

*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*).



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**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!



**SOUTH PARK CHURCH**



**Sunday Morning Prayer**

Each Sunday at 8:15 a.m.

Staff Conference Room & Zoom

Beginning December 3, Sunday Morning Prayer will be held weekly 8:15 am until 9:00 am. Join us in person in the Staff Conference Room or by [ZOOM link](#). We welcome everyone that can join in, even for a few minutes, as together we call on God with our praises and our needs as a church community. This is a great way to begin your Sunday! Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 874 0226 6783 Password: 807766

# Financial Update

11/26/2023

Budgeted Giving Year To Date.....\$1,147,667

Actual Giving Year To Date.....\$919,126

Last Year Actual Giving Year To Date..... \$937,931

## how can i give?



**ONLINE:**

[www.southparkchurch.org/give](http://www.southparkchurch.org/give)



**MOBILE:**

The South Park Church App



**ENVELOPE:**

cash / check  
1330 Courtland  
Park Ridge, IL 60068

To download the South Park Church App,  
text "SPCAPP" to 77977

Children *SAFE*  
Families *TOGETHER*

*Thank  
you!*

We would like to say  
thank you for all the  
generous donations  
that have been  
received to the  
closet.

We would like to say thank you for all the generous donations that have been received to the closet. It's a blessing that we can provide host families and children with the clothing they need to make hosting easier. We are always ready to accept gently used clean clothing, wipes and diapers.

Join us for Discovery's

# CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

**Friday, December 8 at 10am**  
**\$10 at the door**

*delicious homemade brunch by South Park's own Chef John Linse*

special entertainment | ornament making | Christmas cheer galore

**RSVP to Margaret at 847-298-9535 by December 6th**

Seniors, join the Discovery Seniors Ministry at our next event, Brunch, on Friday, December 8 at 10 a.m. Admission is \$10 at the door.



Hope of all the Earth

Advent Night  
THRIVE Women's Ministry  
Friday, Dec. 8, 7-8:30 p.m.

Join us for Advent Night: "Hope of All the Earth". A time of silence will be set aside in order to still and quiet your soul as you reflect on various passages of Scripture as well as a brief drama, devotional, and time of worship through the singing of Advent and Christmas songs. The evening will conclude with a time of fellowship and refreshments in The Cafe.



# LAUNCH



*Parent/ Student meeting*

SUNDAY

**December 17, 2023**

10:30a-11:00a

3rd floor

All graduating

Seniors & their families  
welcome

[www.southparkchurch.org/info](http://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](http://www.southparkchurch.org/info).

BASE  CAMP  
4th & 5th graders

## Christmas Cookie Baking & Decorating!

December 17  
@ 12:30 pm  
MPR Kitchen

[www.southparkchurch.org/info](http://www.southparkchurch.org/info)



## WHITE ELEPHANT

gift exchange

DEC 17TH, @6PM



[www.southparkchurch.org/info](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:info@southparkchurch.org) for the zoom link). And please email [kristin@southparkchurch.org](mailto:kristin@southparkchurch.org) if you have a prayer request you'd like shared with the confidential Prayer Chain.*

As our church expands to two services beginning today, pray that the Lord's grace will multiply in our midst, that deeper connections will be made, that a wider outreach will be achieved, and a strong sense of community will be maintained as we worship and serve together.

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, and our Outreach Partners in Ukraine

# PRAYING FOR YOU

Want to share a prayer request or praise of how you've seen God work? You can text your prayer request to 844.458.2096 and you'll be prayed for!



## Matthew 1:1-17 Unexpected Family

1. Why be UNEXPECTED this Advent?
  - a. To grow closer to God
  
  - b. To grow stronger in our faith
  
  - c. To stay in the center of His will
  
2. Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies (vs.1)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Matthew includes unexpected family (vs. 2-17)
  - a. Sinners
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Evil Kings
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Women
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. Outsiders

# DIGGINGDEEPER

1. In what ways has God worked unexpectedly in your life this past week/month?
2. Think about your witness to others. Do you only show them the “social media” side of your life... or do you share your struggles and doubts too? Sometimes it’s the things we least expect that make the biggest impact.
3. When you consider the people in your life, who do you think would be the least likely to accept an invitation to church this Christmas season? Make a plan to invite them and have someone keep you accountable to follow through.
4. In what ways have you been content to just belong to the family of God? What would it look like for you to engage in unexpected ways?