

Mark Balmer: Lead Pastor

Mark was born in Des Moines, IA and has lived in Freeport for most of his life. He and his wife Charmaine were married in 1991, and have eight children. Mark first became involved with Park Hills as a teenager while his father was a pastor here, and has been on staff since 1997. He spent the first nine and a half years on staff as the Youth Pastor before moving into the Senior Pastor role. Mark loves spending time with his family and supporting his kids at their sports events. In his free time he also enjoys repairing wrecked motorcycles and cars, and riding motorcycles. Mark loves the staff that he serves with, and also loves that Park Hills is a loving, generous family who is responsive to the Word and eager to serve.

Chris Stukenberg: Executive Pastor

Chris grew up in Forreston and has lived in the Freeport area for all but eight years of his life. He and his wife Heidi were married in 2005, and have two daughters, Eden and Dylan. Chris has been a part of Park Hills for a long time. He's been attending Park Hills since 1997 and first fell in love with Jesus while in the youth group. Chris worked as an intern at Park Hills from 2002-2004, and came on staff as a pastor in August of 2013. Chris loves the people of Park Hills and the community that has developed over the years. He also loves the unique family ministries, and the church's commitment to powerfully preaching God's Word. He has been amazed to see what God has done over the past 50 years through the body of Park Hills, and is eager to see what He will do in the next 50!

Rich Graham: Administrative Pastor

Rich has lived in the Freeport area for most of his life. He and his wife, Mel, have been married since 1988 and have two adult sons and two granddaughters. Rich and Mel began attending Park Hills in 2007. Rich volunteered with the youth, tech, and men's ministries before serving as an elder. He joined staff as an Associate Pastor in January of 2017, but before that he spent 17 years working in the aerospace industry. Rich is a serious outdoorsman who enjoys running, biking, hiking, kayaking, and skiing. He also loves mentoring and discipling others in their faith. Rich loves that Park Hills is a church that feels like a family. The people here are able to challenge and encourage one another as they grow as disciples of Christ.

Beau Rispalje: Worship Pastor

Beau grew up in Southern California and lived there for 37 years before moving to Freeport in 2019 with his family. He and his wife, Michele, met at a Bible study back in 2001 and got married in 2003. They have four children: Moriah, Blake, Caleb, and Gavin. Beau loves the solid bible teaching, the diverse staff, and the vision our fellowship has to continue to make Jesus Christ the center of our lives as we pursue Him through the discipling of one another. "Glad to be part of a great team!"

Alex Unis: Student Ministries Pastor

Alex grew up in Canton, MI and served as a youth pastor at LakeView Church in Stoughton, WI for seven years before coming on staff at Park Hills in June of 2019. Alex and his wife, Nerissa, were married in 2012 and have four boys: Ezra, Miles, Kai, and Torin. In ministry, Alex loves discipling students and developing leaders. He loves the emphasis Park Hills places on

discipleship, youth ministry, and multiplication. In his free time, Alex enjoys sports, woodworking, and being with his family.

Mady Haight: Student Ministries Assistant

Mady grew up in Freeport, IL and has spent most of her life living here. Her home church has always been Park Hills. She was a part of Core and Frontline as a student, it's been really cool for her to continue to serve those ministries from the leadership end. She attends University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and enjoys fitness, traveling and DIY projects. Mady became a part of Park Hills staff in June 2019 as an intern, and is now filling the role of Student Ministries Assistant. Mady's favorite part of her role is the community she is surrounded by. She loves being able to connect with the students and combine everyone's gifts and talents to strengthen the ministry together. She enjoys being creative with the position through planning events, photography and art and she loves that she is able to include the students who have a passion for those as well.

Graham Boll: Lead Pastor of Winnebago Campus

Graham grew up in Dixon, IL and has been married to his wife Kayla since 2017. They have a daughter named Everleigh, and a son named Emmett. Graham first reached out to Park Hills while pursuing his degree at Moody Bible Institute. Needing an internship for his program, he ended up working as a pastoral intern and a family ministries intern at Park Hills. Graham officially came on staff in January of 2018. Graham is passionate about making disciples. Because he came to Christ at a later age, he missed out on knowing Christ during his youth and desires to help others grow in their relationships with Jesus. He enjoys meeting one-on-one with folks and wrestling out Scripture. Graham loves that Park Hills, both the congregation and leadership, are focused on carrying out the purposes of God. He also loves that Park Hills is passionate about planting churches.

