WITNESSOF



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, May 17, 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

5/18 WILLIAMS, Meera & Roy (30)

5/19 RUIZ, John & Joyce (36)

5/20 LIVENGOOD, Ross & Kim (42)

Birthdays

5/18 WAITE, Felix 5/21 OEHLER, Kurt

5/21 CLIFFORD, Thomas 5/23 MASTERSON, Jamie

5/21 DOTY, Nathaniel

6th Sunday of EASTER May 17, 2020 | 9:55am

Segments of this morning's worship service have been sent to all UCC congregations from The Council of Conference Ministers and The Collegium of Officers of our United Church of Christ. The other pieces are from our members and friends here at Parkway UCC. Let us know if you would like to be involved in future worship services! We would love to have you participate!

Meditation All language about God is necessarily symbolic and figurative. The Bible uses metaphors for God, such as rock and shepherd. Jesus describes himself metaphorically as the bread of life and the light of the world. The Spirit is portrayed as breath and wind. God is not literally a rock or an actual shepherd on a hillside somewhere, yet we need these images to "imagine" the unsayable Mystery. ~Richard Rohr

Announcements Let us know you are here!

Passing the Peace "May the peace of Christ be with you."

Prelude At the Elevation—Gilbert Martin

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song Christ Still Rises

Music by Ben Brody, text by David Bjorlin | https://youtu.be/orSc9af2KbY Christ still rises when fear grips our city, when death takes no pity, when much is unknown.

Christ still rises when friends are divided, when joy feels misguided, when we are alone.

Christ still rises when churches are shuttered. when praises are muttered, when prayers go unsaid.

Christ still rises when peace has all faded, when we are most jaded, when faith turns to dread, when faith turns to dread.

Christ still rises when we give to neighbors, when we share our labors, when strangers belong.

Christ still rises when we come together, when love is our tether, when hope is our song.

Christ still rises when grieving is ended, when bodies are mended, when beauty heals pain.

Christ still rises when fear has retreated, when death is defeated and joy will remain, and joy will remain.

Performed by Whitworth chapel worship teams: Munya Fashu-Kanu, Addie Stouder, Kalani Padilla, Sarah Sugano, Ethan Gunn and Polina Beymanov (vocals): Emma Thackston (piano); Sarah Fazendin (violin); and Lance Verst (cello).

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Scripture Psalm 13 (NAB – New American Bible), Angie Downing, reader How long, Lord?

Will you utterly forget me? How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I carry sorrow in my soul, grief in my heart day after day? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

Look upon me, answer me, Lord, my God!

Give light to my eyes lest I sleep in death, Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed," lest my foes rejoice at my downfall.

But I trust in your mercy.

Grant my heart joy in your salvation, I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt bountifully with me!

Call to Worship David Sparks

Lisa, Josie & Ben Duke

One:	You can trust God				
Many:	in the moments of celebration, at the high points of life, God is there, God celebrates.				
One:	You can trust God				
Many:	in the dark moments, at the low points of life, God is there, God sustains.				
One:	You can trust God				
Many:	in the moments of doubt, when decisions fail you, God is there, God clarifies.				
One:	You can trust God				
Many:	in the certainty of faith, when you are inspired, God is there, God goes with you.				
One:	You can trust God!				
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.				



Opening Prayer ABC... XYZ

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 immediately following

Blessing the Children I Am The Church

Refrain: I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is a people... (Refrain)

UCC Statement of Faith in Spanish and English

https://vimeo.com/415510235

Scripture Acts 17:22-28 (NRSV)—Jeff Downing, reader

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, God who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is God served by human hands, as though needing anything, since God gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor God made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for God and find God—though indeed God is not far from each one of us. For 'In God we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are God's offspring.'

Response *I Believe*—Mark Miller (https://vimeo.com/415633297)
Offered by the choir from Christ UCC in Summit, New Jersey (page 11)

Moment of Silent Reflection

Reflections An Unknown God?

Jackie Eiffert—https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAMlUy0hB10

Carol Cobb—https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xx2TtM5_50&t=9s

Sing Alleluia to Our God—Linda Stassen

 $Arranged/adapted\ text/performed$ —Mona Smith Herberg

Sing alleluia to our God. Maker of heaven and the earth.

Giver of life and breath, Giver of everything.

Sing alleluia to our God.

