FORWARD IN *Faith*

SEPT. 13

STEPS 1 & 2

PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Forward in Faith: Step 1 & 2 — God's Strength; Human Weakness
September 13, 2026 — 10:00 am

Welcome!

We welcome you to worship today. Park Ridge Community Church affirms that all people are made in the image of God and are worthy of God's love and grace. We commit to the ongoing work of being a church journeying together to deepen our understanding of the nature of God's love and to fulfill our responsibility to embody the Christ Spirit in the world. No matter who you are or where you are on this journey, you are welcome and loved.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Disciples and doubters, faithful and feckless,
we are God's, who welcomes us all.
Followers and those who lag behind, open-hearted and close-minded,
we are the Lord's, who is always patient with us.
Reconcilers and rabble-rousers, foolish and fearless,
we are the Spirit's, who encourages us in every moment.
Guide us, O God, our Great Jehovah!

***HYMN** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* 281

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

The Pastor will pray each stanza, concluding with "With one voice we pray," and the congregation will respond: ***We're still here.***

Silent prayers are offered.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

We're still here, saturated by grace, brimming with joy, leaning into faith. Here we belong. Here we are home. **Here we are known, forgiven, and loved beyond measure. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

FIRST LESSON Romans 1:16-23

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *Praise His Holy Name* Keith Hampton

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Backpack Blessing

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, 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.

***PREACHING LESSON** Luke 6:6-11

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON One Step at a Time Rev. Carol Hill

OFFERTORY *Look at the World* Rutter

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Gracious God, you reach beyond the defenses we build and heal our hearts. You see beyond our pretenses and beckon us into relationship. May these offerings be symbols of our decision to step forward in faith. With humility, with gratitude, and with joy, we and all that we have are yours. We have heard you calling, and it is with full hearts we respond: Here I am, Lord. Amen.

***HYMN** *Here I Am, Lord* 525

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *Go Forth Into the World in Peace* Rutter

** Indicates to please rise in body or in spirit* **BOLD indicates to speak aloud in one voice**

In the event of an emergency, please follow the direction of the ushers.

Leading Us in Worship:

Rev. Carol Hill, Senior Minister
Rev. Mollie Foster, Associate Minister
Jim Davis, Lector
Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries
Sue Douglass, Organist
Jane Kenas-Heller, Accompanist

CREDITS: Call to Worship by © Thom M. Shuman, 2026. lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com Prayer of Confession by Cole Arthur Riley. Black Liturgies, © 2024. Prayers of Thanksgiving written by Rev. Carol Hill, 2026.

PLEASE SEE AN USHER...for seat cushions and/or hearing assistance devices for use during worship. Thank you to our September Ushers: Bill Barsanti (captain), Tom Brunet, Lorel Brunet, Cindy Klimmeck, and Sharon Kemerer

ITEMS OF NOTE

WELCOME GUESTS! We are glad you are joining us in worship today. Please fill out a postcard found in the pew baskets or in the narthex to share your information with us!
Please email office@parkridgecommunitychurch.org if you have any questions.

RESTROOMS are located on the lower level at each end of the church. All-gender/family restrooms are located at the bottom of the stairs at the back of the sanctuary.

ONLINE DONATIONS can be made via Zelle (our Zelle email is giving@parkridgecommunitychurch.org), or via our new online giving platform! You can text “GIVE” to (847)-908-9088 or scan the QR code to make a donation!

ALTER FLOWERS sponsorships are $60. If you would like to sponsor the flowers, please select your Sunday by signing your name on the Flower Chart located by the office. Thank you for helping to beautify our sanctuary, celebrating the special people, and moments in our lives!

NURSERY (Ages 0–5) Our nursery is open from 9:30 am –11:15 am for children up to 5 years old. The nursery is a safe, welcoming space located downstairs next to Jordan Hall.

NAME TAGS - Let’s Get to Know One Another! Please use a name tag each Sunday! Name tags are available on the Name Tag Wall. Wearing one helps us learn each other’s names and build connections as a church family. Thank you for helping us get to know one another!

ADULT MINISTRY

MEN'S BREAKFAST - **Thursdays at 9:00 am**
Calling Men of all ages! Join us for coffee and pastries at 9 am every Thursday in the Church Library. We chat about the latest news, check in with each other about life, and enjoy the absence of an agenda! All are welcome! Join us on Zoom!

