

*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*).



*Surprised*

**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



# 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.*

From the Executive Pastor Search Team: Please pray that the Lord's will be done as we search for the Executive Pastor. We want you to know that the inquiries have been few for this position. Please pray for the Lord's wisdom and discernment to know if we should hire a search firm to help us. We are researching search firms and asking some of our contacts for recommendations to see which one might be the right one for us should that be the next step. Please also pray that God will be honored as we continue this search. We covet your prayers.

As our church has expanded to two services, 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, the country of Ukraine, and our Outreach Partners in Ukraine

## Matthew 1:18-25

### Unexpected Birth

#### 1. Mysteries of our Faith

a. Is. 55:8-9

#### 2. The Unexpected Ask

a. Mary (v. 18)

b. Joseph (v. 19-25)

#### 3. The Unexpected Impact

a. Jesus becomes the perfect Sacrifice

b. Jesus becomes the perfect high priest & advocate

c. It was all HIS idea

# DIGGING DEEPER

1. Are there any mysteries of the faith you struggle to understand? How do you reconcile your struggle/doubt with your faith? We talked about goodness not always being synonymous with happiness or comfort.
2. Can you recall the last time you recognized something in your life WAS good, but didn't FEEL good?
3. When was the last time you were tempted to believe God doesn't understand what you're going through? How did that affect your relationship with Him?
4. What area(s) of your life do you hide from God? In what ways do you need to let yourself be found?