord be with you and may the Word
of the Lord grow in your hearts.

All: Thanks be to God!

Anthem

The Parkmeisters
Carol Gess, guest director
Andrew Moore, Soloist
Phyllis Ann Miner and Steven B. Smith, piano
I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing
Setting by Howard Helvey

*I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says "sing,"
And obey the Spirit of the Lord.*

*I'm gonna preach...
I'm gonna pray...
I'm gonna shout...*

Prayers of the People/Our Savior's Prayer Rev. Dr. Roger LaWarre

(congregation reading 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
Come, Ye Thankful People
Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

The Scripture Readings

Rick Bartling, liturgist
Psalm 82:1-8
John 18:33-37

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

+ 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

“Thanksgiving: The Beginning of Happiness”

Response

Steven B. Smith, organ
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Setting by Charles Callahan

Anthem

The Chancel Choir
Carol Gess, guest director
Phyllis Ann Miner, piano
For the Beauty of the Earth
John Rutter

+ Closing Hymn- No. 36

For the Fruit of All Creation
Tune: AR HYD Y NOS
(See page 7)

+ Our Common Commission

Rev. Dr. Riley Jensen

**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

Steven B. Smith, organ
Nun Danket Alle Gott
Phil Lehebauer

We Gather Together

336

1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
 2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
 3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
 and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,
 so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
 Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;

Sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.
 thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glo - ry be thine!
 thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

First published among songs celebrating the end of Spanish control of the Netherlands, this text's blend of patriotism and piety has made it popular at (often ecumenical) Thanksgiving Day services. The tune is named for the Viennese arranger whose male chorus popularized it.

For the Fruit of All Creation

36

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

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 in your bulletin and leave it in the offering plate as you leave the Sanctuary.

Please join us in Merriam Hall after the service. The Park Church Women's Annual Holiday bazaar and the Martenson Ten Pie Sale are happening today! Pick up some Christmas gifts for your guests and delicious pies for your table while supporting the many causes of the Park Church Women.

Everyone is invited to participate with the *hanging of the greens* in the sanctuary after the worship service. Visit the bazaar, buy some pie...and head back up to the sanctuary. It should take about 90 minutes and no experience is necessary!

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

The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers at the Pulpit are given in loving memory of
Mark Hoffhines by Abby Hoffhines and family.

The flowers at the Lectern are given in celebration of
the 60th wedding anniversary of Ron and Gail Bickel.

The flowers at the Lectern are given in memory of
Rusty Dannison and Penny Grant by his and her families.

The flowers on the Children's Altar are given in honor of
Lily Kugler's 15th birthday by John and Barb Duiven.

*The Altar enhancements celebrating the season of Thanksgiving
were designed by Amy Virkstis*

*If you would like to mark an occasion by dedicating Altar flowers,
please contact Marcia Streeter (mabiti1@gmail.com).*

Joys and Concerns

We rejoice with Sebastian Kaposho and Julie Ngongo. Their daughter Claris Ngalula Walende was born on November 5, 2021. Claris is welcomed home by big sister Lona and big brother Aenga. The family is doing well. 1801 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507

We share our sympathy with the family and friends of Deb Mondry. Deb passed away on November 4, 2021 at the age of 63. A Park Church member for many years, she was known for her cheerful smile, sense of humor and willingness to help however she could. Renee Fles was Deb's carnation caller and close friend. Services have taken place. If you would like to send a card to the Mondry family, mail it c/o Park Church (10 E Park Pl NE 49503).

Keep the Dannemiller family in your prayers. Rev. Larry Dannemiller passed away on November 4, 2021 at the age of 96 in Grand Haven. Rev. Dannemiller served as Park Church Interim Senior Minister from 1990-1992. No services are planned. If you would like to send a card to the Dannemiller family, please call the office for the address.

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

Our UCC Grand West Association November prayer partner is **Plymouth UCC.** Keep Rev. Rachel Bahr in your prayers as they guide the Plymouth family. Notes of encouragement can be sent to Plymouth UCC, 4010 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508.

Please pray for the members of the Senior Minister Search Team as they do the important work of helping us find a settled senior minister.

Serving With You Today

Ushers: Doug Rubingh, Doris Robey

Greeters: Mary Forslund, Diane LaWarre

Parking Lot Greeter: John Duiven

Sound: Sam Johnson

Flower Care: Kathy Miller

Nursery: Angel Walker, Gyl Hondorp

Little Lambs: Hannah Petty, Elizabeth Calcaterra, Garrett Torrez

Pre-K and K: Lori Riegling, Anna Hickman

Grade 1: Laura Tay

Grades 2 and 3: Laura Barnum, Amy Rains

Grades 4 and 5: Megan Cottrell, Jason King

Middle School: Andrew DeBoer, Kate Meengs

High School: Gregg Hampshire

Children's Worship Center and Sunday School

Children's Worship Center: Families with infants and toddlers can proceed directly to the nursery and "Little Lambs" classroom on the first floor. If you aren't sure which room is right for your child, our staff and volunteers can help you. Students in Pre-K - 5th grade sit with their families in the worship service. After the Children's Blessing, they go with Miss Gloria to the Worship Center classes on the lower level.

Middle School: Students in grades 6-8 meet every week. They will be dismissed from the worship service at the appropriate time and meet in the third floor youth room for the remainder of the service.

High School: Students in grades 9-12 will meet in the Martenson Parlor on the first floor during the worship service on the following dates: Nov. 21, and Dec. 5.

The Park Church Calendar

Tues. November 23 - NO Music at Midday concert

Wed. November 24 - NO Mobile Food Pantry

Thurs. November 25 and Fri. November 26 - The office is closed.

Sun. November 28 - Sanctuary Worship ~ First Sunday of Advent
Rev. Dr. Riley Jensen “An Advent Faith ~ Don’t Bypass the Cocoon”
Middle School Sunday School - during worship

9:30am ~Advent Meditation in Thompson Chapel
led by Rev. Tracey Taylor-Kunst

Tues. November 30 at 12:15pm - Music at Midday concert
Jonathan Tuuk, organ

Thurs. December 2 at 6:00pm- Free Yoga at Park Church

Sat. December 4 at 10:00am - Allinder Ten meeting

Sun. December 5 - Sanctuary Worship ~ Second Sunday of Advent
Rev. Dr. Riley Jensen “An Advent Faith ~ Taking the Long Way”
High School and Middle School Sunday School - during worship
Allinder Ten Cookie Walk following the service.

9:30am ~Advent Meditation in Thompson Chapel

Tues. December 7 at 12:15pm - Music at Midday concert
Caledonia Choralaires

Tues. December 7 at 7:00pm - Deacons Meeting via Zoom

Wed. December 8 at 10:00am - Park Church Women board meeting

We send out news of the church in a weekly email called the *Congregationalist*. If you have not been receiving yours, OR you do not use email, please let us know so we can help you stay connected.



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

Monday - Friday from 9:00 - 4:00

The wifi password is *parkchurchguest*.