



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
+ THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Processional
William Mathias
Sam Parnin, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski
Titus Kyles and Jeremiah Arnold
Ann Boyd

Introducing our New Youth Ministry Interns
Moment for Mission



CHORAL INTROIT

God, Creator of Your People
Hymnal Selection 585
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 78:1-7

Come, let us gather to worship our timeless God.

We gather to share the blessings we have received from our God.

Come, let us gather to worship our awesome God.

We gather together to listen for God's word for us today.

Come, let us gather to worship our glorious God,
who delights in our worship, witness, and service.

**We gather together to share our hope and trust in our merciful God,
who has never failed or forgotten us. Amen.**

* OPENING SONG

What an Awesome God
Jonathan Smith, Phil Wickham, Richard Mullins
Led by Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson,
Samantha Johnson, Sam Parnin, and Brian Ward

* INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER 887

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading
New Testament Reading
* Gospel Reading

Acacia Gin, Reader
Exodus 17:1-7
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

CHORAL ANTHEM

Firm Foundation (He Won't)
Cody Carnes, Austin Davis, Chandler Moore,
arr. Cliff Duren

Christ is my firm foundation, the Rock on which I stand.
When ev'rything around me is shaken, I've never been more glad
that I put my faith in Jesus. He's never let me down.
He's faithful through generations, so why would He fail now?
He won't.

I've still got joy in chaos. I've got peace that makes no sense.
I won't be goin' under. I'm not held by my own strength,
'cause I've built my life on Jesus. He's never let me down.
He's faithful in ev'ry season, so why would He fail now?
He won't. He won't fail.

Rain came, wind blew; my house was built on You.
I'm safe with You. I'm gonna make it through.
I'm gonna make it through, 'cause I'm standin' strong on You.
I'm gonna make it through, 'cause my house is built on You.

Christ is my firm foundation, the Rock on which I stand.
When ev'rything around me is shaken, I've never been more glad
that I put my faith in Jesus. He's never let me down.
He's faithful through generations, so why would He fail now?
He won't. He won't fail. He won't.

MESSAGE

Jeanette Mottl

HYMN 77

God of Our Life

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

*The Trustees will come around at this time to receive physical offerings.
Giving online at any time is also an option at www.npcovenant.org/give.*

Offertory

Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go
Hymnal Selection 670, arr. Kenneth Leighton

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR NORTH PARK
CHURCH COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

* CLOSING HYMN 402

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

He Is King of Kings
Douglas E. Wagner
Brian Ward, Organ

*Please remain seated for the postlude, pausing as the light of Christ is carried out
and imagining how you might carry that light into the world this week.*

** Please rise, in body or in spirit.*

*Prayer is offered in the south chapel after the service.
In addition, if you have prayer requests to be shared confidentially with the pastors,
there is a prayer box located in the narthex, as well as slips of paper and a pen
in the box's drawer for your use.*

What an Awesome God

Phil Wickham, Jonathan Smith, and Rich Mullins

2025 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)
Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)
Cashagamble Jet Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)
Phil Wickham Music (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC])
Simply Global Songs (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC])

C G D Em7 C G

God is great Give Him all the praise Hal-le-lu-jah

D Em7 C G

name a-bove all names. Fi-re in His eyes, Heal-ing in His veins. Ev-ry-where His

D Em7 C G

glo-ry on dis-play. Take a look at those stars: He can name them all. Be-fore His

D Em7 C G

throne, e-v'ry knee falls. The de-mons have to run, the an-gels have to praise.

