



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, June 14, 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

6/18 SCHOWALTER, Todd & Laura (27)

6/20 FAGERBERG, Roger & Virginia (61)

Birthdays

6/9	LIVENGOOD, Ross	6/19	DUKE, Ben
6/14	LANE, Melissa	6/19	DUKE, Josie
6/14	WOTTRICH, Evelyn	6/19	SVENSON, Ellie
6/15	MCKENZIE, Lucia	6/20	CAMERON, Tavis

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 2020 | 9:55am

Meditation

Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.

~Saint Francis of Assisi

Announcements Let us know you are here!

Passing the Peace of Christ

"May the peace of Christ be with you."
(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

Prelude Andante Cantabile (from Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5) Arr. Martha Powell Stechell

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell



Ahom



Scripture Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 (New Revised Standard Version)

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

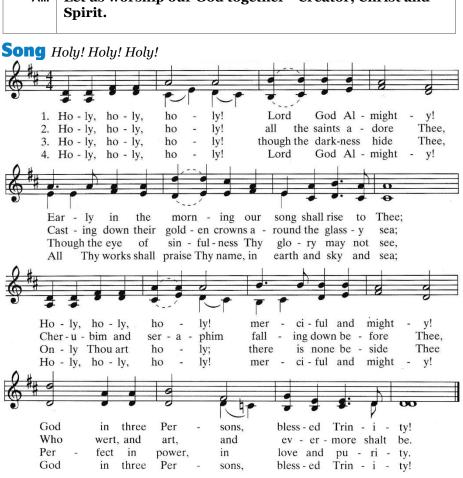
The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Call to Worship Psalm 116

The Psalter: A Faithful and Inclusive Rendering

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	One:	I am filled with love, for the Lord hears me; the Lord bends to my voice whenever I call.	
Many:		Death had me it its grip, the grave's trap was set, grief held me fast. I cried out for God, "Please, Lord, rescue me!"	
	One:	Kind and faithful is the Lord, gentle is our God. The Lord shelters the poor, raises me from the dust. Rest once more, my heart, for you know the Lord's love.	

Many:	God rescues me from death, wiping my tears, steadying my feet. I walk with the Lord in this land of the living.	
One:	I believe, even as I say, "I am afflicted." I believe, even though I scream, "Everyone lies!"	
Many:	of freedom as I call on God's name! I fulfill my vows to you Lord, standing before your assembly.	
One:		
Many:	I bring a gift of thanks, as I call on your name. I fulfill my vows to you, Lord, standing before your assembly, in the courts of your house, within the heart of Jerusalem.	
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.	



Opening Prayer Joanna Harader

We come to hear the stories of other people - in another world long ago. We come to hear the stories that are also about us today - in this place. God, give us ears to listen, eyes to see, hearts to accept, spirits ready to work. 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 separate Zoom classrooms immediately following this Children's Time

Blessing the Children Weave

Weave, weave, weave us together Weave us together in unity and love, Weave, weave, weave us together Weave us together, together in love.

Scripture Romans 5:1-5 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon Zoom Church

A Time of Prayer

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.]



Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Interlude Come, Thou Almighty King—arr. Albert Beck

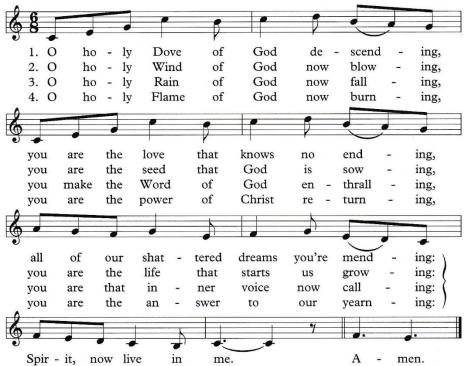
Response

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

Holy One, we commit these gifts, as well as our words and actions, to be rooted and nurtured with Your love for all of Your people and all of creation. Amen.

Song of Parting Spirit, Now Live in Me



Benediction

Annual Leadership Meeting

Announcements

Give-A-Meal Anytime this Summer!

Please consider making a financial contribution and/or sharing non-perishable food items with Isaiah 58 or Circle of Concern. They are doing critically important work these days. Monetary support can be sent to them directly. Food can be dropped there (note their restricted hours) or here on the table just inside the main doors. Learn more about these ministries: https://i58ministries.org/ http://www.circleofconcern.org/

Alzheimer's News

On May 28,2020 the FDA approved the first drug to image Tau pathology in patients being evaluated for Alzheimer's Disease. This marks a significant advancement toward making more definitive assessments when using brain imaging. Tauvid (flortaucipir F18) was approved for intravenous injection to help "tau pathology" using positron emission tomography (PET) imaging to estimate the density and distribution of aggregated tau neurofibrillary tangles, a primary marker of Alzheimer's Disease. After Tauvid is administered, it binds to sites in the brain associated with this tau protein misfolding making them more visible on the PET scan. The Alzheimer's Helpline is accessible 24/7 via 800.272.3900 and staffed by masters-level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision-making, and disease information. You can find virtual dementia caregiver resources online at alz.org/covid19help. Tools and supports are also available in Spanish.



MAD Camp Goes to the Circus ONLINE

Monday. July 27-Thursday, July 31 Join us online for a fun-filled week as we put together a video circus! We will get together online daily on Zoom to sing songs, learn tricks, play games, listen to stories, and share our amazing talents and creations in a giant circus!

It's an exciting week of learning, playing, and using the gifts God has given us! Ages 3 through entering 5th grade (Hey–6th graders and up: We need YOU to be circus leaders!)

