

A close-up photograph of a pair of hands, palms up, holding a small, vibrant green heart-shaped leaf. The hands are positioned to frame the leaf, with fingers slightly curled. The background is dark and out of focus. A semi-transparent horizontal band with a rainbow gradient runs across the middle of the image, behind the text.

Holy Welcome

Sunday, June 28, 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

6/30 CONNORS, Dan & Lori (31)

7/2 RUTHERFORD, Polly & Mike (47)

Birthdays

6/29 DEUSER, June

6/30 WADDELL, Andrew

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/>

Announcements

TODAY! 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! It 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>

TED Continues Discussion: The Line Becomes a River

Tuesday, 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 July 24

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83274633538>

Meeting ID: 832 7463 3538

By phone: 1 312 626 6799



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/1FAIpQLScCTLKm8mxIxxvjXsI57U1YUenR2xxt-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.

4th Sunday *after* Pentecost

June 28, 2020 | 9:55am

Meditation The crowds learned about it and followed Him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing. ~Luke 9:11

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 *Hsuan P'Ing*—arr. W. H. Wong, 1973

Based on a Confucian chant

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *You Are Welcome Here*

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and welcoming, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "You are wel - come here, no mat ter who you are, no mat ter where you are on life's jour - ney. You are wel come here, no mat -ter who you are, come and join with us, in our U - ni -ted Church of Christ."

You are wel - come here, no mat ter who you are, no mat ter
where you are on life's jour - ney. You are wel come here,
no mat -ter who you are, come and
join with us, in our U - ni -ted Church of Christ.

Scripture Matthew 10:40-42 (NRSV—New Revised Standard Version)

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Call to Worship Mark Kneebone

One:	From ancient times to this present day, people have gathered in sacred spaces like we are today.
Many:	Moments of time fold together when we immerse ourselves in love and connection.
One:	We ask for Divine Love to be revealed to us in this gathering.
Many:	We open our spirits to the depth and breadth of Divine Presence.
One:	We listen for sacred whisperings and await holy joy to be written on our hearts.
Many:	Being truly ourselves, we come together in this eternal moment.
One:	We bring our prayers to God as one community, one assembled body.
Many:	We are Transgender, Nonbinary, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Intersex, Gay, Queer, Ally. Beloved people of God. We come, and we pledge our commitment to walk the path of Jesus.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Song *Part of the Family*

Come in, come in and sit down You are a part of the
fam - 'ly. We are lost and we are found, and *Fine*
we are a part of the fam - 'ly.

1. You know the rea - son why you came _____
God is with us in this place _____
2. Chil - dren and eld - ers mid - dlers and teens, _____
Greet - ers and shop - pers, long time and new _____
3. There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine, _____
There's rest for the wear - ry and health for us all, There's a



Yet _____ no rea - son can _____ ex - plain, So
 Like _____ a moth - er's warm _____ em - brace, _____
 Sin - gles and dou - bles and in - be - tweens, _____
 No - bod - y here has a claim on a pew, And
 We are the branch - es _____ Christ is the vine, _____
 yoke that is eas - y and a bur - den that's small, So

share in the laugh - ter and cry in the pain For
 We're all for - giv - en by _____ God's grace For
 Strong eight - y - fiv - ers and street - wise six - teens, _____
 wheth - er we're man - y or on - ly a few _____
 This is God's tem - ple, it's not yours or mine But
 come in and wor - ship and an - swer the call For

1. _____ 2. D.C. _____
 we are a part of the fam - 'ly.
 we are a part of the fam - 'ly.
 We are a part of the fam - 'ly.
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 we are a part of the fam - 'ly.

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Call to Confession and Unison Prayer of Confession

Based on *We are Descendants* by Lavon Baylor

God, we are descendants of your righteous ones, those who obeyed, your beloved children; greeting your covenant with joyous praise Through fearful nights and problem laden days.

You were our refuge through all times of change, when the world seemed harsh and strange. We followed your lead even when the path was obscured, the way to grace hidden behind our own fear.

God, we witness the violence of the world, too often callously dispensed against the most vulnerable; too often targeting our Black, Latinx, and Indigenous siblings. You deliver us from a world filled with inequities.

Forgive us, God, for breaking our covenants. Forgive us, God, for those moments when we stayed silent and ignored your command to speak. Forgive us, God, for those times when we witnessed harm and did not intervene. Forgive us, O God, for those moments when we forgot to act always in love for one another.