D Em7 C G

E-ven the wind and waves o-bey. Our God is an awe-some God. He

D Em7 C G 1. D Em7

reigns from hea-ven a-bove with wis-dom pow'r and love; Our God is an awe-some God. Our

D Em7 C G

God is an awe-some God. And even when I ran, He did-n't run a-way, He came and put

17 D Em7 C G

death back in its place. Fri-day on the cross, bro-ken for my shame, Sun-day morn-ing

19 D Em7 C G

rose up from that grave. Take a look at those scars on His hand and feet; He saved our

21 D Em7 C G

souls for e-tern - i - ty. Wor - thy is the Lamb. Glo-ry to the King. Oh,

23 D Em7 C G

let all the saints and an - gels sing Our God is an awe-some God. He

25 D Em7 C G 1. D Em7

reigns from hea-vena-bove with wis-dom pow'r and love; Our God is an awe-some God. Our

28 D Em7 C G

God is an awe-some God. Eyes on the sky, there will be a day He will come and

30 D Em7 C G

wipe our tears a - way. No more fear, no more pain. No more

32 D Em7 C G

sor - row, sin or shame. The King is com - ing back a - gain, a reign of

34 D Em7 C G

love that will never end. For e - very - thing You've done and e - very - thing You do. and e - very - thing You

36 D Em7 C G

are, I'll sing to You. My God, You're an awe - some God, You're

38 D Em7 C G

great in all You do, I'm made to wor - ship You, My

40 D Em7 C G

God, You're an awe - some God. My Our God is an awe - some God. He

42 D Em7 C G

reigns from hea - ven a - bove with wis - dom pow'r and love; Our

44 D Em7 Am D Em7

God is an awe - some God. Our God, what an awe - some God.

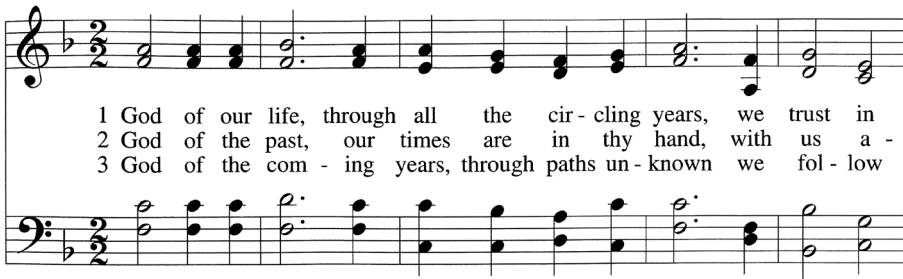
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Traditional

God of Our Life

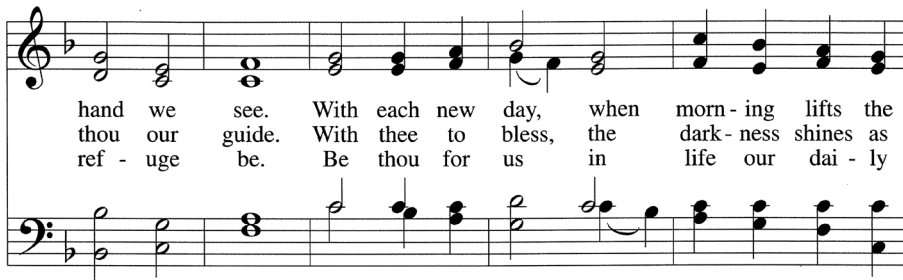
77



1 God of our life, through all the cir - cling years, we trust in
 2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand, with us a -
 3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known we fol - low



thee; in all the past through all our hopes and fears, thy
 bide. Lead us by faith to hope's true prom - ised land; be
 thee; when we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone; our



hand we see. With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the
 thou our guide. With thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as
 ref - uge be. Be thou for us in life our dai - ly



