



Christmas  
*in*  
July



Parkway United Church of Christ  
July 12, 2020

Sunday, July 12, 2020

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## Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

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### 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

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**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](http://www.parkwayucc.org)

**Communications Requests:** Please use the form at [www.parkwayucc.org/communications](http://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

7/15 MASON, Mike & Lisa (15)

## Birthdays

7/15 MATTEUCCI, Nicky

7/17 WESSEL, Cindy

7/16 WINTER, Jane

7/18 BIONDO, Joe

7/17 BROWN, Cynthia

7/18 DEGROOTE, Joan

## 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/>

# Christmas in July

July 12, 2020 | 9:55am

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**Prelude** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**Welcome**

**Gathering Song**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**O Come All Ye Faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels;  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord.**

**Centering in the Light of Christ**

John 1:1-5 (NRSV - New Revised Standard Version)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**Song** *Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness*

*Tune: Come Thou Font of Every Blessing*

**Praise the one who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.**

**Praise the one who frees the prisoners,  
Turning blindness into sight.**

**Praise the one who preached the Gospel,  
Healing every dread disease,**

**Calming storms and feeding thousands  
With the very bread of peace.**

**Praise the one who blessed the children  
With a strong yet gentle word.**

**Praise the one who drove out demons  
With a piercing two-edged sword.**

**Praise the one who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand.  
From this well comes living water, Quenching thirst in every land.**

**Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ who shares love every place.**

**Jesus lived and rose for many that we may know God's full grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,**

**Seeing what our God has done.**

**Praise the one in hope and glory, Praise the One who makes us one.**

# Sharing the Hope, Peace, Joy & Love of Christ

## Response

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing,  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo... Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

## Opening Prayer

Jesus, be my center. Root me, anchor me, set me free. Be my hope—long and patient. Be my light—bright and unwavering. Be my intentional center. Be my peace—deep and wide. Be in my words. Be in my actions. Be my courage and my creativity. Be the fire in my heart. Be the wind in my sails. Be the reason that I live. Show me how to love. Amen.

## Hebrew Scripture Lesson Isaiah 9, selected verses

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Parent, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## Response

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**Children's Time** Children and Youth are invited to separate Zoom classrooms immediately following this Children's Time.

## Blessing the Children

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

## Mary's Story

Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:46-55 (MSG - The Message)

And Mary said,

I’m bursting with God-news;

I’m dancing the song of my Savior God.

God took one good look at me, and look what happened—

I’m the most fortunate woman on earth!

What God has done for me will never be forgotten,

the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.

God’s mercy flows in wave after wave

on those who are in awe in God’s presence.

God bared arm and showed strength,

scattered the bluffing braggarts.

God knocked tyrants off their high horses,

pulled victims out of the mud.

The starving poor sat down to a banquet;

the callous rich were left out in the cold.

God embraced the chosen child, Israel;

remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high.

It’s exactly what God promised,

beginning with Abraham and right up to now.

### **Song** *Mary Heard the Angel’s Message*

(Tune: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling)

**Mary heard the angel’s message: “Greetings, Mary, favored one!**

**Do not fear, for God is with you; You will one day bear God’s Son.”**

**Filled with questions, filled with wonder,**

**She proclaimed her faith in God:**

**“May it be as you have spoken; I’m the servant of the Lord!”**

**When she heard her cousin’s greeting,**

**Mary’s heart was filled with joy,**

**So she sang of God’s great blessing - promised in her baby boy:**

**“God has looked on me with favor, so I sing this song of praise.**

**God has worked, the proud to scatter...**

**Humble, hungry ones to raise.”**

Mary heard the shepherds' story,  
Words she treasured with delight.  
Then an angel gave the warning: "Flee with Jesus in the night!"  
Mary wondered in her anguish,  
What would be the pain he'd know?  
Fleeing then, she held him closely... One day she would let him go.

Mary heard, "Who is my mother? Who is in my family?  
All who do the Holy's bidding—All these ones belong to me."  
Later, on the hill she heard him, "Woman, see your new son there!  
You, my friend, behold your mother!"  
So Christ formed new bonds of care.

When they learned the Lord had risen,  
Christ's disciples met to pray.  
Mary was among the faithful, Bound in love, on Jesus' Way.  
God, we see her, Christ's disciple, Loving, learning, serving, too.  
Like her, we hear and answer,  
"We, your servants, live for you."

