A black and white photograph of a person standing on a beach, looking out at the ocean under a cloudy sky. The person is silhouetted against the horizon. The text "ENDURING WITNESS" is overlaid in large, bold, white capital letters, with the person's silhouette partially obscuring the word "WITNESS".

ENDURING WITNESS

Sunday, May 10, 2020

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open—minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God's grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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Welcome

Thank you for joining us this morning. Please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat.

Welcome Children. We invite children to full participation in worship.

Bell Rung During Lord’s Prayer. A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop their work and join in prayer.

Subscribe to our email lists: Text your email address to 22828 or sign up at www.parkwayucc.org

Communications Requests: Please use the form at www.parkwayucc.org/communications for all announcements for the bulletin/eNews/website/social media/etc. Bulletin and eNews communications request deadline is noon Tuesday. Bulletin announcements will generally be run for three weeks prior to the event. However, all announcements will be posted via our various publications as fits in our communications strategy and as resources permit.

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Anniversaries

5/12 RAUSCHER, Kevin & Steffanie (27)

5/16 SMITH, Dwight & Charlotte (67)

Birthdays

5/10 HAGGARD, Gale

5/10 PENICO, Paige

5/10 WATKINS, Wyatt

5/11 MEYER, Lydia

5/11 SPERRY, Sam

5/12 DOWNING, Angie

5/12 STAPPENBECK, William

5/14 MASTERSON, Scott

5/15 BRUEGGEMANN, Michelle

5/15 PATEL, Elin

5/15 WESSEL, Andrew

5th Sunday of EASTER

May 10, 2020 | 9:55am | Mother's Day

Meditation *I hope to live long enough to be the great-grandmother of all agitators.* ~Mary Harris Jones aka Mother Jones

Announcements

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

Prelude *For the Beauty of The Earth*

Arrangement from *The Church Pianist*, Lorenz Publishing

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Holy Ground*



We are stand - ing _____ on ho - ly ground, _____
_____ and I know that there are an - gels all a -
round; _____ let us praise _____
_____ Je - sus now; _____ we are
stand - ing in his pres - ence on ho - ly ground. _____

Scripture John 8:2-11 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)


Early in the morning Jesus came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him,

he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”


Call to Worship based on Psalm 31:1-5

One:	Come from all directions.
Many:	We come from the west, east, south and north.
One:	Come with all of your hopes and dreams, struggles and disappointments.
Many:	We come authentically. We come with our whole selves.
One:	Come to find God who is like a rock.
Many:	We seek God who is a place of refuge for anything that may be troubling us.
One:	Come to see Jesus who is a sturdy expression of trusting God.
Many:	We come knowing that at times we are unsure, unsteady, losing our grounding and our grace.
One:	Come to hear the Spirit encouraging – calling us by name.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Song *For the Beauty of the Earth*




1. For the beau-ty of the earth, For the glo-ry of the skies,
2. For the won-der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de-light,
4. For the joy of hu-man love, Broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
5. For Thy church that ev-er more Lift-eth ho-ly hands a-bove,



For the love which from our birth O-ver and a-round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
For the mys-tic har-mo-ny Link-ing sense to-sound and sight,
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, For all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
Of-fering up on e-very shore Her pure sac-ri-fice of love,

Refrain



Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Opening Prayer based on Psalm 23 from The Voice

Hoy One, You are my eternal shepherd, caring for me always. You provide me rest in rich, green fields beside streams of refreshing water. You soothe my fears; You make me whole again, steering me off worn, hard paths to roads where truth and righteousness echo. Even in the unending shadows of death's darkness, I am not overcome by fear. Because You are with me in those dark moments, near me with Your protection and guidance, I am comforted. You spread out a table before me, provisions in the midst of attack from my enemies; You care for all my needs, anointing my head with soothing, fragrant oil, filling my cup again and again with Your grace. Certainly Your faithful protection and loving provision will pursue me wherever I go, always, everywhere. I will always be with You, in Your house forever. Amen.