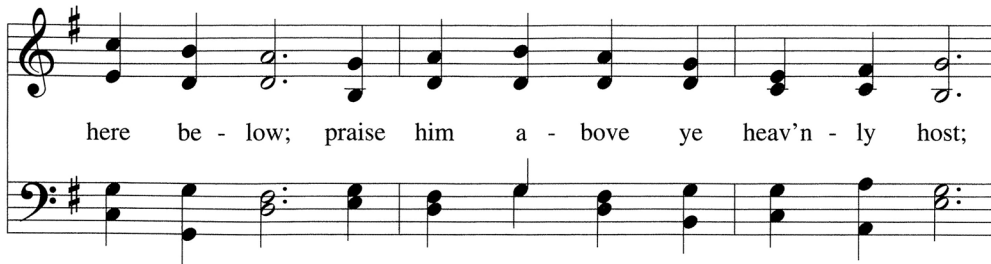
veil, we own thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
 light, and faith's fair vi - sion, chang - es in - to sight.
 bread, our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48



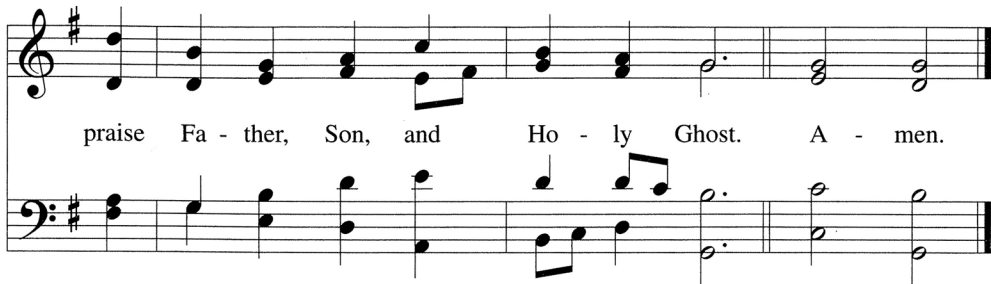
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody in the treble staff consists of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.



here be - low; praise him a - bove ye heav'n - ly host;

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff includes a dotted half note and a half note, while the bass staff features a variety of chordal textures.



praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The third system concludes the piece with a final cadence. The treble staff ends with a half note and a quarter note, while the bass staff provides a solid harmonic foundation.

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR
NORTH PARK CHURCH COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

God of new beginnings and difficult endings, this morning we give you thanks for the life of our church preschool. We offer our deep gratitude for the years of laughter, learning, and love that filled this place each weekday for so many years.

Lord, hear our prayers of thanksgiving.

We give you thanks for all of those individuals who first dreamed of the preschool and for the church leadership that supported it. We thank you for the ways in which those dreams came to fruition through prayer and investments of time, talent, and treasure, creating a safe and nurturing environment for kids to learn and grow for decades.

For this legacy of faith and love, we praise you, Lord.

We give you thanks for our dedicated directors, teachers, and staff who poured their hearts into the preschool classroom; for their patience, their creativity, their comforting hugs, and the ways they modeled grace and love to our littlest ones.

For their service and ministry, we praise you, Lord.

We give you thanks for the generations of children who walked through these doors. For the sound of their laughter, the art on the walls, the stories shared, and the friendships formed. And we give you thanks for the families who partnered with the preschool to make it a place where joy could abound.

For the gift of community, we praise you, Lord.

Lord, we bring you our grief and sadness for the ending of this particular ministry of the church, and we ask that you keep us faithful to the calling you have on this church body to whatever is next for us in this time and place. Keep our eyes and ears and hearts attentive to your Word.

Give us hope for tomorrow and trust in your unchanging goodness. Amen.

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

In unison F Gm7/F F F/A C C7 F

1 All the way my Sav-ior leads me— what have I to ask be- side?
 2 All the way my Sav-ior leads me—cheers each wind - ing path I tread,
 3 All the way my Sav-ior leads me— O, the full - ness of his love!

F Bb/F F C/G G C

Can I doubt his ten-der mer- cy, who through life has been my guide?
 Gives me grace for ev-'ry tri - al, feeds me with the liv - ing bread.
 Per - fect rest to me is prom - ised in my Fa - ther's house a - bove.