## Joseph's Story

Matthew 1:18-24a (CEB – Common English Bible)

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly.

As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, And they will call him, Emmanuel. (Emmanuel means "God with us.")

When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded.

**Song** *A New Father, Awe-Struck* – Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

(Tune: Away in a Manger)

**A new father, awe-struck; a mother so mild;  
A stable; a manger; a dear, newborn child —  
God, as we imagine that family so blessed,  
We sometimes forget they were poor and oppressed.**

**A woman—considered to have no real worth—  
Said, yes! She would bear your own Son here on earth.  
We hear her bold singing! Her faithful words soar:  
"God humbles the rich and God lifts up the poor."**

**As Joseph and Mary began a new home,  
They suffered oppression from rulers in Rome.  
Then, fleeing from Herod to save their son's life,  
They looked for a land free from violence and strife.**

**We hear in our own day the cries of the poor;  
We see in our world the terror of war.  
In women and children and men who must flee,  
We glimpse, Lord, your life as a young refugee.**

**When some say that only the wealthy have worth,  
O God, we recall where you lived here on earth.  
May we in your church serve the poor and distressed;  
For, working for justice, we give you our best.**

## **The Shepherd's Story**

Luke 2:8-20 (NIV - New International Version)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom God's favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**Song** *"Fear Not," The Angel Said*—Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

(Tune: This is My Father's World)

**"Fear not!" the angel said, "God's joy is in the air!  
Now go to Bethlehem and see a newborn baby there.  
A Savior, yet a child! So young, and yet the Lord!"  
God's grace astounds, God's love surrounds  
This sinful, hurting world.**

**Fear not, you hungry child, you homeless refugee,  
You battered woman, burdened down — God came to set you free.  
For God's own Son was poor; he cried and suffered, too.  
God's grace astounds; God's love abounds for people just like you.**



**Fear not when questions come: “How can I know God’s way?”  
“Do my possessions weigh me down?” “Can God change me today?”  
For Jesus came to be true bread that satisfies;  
And in his birth, God touched the earth.  
Christ saves, forgives, and guides.**

**Fear not, you church of Christ, distracted and distressed,  
For long ago in troubled times, Christ came, and we were blest.  
Our Prince of Peace is born—our light, our life, our song!  
In him we see our unity, in him God makes us strong.**

## **The Wise Men’s Story** Matthew 2:1-12 (New Revised Standard Version)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## **Song** *We Three Kings*

**We three kings of orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain  
Following yonder star**

Refrain: **O star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy perfect light**

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign** (refrain)

**Frankincense to offer have I  
Incense owns a Deity nigh  
Prayer and praising, all are raising  
Worship God, God most high** (refrain)

**Myrrh is mine, it's bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying  
Sealed in the stone cold tomb** (refrain)

## **The Holy Family's Story**

Matthew 2:13-15 (GNT – Good News Translation)

After the wise men left, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, “Herod will be looking for the child in order to kill him. So get up, take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you to leave.”

Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod died. This was done to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, “I called my Son out of Egypt.”

**Song** *A Voice Was Heard in Ramah* – Carolyn Winfrey Gillette  
(Tune: Lead On, O King Eternal)

**A voice was heard in Ramah that could not be consoled,  
As Rachel wept for children she could no longer hold.  
For Herod ruled the nation, yet feared the Infant King.  
How great the devastation that fear and anger bring!**

**O God, we hear the crying for little ones of yours;  
For many still are dying in conflicts and in wars—  
In every troubled nation, on every violent street,  
How great the lamentation when fear and anger meet!**

**Whenever one is weeping, the whole world suffers, too.  
Yet, Jesus, as we serve them, we're also serving you.  
So may we not ignore them, nor turn our eyes away,  
But help us labor for them to bring a better day.**

**O Prince of Peace, you lead us in ways of truth and grace.  
May we be brave to practice your peace in every place—  
To love each fear-filled nation, to serve each troubled street.  
How great the celebration when peace and justice meet!**

## **Our Story**

## **Call to Prayer** *O Holy Night*

**Truly he taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and his gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise his holy name.**

## **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.]

## **Invitation to Generosity**

### **Offertory** *Manger Song*—arr. Fred Bock

### **Song of Parting** *What a World of Sound*

(Tune: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee)