Sing praises to the Holy One. The unknown God has been revealed.

In God we live and move and have our being.

Sing praises to the Holy One.

Evelyn Buretta—https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTt9mhf97sQ

Kevin Cameron—https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt2QBqX6iNc

Prayer Request https://vimeo.com/415458532

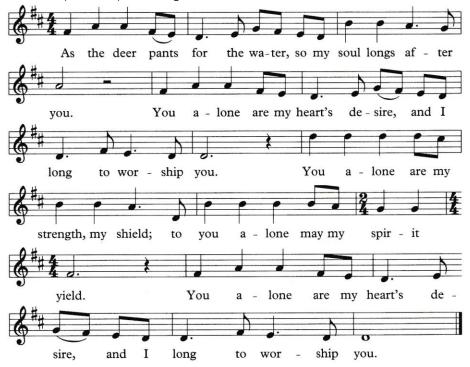
We honor and celebrate our family and friends who struggle with mental health.

See back of bulletin for additional reflections on mental health in the church.

For more information on our UCC Mental Health Network, please visit http://mhn-ucc.blogspot.com/

Call to Prayer As the Deer

Offered by Parkway UCC Singers



Pastoral Prayer https://vimeo.com/415598028

Prayers of the People

Send us your celebrations and concerns. We want to pray with you.

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.]

Offering Our Gifts to God https://vimeo.com/415618664

Special Music Glorious—https://vimeo.com/415478141 (page 9)

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 https://vimeo.com/415618664

Song Bring Many Names (page 10)

Closing Prayer & Benediction https://vimeo.com/415644412 God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth Improvisation on Welsh tune *Ash Grove* (common hymn setting of *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*)

Glorious!

Oh what a day! Glorious! Gather 'round There's nothing better Than a friend

Oh what a day! Glorious!
The smell of rain
Has hitched a ride
Upon the wind
I've got good friends
To the left of me
And good friends
To my right
Got the open sky above me
And the earth beneath my feet
Got a feeling in my heart
That's singin'
All in life is sweet
Oh what a day!

Oh, what a day! Glorious! All the clouds Have gathered round The tops of trees

Oh what a day! Glorious! Pitter patter Fallin' rain I can't believe All that's green Lifts up its leaves Singin' water come on in We've been waiting all these days Prayin' you would come to quench Every yearnin' in our bones Water, life with you begins Oh what a day

Home is believing Home has wings of faith Home is a clear river Of perceiving All is well This is a friendly mystery

Oh, what a day! Glorious! Under the sky we slept last night Just you and me

Oh, what a day! Glorious!

The waning moon
Our cycle is almost complete
We've got good friends to the left
of us
And good friends to our right
Got the open sky above us
And the earth beneath our feet
Never fear-the birds are singin'
Even endings can be sweet
Oh, what a day!

Never fear--the birds are singin' Even endings can be sweet Oh, what a day!



I Believe by Mark A. Miller

Text: Words scratched on the walls of a cellar in Cologne, Germany by a Jew hiding from Nazi persecution.

I believe in the sun even when it's not shining.

I believe in love even when I don't feel it.

I believe in God even when God is silent.

Announcements

TODAY! ZOOM Speaker Series: America's Sacred Sites

Sunday, May 17 | 11:15am | via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83292830991?pwd=VmQ0MHFHNFZES1N1K0VxRIRzSz

RRQT09 Meeting ID: 832 9283 0991 Password: 091768

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

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," You can also order an unsigned copy from ChalicePress.com or wherever you buy books.

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



MAD Camp Goes to the Circus ONLINE

Monday. July 27-Thursday, July 31

Recent St Louis County orders have prohibited summer camps this year. But you don't have to miss out! Instead of our onsite camp, we are offering an online camp. Details and times coming soon. This will be free. However we encourage a donation to The Evangelical Children's Home.

Stay tuned because a Circus is coming to Parkway!

St Louis Metro Area Crop Walk 2020

Sunday, October 25

Please visit www.crophungerwalk.org/saintlouismo for all details. We hope to be walking in person as a group, but it may be a virtual walk. When you go to the website, enter the name of our walk, Parkway UCC and it will take you to our donation page. The need for food is HUGE this year, both locally and internationally, so we are accepting donations now so the monies can be distributed immediately. Thanks for all you do, Parkway. Your Crop Walk Team, Sue Moellering, Gerry and Mike Rogers, and Pamela Manning.



