



Park Avenue Christian Church NEWS February 9, 2026

Here On The Mountain



Because Lent comes earlier this year, we will move from the Sermon on the Mount to Transfiguration Sunday, because February 22 is the first Sunday in Lent.

Our sermon for Sunday, February 15 will be from Matthew 17: 1-9. Jesus chooses three of his disciples, Peter, James and John and they go up on a high mountain to pray. While they are praying Jesus is transfigured and the disciples see him standing with Moses and Elijah. And then God, speaks to them saying; “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him.”

By this time in Jesus’ ministry the disciples have traveled far with him. Jesus has just tried to prepare them for what is to come; that Jesus is headed to Jerusalem and there he will die. For the three who are there on the mountain with him two things happen. It is affirmed for them that Jesus is truly the Messiah, the Son of God. Second, they see an opportunity to prevent Jesus going to Jerusalem. They can build huts on the mountain top and they can stay there, near God. Perhaps the rest of the disciples will hear God’s voice there, also.

When we are camping in a peaceful place, near water with plenty of space for all of us to enjoy nature it is very hard to leave. It is hard to go back to grass that must be mowed, weeds pulled, house to clean and maybe a sermon to write. I understand why Peter suggested they just stay on that mountain. They loved Jesus, they didn’t want him to suffer and die. Neither do we. But every year we

enter Lent and make this journey with Jesus and the disciples to the cross so that we can also celebrate Jesus' resurrection to new life.

Blessings,
Pastor Alice

OFFICE UPDATE

While Dara is out of the office recouping from her knee surgery, please be sure to use the church's new email address and if you need to reach the pastor other than her usual office hours, please call her cell phone; 515-201-4582.

Normal office hours are Mondays 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Thank you.

BAPTISM CLASSES FOR ADULTS.

Pastor Alice is offering baptism classes for adults from 9:30 to 10:00 on Sunday mornings through March 22. Anyone is welcome, if you just want a refresher on the spiritual preparation for baptism you are welcome. If you know someone who is thinking about baptism but is unsure, this would be a good opportunity for them to learn more about what it means.

EASTER

Although Easter is over a month away Helen needs our help preparing for the traditional Easter egg hunts. There will be 2 this year. We are in need of plastic Easter eggs and candy that will go in the eggs. Donations can be left at the Christian Education office. Thank you.



WEEK OF COMPASSION

On February 15 and 22nd we will receive the Week of Compassion offering. Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and develop fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering, especially from natural disasters. They were in Iowa a couple of years ago when tornados came through destroying homes and churches. They are now on the East coast working with agencies to find resources for people whose homes were damaged by winter storms. 100% of our offering goes directly to help others.

What is Lent?

Lent is the 40-day period leading up to Easter, (excluding Sundays) that starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. It is a time for reflection, repentance, and prayer.



Ash Wednesday Service

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18 with an Ash Wednesday worship service. Everyone is welcome to come at 6 p.m. to share in the POWER PACC meal. Then at 6:30 children and adults will go to the sanctuary for a 30-minute worship experience that ends with the service of Ashes. The children will be providing special music for the service.



[Candidate Information Packet](#)
([Click to open link](#))

With a quorum of the board, there was a unanimous decision of those present to offer a candidate to the congregation for the position of Senior Pastor.

A Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday February 15th following worship.

Dear Park Avenue Christian Church,

I am so excited to have the opportunity to do ministry with you! My name is Rev. Zachary, but I prefer you call me Zach, and I am honored to be considered for the position of Senior Pastor. Through our weeks of conversation, I have learned so much about your worship, your community, and your ministries, and I am elated to see them in action. I wanted to take a moment and write to you about who I am as a person and a Christian.

First and foremost, I am a believer in Jesus Christ; my whole faith begins there. His miraculous birth, ministry of teaching and miracles, his death and resurrection; these are the building blocks for my personal faith. On top of that foundation is Jesus' commandment to love one another - if we are called to love, we are called to be in relationship with the people around us. Local and personal connections have always been, and will always be, the first step for a church that makes a positive impact in the world. I have heard about your wonderful work with your local Elementary School, your consistent and long-lasting mission work in Jamaica, and the DMARC Food Pantry you so faithfully support. I am excited to see and help with the great work you are doing firsthand, and to be part of the new things God is always doing through us. I also believe in the call to

serve those who are already in the community. I believe that offering prayer, pastoral care, conversation, and guidance for members and people connected to our community are essential parts of the role of Pastor.

Part of that relationship, in addition to serving each other, is consistently gathering together for worship and fellowship. I love the weekly worship service, and I consider it an honor to be able to plan, lead, and be in worship together. I love preaching and spending time each week preparing and learning more about scripture and relating it back to our world, so that we can be more Christlike together and as individuals. I also look forward to the opportunity to lead adult education classes that offer a specialized look at books in our Bible and topics relevant to us as Christians today.