**What a world of sound it must have been for Jesus, newly-born —  
Mother Mary singing songs of praise to God that Christmas morn;  
Joseph, reaching for the child, whispering when the baby fussed;  
Songs and whispers bear the promise: You are truly God-with-us.**

**Surely there were sounds of women from that small community,  
Stopping by to see the baby, offering hospitality;  
Lambs were bleating, donkeys braying,  
children playing in the street.  
Jesus, close against his mother, felt her heart's rejoicing beat.**

**In that town were shepherds calling;  
workers there were cutting wood;  
In the distance, angry shouts and people begging for their food;  
In a doorway, someone weeping, saddened by some inner pain —  
Jesus, in your incarnation, unto each of these you came.**

**What a world of sound we live in; many words we daily hear.  
Mid this world's conflicting voices, be for us God's Word so clear.  
Help us listen to your story; help us hear you when we pray.  
In you, Jesus, is our hope: God came to us on Christmas Day.**

**Benediction** *The Work of Christmas*—Howard Thurman, African-American theologian, educator, civil rights leader, mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

**When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.**

## **Extinguishing the Candles, Becoming the Light**

**Music for Going Forth** Organ improvisation on *Antioch (Joy to the World)*—attr. George Frederick Handel/trad. hymn arr. Lowell Mason

# Announcements

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## **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](mailto: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-Thursdays, 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 — entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade (We need 6<sup>th</sup> graders and up as 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/1FAIpQLScCTLKm8mxIxiv-jXsI57U1YUenR2xxt-nbjyc8qEGTabydBHA/viewform>

Questions? Email us at [madcamp@parkwayucc.org](mailto:madcamp@parkwayucc.org)

## **St Louis Metro Area Crop Walk 2020** Sunday, October 25

Please visit [www.crophungerwalk.org/saintlouismo](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/saintlouismo) for all details. Enter the name of our walk, Parkway UCC and it will take you to our donation page.

# PARKWAY SPEAKER SERIES

## Summer Matinee Season & Beyond

featuring educational and entertaining topics, with a mix of history, literature, music, maritime, the military, the law, and science. Stay tuned for more specifics as the date nears for each presentation. We'll let you know whether we will zoom it or prerecord it.

**TODAY! Sunday, July 12:** *Paving the Way: A Military Memoir*—Evelyn Buretta

Veteran Evelyn Buretta had a distinguished career in the United States Army. Her tales of her experiences will inspire our admiration and awe.

**Sunday, July 19:** *The Law of Protests*—Mark Sableman

Mark explores how courts sort out the First Amendment rights of protesting Americans verses protecting the safety and welfare of the citizens and their neighborhoods.

**Sunday, July 26:** *The Science of Covid-19*—John Russell

Who knows best, Dr. Fauci or President Trump or Dr. Russell?

**Sunday, August 9:** *Confessions of a Book Disciple*—Harold Cobb

**Sunday, August 23:** *Music's Written Language: Understanding Music for Non-Musicians*—Barry Luedloff

**Sunday, September 13** *My Time as a Country Lawyer*—Phil Smith

**Sunday, October 11:** *The Oracle of Omaha; Reflections on My Friend, Warren Buffett*—Gene Toombs

**Sunday, October 18:** *Defender of the Poor and Oppressed*—Nina Sykora

## Medicaid Expansion (Amendment 2) on Aug 4 Ballot

As many of you may recall, Parkway had an adult education session led by MCU last fall on the topic of Medicaid Expansion. At that time, a large signature effort was ongoing to get this initiative on the 2020 ballot. Missourians collected signatures from nearly 350,000 voters (many more than needed). On Aug. 4, 2020, Missourians will get to decide this issue. Missouri is only one of 14 remaining states that have not expanded Medicaid for those in need.

Here are a few key points about Medicaid Expansion:

It will help about 230,000 hardworking Missourians who have jobs that don't come with health insurance and healthcare to Missourians who earn less than \$18,000 a year.

It enables working women to get preventative care to detect and treat breast and cervical cancers early, saving thousands of lives.

It helps our economy by protecting thousands of frontline healthcare jobs across Missouri at a time when we need them most.

It helps keep rural hospitals open (10 closed since 2014).

