

Mark Balmer

Lead Pastor



Mark was born in Des Moines, IA and has lived in Freeport for most of his life. Mark and his wife Charmaine have been married for almost 30 years, and have five children, as well as three whom they are currently fostering.

Mark first became involved with Park Hills as a teenager while his father was a pastor here. Mark has been on staff for over 20 years now. 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 for over 12 years now, and first fell in love with Jesus while in the youth group. Chris has worked for Park Hills for almost 10 years.

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 for over 30 years 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.

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 three boys: Ezra, Miles, and Kai.

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 love 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.

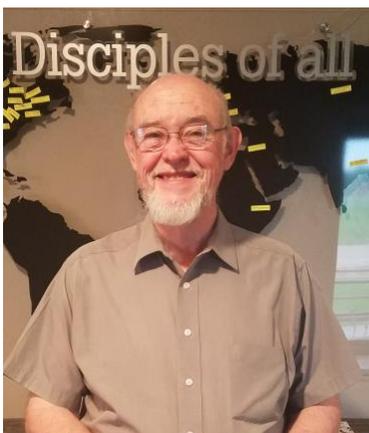
Graham first reached out to Park Hills while pursuing his degree at Moody Bible Institute. Needing an internship for his program, he ended up working as a pastoral intern and a family ministries intern at Park Hills. Graham officially came on staff in January of 2018.

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 joins 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 for 15 years. They have the joy of parenting their two middle-schoolers, William and Abby, and they have all been living in Winnebago for the past five years.

Before coming on staff as the Children's Ministries Assistant five years ago, 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 worshiping together as a way of life!

Kira Williams

Ministry to Children



Kira has lived in Freeport for about 10 years and is originally from Pennsylvania. She is currently a senior in high school, and has been attending Park Hills with her parents since 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.

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 for over 30 years 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.

Tamie Dammann

Administrative Assistant



Tamie grew up in McConnell, IL and married her high school sweetheart, Greg. They moved around for many years as Greg served as a physician in the military, but they eventually settled in Winnebago, IL with their four children.

Tamie worked as a dental hygienist for several years before becoming a stay-at-home mom. In 2017, she came on staff as an Administrative Assistant. She loves interacting with people every day and helping with the day-to-day tasks that keep Park Hills running.

Judy Fosler

Visitation Coordinator



Judy has lived in Freeport her whole life. She and her husband have been married for 43 years and have three sons, a daughter, and five grandchildren. Judy has been attending Park Hills for three years, and first became involved when her son started attending.

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.

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.