Response *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Children's Time Children and Youth are invited to Zoom classrooms

Blessing the Children *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

Jesus loves the little children,

All the children of the world.

Every child in every land,

Jesus holds them by the hand.

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Scripture Acts 7:55-60 (CEB – Common English Bible)

But Stephen, enabled by the Holy Spirit, stared into heaven and saw God's majesty and Jesus standing at God's right side. He exclaimed, "Look! I can see heaven on display and the Human One standing at God's right side!" At this, they shrieked and covered their ears.

Together, they charged at him, threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses placed their coats in the care of a young man named Saul. As they battered him with stones, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, accept my life!" Falling to his knees, he shouted, "Lord, don't hold this sin against them!" Then he died.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon *Stones*

Call to Prayer *Make Me A Channel of Your Peace*



1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
 2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
 4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. _____ Where
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. _____ Where
 is in par-don - ing that we are par - doned, _____ in



there is in - ju - ry, your par-don, Lord, _____ and
 there is dark - ness, _____ on - ly light, _____ and
 giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, _____ and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you. _____
 where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy. _____
 dy - ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life. _____



3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev - er seek _____ so



much to be con-soled as to con - sole. _____ To be



un - der-stood as to un - der - stand, _____ to be
 D.C.



loved as to love with all my soul. _____

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on 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.

[A variety of names for God are welcome here—including in the Lord's Prayer.]

Song *There's A Wideness in God's Mercy*



1. There's a wide-ness in God's-mer-cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sures of the mind;



There's a kind-ness in God's-jus-tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
And the heart of the E - ter-nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.



There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, We would glad-ly trust God's Word;



There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg - ment given.
And our lives re - flect thanks-giv-ing For the good-ness of our Lord.

Smoothing Some of the Rough Edges of Our Stones

Let us bless ourselves with water. (Touch/play with the water.)

Touch your mouth with the water... **“Bless my mouth, that I may speak truth, kindness, justice, peace.”**

Touch your ears... **“Bless my ears, that I may hear the birds, the voices of all of God's children, and the whispers and shouts of the Holy.”**

Touch your eyes... **“Bless my eyes, that I may see beauty and brokenness—and respond.”**

Touch your nose... **“Bless my nose, that I might stop and smell the roses and welcome in the sweetness of countless gifts of creation.”**

Touch your hands again... **“Bless my hands that I may continue to care for the earth and find new and time-tested ways to build community through care and compassion.”**

[Place your stone into your small bowl of water. Rub the stone as if to smooth it in the water.]

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Interlude Special presentation for Mother's Day

Response

Praise God whose many names abound;
Our Peace, our Rock, Our Holy Ground,
Our Home, our All, Earth's Majesty,
Love, Spirit, Light and Mystery. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication Carol Penner

Holy One, we have the means to give, we have the reason to give,
and there are many waiting for us to give. Yet often, our hands hold
back, and we hoard what we have for ourselves. God of grace, help
us live and give in your kingdom of love, where there are no
enemies, only siblings—all of us are siblings, and kindness is the
air we breathe. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Song of Parting Guide My Feet, v5, 1-2



1. Guide my feet
2. Hold my hand while I run this race,
3. Stand by me
4. I'm Your child



- Guide my feet
Hold my hand while I run this race,
Stand by me
I'm Your child



- Guide my feet
Hold my hand while I run this race, For I
Stand by me
I'm Your child



- don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

5. Search my heart... 6. Guide my feet...

Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Postlude Organ Improvisation on *Lasst Uns Erfeuen*—from Geistliche Kirchengesang, 1623

Announcements

Ted Group Goes High Tech!

Tuesday, May 12 | 7:00pm | via ZOOM—login information coming soon

Our TED Group will be meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, May 12 at 7 PM. We will be reading and discussing the book *Brit Marie Was Here*. There are some copies of the book available at the table just inside the Church office, and it is also available on Amazon.

Please read up to Chapter 19. There are discussion questions at the end of the book—this will be a group led session.