Brings more than a billion of our tax dollars home from Washington each year, rather than going to other states including California and New York.

On June 12, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry endorsed Medicaid Expansion and hailed the ballot initiative as a “pro-jobs measure that will help fuel economic growth throughout our state.”

It has also been endorsed in Missouri by AARP, League of Women Voters and Progress Women.

More information is available at: <https://www.healthcareformissouri.org>

Please be aware of the mail-in voting option for the both August and November elections.

If you would like to work with Metropolitan Congregations United to educate others about Medicaid Expansion and to get out the vote (virtual phone banking), please contact Bob Karr ([karr.bob@gmail.com](mailto:karr.bob@gmail.com)).

More info? Contact Pam Manning: [pmanning5078@gmail.com](mailto:pmanning5078@gmail.com)

## **Alzheimer's News:** *Choose Your Words Carefully*

Even if guided by the best of intentions, common language can inadvertently come across as insensitive or upsetting to our audiences. Phrases like “Don’t forget...” or “Remember to...” may seem like a good use of language, but consider how it might make someone feel who’s dealing with a disease that impacts memory and thinking. Whenever possible we should reword our messages to avoid these phrases. Instead try: “Be sure to...”, “We can’t wait...”, “We need you...” or “...right around the corner” to create urgency and excitement. For example, if you’re reminding people of an upcoming event, you could change, “Don’t forget to attend our kickoff tomorrow!” to “We can’t wait to see you tomorrow!”

For more information the Alzheimer’s Helpline is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master’s level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision-making, and disease information. You can also find virtual dementia caregiver resources online at [alz.org/covid19help](http://alz.org/covid19help). Tools and support are also available in Spanish.

## **The Story of Plastic**

Tuesday, July 14 | 12:00pm

Join the Center for Biological Diversity and the New Mexico Recycling Coalition for a free virtual screening and panel discussion of the new film “The Story of Plastic”.

**Location:** Watch the film at your convenience a week prior to the post-screening virtual video conversation in Zoom.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37PDwWoc1so&feature=youtu.be>

**Register to attend the free event here:** <https://bit.ly/SOPPanel>

The COVID-19 crisis has changed the way people consume, creating a critical opportunity to look at our systems and build a more sustainable “new normal.” That includes not only looking upstream at waste prevention and

reuse but how plastic is manufactured. We need to protect people's health and the health of the planet, build a resilient future and empower individuals from all walks of life to live a sustainable lifestyle. The Story of Stuff's new film, *The Story of Plastic*, serves to spark dialogue, provide hope, create action and help us break free from plastic pollution.

Following the screening, attend a distinguished virtual video conversation about The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act introduced in Washington, DC this past February by Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) and Representative Alan Lowenthal (D-CA):

Jonathan Black, Senior Policy Advisor for New Mexico Senator Tom Udall's office, works on plastic pollution and environmental issues.

Julie Teel Simmons, Senior Attorney for the Center For Biological Diversity, works in the Center's Oceans Program to protect marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

Sydney Harris, Senior Associate for Policy and Programs at the Product Stewardship Institute, is the lead on packaging extended producer responsibility.

Kelley Dennings, Campaigner for the Center For Biological Diversity (host)

Sarah Pierpont, Executive Director at the New Mexico Recycling Coalition (moderator)

*THE STORY OF PLASTIC takes a sweeping look at the man-made crisis of plastic pollution and the worldwide effect it has on the health of our planet and the people who inhabit it. Spanning three continents, the film illustrates the ongoing catastrophe: fields full of garbage, veritable mountains of trash, rivers and seas clogged with waste, and skies choked with the poisonous emissions from plastic production and processing. With engaging original animation, archival industry footage beginning in the 1930s, and first-person accounts of the unfolding emergency, the film distills a complex problem that is increasingly affecting the planet's and its residents' well-being.*

## **Helping Our Neighbors** Now through 16 August 2020

Back-to-school clothing items needed. Instead of sending a long list of school materials needed, Isaiah 58 is requesting socks, underwear, and gift cards for shoes, for all ages, kindergarten through 12th grade. Isaiah 58 serves our neighbors in the Choteau, Jefferson, Cherokee, and S. Kingshighway boundaries. These items are especially needed during these difficult times of the pandemic and unemployment. As you are able, please consider donating the socks, underwear, and gift cards. Drop off at church in the designated box in the gathering area at your convenience and/or add to your monthly food pantry donations in August.

