

Surprised

SOUTH  PARK
CHURCH

Welcome!

SOUTH  PARK
CHURCH

MISSION

WHAT'S OUR PURPOSE?

South Park Church exists to help people walk with God, connect as family & love people in Jesus' name.

VISION

WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE IN THE FUTURE?

WE ARE ONE...

- Being **ONE with God** means living in the awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence & promptings in our lives. Being ONE with God, means we recognize & obey His voice above all the others.
- Being **ONE Body** is about creating loving relationships within the church. God created the Body of Christ to be a diverse group of believers. It is important to maintain our unity IN diversity as a part of our witness to this world. The key to that unity comes when we make our identity as God's children our most important identity.
- Being **ONE Kingdom** is about creating loving relationships outside of the church with other kingdom minded churches/ministries. We recognize that South Park Church is one small part of the global Christian Church and we desire to serve the Kingdom in partnership with those who share our belief in Jesus Christ.

CORE VALUES

WHAT ARE THE FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS THAT DRIVE OUR BEHAVIOR & MINISTRY?

- **STAY CONNECTED TO GOD** - We want to serve out of the fullness of life and power that comes from God (*Ephesians 3:19*). Staying connected to God is how we learn to yield our will to His.
- **ACCEPT THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE OF UNSURPASSABLE WORTH TO GOD** - Scripture teaches us that Christ died for us while we were still sinners (*Romans 5:8*). Therefore that is the example of love we will follow. We will love and welcome people who are sinners... just like us.
- **LIFT YOUR ENEMIES UP IN PRAYER** - We don't want to respond to the sin & hate of this world with more sin and hate. We want to respond the way Jesus taught us to in His Sermon on the Mount - by lifting our enemies up in prayer (*Matthew 5:44*)
- **TAKE STEWARDSHIP SERIOUSLY** - We want to use all that we are and all that we've been given to give glory to God and grow His Kingdom (*Matthew 25:14-30*).



A flyer for Christmas Eve services. At the top, the words "AunExpected" are written in a red, cursive font, with a red brushstroke underline. To the right, "CHRISTMAS EVE" is in a bold, red, sans-serif font, with "Sunday, December 24" below it. In the center, "Worship Service" is followed by "9 a.m. & 11 a.m." and "Wonderland during the 9 a.m. Service". To the right, "Candlelight Service" is followed by "7 p.m.". At the bottom left, the South Park Church logo is shown with the address "1330 Courtland Avenue, Park Ridge, IL" and the website "www.southparkchurch.org".

AunExpected

CHRISTMAS EVE
Sunday, December 24

Worship Service
9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Wonderland during the 9 a.m. Service

Candlelight Service
7 p.m.

SOUTH PARK CHURCH
1330 Courtland Avenue, Park Ridge, IL
www.southparkchurch.org

Christmas Eve Services will take place on Sunday, December 24 at 9 & 11 a.m. with a Candlelight service at 7 p.m. Wonderland will be offered during the 9 a.m. service. We can't wait to celebrate Christmas with you!



A flyer for a New Year's Eve service. The background is a dark, festive scene with people in a church sanctuary and falling confetti. The text "SOUTH PARK CHURCH" is at the top left. "NEW YEAR'S EVE Service" is written in large, glowing, 3D-style letters. To the right, a banner says "ONE SERVICE ONLY!". At the bottom, it says "SUNDAY DECEMBER 31 9 AM".

SOUTH PARK CHURCH

NEW YEAR'S EVE Service

ONE SERVICE ONLY!

SUNDAY DECEMBER 31 9 AM

We will have just one service on Sunday, December 31 at 9 a.m.



LAUNCH



Parent/ Student meeting

SUNDAY

December 17, 2023

10:30a-11:00a

3rd floor

All graduating

Seniors & their families
welcome

www.southparkchurch.org/info

We are excited to kick off the start of Launch, our Milestone program built to support graduating seniors and their parents as they navigate the transition from High School into whatever God has planned next! For more information, visit the info hub at www.southparkchurch.org/info.