If you have never joined a TED discussion, this would be an excellent time to start! Everyone welcome!

For more information, please contact Gerry Rogers: gcr123055@gmail.com | 314-434-7122

ZOOM Speaker Series: America's Sacred Sites

Sunday, May 17 | 11:15am | via ZOOM—login information coming soon

Brad Lyons' second book, *America's Sacred Sites: 50 Faithful Reflections on Our National Monuments and Historic Landmarks*, is available this week!

Visiting National Park Service sites in every state, *America's Sacred Sites* digs deeper into places of natural beauty but also human achievement and notoriety.

Join Brad online May 17 at 11:15 am for a bit of armchair travel as we share what makes a place holy for us, how history has colored the way we view certain places, when history became real for us, and places we believe should be better protected for their beauty or history.

Contact Brad by email or through Facebook if you want a signed copy of *America's Sacred Sites* or last year's book, "America's Holy Ground: 61 Faithful Reflections on our National Parks," delivered to your doorstep for only \$20*. You can also order an unsigned copy from ChalicePress.com or wherever you buy books.

*St. Louisans only...out-of-towners can get a signed copy mailed for \$27.

Contact Brad Lyons: brad@bradlyons.net | 314-541-793

Message from Emma Landowski

I just wanted to take a moment to share how grateful I am for the opportunity to be with you all this past academic year. It still is hard to believe that our time has come to an end. I have learned a great deal from each of you, your kind and generous spirit, your eagerness to learn and grow, your excitement around being in community and building relationships with people from other walks of life. I pray that the spirit continues to guide you and work through each of you. Please know that my heart is with you all, particularly now while we are all still living in the world of COVID-19. Each of you is a beloved child of God and I will forever be shaped by our time together. Thank you, blessings, and peace

Alzheimer's News: Dementia and COVID-19

Most likely, dementia does not increase risk for COVID-19, just like dementia does not increase risk for flu. However, dementia-related behaviors, increased age, and common health conditions that often accompany dementia may increase risk. In addition, diseases like COVID-19 and the flu may worsen cognitive impairment due to dementia.

- For people living with dementia, increased confusion is often the first symptom of any illness. If a person living with dementia shows rapidly increased confusion, contact your health care provider for advice.
- People living with dementia may need extra and/or written reminders and support to remember important hygienic practices from one day to the next.
- Consider placing signs in the bathroom and elsewhere to remind people with dementia to wash their hands with soap for 20 seconds. Demonstrate thorough hand-washing.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can be a quick alternative to hand-washing if the person with dementia cannot get to a sink or wash his/her hands easily.
- Ask your pharmacist or doctor about filling prescriptions for a greater number of days to reduce trips to the pharmacy.
- Think ahead and make alternative plans for the person with dementia should adult day care, respite, etc. be modified or cancelled in response to COVID-19.
- Think ahead and make alternative plans for care management if the primary caregiver should become sick.

Prayer List

as of May 6, 2020

Celebrations

All the acts of kindness that are happening near and far!
Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim family and friends!

Concerns

Marilyn McDougall – home after hospitalization – NOT Covid-19.

Family and Friends of Mary Whitney – grieving and giving thanks (sister of Pinky Wilcoxon and Ruth Peace).

Cherie Stolze - ongoing health issues; navigating medications/fatigue;

Randal Barnes - receiving hospice care (Steve's brother).

Bill McMahon - cancer; removal of lung later this month (Svenson).

Family/friends of Janet Regan – grieving/giving thanks (McKenzie).

Rod and Linda - his bone cancer treatments; her grief over her father who died from COVID-19 (Tarr).

Healthcare workers, homeless and many others at risk right now.

Social Distancing... if anyone needs groceries, medicine and/or other support, please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-330-0629

[If you'd like to be on the **Spring Care Team 2020**, please say so.]

People who are struggling with their mental health.

E-Learning for students, educators and parents.

People who aren't feeling safe at home but are remaining there.

Individuals in all levels of leadership as they make decisions today.

Continuing

Dwight & Charlotte Smith - he's in skilled nursing facility right now.