From the conversations I have had, PACC has already impacted this community, and there is still a lot of work we can do for Des Moines and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I am excited to be a part of the great work you are already doing. I hope that everyone reading this has, or will consider, praying for your church, your community, and my family; that we will all be guided by the Holy Spirit so that our decisions and our work will make an impact locally and beyond.

Love and Peace,
Rev. Zach

Joys we are thankful for:

- All the wonderful members who volunteer their time and talent to the ministries of this congregation.

Concerns to pray for:

- For healing; Justin, Kaiu, and Brylee and Glenis. Continued prayers for Dara, Bill and Rose and Sandy.
 - Prayers for the orphanage in Jamaica where a storm blew off the tarps protecting the roof of one of the dormitories and everything got wet.
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Our Life Together

Wed Feb 11

POWER PACC – Meal 6PM Activities 6:30PM

Thu Feb 12

Retiree's Breakfast 9AM

Sun Feb 15

Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal 9:15AM

Worship 10:30 AM

God Squad Youth Ministry During Worship

Congregational Meeting after worship to present a candidate for the Senior Pastor

Elders Meeting 12PM

Mon Feb 16

Stewardship Meeting 6:30PM

Wed Feb 18

Ash Wednesday

POWER PACC – Meal 6PM

Ash Wednesday Service 6:30PM

Sat Feb 21

Disciple Men Breakfast and Fellowship 8AM

Sun Feb 22

Adult Choir rehearsal 9:15AM

Women's Choir rehearsal 9:45AM

Worship 10:30AM

Mon Feb 23

Council & Board Meeting 6:30PM

Wed Feb 25

POWER PACC – Meal 6PM, Activities 6:30PM

Fri Feb 27

Bingo Night! Food, Fellowship and Bingo! 6:30PM

2026 Christian Conference Center Camp Dates



**WINTER YOUTH
RETREATS!**

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

CHI RHO (GRADES 6-8) JAN 23-25
CYF (GRADES 9-12) JAN 23-25
JR (GRADES 3-5) FEB 20-22

SCAN ME



REGISTRATION FEE IS \$130
AFTER JANUARY 16 CHI RHO/CYF IS \$150
AFTER FEBRUARY 13 JR. IS \$150

<https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/mid-year-retreats>

**SUMMER 2026
CAMP DATES**

FAMILY CAMP	JUNE 5-7
GRAND 1	JUNE 13-14
JR 1	JUNE 14-19
CHI NON-ROSTIC	JUNE 14-19
CHI RHO 1	JUNE 21-26
CYF 1	JUNE 21-26
BEGINNER	JUNE 29-JULY 7
JR 2	JULY 5- 10
GRAND 2	JULY 11-12
CHI RHO 2	JULY 12-17
CYF 2	JULY 12-17
ADAM	JULY 19-24
ADVENTURE	JULY 26-31
JR 3	AUGUST 2-7

Registration Opens
November 1, 2025

Watch for more
information and the
registration link!



2026 Camp Sessions will begin on
Sundays with 4pm drop-off and
conclude on Friday with a 2pm pick-up

New Church Email Address



SOMETHING NEW

The church now has its own email address. office@paccdoc.org We are asking that you add this to your email and use it, especially in the month of January. While Dara is out for her knee surgery, we ask that you not send church business to her personal email. Her job will be to heal and rest. Please use the new church email address. office@paccdoc.org

Micro Food Pantry & Little Library



As the weather gets colder, Please help us keep it filled for those in need. If you have any questions please see Lori Durrett 515-971-2020 or Jan Stribling 515-979-2645.

Our little free library is in need of some books. If you have some to spare please share!

**Power-PACC is
Wednesdays! Meal
and activities for all
ages.**



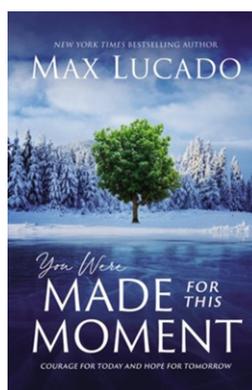
**Adult Book Study, meet
in the Library
Sundays 9:30AM**

**In depth look and
discussion on Max
Lucado's You Were
Made For This Moment**



**Coffee Fellowship
10 – 10:30 AM**

Please sign up to make coffee for this Fellowship time for future Sundays.
Thank you!



**Sunday Prayer Group
at 8 pm**

Facebook: PACC Family



AARP Foundation Tax-Aide
volunteers provide free tax assistance
with several preparation options Feb.
1 through April 15.
Call 515-650-3613 for [click here for an
appointment.](#)

Cashless Giving
One Time or Recurring



To submit Prayers, Celebrations, Announcements or Calendar items, please email reply to this email.



Park Avenue Christian Church

3219 SW 9th St, 50315, Des Moines

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