Contact Evelyn Buretta: [burettaevelyn@gmail.com](mailto:burettaevelyn@gmail.com)



# PUCC Prayer List

as of July 8, 2020

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## Celebrations

**All the acts of kindness that are happening near and far!**  
**The momentum toward justice and equity.**

## Concerns

**Cindy Wessel** and Family - grieving and giving thanks for her cousin, John Eric Swing, his wife & three children after his death from Covid-19.

**Sister Mary Kay McKenzie** - as she heads to rehab (Tom's sister).

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

**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](mailto: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

**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.

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

**Nelson Spencer** - chemotherapy treatments (Svenson).

**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]

**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 July 12 - Pilgrim Congregational UCC, St Louis; pilgrimucc-stl.org

Week ending July 19 - Prince of Peace UCC, St. Louis; princeofpeaceucc.com

## Thank You from Dwight and Charlotte Smith

Thank you for all your phone calls, cards, & notes. We appreciate them greatly. You never know how much you miss church and your church friends until you can't see them anymore.

## Each of Us Who Has Come Tonight—James Burklo

A baby waits in a dark, warm womb  
Lulled by the sway of a donkey's walk  
Down a road in the night toward Bethlehem  
A young man waits in a concrete cell  
For the years of the curse of his crime to pass  
What is left of Christmas now?  
And what will be left of Christmas then?  
A young girl waits by a lighted tree  
Till her sleep can skip past the hours till dawn  
When she will awake to her Christmas dreams  
An old man waits for the phone to ring  
And an earnest voice might offer a hint  
Of a Christmas past, when his son was young  
And a shiny train roared round the tree  
A mother waits for the oven's buzz  
For the cry of her child, for the call of her mate  
For the time to write, for a chance to think  
Of the deeper things that the season means  
The officer waits in her darkened car  
On the side of a road on a freezing night  
For the squeal of tires, for a drunken weave  
For the family fight, for the noise too loud  
For her shift to end in peace tonight  
The student waits in the airport lounge  
Brooding against her travel bags  
Till the blizzard ends and the runway's clear  
Hoping to make it home in time  
The trucker waits at the counter's edge  
For a cup of warmth to heat the night  
For the sight of a face to dull the pain  
Of family lost, of lovers left  
A truck stop Christmas must suffice  
A soldier waits in the Balkan night  
Ears alert for the slightest sound  
Eyes strained into the fearsome dark  
At home there's a chill in his young wife's heart  
He feels her pangs for him this night  
A father waits in a cobwebbed barn  
By flickering light of a lamp of oil  
Holding the hand of his struggling wife  
As their precious child is born to the world  
And we now wait in a darkened church  
Ready to have our hopes fulfilled  
Ready to kindle that holy light  
Ready to find the Christ within  
Each of us who has come tonight.

# O Holy Night

Mary Luti, UCC Pastor and Educator | December 24, 2019

*For the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken; for a child is born to us ... the Prince of Peace. -Isaiah 9:4*

It's the O holy night, the silent night, the all is calm, all is bright evening of our dear savior's birth.

In the realm of heavenly peace, jittery angels wait for God's signal to fly.

In the midnight sky, the Star positions itself over the manger, dimming its light 'til the moment comes'.

Around fires in the hills, shepherds swap bawdy stories, scratch at fleas, glad for quiet, no wolf or thief.

In the little town of Bethlehem, strangers who came to be counted lie four to a bed in bad motels, grateful for any bed at all. Innkeepers and beggars count the bonus coins of these last days, a temporary gladness. Crouching at corners, hard soldiers familiar with blood are tossing dice, muttering curses, ears ready to hear trouble.

In Jerusalem, Herod sleeps in a velvet chamber, Egyptian cotton under his chin, digesting a dinner of lamb and mint, dreaming of music and wine.

In a nasty shed, Mary labors, Joseph is silent, the cattle are lowing, and little Lord Jesus will soon be asleep on the hay.

Then the angels will sing and the shepherds will run and see and the Star will explode and people in town will wonder why there's so much noise in that back alley, 'though not enough to call the soldiers, who will carry on tossing the dice, muttering and cursing, waiting for much bigger trouble.

It will come.

Sleep on, Herod. It will come.