



DARING DISCIPLESHIP



Sunday, June 21, 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

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

Office Hours: Mon - Thu 8:30am-3:00pm; Fri 8:30am-12:30pm

Kevin Hogarty, *President of the Church Council* [kevin.hogarty@outlook.com]

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

Barb Kuhlmann, *Director of Christian Education/Youth* [barbk@parkwayucc.org]

Barry Luedloff, *Music Director* [barry@parkwayucc.org]

Mona Smith Herberg, *Office Administrator* [mona@parkwayucc.org]

Kathy Ferrell, *Office Assistant* [kathy@parkwayucc.org]

Rich Race, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]

Susan Thomson, *Financial Administrator* [finance.admin@parkwayucc.org]

Julie Connors, *Nursery* [juliestl1992@yahoo.com]

Emma Pennycuik, *Nursery*

Joyce Ruiz, *Alzheimer's Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador* [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com]

Polly Rutherford, *Environmental Justice/Sustainability Seekers* [pollyrutherford@gmail.com]

John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

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

6/24 STOLZE, Mike & Cherie (20)

6/25 MAXEINER, Tom & Mary (20)

6/27 ROESLER, Paul & Stephanie Polster (28)

Birthdays

6/22 SEETHARAMAN, Jay

6/25 DOMBEK, Charles

6/24 MASON, Lisa

6/27 SHELTON, Peter

6/24 SCHEFFEL, William

These birthdays were accidentally omitted in last Sunday's bulletin:

6/14 WOTTRICH, Evelyn

6/15 MCKENZIE, Lucia

6/15 MOELLERING, Susan

3rd Sunday *after* Pentecost

June 21, 2020 | 9:55am

Meditation *This is important: to get to know people, listen, expand the circle of ideas. The world is crisscrossed by roads that come closer together and move apart, but the important thing is that they lead towards the Good.*
~Pope Francis

Announcements Please 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 *Weak and Weary*—performed by Greg Schmelig

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Morning Has Broken*



1. Morn-ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has
2. Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the



spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness Of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, Praise ev - ery



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!
gar - den, Sprung in com - plete - ness Where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

Scripture Genesis 21:8-21 (CEB – Common English Bible)

The boy Isaac grew and stopped nursing. On the day he stopped nursing, Abraham prepared a huge banquet. Sarah saw Hagar's son laughing, the one Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham. So she said to Abraham, "Send this servant away with her son! This servant's son won't share the inheritance with my son Isaac."

This upset Abraham terribly because the boy was his son. God said to Abraham, "Don't be upset about the boy and your servant."

Do everything Sarah tells you to do because your descendants will be traced through Isaac. But I will make of your servant’s son a great nation too, because he is also your descendant.” Abraham got up early in the morning, took some bread and a flask of water, and gave it to Hagar. He put the boy in her shoulder sling and sent her away.

She left and wandered through the desert near Beer-sheba. Finally the water in the flask ran out, and she put the boy down under one of the desert shrubs. She walked away from him about as far as a bow shot and sat down, telling herself, “I can’t bear to see the boy die.” She sat at a distance, cried out in grief, and wept.

God heard the boy’s cries, and God’s messenger called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “Hagar! What’s wrong? Don’t be afraid. God has heard the boy’s cries over there. Get up, pick up the boy, and take him by the hand because I will make of him a great nation.” Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well. She went over, filled the water flask, and gave the boy a drink. God remained with the boy; he grew up, lived in the desert, and became an expert archer. He lived in the Paran desert, and his mother found him an Egyptian wife.

Call to Worship

One:	In the beginning God created.
Many:	And it was good.
One:	In the present God creates.
Many:	And it is good.
One:	In the future God will continue creating.
Many:	And it will be good.
One:	Let us gather to worship our God.
Many:	Who creates goodness in, through, and all around us.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Song *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived its frame,
3. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
4. Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, Soon bears us all a - way;



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
We fly for - got - ten, as a dream Dies at the o - pening day.

5. Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

Opening Prayer

Holy One, God of Hagar and Sarah and Abraham, Isaac and Ishmael, continue to call us into community across boundaries, providing water in the desert and the promise of a future. Help us to see and trust that grace is working in our lives—opening hearts, restoring justice, making all things new with the Spirit.