We have been blessed with gifts so manifold! Heaven and earth, and wonders yet untold. Proclaim your love divine, O God of Light. May we, your people, reaffirm our covenant in your name. Pledging to walk as allies, as disciples, as apostles, as friends committed to the Way of your child, Jesus. Amen.

Response *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian, v2*



1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In - a my heart, in - a my heart,
2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart, in - a my heart,
3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In - a my heart, in - a my heart,
4. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In - a my heart, in - a my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In - a my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In - a my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In - a my heart.



In - a my heart, In - a my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In - a my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In - a my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In - a my heart.

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 Matthew 25:31-46 (CEB – Common English Bible)

“Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left.

“Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.’

“Then those who are righteous will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

“Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. I was hungry and you didn’t give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn’t give me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you didn’t welcome me. I was naked and you didn’t give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’

“Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn’t do anything to help you?’ Then he will answer, ‘I assure you that when you haven’t done it for one of the least of these, you haven’t done it for me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment. But the righteous ones will go into eternal life.”

Response Kimi Floyd Reisch

God, your child Jesus taught us to welcome each other, but welcome often seems too little in this world.

Welcome, without affirmation, becomes an empty promise, devoid of the lesson that to truly welcome each other means to see the face of God in each other.

We commit to affirm all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people—welcoming them and affirming them as God’s beloved creations. You taught us that whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will see a prophet’s reward;

that whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous.

We know that until we are all free, none of us can be free, and we commit to co-creating that world of welcome and affirmation until all people can access that promise. Amen

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon Welcome!

Call to Prayer You Are Mine



1. — I will come to you in the si - lence, —
2. — I am hope for all who are hope-less, —
3. — I am strength for all the de - spair-ing, —
4. I am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from — all your fear.

I am eyes for all who long to see. In the

heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.

am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be

shad-ows of the night, I will be your light,

All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and

I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain, stand



still and know I am here. _____

come and rest in

all will know my

up, now walk, and



me. _____

name. _____ Do not be a - fraid, I am

live! _____



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 *God Made from One Love*

(tune: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise)

**God made from one love all the families of earth,
The circles of nurture that raise us from birth,
Companions who join us to work through each stage
Of childhood and youth and adulthood and age.**

**We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears
For all of the families we've known through the years,
The intimate networks on whom we depend
Of parents and partners and children and friends.**

**Through families we've tasted the value of trust
And felt what it means to be loving and just,
Yet families have also betrayed their best goals,
Mistreating their members and bruising their souls.**

**Help families in all of their various forms
To face with integrity struggles and storms;
Grant peace to our homes that will nurture the bud
Of peace for the families you made from one love.**

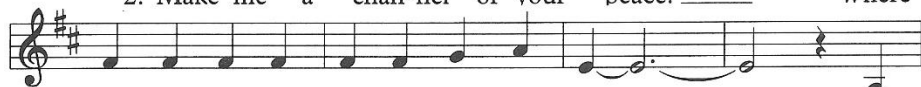
Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory *Menuett*—Wilhelm Friedemann Bach (1710-1784)

Response *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



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. _____ Where
there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. _____ Where



there is in - ju - ry, your par-don, Lord, _____ and
there is dark - ness, _____ on - ly light, _____ and



where there's doubt, true faith in you. _____
where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy. _____

Prayer of Dedication *Mark Kneebone*

We are all one human family. In your love you created us. Through your grace you reach out to us. You are great enough to hold us all in your arms at the same time. Help us to open our hearts to the world that you love. Teach us to weave our lives together. We yield to Spirit, offering what we have to the greater good. In this way, each day, we begin again in love. Amen.

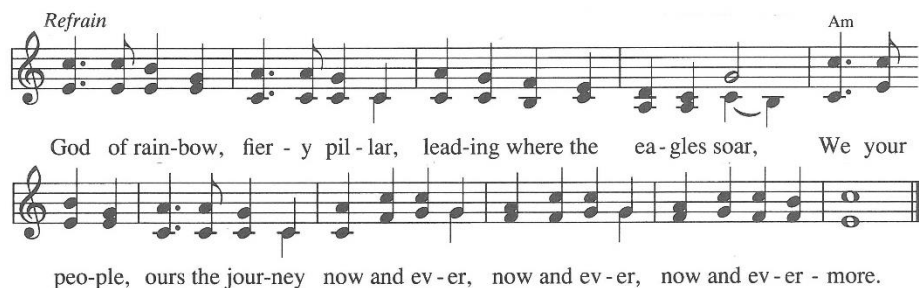
Song of Parting *In the Midst of New Dimensions*



1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
4 We are one and we are man - y all per-sua-sions, old and young,
5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,



Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.