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP - Sunday, September 20 from 9 am - 9:50 am In connection with the "Forward in Faith" sermon series, Jason Hinton will facilitate a Men's Discussion group on the book "Steps" by John Ortberg. This book integrates theological scholarship with scripture as the twelve steps of recovery are applied to a spiritual inventory and renewal. Meeting dates- 9/20, 10/4, and 10/25. For more information, email Jason at jhinton97@gmail.com. Books can be purchased in the Church office for $15.

BIBLE STUDY - Wednesday evenings from 7 – 8:30 pm From September 16 through November 4, we will study the book of Romans. This study written by Pamela Eisenbaum and Phillip Hall is a short term Disciple Study. "The challenge we face as students of Romans today is learning to engage in our own interpretative conversation with the text, in spite of the deeply entrenched tradition of interpretation that provides ready-made answers to a set of predetermined questions." Books can be purchased in the Church office for $10.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Sunday School Registration Happening Now! Sunday School kicks off on Sept. 20th. Children will enjoy bible stories, songs, games, crafts, and more! Register your children today! Contact Kate with any questions Kate@ParkRidgeCommunityChurch.org.

Wacky Wednesday is back for Middle School Youth from 2:30-3:30 pm in the Great Hall! Contact Pastor Mollie for more information. Youth Choir will be held this week from 3:30-4:45 pm in the Choir Room!

FELLOWSHIP

All Church Potluck: NEXT SUNDAY! Everyone is invited for the all church potluck following worship next Sunday, September 20th in Jordan Hall! Fried and baked chicken will be provided–please bring a side dish to share! The Youth will also be sharing more stories from their Portland Mission Trip and we will reveal the 2027 trip details!

Monday Night Football Tailgate Join us for our PRCC Monday Night Football Tailgate Party on Monday, September 28, starting at 6:00 pm on the Carriage House Driveway (Pastor Mollie's House)! All ages are welcome to come enjoy grilled hotdogs, s'mores, yard games, and the Bears vs. Eagles game. BYOB! In case of rain, we'll meet in the Great Hall.

SUPER SUNDAY- The First Sunday of Each Month Starts In October To support the Board goals to increase our multi-age faith development opportunities, we will begin a new "Super Sunday" model in October. Children, Youth, and Adult classes will be offered from 9-9:50 am on the first Sundays. Each month will feature different guest presenters, while youth and children continue their weekly lessons...then all ages and teachers can worship together and receive communion at 8:30 or 10 am.

Adult Classes offered in October:

- "Steps" Discussion Group for Men facilitated by Jason Hinton
- A History of the Reformers facilitated by Anita Rifkind in the Parlor
- Unpacking Romans in 30 minutes facilitated by Pastor Carol in Jordan Hall

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

September Diaper Drive PRCC is partnering with Exodus World Service to collect diapers, wipes, and diaper cream for refugee families in our community. Because many families have limited access to government assistance and other resources, everyday essentials like diapers can be a significant expense. Join us throughout September in supporting our neighbors and helping ensure that families have what they need to care for their little ones with dignity and peace of mind. Items can be dropped off in Butler Place.

Sunday Night Supper Serve with us at Park Ridge United Methodist Church on September 20th. We are in need of 12 volunteers from 3:15 pm -5:30 pm to serve and clean up.

PRAYER REQUESTS

One of the gifts of community is that we hold one another in prayer. Each week, we share our joys and sorrows with one another so that we might feel the support of the community. No one is alone. God is with us, and we are supporting one another.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR CONGREGATION AND OUR LOVED ONES:
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, and Bernice Zabawski.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM September 6th:

- We celebrate Aunt Mary's 103 birthday this week and pray for safe travels .
- We pray for Colleen M.'s friend, Linda, as she navigates long term pain and mobility challenges following knee surgery.
- We pray for Lorenzo F.'s dad, whose health is declining and will be moving to a nursing facility.
- Blair S. asks for prayers for her uncle Fred, who is experiencing challenges following a medical procedure. We pray for Fred's healing, clarity, and patience, and for the hands of his medical team this week.
- We pray for Julie B.'s sister, Mary, as she cares for a friend in need of nursing care. May they find a suitable location for her needs quickly.
- Chris C. asks for prayers for the loved ones of Curt Manning, who entered life in the resurrection last week. Curt was Chris's youth leader and his humor, wisdom, and trust had a lasting impact on Chris.
- We pray for loved ones who are healing from health challenges this week: loved ones healing from a cardiac procedure, a blood clot, a fall, and from an infection.