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love—the sharing of a common life is like to that above. We come and pour our ardent prayers before You—our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our care. We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear, and from our hearts the strength will flow—for justice made and shared. 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 *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.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Nathaniel Owen Goldstein

Nay-ton-el El-hanon Ben Meh-nah-chem Yitz-huk

Parents: Dawn Jones Goldstein and David Goldstein

Brothers: Mikey and Daniel Jones

Grandparents: Doug and Tina Jones

Godparents: Pam and Alex Weindel

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּי וְקִיָּמָנוּ
וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לַזְמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

Gathering Words

written by Oscar Rosenbloom, Interfaith Community of Palo Alto

One:	We gather here as an Interfaith Community to share and celebrate the gift of life together.
Many:	Some of us gather as the Children of Israel. Some of us gather in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Some of us gather influenced by each.
One:	However we come, and whoever we are, may we be moved in our time together
Many:	to experience that sense of Divine presence in each of us evoked by our worship together in this sacred space.
All:	And to know in the wisdom of our hearts that deeper unity in which all are One.

Introduction

Hebrew Bible Lesson Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

BAPTISM

Nathaniel Owen Goldstein

Nay-ton-el El-hanon Ben Meh-nah-chem Yitz-huk

Affirmation of Faith with Dawn

Do you believe in the ways of God - creating, collaborating, encouraging?

Do you believe in the ways of Christ - humility, healing, hope?

Do you believe in the ways of the Spirit - guidance, generosity, grace?

Affirmation of Faith with David

Do you respect God and all that God has created?

Do you respect the family and the role we each play in caring for one another?

Do you respect humanity and all that binds us together - though we may be different from one another?

Baptism Questions

Questions for Parents... Dawn and David

Do you desire to have your child baptized into this Christian community?

Do you promise to encourage your child to learn from the wisdom of the prophets - doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God?

Do you promise to foster for your child an appreciation for the life and teachings of Jesus in concert with an appreciation for the life and teachings of Judaism?

Do you promise to teach your child to honor the faith questions that belong to him throughout his life?

Do you promise to journey with your child to discover the wonder of God's love made known here and in all of creation?

Do you promise to encourage one another in the building up of community - across all differences and similarities - especially serving people who are hungry and thirsty in body, mind, spirit and relationship?

Brothers... Mikey and Daniel

Do you promise to be there for your brother Nate, in good times and in bad - looking out for him, listening to him, learning and laughing with him - loving him all the days of your lives?

Grandparents... Doug and Tina

We are told in the New Testament that *love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*

Do you promise to do all that you can do to bring more love to Nate and his family?

Godparents... Pam and Alex

Do you accept a special relationship with Nate and his family? Will you support them in love and deed, praying for them in every season of their lives? And do you promise to share the responsibility of guiding Nate in the way of Jesus Christ by your own example?

Question for the Congregation

Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our tables and hearts to those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the ages to all who hunger for truth. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Nate and his family as he lives and grows in this Christian community and in our Interfaith world?

All: We promise our love, support and care.

Baptismal Prayer UCC Book of Worship, adapted

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land. You have come to us through water in the stories of Jesus who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, and became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and sent them forth to baptize with water and spirit. Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. Bless all who touch and taste this water that we may be ever reminded of your abiding presence and claim on their lives. Amen.

Pouring of the Water

Act of Baptism

Prayer of Dedication

God of wonder and grace, we thank you for your love revealed here this day as this community, these parents and siblings come together making covenant promises. We pray that this community will have the grace to uphold the promises made here now, providing a safe shelter of your love in which Nate may play and grow. We pray that Dawn and David, Nate, Daniel and Mikey may continue to feel the sweet wonder of your presence so transparent here today. We pray that Nate will bask in your love as he makes his own journey through this life. Amen.

Gifts from the Church

Blessing Nate and All Children

Bless our children's minds with intelligence and wisdom.
Bless their eyes so they will see great vistas.
Bless their nose with delicious and fragrant aromas.
Bless their mouth for the enjoyments of tasting and talking.
Bless their hearts with deep love and a strong steady beat.
Bless their arms for embracing friendship and love.
Bless their feet so they will carry them happily through their days.

Response *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*—John Ylvisaker
**I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, To see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, With a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off And find where demons dwell.**

**When you found the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the Living God,
To whom you now belong.
Should you find someone to share your time
And you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme From dusk till rising sun.**

**In the middle ages of your life Not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
Complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in And you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been With just one more surprise.**

**I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, To see your life unfold.**

Scripture Genesis 22:1-14 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.”