BASE  CAMP
4th & 5th graders

Christmas Cookie Baking & Decorating!

December 17
@ 12:30 pm
MPR Kitchen

www.southparkchurch.org/info



WHITE ELEPHANT

gift exchange

DEC 17TH, @6PM



www.southparkchurch.org/info



YOUTH WINTER CAMP 2024

Camp Timberlee, Wisconsin

High School:
JAN 26-28, 2024

Middle School:
FEB 9-11, 2024

REGISTER TODAY!
WWW.SOUTHPARKCHURCH.ORG/INFO

Youth Winter Camp! H.S. 1/26-1/28, M.S. 2/9-2/11
Camp TimberLee, East Troy, Wisconsin. It's that time of year again-- TIME TO GO TO WINTER CAMP! If you have never gone before, this is the year! The cost is \$220 (optional extra \$20 for a shirt). We never want the cost of our events to be a barrier from anyone attending! So...if you are willing to provide a scholarship donation, or you personally need a scholarship, please email nick@southparkchurch.org. [Visit the info hub to register today!](#)



SOUTH PARK CHURCH

BASE  CAMP 4th & 5th graders

WINTER RETREAT

SAVE THE DATE

February 18- 19, 2024
Camp Timberlee, Wisconsin
www.southparkchurch.org/info

PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER

*These prayer requests represent just one way in which we pray as a church body and just some of the people we are lifting in prayer. For an additional opportunity to pray, share, and celebrate answered prayer, please attend Sunday Morning Prayer each **Sunday at 8:15am** in the Staff Conference Room and over Zoom (email info@southparkchurch.org for the zoom link). And please email kristin@southparkchurch.org if you have a prayer request you'd like shared with the confidential Prayer Chain.*

Pray that each of us would embrace the unexpected of God this Advent season so our faith will remain strong, so we are drawn closer to God when tough things happen, and so we will stay in the center of His will and can be used by the Holy Spirit in other's lives.

From the Executive Pastor Search Team: Please pray that the Lord's will be done as we search for the Executive Pastor. We want you to know that the inquiries have been few for this position. Please pray for the Lord's wisdom and discernment to know if we should hire a search firm to help us. We are researching search firms and asking some of our contacts for recommendations to see which one might be the right one for us should that be the next step. Please also pray that God will be honored as we continue this search. We covet your prayers.

Please pray for God to mightily intervene in the Middle East. Please pray that our sovereign God, for whom nothing is impossible, will bring an end to the violence, will protect the innocent, will comfort the grieving, and will heal the injured. Pray that those in positions of power will choose dialogue and empathy over discord so that an end to the immediate crisis can be reached and so that plans for sustainable peace can be created. And, pray that people in the Middle East and around the world would come to know Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Continue to pray for: Vic Novak, Greg Van Calbergh, Ramiro Flores, Rich Schreiber, Catherine Hankins, Dawn Phillips, Kathy Palansky, the country of Ukraine, and our Outreach Partners in Ukraine

Matthew 2 Unexpected King

1. The Wise Men
 - a. Culture vs. Bible

2. Two Different Kings
 - a. Herod vs. Jesus

 - b. Created to worship

3. Why worship Jesus
 - a. He is the anointed King

 - b. He shepherds His people

 - c. He reigns victorious

DIGGINGDEEPER

1. How many people do you let have influence over you? Is there anyone you refuse or struggle to accept their influence... if so, why is that?
2. What other Bible stories have become urban legend in our culture (i.e. taken on a narrative outside of the Bible)?
3. What are the other kings in your life that you're tempted to worship? Which one competes the most with Jesus in your life?
4. God's Word is full of His faithful promises (e.g. salvation, comfort in trials, God finishes what He starts, He will give us peace when we pray, He will supply all our needs, etc.) Which promises of God are you tempted to doubt?