



# Park Avenue Christian Church NEWS

February 16,  
2026

## The Journey Begins



This Sunday, February 22 is the first Sunday in Lent. The theme for this Lent is: “The People We Meet on the Way to the Cross.” The first Sunday in Lent is Matthew 4:1-11. It is Jesus’ encounter with the Devil. In Matthew this encounter happens right after Jesus’ baptism. Matthew says the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

The devil has a one-track mind—POWER. He offers Jesus three opportunities to either use his power as the Son of God or receive more power by joining forces with the devil. Perhaps it is this encounter with the devil that brings Jesus later to teach his disciples to pray that God not lead them into temptation. (6:13) And while we still pray in the Lord’s Prayer, “lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” It does not mean God will spare us from testing.

The seven weeks of Lent are a time for acknowledging those times we have been tested and resisted temptation and confessing the times we gave in. It is about repenting of our sins and receiving God’s forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

I pray you will join us for Ash Wednesday—February 18 at 6:30 and each Sunday as we journey with Jesus toward the cross and then to Holy Week and Easter.

Blessings  
Pastor Alice

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**The congregation has made a unanimous decision, of those present, to offer Rev. Zack Hardy the position of Senior Pastor. Rev. Hardy has a tentative start date of May 1st.**

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### **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.

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### **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.

### **CHANGE IN SCHEDULE**

Pastor Alice and John will be celebrating his birthday with their son, Brian on Monday, February 23 so Pastor Alice will not be in the office. Her office hours for next week will be Tuesday from 9 to 2:30 and Wednesday normal hours, 1 to 5:30.

### **LENTEN WORSHIP**

Beginning this Sunday, February 22, there will be a table filled with candles on the chancel. The first Sunday all the candles will be lit. Each week we will

diminish one candle to acknowledge that God sent Jesus into the world to bring hope and light but there were those who tried to extinguish the light. Who questioned that he was the Messiah, who criticized his ministry and eventually tried to completely extinguish the light of God by killing Jesus. Each extinguished candle is recognition that we too have times when we have denied Jesus and extinguished some of God's light in the world.

### **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.

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## **Joys we are thankful for:**

- We have many prayers of thanksgiving this week;
- The return of Marlene and Bill to Sunday worship.
- Kim's parents moving closer to family.
- And the unanimous vote to call Pastor Zach as your settled pastor.

## **Concerns to pray for:**

- Prayers for healing for Pastor Douglas who serves the church in Jamaica.

- Continued prayers for healing for Dara.

# Our Life Together

## 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

## Sun Mar 1

God Squad Youth Ministry

Worship 10:30AM

## Wed Mar 4

POWER PACC – Meal 6PM, Activities 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	Registration Opens November 1, 2025
GRAND 1	JUNE 13-14	
JR 1	JUNE 14-19	Watch for more information and the registration link!
CHI NON-RUSTIC	JUNE 14-19	
CHI RHO 1	JUNE 21-26	
CYF 1	JUNE 21-26	
BEGINNER	JUNE 29-JULY 1	
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	

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](mailto: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](mailto:office@paccdoc.org)



## Micro Food Pantry & Little Library



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!

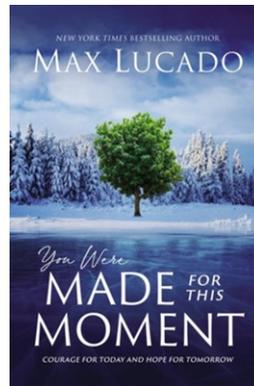
**Power-PACC is  
Wednesdays! Meal  
and activities for all  
ages.**



**Coffee Fellowship  
10 – 10:30 AM**

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

**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**



**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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