So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.”

Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

So Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

Moment of Silence

Sermon *Being There*

Song *When Jesus Called You “Father”*

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D (“The Church’s One Foundation”)

**When Jesus called you “Father” in teaching folks to pray,
And when he said we’re children who need to trust your way,
O God, he knew your closeness, your guidance from above.
Perhaps in Joseph’s caring, he’d learned to trust your love.**

**Some cannot call you Father; they will not use that name.
The fathers they have known here have caused them fear and pain;
And though you’re like a father, you’re like a mother, too.
No single name can ever tell all we know of you.**

**Yet Jesus in his teaching described a father’s joy
When, at his son’s returning, he ran to greet his boy.
O God, when we have hurt you and struggled on our own,
Just like that loving parent, you run to bring us home.**

**O God, you seek to save us, no matter what the cost;
Our Father, your intention is no one will be lost.
As Jesus called you “Abba,” and trusted in your plans,
We trust in you to guide us! Our lives are in your hands.**

**You hold your children’s future when all will be made new.
Your house has many dwellings so we may live with you.
Just like a loving father, you answer when we pray.
In thanks, may we your children now follow you each day.**

Litany for Father’s Day

Adapted by Robb McCoy, United Methodist Book of Worship

One: For fathers everywhere, who have given us life and love, that we may show them respect and care.

Many: **Holy God, hear this prayer for our fathers.**

One: For fathers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them.

Many: **Holy God, hear this prayer for our fathers that mourn.**

One: For men who may or may not have children of their own, but act like a father to someone in need of advice, support, nurture and love.

Many: **Holy God, hear this prayer for our father figures.**

One: For step-fathers who have loved the children of another as their own, and created a new family.

Many: **Holy God, hear this prayer for step-fathers.**

One: For adoptive fathers, who have heard the call of God to lovingly step forward for those that need their care.

Many: Holy God, hear this prayer for adoptive fathers.

One: For fathers who have been unable to be a source of strength, who have not responded to the needs of their children, and have not sustained their families.

Many: Holy God, have mercy on absentee fathers.

One: For fathers who struggle with temptation, violence, or addiction. For those who do harm, and for those whom they have harmed.

Many: Holy God, have mercy on fathers and families that struggle.

One: For new fathers, full of hope. For long-time fathers, full of wisdom. For the fathers yet to be, and fathers soon to be.

Many: Holy God, hear our prayer for the fathers of our Church.

One: For those that have shaped our lives without claim of family or kinship. For those who have taught us, guided us, shaped us and molded us into Christ's disciples.

Many: Holy God, hear our prayer for the fathers of our faith.

All: God our Parent, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as fathers. Let what we learn from them about faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their daughters and sons, honor them always with a spirit of profound respect – even if that is complicated. Grant this through your Spirit. Amen

Response *Amazing Grace*

Cassie Rosenberger, flute

Barry Luedloff, piano

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer sung to the tune by Nate Stout

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.]

Reflection on A Father Evelyn Buretta

Offering Our Gifts to God *We Shall Not Be Moved*

Ginny Brown Daniel, Conference Minister, Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC

Prayer of Dedication Carol Penner

We walk by faith, we live by faith, we give by faith. God of great gifts, you have given us so much. Accept these gifts from our hands, our faithful response to your abundant grace. May they be used to multiply faith and grace. Amen.

Song *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*



1. Moth-er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
2. Moth-er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
3. Moth-er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of

morn - ing of this world. Cre - at - or, source of
me your food of light, grain of life, and
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I

ev - ery breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
grape of love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
root and grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Benediction

Response

God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth

Theme from 2nd Movement, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony—John Hess

Announcements

Give-A-Meal Anytime this Summer!

Make a financial contribution and/or share 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. <https://i58ministries.org/> **and** <http://www.circleofconcern.org/>

Intertwine Interfaith Spiritual Sustenance Session 3

Abrahamic traditions—Myths & Truths

Thursday, June 25 | 6:00pm | via ZOOM

Join the conversations when we answer YOUR questions about the three Abrahamic religions. This is a safe space to ask respectful questions, dispel myths, learn what the religions have in common, and celebrate our differences.