Benediction Kimi Floyd Reisch

Continue to serve with faith and love. Depart from this time today committed to sharing the best of yourself. Through generosity of time and resources - meeting the needs of others, both spoken and unspoken, seen and unseen, heard and unheard. As the God of healing has healed us, let us go now and share that compassion with the world. Let us go and greet our beloved transgender, bisexual, lesbian, and gay siblings, our Black, Latinx, Indigenous, siblings. Sharing the good news that they are seen, they are heard, they are Beloved. Go now in hope. Amen.

God's Light Goes Forth

Postlude Improvisations on *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*

(Lasst Uns Erfreun w/ Alleluias—Geistliche Kirchengesang, 1623)

The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ celebrates with LGBTQ Americans across the country today's victory in the Supreme Court.

In the past three and a half years, the Trump Administration has sought to erase every freedom the LGBTQ community has earned in decades of struggle. But today's decision confirms that federal civil rights law protects LGBTQ people from job discrimination in every state. Trump's attempt to deprive LGBTQ Americans of that protection has failed.

This is especially a victory for the transgender and nonbinary community: the Court affirmed that federal protections are not limited to sexual orientation, but cover gender identity as well.

Today is a day of celebration, and a victory even more important for the cause of equality than the marriage ruling five years ago. Thanks to this decision, LGBTQ communities can now breathe the air of freedom in 25 states where there was no statewide protection against job discrimination.

Our joy, however, is tempered by the grief we feel over the events of the past several weeks, which have reminded us of the persistence of racial injustice in our country— injustice that threatens LGBTQ people of color as well. Nor can we forget for a moment the deaths of transgender women of color on the streets of our cities, or that transgender Americans cannot serve openly in the armed forces, or that discrimination in housing and public accommodations is still legal in 25 states. So our work continues. But the Supreme Court's action renews our hope that, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."

The Leadership Team - Open and Affirming Coalition, United Church of Christ

PUCC Prayer List

as of June 24, 2020

Celebrations

Nate Goldstein's Baptism here at PUCC on June 17/21.

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

The momentum toward justice and equity.

LGBTQIA+ Pride Month.*

Ben Weas - Whitfield grad earned award all 7 years and the Upper School Musician award; headed to UCC related Elon University, NC.

Concerns

Jack & Peggy Sieber - getting accustomed to his pacemaker on 6-19.

Kathleen Tarr - issues with her retina.

Marv Herpel & family as they grieve and give thanks for Georgia.

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

David Haack - hospitalized with COVID-19 (Bill's dad).

Dave Silverman - suffering a recurrence of life-threatening cancer.

Tom Gaffuri - heart trouble is flaring up again.

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.

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 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 - 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.

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 28 - **Carondelet UCC**;

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

Week ending July 5 - **Parkway UCC, St Louis!** parkwayucc.org



June 28, 2020

Matthew 10:40-42

Holy Welcome

Open and Affirming Sunday

Today, on *Open and Affirming Sunday*, we celebrate the United Church of Christ's "Holy Welcome" to the full diversity of LGBTQ+ people. One of the blessings of this work is that our denomination does not go it alone. Consistent with our motto "That they may all be one," we join the welcoming movements of many other denominations in working for full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in houses of worship and faith communities across the nation.

You and others in your church community are invited to join this ecumenical movement, by hosting or attending a "Building an Inclusive Church" training.

According to the Institute for Welcoming Resources (<http://www.welcomingresources.org/communityorg.htm>), *"The Building an Inclusive Church trainings help you design and implement a process for your congregation to publicly and intentionally welcome people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. Building an Inclusive Church equips you with ways to create dialogue, deepening relationships throughout the congregation rather than sparking debate and division.

You will have opportunities to engage through a mix of presentation, hands-on practice, and small group discussion. Many of the tools you will learn come from faith-based relational organizing, such as the one-to-one visit and strategic storytelling. Grounded in scripture and discipleship, this training allows you to explore your own Christian call to hospitality and evangelism.

If you are currently in a welcoming process, if you are thinking about starting a welcoming process, or if you fear what would happen if you began openly discussing a welcome to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, this training could be for you! Feel free to invite your clergy and other members of your congregation to attend with you. And because this curriculum is shared across the ecumenical Welcoming Church Movement, feel free to share this with friends from other denominations."

*Accessed January 2020. <http://www.welcomingresources.org/communityorg.htm>