SUPER SUNDAY
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
STARTS IN OCTOBER

To support the Board goals to increase our multi-age faith development opportunities, we will begin a new “Super Sunday” model in October. Children, Youth, and Adult classes will be offered from 9-9:50 am on the first Sundays. Each month will feature different guest presenters, while youth and children continue their weekly lessons...then all ages and teachers can worship together and receive communion at 8:30 or 10 am.

STEP BY STEP

In Case of an Emergency:

1. Ushers and/or Staff will **CALL 911** to alert them of the emergency.
2. An usher goes to the fire alarm panel to **SOUND the appropriate alarm**:
   a. FIre Alarm (exit the building)
   b. Weather Emergency (get to basement and away from windows)
   c. Active Shooter (Run, Hide, Fight...get out and away...help each other)
   d. Emergency Evacuation (exit the building)
   e. All Call with or without Strobes
3. **MOVE** to the appropriate location - families will be reunited in the lawn with rainbow benches if emergency warrants exiting the building.
4. All ushers/persons should look out for those who would physically require **assist**ance with stairs to exit the building or get to the basement.
5. Nursery workers & Ushers will **evacuate children** in nursery

We have 16 fire extinguishers located around the building

First Aid kits are:
- in the kitchen
- in the Office
- in the ushers closet
- in Sunday School rooms

An AED with adult and children pads is on the wall by the office.

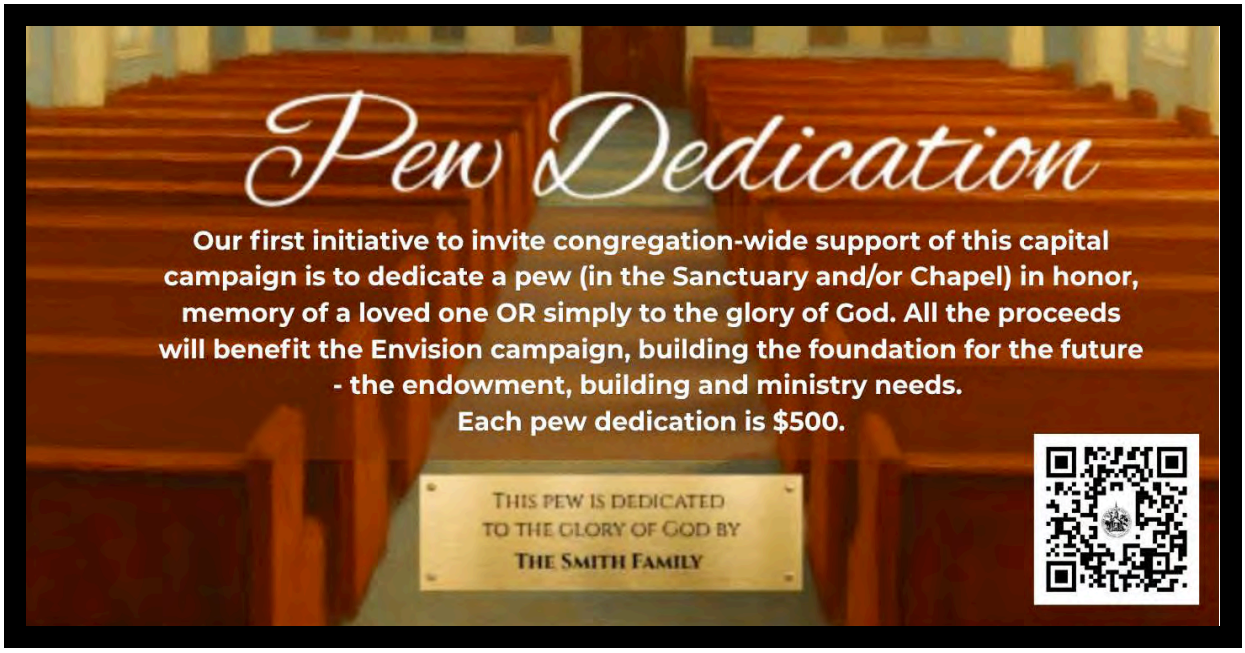
CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE NILES-PARK RIDGE CROP HUNGER and help the PRCC Bill Zoellner Memorial Crop Walk Team meet their goal of 70 walkers raising $12,000:

- Go to: parkridgecommunitychurch.org ; link to the Crop Walk page and click the link for the Team Webpage. There you can register as a walker. On that same site you can make a donation to a walker or the PRCC team.
- Ask your friends for donations!
- Eat at **City BBQ on September 17** from 11:00 AM– 8:00 PM and mention Crop Walk. A percentage of your total bill will be donated to the walk.
- Eat at **D'Agostino's on September 22** from 11:00 AM–9:00 PM and mention Crop Walk when you dine-in or carry-out.
- Eat at **Portillo's on Dempster on October 6** from 5:00 PM–8:00 PM and mention Crop Walk.
- Eat at **Harp & Fiddle on October 15** from 11:00 AM–9:00 PM and mention Crop Walk.


Pew Dedication
Our first initiative to invite congregation-wide support of this capital campaign is to dedicate a pew (in the Sanctuary and/or Chapel) in honor, memory of a loved one OR simply to the glory of God. All the proceeds will benefit the Envision campaign, building the foundation for the future - the endowment, building and ministry needs.
Each pew dedication is $500.
THIS PEW IS DEDICATED
TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY
THE SMITH FAMILY

PRCC
MONDAY NIGHT
Football
TAILGATE PARTY
#1
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
STARTING AT 6:00 PM
CARRIAGE HOUSE (PASTOR MOLLIE'S HOUSE)
GRILLED HOTDOGS
S'MORES
YARD GAMES
BYOB
ALL AGES WELCOME!
BEARS VS EAGLES
IN CASE OF RAIN WE WILL MEET IN THE GREAT HALL

ALL CHURCH
potluck
SUNDAY, SEPT. 20
FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN JORDAN HALL:
CHICKEN PROVIDED--BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE!

CHURCH EVENTS

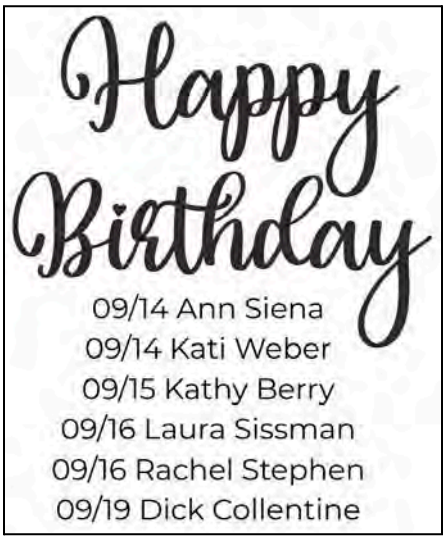
SUNDAY, September 13 RALLY DAY!
- **8:45 am -** Loving Lunches (Parlor)
- **10:00 am** - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- **11:00 am** - Rally Day lunch (Church Lawn)

MONDAY, September 14
- **9:30 am -** Loving Lunches (Kitchen)
- **6:00 pm** - Finance Meeting (Library)
- **7:00 pm** - Yoga (Great Hall)
- **7:00 pm** - Knitting Knights Meeting (Jordan Hall)
- **7:00 pm** - Social Justice Team Meeting (Parlor)
- **7:00 pm** - Trustees Meeting (Library)

TUESDAY, September 15
- **10:15 am** - Chair Yoga (Great Hall)
- **12:00 pm** - Kindred Spirits Cafe (Jordan Hall)
- **6:00 pm** - Swap-a-looza (Jordan Hall)

WEDNESDAY, September 16
- **10:00 am** - Women's AA (Parlor)
- **10:00 am** - Staff Meeting (Pastoral Office)
- **2:30 pm** - Wacky Wednesday (Great Hall)
- **2:45 pm** - Girl Scouts (Jordan Hall)
- **3:30 pm** - Youth Choir (Music Room)
- **7:00 pm** - Bible Study (Ellinger Transept)

THURSDAY, September 17
- **9:00 am** - Men's Breakfast (Library)
- **10:15 am** - Chair Yoga (Great Hall)
- **7:30 pm** - Bells on High (Balcony)
- **7:30 pm** - Chancel Choir (Music Room)



TODAY!

ONE SERVICE at 10 am in the sanctuary
Chancel Choir returns to worship!
Bouncy House with a slide!

LUNCH & FUN!!

Inflatable Derby Race!
Cotton Candy, Hot Dogs,
Whiffle Ball Toss AND MORE!!
Weekly programming resumes!
ALL ARE WELCOME - Invite your friends!

Park Ridge Community Church
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www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org