To make this experience meaningful and authentic, please use this confidential Google form to anonymously submit questions by June 23:
<https://forms.gle/gE5kt7Tz3aPrFNuPA>

Zoom Meeting Info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82208181548?pwd=VU1aakpnRUFRVXBrUDdPL2pxRVlWQT09>

Meeting ID: 822 0818 1548

Password: 1SWWPp

Shalom-Salaam-Peace

TED Continues Discussion: The Line Becomes a River

Tuesdays: June 23 & July 14 | 7:00pm | via ZOOM

More info: <https://parkwayucc.org/2020/book-discussion-the-line-becomes-a-river/> **or** contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net

Join Zoom Meeting at 7:00pm Tuesday

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82879875146>; Meeting ID: 828 7987 5146

By phone: 1 312 626 6799

The Condor and the Eagle Documentary

Sunday, June 28 | 5:00 - 7:30pm | online viewing

An exciting new award-winning film, *The Condor and the Eagle* is part of Interfaith Power & Light's summer film series! This film highlights the work of Indigenous and Hispanic environmental leaders in the Americas as they battle to safeguard their communities from the impact of fossil fuel development.

This multi-faith film event includes a post-viewing webinar with some of the advocates featured in the film. Don't miss this important opportunity to learn about the disproportionate impact of our use of fossil fuels on frontline black, brown, and indigenous communities.

Register to view: <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/74/n7yn7f15>

MAD Camp Goes to the Circus ONLINE

Monday July 27-Thursday, July 31

We will get together online daily on Zoom. Ages 3 through entering 5th grade (We need 6th graders and up to be circus leaders!)

Cost: FREE (donations will go to Every Child's Hope children's home)

Register online: <https://tinyurl.com/madcamp-2020>

Questions? Email us at madcamp@parkwayucc.org

PUCC Prayer List

as of June 17, 2020

Celebrations

All the acts of kindness that are happening near and far!

The momentum toward justice and equity.

LGBTQIA+ Pride Month.

Jessica Connors graduated SIU-Edwardsville with high honors ~ special education degree... will teach 2nd grade special ed in Edwardsville!

Concerns

Marv Herpel & family as they grieve and give thanks for Georgia ** Memorial Service being planned for later due to COVID-19 concerns.

Marty & Sharon - amidst challenges of Marty's total paralysis (Akers).

John and Audrey Nourse - as he heals from successful back surgery.

Crown Center residents and staff grieving three residents this month.

The family of **Abby McCarthy** as they grieve and give thanks for her.

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.

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]

St Louis Assn UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending June 21 - **Kirkwood UCC**; kirkwooducc.org

Week ending June 28 - **Carondelet UCC**;

<https://www.facebook.com/Carondelet-United-Church-of-Christ-194410037640100/>

June 21, 2020

Matthew 10:24-39

Daring Discipleship

Father's Day

Today's scripture reminds us that there is nothing so small and insignificant that it fails to fall under God's watchful care.

It's a great reminder on this, the 63rd anniversary (6/25/2020) of the United Church of Christ. This is just an ordinary, even insignificant year. If you try to look it up, you will find that there is no traditional 63rd anniversary gift. A 63rd might go by unremarked.

One of the hallmarks of the United Church of Christ is that we follow Christ in noticing that which goes unnoticed by others. This year don't let the 63rd anniversary of the United Church of Christ pass without a celebration. What are some of the ways you can celebrate the UCC on this ordinary birthday year?

1. Find out more about the history of the ever-changing denomination and the ecumenical movements that came together to found the UCC. Trying checking out <https://www.ucc.org/about-us-hidden-histories> for more information.
2. Give a gift of \$63 (or \$630 or \$6300!) to the UCC's disaster relief fund. (<https://www.ucc.org/disaster>). UCC Disaster Ministries works with established, local organizations to provide spiritual, physical, financial and psychological support to those living in the aftermath of disaster.
3. Look for and list 63 ways that God is at work in and through your local congregation. Share your list with a friend. What ways are the same and which are different?
4. Make a commitment to pray for your local congregation, conference or association daily for the next 63 days. Notice how your prayers change things.
5. Get a cake, blow up some balloons, invite your congregation to gather and have a party! As followers of Christ, who blessed the smallest and least significant things, we don't need to wait for a big birthday to celebrate.