Lori Connors - for strength, stamina through some health challenges.

Ruth Peace & Pinky Wilcoxon - PUCC sisters with health challenges.

Bill Darland - ongoing health issues.

Sister Mary Kay McKenzie - for health/wholeness (Tom's sister).

Ken and Rose - as they await nursing home placement for him (Peace).

Nelson Spencer - began chemo treatments on March 30 (Svenson).

Pat Purdy - healing of unknown illness... not COVID-19 (Connors).

Chuck Miller and family - as he lives with cancer (William Tharp).

Alan Nichols - treatments for multiple myeloma; less pain (Pleis).

Tina - undergoing tests for cancer; crafting a treatment plan (Scharf).

Anthony - multiple challenges as he lives his post-incarceration life.

Martha - receiving treatment for leukemia (sister of Mary Lynn Dario).

Gary - risky behaviors; seeking balance and stability (McKenzie).

Grateful Tran - in prison; struggles w/schizophrenia (Evelyn Buretta)

Bob - still struggling with Parkinson's (McKenzie).

Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack - chronic health challenges.

The extended Eggebrecht Family - healing and wholeness.

The United Methodist Church and our LGBTQIA siblings there.

Pregnancy

Rosanna & Kevin Hogarty will be first time grandparents mid-May.
Laura & Phil Waite... pending big brothers Henry, Oscar and Felix.

Home/Care Facility/Rehab Center

Millicent Guerri - living with cancer... 14300 Conway Meadows Ct E, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: December 5]

Georgia Herpel - *Cedarhurst*: 12826 Daylight Cir, St. Louis, MO 63131

Marv Herpel - *Brookdale West County*; 785 Henry Ave, #217; Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-227-5838 [birthdate: March 3]

Ruth Murray - *Villages of St Peters Memory Care*: 5300 Executive Centre Pkwy, #107; St. Peters, MO 63376; 636-477-6955. [birthdate: September 11] Best times to visit – before 11am or after 2pm.

Pearl Sellenriek - *Friendship Village Care Center*; #725-2

15201 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: March 31]

Dwight Smith - *Manor Grove*; 711 S Kirkwood Rd; Kirkwood, MO 63122; 314-965-0864 [birthdate: September 6]

Ellen Surber - *Delmar Gardens*: 14855 N Outer 40 Road, #508; Chesterfield, MO 63017 (Lisa Davidson's mom) [birthdate: November 3]

Sue Houser - *Bethany Ctr for Rehab & Healing*; 421 Ocala Dr - #209B; Nashville, TN 37211; 615-577-2049. [birthdate: July 8]

Other

Dan Connors - completed writing a novel... taking next steps.

President Trump, Congress, all local, national, world leaders.

The “me too” Movement - shining a light on sexual abuse.

Healing of relationships between police and the public.

All people who live with mental illness.

PUCC Family (and others) struggling with healthcare costs and limits.

Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC

Variety of Parkway members/friends - employment issues.

Victims of Natural and Created Disasters around the world.

Peace and Justice near and far.

US Military around the globe.

St Louis Assn UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending May 3 - **Glory to Glory Christian Church UCC**,

St. Louis; glorytogloryucc.org

Week ending May 10 - **Holy Trinity Community UCC**, Memphis; holyltrinitymemphis.org

I've seen so many great posts about the need to stay non-anxious in the time of coronavirus, but I've not seen as many recommendations for HOW to practice that.

When I got sober in my early thirties, I was experiencing pretty extreme anxiety, and an agnostic friend in my recovery group suggested meditation and prayer. "It's a way to remember that you're not the headquarters of the universe," she said. "It's a way to remember that most of the time, you're not the solution to your problems."

The impulse to meditate may not be your natural default. Prayer may not be your ordinary method. You may not even consider yourself a spiritual or religious person. But coronavirus times are weird times, y'all. The other day, one of my devout atheist friends said: "I don't believe in any kind of god at all, but I feel drawn to pray."