Intertwine Spiritual Sustenance Session 2

Thursday, May 21 | 6:00pm | via ZOOM

We invite you to join faith leaders and members from the Turkish American Society of Missouri (TASOM), Congregation Shaare Emeth and Parkway United Church of Christ for the second uplifting 40 minute Zoom session to share prayers and reflections based in Islam, Reform Judaism and progressive Christianity.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend this interfaith opportunity for renewal and strength in God's love. When you are invited to enter the Zoom room, please share in the chat box one phrase or sentence that has provided you with strength during this challenging time.

Join Zoom Meeting with Video:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84831374040?pwd=NEp2U3o1WkxnaUZOdzhY SXF4YlJNOT09

Meeting ID: 848 3137 4040; Password: 1v8dgW

Join by Phone: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 848 3137 4040; Password: 744113

Questions? Contact Lisa Mason: Imason624@sbcglobal.net | 314-395-4444

Prayer List as of Thursday, May 14, 2020

Celebrations

Graduates of all kinds!

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

Concerns

Carol Wilbois and family - as they grieve and give thanks for Ron who died at home today 5/14.

Georgia Herpel - receiving hospice care at the end of life at Cedarhurst. **Karen Boyd** - heading home from Rehab Ctr this weekend! Godspeed! **Rosanna and Kevin Hogarty** - as her mother lives with Covid-19 and as they await their first grandchild's birth this month.

Family and Friends of Mary Whitney – grieving and giving thanks (sister of Pinky Wilcoxen & Ruth Peace). Memorial Service here pending.

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

Val Detjen's sister - flash pulmonary edema (negative for Covid-19).

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

Rod and Linda - his bone cancer treatments and broken bones; 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.

Continuina

Dwight & Charlotte Smith - he's in skilled nursing facility right now. **Lori Connors** - for strength, stamina through some health challenges. **Ruth Peace & Pinky Wilcoxen** - 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 - chemotherapy treatments (Svenson).

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.

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 any day! **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 17 - **Hope UCC**, Desoto; hopeunitedchurchofchrist.com Week ending May 24 - **Hope UCC**, St Louis; hopeuccstl.org

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2020 John 14:15-21

Witness of Love Rural Life Sunday | Mental Health Sunday

WHEREAS, most people believe that mental illnesses are rare and "happen to someone else," when in fact, mental illnesses are common and widespread with an estimated 61.5 million Americans (1 in 4) experiencing some form of mental illness in a given year;

WHEREAS, there continues to be strong stigma and discrimination in society against people with these brain disorders in housing, employment, social relationships, (including how they are treated in our churches):

WHEREAS, many uninformed people believe people with mental illnesses are likely to be violent, while in reality, people with mental illnesses are more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators;

WHEREAS, the public mental health system, which previously served as a safety net for people with the most severe mental illnesses, has suffered from dramatic funding cuts in the last decade, and our prisons and county jails now house more people with mental illnesses than psychiatric hospitals do;

WHEREAS, faith and spirituality can be an important component of recovery from mental illnesses and addictions;

WHEREAS, a mental illness or brain disorder in the family affects not only the ill family member, it profoundly affects other family members and loved ones and the entire family structure;

WHEREAS, people having a diagnosable brain disorder and/or substance abuse disorder are potentially at a higher risk for suicide;

WHEREAS, the church is called to be a community that breaks through fear and isolation to offer love, hope, care and healing:

WHEREAS, Jesus showed us the way to reach out to those who are ill or marginalized to offer companionship, compassion and support;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod encourages United Church of Christ congregations to adopt covenants to be WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) Congregations for Mental Health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod encourages congregations to work to eradicate stigma around mental illnesses/brain disorders, and to offer support to persons with and those impacted by mental health challenges, including their family members, loved ones and others concerned.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod encourages advocacy by all settings of the church for broader and more just access to quality mental health services including private and public insurance coverage. This advocacy includes services for all persons with mental illness who are falling through the fraying safety net, especially persons in jails/prisons, and persons who are homeless.

This "Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged" (WISE) resolution was adopted in 2015 at the 30th Annual UCC General Synod. Is your church community a WISE congregation? Learn more at: http://moredomainsforless.com/mhnusc/becominga/WISEcongregationformental/

