



**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

SOUTH  PARK  
CHURCH

**Walk with God • Connect as Family • Love People in Jesus' Name**

## WELCOME GUESTS!

Thank you for joining us today. We'd love to get to know you and help you get connected to our community. If this is your first time with us either in person or virtually, if you are looking to take your next step of connection, or you are simply wanting to find out how to participate please [click here to fill out our Connect form](#) and a staff member will be in touch!

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ***Congregational Meeting - Virtual! Today, 12 p.m.***

Please plan to attend this meeting that will be broadcast on the South Park Church [YouTube Channel](#)! For members, links to sign in and vote will be sent by email on the day of the meeting. Important info about the present and future of our church will be shared as well as a vote on three elected positions. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

## ***Posting of Nominations***

Here are the members of our congregation that the Nominating Committee is presenting to the congregation for serving in the following open positions: Nick Powell and Cathy Gregg Barthel for Elders, and Steve Schimmel for Trustee at Large. Members of South Park will have the opportunity to vote on these open positions during the congregational meeting on December 13.

## ***Listening with Advent Hope - December 16, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.***

What has it been like to walk with God this Advent? What are some things you've learned from practicing disciplines of Silence and Examen? Where have you struggled to make space? Join us on Zoom on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. where

we will discuss in groups and corporately practice the spiritual disciplines of silence, examen, and prayer.

Click here to join the Zoom meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94075179656?pwd=TnVzVmZWRTd0L2taV1crODhvb00zQT09>

### ***Christmas Eve Worship - Thursday, December 24***

This year we invite you to join in online for this special video worship experience available on demand beginning the morning of December 24. Hear families from our church read and respond to scripture, reflect on original artwork that illuminates God's grand story, and sing cherished carols with our worship team. Tune in at anytime throughout the day to worship on our [website](#), [Facebook Page](#), or [YouTube Channel](#). We hope you join us!

### ***Silent Night Chicago - Christmas Eve, 9:09 p.m.***

On Christmas Eve at 9:09 p.m., let's come together as the church in Chicago to light a candle, sing Silent Night, and reflect on the things that truly matter. Tune into a participating radio station on Christmas Eve at 9:09 p.m. or visit the live stream available online at 9 p.m. at [www.silentnightchicago.com](http://www.silentnightchicago.com) Then go outside on your porch, deck, balcony, or curb and shine a light (candle or cell phone) and sing along to Silent Night

as we stand together in solidarity and take a moment to reflect on the meaning of Christmas. Participating radio stations will be added soon to their website at [www.silentnightchicago.com](http://www.silentnightchicago.com)

### ***Donations Needed for the Safe Families Closet***

The Safe Families for Children Closet at South Park Church provides for the needs of many children and families in the wider Chicago area. The Safe Families Closet accepts donations year round of kids' clothing items, shoes, diapers, etc. and presently has a large supply of most items, but is in need of select items! Currently the closet is in need of:

- Pull-Ups Training Pants size 2T-3T and 3T-4T
- \$20.00 gift cards
- Used baby exersaucer
- Used Duplos and Legos building blocks
- Gently used board books

If you would like to donate items please schedule a pick-up or drop-off by contacting Peggy Boysen, Safe Families Ministry Lead, at [peggyboysen@gmail.com](mailto:peggyboysen@gmail.com) or (847) 494-9362.

### ***Join our Team!***

We are currently hiring a Director of Care and Senior

Ministries. The full job description and details on how to apply can be found online by [clicking here](#).

### ***Register to attend Indoor Worship Services***

Register to join us in person next Sunday! Safety measures are in place and you'll get detailed info when you register. Registration opens for the following week each Sunday. [Click here to register](#) to attend next Sunday!

### ***Join the Tech Team!***

The tech team has expanded video capabilities and needs people interested in live video production! No experience required, but a desire to learn and serve through operating cameras and/or calling the production shots. Contact Adam Nelson if you are interested at [adam@southparkchurch.org](mailto:adam@southparkchurch.org)

### ***Virtual Sunday Morning Prayer - Sundays, 9-9:55 a.m.***

Join us at the Virtual Prayer Room on Sunday mornings. We will gather from 9-9:55 a.m, just prior to Sunday Worship. If you're interested in joining, please email [info@southparkchurch.org](mailto:info@southparkchurch.org)

## ***Join a Moms in Prayer group!***

If you are a mom and you would like to join with other moms in prayer for our schools, children, educators, and one another please contact Pat Moy at [pat@southparkchurch.org](mailto:pat@southparkchurch.org) to learn more or join a Moms in Prayer Group. Groups meet to pray on Mondays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. or Tuesdays from 8-9 p.m.

## **CARING FOR EACH OTHER**

If you or someone in our church family are experiencing hardship and have a need or would like to receive prayer, please reach out to Jesse Hallock at [jesse@southparkchurch.org](mailto:jesse@southparkchurch.org) or give him a call at 847-825-5507 and press 1 to leave a message.

## **WEEKLY GIVING REPORT**

### ***Week ending November 29, 2020***

YTD 2020	\$	1,261,388.49
YTD BUDGET	\$	1,505,903.94
YTD Surplus(Shortfall)	\$	(244,515.45)
YTD % change		-16.2%

## PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER

Pray for **South Park Church** that God would lead, guide, strengthen and sustain our staff and elected leaders as we seek to submit to Him.

Please pray for **John Schimka's sister, Debbie**. Debbie has been at LGH for over a week now and her oxygen levels are low. Please pray for healing, strength to fight this, and also for the closeness of Christ in this difficult time.

*Continue to pray for:*

**Kay Stecher** - Kay has had ongoing health problems, but her CLL leukemia has been worsening. Doctors are going to begin pill treatments.

**Libby Cheser's mother** - In hospice care. Pray for her and her family in this season.

## SERMON NOTES

***When We're Far From Home***

*Hebrews 11:13-16*



## Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-16, NIV

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. 9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. 12 And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. 14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

**We are sojourners who wait with hope.**



**Serenity Prayer**

God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.  
Living one day at a time,  
enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;  
taking, as Jesus did,  
this sinful world as it is,  
not as I would have it;  
trusting that You will make all things right  
if I surrender to Your will;  
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with You forever in the next.  
Amen.

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Describe an experience of homesickness or joyful homecoming.
2. What do we learn about God from Hebrews 11:1-2, 6, 13-16?
3. What does it mean to be an alien and stranger on the earth? (see also Genesis 23:3-4; Leviticus 25:23; Psalm 39:12; Philippians 3:20; 1 Peter 2:11)
4. In what ways do you feel like a stranger in this world?
5. As sojourners, how can we actively wait with confident hope?