So if that's where you are, here's just one starter suggestion for folks of any faith or no faith who want to experiment with a different kind of rhythm in these anxious times. Just to be clear: there are loads of ways to meditate and pray. This is just one that has been helpful for me.

1. Find a quietish place for a few minutes -- the beginning, middle, or end of the day are my faves, but any time can work. Take a few deep breaths, and then, speaking aloud, say hello to the headquarters of the universe (however you name it or don't name it). List aloud some of the pressing things that are on your mind. "Hello, God, I'm really freaking out about ... " And then simply ask: "Can I trust you with that?"

2. For this to work, I promise you that it actually doesn't matter if you believe in God or not. What matters is that you start to let your cares go into a space that is not your head. If you don't believe in God, you can start, "Hello, God that I don't believe in, I'm really freaking out about Can I trust you, whom I don't think exists, with that?"

3. If this way of praying becomes something you're doing more regularly, you may find yourself craving a little pattern to help you cycle through the list of things on your mind. I love the framework that writer Anne Lamott offers: "Help. Thanks. Wow." You can let each of those words guide a short section of your prayer. For example:

4. HELP. Help me, God, as I try to cope with this effing anxiety that's eating away at me. Help the nurses and doctors and first responders who are sacrificing so much right now. Help my kids find wonder and delight in these confined days.

5. THANKS. Thank you, Higher Power that I don't really believe in, thank you that I woke up this morning. Thanks for the breath in my lungs. For bread on the table and coffee in the pot. For the way my dog cuddles up next to me.

6. WOW. Wow, divine HQ, that flowers are still growing and birds are still singing. Wow, that people who don't know each other actually give a damn about each other. Wow, how good it is to be with my partner, to feel the sun on my face. Wow for life and death and somehow mysteriously life beyond death.

Again, this is merely a suggestion. It may or not be your cup of tea. I can only offer what worked for me: and tell you that as I began to practice this, from time to time at first, moving eventually into a daily rhythm, things began to change. I still noticed the anxiety: it didn't evaporate, but it did begin to lose some of its power. And over time my lenses started to shift to see the universe, other people, myself, and the headquarters of it all in a vastly different way.

Peace be with y'all in these anxious, beautiful days.

- Unknown

May 10, 2020

John 14:1-14

Enduring Witness *Mother's Day*

Dialogue with our Jewish, Muslim, and Eastern Orthodox neighbors, as well as those of other faiths, is a cornerstone of our understanding of what it means to be a part of the United Church of Christ. These dialogues often look like ordinary conversations between a few people, taking place over a couple of hours or days. After the dialogue is over, all the participants return to the routines and rituals of their home communities.

One of the flabbergasting critiques of interfaith dialogue is that it's "just words," that doesn't solve the whole problem, that it is too small an effort to have an impact. Of course, conversations like these don't solve the whole problem of interfaith conflict and understanding, but that doesn't mean that they have no use. Far from it. Small encounters like organized interfaith dialogues, are the individual building blocks from which the structures of peace are built.

Jesus' words in today's scripture passage are part of what is sometimes called his Farewell Discourse. They started out as "just words," quiet conversations with friends which were later written down as comfort to the early Christian community. It's sometimes hard to remember the very real fear of the early Christian community. Those who first wrote down Jesus' words were not mainline Christians. They were not mainline anything. There were just a few of them, oppressed by the forces of Rome on one side and the temple authorities on the other.

But over time, the movement Jesus began with just words would scatter all over the world. But these are the kind of words that have the unexpected strength of the stone that the builder rejected, the stone that became the cornerstone. And that cornerstone is what holds up the whole of God's house.

Building God's house is slow work and can seem painstaking. At times, there can seem to be no progress. But brick by brick, word by word, dialogue by dialogue, the house of God is built. God's house is vast, it has many rooms. The conversation you begin with an interfaith neighbor is only one brick among many. But look around you and you will notice that there are many bricks connected with yours. In order to stand tall, you need them as much as they need you. One by one, we are building up this house of many rooms.