Cost: FREE (donations are appreciated; all funds raised will go to Every Child's Hope children's home)

Register online:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSccTLKm8mxIxvjXsI57U1YUenR2xxt-nbjyc8qEGtabydBHA/viewform Questions? Email us at madcamp@parkwayucc.org

St Louis Metro Area Crop Walk 2020 Sunday, October 25 Please visit www.crophungerwalk.org/saintlouismo for all details. Enter the name of our walk, Parkway UCC and it will take you to our donation page.

Prayer List as of Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Celebrations

All the acts of kindness that are happening near and far! The momentum toward justice and equity. LGBTQIA+ Pride Month.

Concerns

Marv Herpel & family as they grieve and give thanks for Georgia*
Private family funeral being planned due to concerns about COVID-19.
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
People who are struggling with their mental health.
People who aren't feeling safe at home but are remaining there.
Individuals in all levels of leadership as they make decisions today.
Healing of relationships between the public and the police.

Continuing

Ellie Larson - fractured bone in her leg from a fall... wearing a brace. **Rosanna and Kevin Hogarty** - as her mother lives with Covid-19. **Brian Havelka** and family after his stoke (McKenzie).

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

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).

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 - cancer in remission after chemo; some pain still (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

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]

* 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]

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. **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 June 14 - our **Missouri Mid-South Conference**; mmsucc.org Week ending June 21 - **Kirkwood UCC**; kirkwooducc.org

Thank you from Carol Wilbois

I am overwhelmed with the huge response I have received in response to Ron's passing. Your cards are comforting as I struggle with loss and change. It inspires me to be more aware of the needs of others. Thank you Parkway for being a caring congregation. ~Carol

God said to Noah, "Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch." ... At the end of the forty days, Noah opened the window of the ark - Genesis 6:14 and 8:6 (NRSV)

Noah's ark is the boat God uses to spare Noah, his family, and a bunch of animals from the stormy torrent. It's not just a children's toy or fantastical book, but a profound memory of a deluge. The story of Noah's ark is told, with variations, across Abrahamic traditions. The tale of a great flood is found in the oral tradition of many ancient civilizations.

In other words, it ain't the first deluge and it won't be the last.

When children play with their toy arks, they lose pieces along the way. Just one giraffe remains. The monkeys disappear, only to turn up years later under the bed. Today we have lost more than our toys. We have lost a lot.

We are desperate for a forty-day calendar invite – and none is forthcoming. We are counting the days one "slice" of toilet paper at a time; those paper perforations let us laugh at how scared we are.

We so want to come out of zombie zoom and unmute ourselves. We want to touch or be touched. For now we are all untouchables and very touchy.

I miss the future. And from within the ark, all I can see is a different future. The end of the office. The end of school. The end of church. The end.

Advice-givers say, "Lower your expectations." So, I will. I will make this journey without a suitcase, without a map, without guides. I'll travel itinerary-free. Noah probably did too, until the dove and the rainbow changed his mind.

Prayer: God of flood and ark, calendars and eternity, draw near. Future us in new ways. Amen.

When people say, "We have made it through worse before." by Clint Smith

all I hear is the wind slapping against the gravestones of those who did not make it, those who did not survive to see the confetti fall from the sky, those who

did not live to watch the parade roll down the street. I have grown accustomed to a lifetime of aphorisms meant to assuage my fears, pithy sayings meant to

convey that everything ends up fine in the end. There is no solace in rearranging language to make a different word tell the same lie. Sometimes the moral arc of the universe

does not bend in a direction that will comfort us. Sometimes it bends in ways we don't expect & there are people who fall off in the process. Please, dear reader,

do not say I am hopeless, I believe there is a better future to fight for, I simply accept the possibility that I may not live to see it. I have grown weary of telling myself lies

that I might one day begin to believe. We are not all left standing after the war has ended. Some of us have become ghosts by the time the dust has settled.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 14, 2020

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

Sarah Laughed

Sarah laughed when she heard the news that, in her advanced age, she would bear a child. She did not expect that she had much life left to give. Too often, our culture reflects Sarah's belief that there is not much life left in our elders.

United Church Homes (UCH) has another vision. According to their website https://www.unitedchurchhomes.org/, the UCH vision, where the Spirit creates Abundant Life in Community, reflects their faith-inspired ties with the United Church of Christ, and propels this organization into new ways of thinking and talking about aging. United Church Homes celebrates older adults as they explore evolving healthcare and senior living options to appeal to a new generation of people living longer, more active lives after retirement.

*"We help UCH residents define what living abundantly means to them as individuals, providing experiences that lead to more joy, and purpose, in their interactions with others. That is why United Church Homes is:

- an Open and Affirming provider of healthcare and housing services for older adults
- a thought leader in driving conversations around what abundant life means
- leading culture change to transform older adult services from institutionaldirected care to person-directed care that promotes choice, dignity, respect, self-determination and purposeful living

We've expanded quite a bit from our first "home for the aged" built in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, in 1916," their website proclaims, "Today, United Church Homes owns or manages more than 70 communities in 14 states and two Native American nations. We provide affordable housing, independent living, assisted living, long-term care, rehabilitative care and memory care to thousands of older adults."

As our population ages, so does the need for creativity in finding new ways to not just survive our retirement years, but to thrive in them. For United Church Homes, abundant life at all ages is no laughing matter.

Find out more about United Church Homes in your area by checking their website https://www.unitedchurchhomes.org/ or calling their national offices (866-279-5125).

^{*}Accessed January 2020. https://www.unitedchurchhomes.org/