C7/Bb F/A Bb F C F Gm7 C

Heav'n - ly peace, di - vin - est com - fort, here by faith in him to dwell!
 Though my wea - ry steps may fal - ter and my soul a - thirst may be,
 When my spir - it, clothed im - mor - tal, wings its flight to realms of day,

F F F7 Gm/Bb Bb F F/C Gm/Bb A

For I know, what-e'er be - fall me, Je - sus do - eth all things well;
 gush - ing from the rock be - fore me, lo! a spring of joy I see;
 this my song through end - less a - ges: Je - sus led me all the way;

GUIDANCE IN PILGRIMAGE

The musical score is written for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Chords: Dm, C/E, F, B♭, Gm, F/A, B♭, C7, F

Lyrics:

for I know, what-e'er be - fall me, Je - sus do - eth all things well.
gush - ing from the rock be - fore me, lo! a spring of joy I see.
this my song through end - less a - ges: Je - sus led me all the way.

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

We're glad you're here.

If you're new here today, we invite you to email the co-pastors at copastors@npcovenant.org to learn more about us and, perhaps, get a little more connected.

Childcare is available in the toddler room (lower level, off the hallway south of the parlors) during the worship service for any wee ones ages 0 through 5 needing a place to wiggle and play. We always happily welcome children in the service but recognize that sometimes parents need a break so they can focus on worship.

If giving digitally is more your style, this handy QR code will take you directly to our online giving portal. It's a great pathway to one of the most powerful and sustainable ways to support NPCC. In the portal, you can make an account, set up recurring gifts, and even include a little extra to offset processing fees. However you give, know that we are deeply grateful for your generosity and doing all we can to equip this church family to live for God's glory and neighbors' good.



Help us honor North Park Church Cooperative Preschool! All are welcome to join us in the parlors on the lower level after worship for a special coffee hour to honor the good work of North Park Church Cooperative Preschool. Come enjoy a cup of coffee, tea, or lemonade and a sweet treat; take the opportunity to talk with former preschool students and families, and enjoy a brief slideshow. The preschool room will also be open for those who would like to take a peek inside!

The fall issue of the *Covenant Home Altar*, our denomination's daily devotional, and its Spanish-language counterpart, *Hoy Con Dios*, is now available here at church. Please pick up a copy from the narthex or the hallway by the pastors' offices.

Vida Plena, a Spanish-speaking Covenant church plant that meets here, invites you to worship every Sunday at 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Pastor Dany Flores at 872-357-9080.

Staff Away: Pastor Libby will be away this coming week, as she goes home to Omaha for her father's memorial service. Please reach out to Pastor Jeff or Pastor Jeanette if you have any pastoral needs.

Members and friends are invited to be a part of a Saturday-morning trash brigade, working to clean up an area of our community. They meet at 10 am each week, and this coming Saturday, you can join them at the intersection of Kimball and Catalpa. Please reach out to Janette and Roderick Smith at rjonberber@sbcglobal.net for more details. All are welcome; no need to RSVP!

Sunday School Teacher Needed: Pastor Libby is still looking for another Sunday School teacher for kindergarteners through 4th graders. If you're interested or have questions, please reach out to Libby.

New Neighborhood Resources: You may have noticed our beautiful new little free library, located just outside the south garden. Now, we are pleased to announce that there is a sign on it directing passersby to free household supplies and personal care items, located in a new storage cabinet inside the first set of south doors, which is accessible every day that the church is open. Please consider helping to keep our new neighborhood pantry full of essential care items such as diapers, hygiene products, and cleaning supplies. Also, don't forget to donate gently used books to the little free library. Additionally, if you or someone you know is in need of any of these pantry items, please take what you need for yourself or them.