Gary Brown: Associate Pastor of Winnebago Campus

Gary retired from a lifetime of service in the Evangelical Congregational Church and joined the Park Hills staff as an associate pastor assigned to the Winnebago Campus. He served as the pastor of the Winnebago Evangelical Fellowship in the 1990s at the same location. He has ministered for decades as a volunteer at Rock River Bible Camp, Dixon, IL. Gary is a native of Indiana, a graduate of Fort Wayne Bible College, Huntington College, Trinity Evangelical Divinity school, and most recently he received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Northeastern Seminary of Rochester, NY in the area of Vocational Discernment. He and his wife of almost 50 years, Ann, reside in Winnebago and are parents to three grown children and seven grandchildren. His passion is for building bridges in the body of Christ.

Merri Lane: Ministry to Women and Children

Merri and her husband, Ryan, were high school sweethearts and have been married since 2004. They have the joy of parenting their two children, William and Abby, and they have all been living in Winnebago since 2014. Before coming on staff as the Children's Ministries Assistant in 2014, Merri worked as a CPA in Milwaukee. Merri is passionate about the next generation and loves being an advocate for children. Some of Merri's favorite parts about

ministry are the privilege of witnessing holy moments occur in the lives of families who are walking through hard times, celebrating the good times, and getting to see firsthand how faith and obedience bring glory to God. Merri loves to see families growing together in God's Word, and wants to encourage all of our families to be engaged in learning and worshipping together as a way of life!

Kira Williams: Ministry to Children

Kira is originally from Pennsylvania, but began attending Park Hills with her family in 2009. Kira first came on staff in the Fall of 2018. She loves reading and studying the Bible with her friends, and loves the powerful sermons, worship music, and community that are found here at Park Hills.

Sammy Wichman: Media and Communications

Sammy grew up on Oahu before moving to Freeport, IL while she was in high school. She and her husband, David, met while serving together on one of Park Hills' mission trips to Haiti, and have been married since 2018. They have a daughter named Flora. Sammy studied Journalism and Integrated Media at Biola University before joining the Park Hills staff in the fall of 2018. She loves being able to work behind the scenes to help the church and its programs run smoothly.

James DeWall: Digital Assistant

James grew up attending Park Hills with his family. He graduated from Forreston High School and is currently pursuing a degree from Highland Community College. James loves that when he's at Park Hills he's surrounded by people who love God and love His Word! He produces and edits all of our Park Hills podcasts, as well as shoots and edits the videos we produce, and helps with the live stream.

Mel Graham: Office Manager

Mel has lived in Cedarville for most of her life, and is married to fellow staff member Rich Graham. They've been married since 1988 and have two adult sons and two granddaughters, with whom Mel loves spending time. Mel first began attending Park Hills in 2008 and has been on staff since 2011. Before coming on staff as Office Manager, she worked in the lab at the microbiology department of Swedish-American Hospital and also in an OB-GYN office. Mel loves leading couples in pre-marital counseling with her husband Rich, and also loves discipling young college-age women. She enjoys spending time outdoors in her free time, especially hiking, biking, and kayaking. During her time at Park Hills, Mel's coworkers and the Scripture-focused teaching have challenged her to grow spiritually, and she is so grateful for that.

Kayla Boll: Administrative Assistant

Kayla grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She attended Moody Bible Institute and graduated with a Bachelor's of Music in Music and Worship. Married in 2017, Kayla and her husband, Graham, are parents to Everleigh and Emmett. They have been serving together at the Park Hills Winnebago Campus since 2017. In 2021, Kayla came on staff as an Administrative Assistant.

She enjoys serving the body of Christ through leading worship and serving in children's and women's ministry.

Judy Fosler: Visitation Coordinator

Judy has lived in Freeport her whole life. She and her husband were married in 1976 and have three sons, a daughter, and five grandchildren. Judy has been attending Park Hills since 2016, and first came on staff in December of 2018. Judy teaches a women's bible study and volunteers on the Sparky's team at Awana with her husband. She loves the pastors' expository preaching of God's Word, as well as the loving and supportive atmosphere found at Park Hills.