



# Park Avenue Christian Church NEWS

May 18, 2026

## Careful, We're Surrounded

**Where Do I Begin?**

**Careful, We're Surrounded**

**Habakkuk 3: 16-19**

There is an author who I absolutely love, his name is John Green, and he has written many famous novels, many of which have been adapted to movies or TV.

His stories revolve around young adults who try to figure out the world, face troubles with creativity and bravery, and learn to be someone worth being. He had a quote that I will paraphrase: "Leaving is the hardest thing to do in the whole world, until you do it, then it's one of the easiest." Now, I wouldn't call it the easiest, but this has been my experience. If it wasn't for leaving my family, it might be the easiest. Since getting back to KY, I felt a bit out of place, like, despite a short time passing, things felt different. It was great to catch up and celebrate so many things and see so many people I love, but I was ready to get back to Des Moines. It wasn't the people who changed, they were still kind, excited, and welcoming of course. But it felt like something inside me was different. My chaplain at college liked to say, "The pulpit is torture for the called." Even though I was somewhere familiar, it felt a little bit off, because I knew that I belonged here instead of there now. You all have embraced me in the short time I have been with you in Iowa and I am excited for you to embrace Rachel the same way. I was excited to get back and see you all, to celebrate graduations, and to continue the new work of ministry here.

On another exciting note, our new Administrator, Arika Austin, has begun at Park Avenue! She will be in the office 8-2 PM Mon-Wed and in the mornings on Thursdays. So stop by the church and introduce yourself, and if you are a committee chair/elder/church leader who needs something printed or prepared, please give Arika a call at the church, and we will try to accommodate! I am so thankful for the hiring team that updated the job description, went through applications, and handled interviews as I was preparing to begin here at PACC.

It is going to be an awesome summer and an amazing year going forward at Park Avenue.

Please reach out if you have any needs or would like to stop by the church and talk. My cell phone number is 731-415-2948 if you ever need to reach me.

Love and Peace,  
Pastor Zach Hardy

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## Many Prayers to be said:

- Healing from surgery
  - Time with family and friends
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## Our Life Together

### Fri May 29

Bingo Night! Supper and Bingo 6:30PM

Friday May 29th 6:30 PM

Free will Offering - Food and Drinks

Come for a night of Fellowship and Bingo!

**BINGO**

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### Sun May 31

Worship 10:30AM

Retirement Reception for Dara Miller 12PM

### Mon June 1

Council and Board Meeting 6:30PM



*Celebrating  
Over 21 Years  
of service*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

*Retirement*  
PARTY

IN HONOR OF

*Dara Miller*  
*Sunday May 31 at Noon*  
*In The Youth Center*

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**Sun June 7**

Worship 10:30AM

**Thur June 11**

Retirees' Breakfast 9AM

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**BUT FIRST,**



**COFFEE**

**Coffee Fellowship**

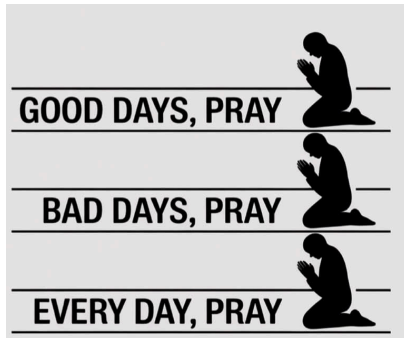
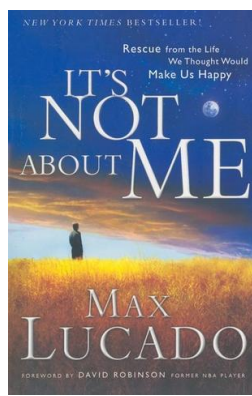
**10 – 10:30 AM**

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 It's Not About  
Me.**



**Sunday Prayer Group  
at 8 pm**

**Facebook: PACC Family**

## **2026 Christian Conference Center Camp Dates.**

SUMMER 2026 CAMP DATES	
FAMILY CAMP	JUNE 5-7
GRAND 1	JUNE 13-14
JR 1	JUNE 14-19
CHI NON-RUSTIC	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

## **Day Camps @ the CCC**

**Open to all kids who have  
completed grades K-5th!**

**\$50/per kid, per session**

**Sessions run from 7:45a-3p.**

Each session must have a minimum of 8 kids  
Guardians will be given the option to move  
the child to a different session of their choice



**[More Information available at  
https://www.newtonccc.org/summer-day-camp](https://www.newtonccc.org/summer-day-camp)**

# Micro Food Pantry & Little Library



Please help us keep it filled for those in need. Please leave non-perishable food items in the grocery cart located in the narthex.

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!



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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