Fall School Supply Drive: We are once again collecting school supplies for families in need from our neighborhood elementary schools, Hibbard and Peterson. Please consider contributing by purchasing something from the list below and dropping it in one of the labeled bins in the narthex. *We will collect donations through the end of the day today.*

2-pocket folders	Bottles of hand sanitizer (32-ounce)	Clorox disinfectant wipes
Elmer's glue sticks	Boxes of Kleenex tissues	Sticky notes (3" x 3")
Ticonderoga pencils	Child-sized headphones	Graph Paper
Washable Crayola markers	Gallon-sized ziplock bags	Notecards (3" x 5")
Crayola crayons (24-packs)	Quart-sized ziplock bags	Single-subject spiral notebooks
Paper towels	Wide-ruled composition notebooks	Watercolor paint sets
Expo low-odor fine-tip dry erase markers		Rulers
		Pencil-top erasers

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, October 4:**

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

Join Us at Feed My Starving Children! On Wednesday, October 7, we'll head to Libertyville to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children (742 E. Park Ave.)! We will meet at Culver's (803 E. Park Ave.) for dinner at 6 pm before we pack meals from 7:15 to 8:45 pm. [Use this link to register!](#) Please note that this event will take place instead of Gather dinner and music rehearsals that night. Reach out to Pastor Jeanette if you have any questions or need help with transportation.

A memorial service for Eileen Thorpe will take place on Saturday,

October 17, at 2 pm in our sanctuary, with a reception to follow. All are welcome to this witness to the resurrection and celebration of life.

The Board of Christian Formation invites you to a Unite fundraiser! Do people request your deviled eggs by name? Is your Swedish meatball recipe a family heirloom? Could your brownie bites win the Great British Baking Show? Or do you just love great finger foods? Then you'll want to join us for our second Small Plates Showdown on October 24, at 5:30 pm! Bring your bite-sized creation and enjoy a night of great food, friendly competition, and prizes. All proceeds support Unite scholarships, helping make Unite possible for more students. If you register to bring a dish, Jeanette will reach out to you with more details. [Please register](#) by Saturday, October 17, whether you plan to enter a dish or not!

Do you need offering envelopes for 2027? Each year, we order offering envelopes for those members and friends who wish to use them for their weekly giving. If you received envelopes last year and wish to receive them again this year, you do not need to do anything. However, if you received them last year and do not wish to continue receiving them, or if you did not receive them last year and do want to receive them for next year, please reach out to Ann-Marie in the church office by Tuesday, October 20, to let her know. Thank you!

It's time to bike for Congo! Did you know that some people in DR Congo travel more than 50 kilometers (31 miles) on a bicycle to a hospital, while sick or injured? And what's even harder to believe is that when they arrive at the hospital, limited medicines, clean water, medical training, or funds often prevent a person from getting better. But there's a way you can help!

Just as people in Congo travel over 50 km to get to a hospital, we are biking 50 km in October with the goal to raise \$50,000 for UCare4Congo, Paul Carlson Partnership's healthcare fund.

You're invited to join us! You have the whole month of October to complete 50 km (31 miles) and meet your fundraising goal. (If you don't bike, you can walk, run, swim, kayak, whatever...!)

Here's how to get started:

1. Visit paulcarlson.org/biking4congo.
2. Select "Donate" or "Become A Fundraiser". Choose if you'll raise funds as an individual or a team.
3. Invite your family and friends to sponsor your ride by using the online fundraising tools and sharing on social media.
4. Order t-shirts that also support the needs in DR Congo.
5. Share your individual and team updates with your sponsors.
6. Ride 50 km (31 miles) in October and celebrate your success on Paul Carlson Partnership

Sunday in November!

We look forward to Biking for Congo with you!

Help us Create a New Church Cookbook! Ann Boyd, our Writer in Residence, is gathering beloved recipes for a new church cookbook. We invite you to share a favorite recipe or two from you or your family! Please include:

- the recipe (including ingredients and directions);
- a few sentences that tell a story of the recipe—help us to understand how this recipe holds meaning in your life, in your family, or in the life of our church; or
- optional: an illustration of the recipe! You can sketch the ingredients, the finished product, or something else.

