**Breaking News!**

**NEWS**

**A new simple communication from Park Avenue Church
to get you up to speed on what’s going on behind the scenes …**

**Adding a second service:** after much input, study, and prayer, we are believing that God is calling us to launch a second worship service on Sunday mornings. A team will be convened to begin the planning process with a view to launching this service **in mid-September 2017**. Please be prayerful about how you can adapt to our new growth and make new worshippers welcome! The planning focus will be on the following logistical/ministry areas:

* Parking and facility stress
* Welcoming and follow-up system
* Children’s Ministry (Nursery and Children’s Church coverage)
* Ushering/in-service hospitality
* Early Risers will continue to be held at 8am, but moving to another location in the building

**News of the Wireless:** Wireless internet is being installed to increase service in the Sanctuary, Dining Room, and Children’s Village. Thanks to Malakai Hepp (son of Bert & Arlette) and Keenan Baynard (a product of our Youth program in the 90s), under the leadership of our IT guru Steve Birth and the Trustee’s Information Technology subcommittee for making this happen! If you’re interested in helping with other IT-related projects, please contact stevebirth@gmail.com.

 \*The Network ID is **Park Avenue Guest**              \* The password is **welcomeall.2013**

**Later dates for Vacation Bible School**   VBS will be held later in the summer than usual, and we want to get this information out now so families can make their summer plans. The 2017 summer VBS dates are July 31-August 4. Volunteers are always an important part of VBS, so contact Carla Urban cjdurban@gmail.com if you’re interested in finding out more.

**New Screen in Gathering Room**: A flat screen television has been hung on the east wall of the Gathering Room that is available for any groups reserving that space for meetings. When signing up for the room (website <http://parkavechurch.org/room-event-request-form/>  or a paper form is available in the office credenza) you must **check the box** saying you will need the screen, then the directions for use will be provided upon confirmation. The stand-alone projector screen is still available if you prefer.

**Membership Class:** The next Inquirer’s Class series will be held Sunday March 19, 26, and April 2, with new members received on Palm Sunday, April 9! The class meets from 9-10am. Contact Michelle Higgins michellehiggins@parkavechurch.org to reserve your spot. Even if you’re “not quite ready” to commit to membership, this is a great way to get to know more about Park Avenue, and meet the pastors and staff.

**Women’s Retreat Update:** This year’s retreat will be held at the same venue as last year – Heartwood Conference Center in Trego, WI and a slightly later date (May 5-7) which will be a blessing – there will be spring greenery to appreciate, and hopefully no ice on the lake. Registration for the retreat will begin on Sunday February 19th and the theme is “For Such a Time as This”.  Contact Gwen Ghess for more information gdghess@hotmail.com

**UMM Men’s Update:** The Men are under new leadership! Welcome VP Tim Ghess timothy\_ghess@gbtpa.com and President Jeff Strike [parkavenueumm@gmail.com](parkavenueumm%40gmail.com).  Please join them for their monthly breakfast meeting – open to men of all ages -  each 3rd Saturday of the month in the lower level dining room at Park.  Fellowship at 8:00, breakfast at 8:30, sharing and praying for one another at 9:00 and transition into speaker or the Word, and conclude at 10:00.  By the Spirit of our Living God, discern whether He is calling you to connect with a fellow and warmly invite him.  Participation from all is most sincerely encouraged.

**The Men’s Retreat** will take place March 17-19 and registration will take place each Sunday in the hallway

**Psalms from Children’s Church** When tasked with writing their own psalm during Children's Church a few Sundays ago, (using the same letter for the first letter of each sentence), our 5th Graders came up with some wonderful words to bless us with both their depth and their simplicity.

The Lord is mighty.

Thank you Lord for You are good.

Time and time again You have helped me.

Today is truly the day that the Lord has made.

Throngs of angels praise You. Amen.

***By Cai Hallstrom***

The Lord is Peace.

This book called the Bible is sacred.

Talking about it in class today.

The sins of the world is what You take in for us.

Thank you God.

***By Adalyn Fernandes***

You are special.

You are brave.

You love me so much.

You think love in every way.

***By Jillian Jobe***

You are amazing!

You guide my way through thick and thin.

You give me strength.

You provide for all!

***By Norah Popehn***

Be with me God.

Be my Savior.

But You don’t have to

Because You already are.

Behold the Lord is coming He is becoming better and better

By day and night.

***By Dinko Kendrick***

Thank you God for the world.

Thank you for family and friends.

Thank you for food and life.

Thank you for dying just for us.

Thank you for being by my side.

***By Sasha London***

God is good.

God is awesome.

God is my savior.

God died for my sins.

God’s word is the only true word.

God is the best.

God is the one true God.

***By Dylan Steffen***

Thank you Lord!

Though I sin,

Thy still loves me

Through all eternity.

The Lord is so thoughtful and thankful!

***By Olive Strike***

Thank you for everything You do

Teaching me every day valuable lessons

Talking to me when I need a friend

Taking me into Your comforting arms

To give me the best kind of hug

Thanks for everything You do because Your love is all I need

That is the best gift I could receive.
***By Asgerami Semkoff***

**Volunteering** is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year. But when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.  Want to find out a place to volunteer at Park Avenue? Visit this link on the website <http://parkavechurch.org/volunteer-opportunity/>/

**Coming next month** – information about our plans and activities for Lent (Ash Wednesday is March 1). *If you want to get this newsletter communication via email, want to update your information, or want to find out more about Park Avenue Church, feel free to reply to* *newsletter@parkavechurch.org*