Ann has already received several submissions, but she will happily welcome more! Please send all submissions to annboyd@gmail.com with the subject line "North Park Cookbook" before the *new, extended deadline of Sunday, October 4, 2026*. Thanks!

Are you looking for a way to serve at NPCC? We always welcome people who are willing to hang out with the littlest in our community or help serve refreshments after the worship service! [Please click here](#) to put your name down for a Sunday or two—thank you!

for your prayers this week

- **Community prayer:** As the school year is getting underway, we invite you to pray for the teachers and students at our neighborhood schools—Peterson, Hibbard, Von Steuben, Northside College Prep, Mather, Roosevelt, and Northside Learning Center—as well as for the schools in the area in which you live
- **the Thorpe, Olfelt, and Hosek families**, as they mourn the passing of Eileen Thorpe on September 17
- **Paula Schuetz**, who will undergo surgery on her ankle on October 12
- Marti Hindaileh requests prayer for a dear friend's mother, **Missy Baker**, who is battling breast cancer and currently in intensive care in grave condition
- **Pastor Libby and family**, for peace and comfort as they prepare to remember and celebrate the life of her dad, Craig Johnson, on Saturday, October 3, in Omaha, NE
- **Joel Piotrowski and family**, mourning the passing of his brother-in-law Rich Blazyk on September 9
- **Ann Marie Strom**, beginning a new infusion medication to help with severe pain; these will be ongoing infusions for the next many months
- **Rosemary Slaughter**, losing bone density in her left wrist, which is causing discomfort
- **Diane Haglund**, undergoing a series of shots over the next few months in preparation for back surgery in October
- **Sandy Edstrom**, still struggling with sciatica pain
- **Sara Gortner**, Ann Boyd's mother, on hospice care

The Church Calendar This Week

The calendar is available at www.npcovenant.org/calendar and is updated as changes occur.

Monday, September 28

9:15 am	Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
10:30 am	Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
4 pm	Tutoring (Parlors)
6:30 pm	Geezerball (Gym)
7:30 pm	Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, September 29

8 am	Men's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6 pm	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Wednesday, September 30

10 am	Wednesday Women's Bible Study (Edstrom Home)
6 pm	Gather Dinner (Parlors)
6:30 pm	Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Side Balcony, Sanctuary)
	Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Choir Room)
7 pm	Knit or Not (Coffee Lounge)
	Middle-school Youth Group (Youth Room near the Gym)
7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, October 1

4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
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Friday, October 2

1 pm	Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)
5 pm	Vida Plena Covenant Church Community Night: Bibbidy-Bobbidy-Boutique (Parlors)

Saturday, October 3

8 am	Geezerball (Gym)
10:15 am	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, October 4

9 am	Confirmation (Staff Conference Room)
9:15 am	Adult Formation (Parlors)
	Art Journaling (Art Room)
	Sunday School for Preschool - 6th Grade (Junior Chapel)
	Tabletop Sundays (Attic Youth Room)
10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
1:30 pm	Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors)
6:30 pm	Youth Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7 pm	AA Meeting (Parlors)
	High-school Youth Group (Attic Youth Room)

North Park Covenant Church Staff

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www.friendshipcenterchicago.org

Global Personnel We Support

Peter and Anna Kim, Taiwan

Paul and Sheryl Noren, Congo

Chris Peterson,
Regional Coordinator for Europe

Eugenio and Pia Restrepo,
Regional Coordinators for Latin America

James and Rachel Ventress, Alaska

Welcome Statement

We welcome all people to begin or deepen their relationship with Christ through worship and study. We invite all believers to fully participate in the life and ministry of our church as members, leaders, and lay staff. We celebrate the gifts and presence of diverse Christians among us—whether those differences be race, ethnicity, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, or socioeconomic status. We are blessed by our diversity and are unified in Christ.

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