



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, July 19, 2020

Contents

- 3 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 11 Announcements
- 14 Prayer List

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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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

7/15 MASON, Mike & Lisa (15)

7/22 CLIFFORD, Scott & Carol (20)

7/22 WADDELL, Brian & Sheila (20)

7/25 DISCHINGER, Doug & Sally (50)

Birthdays

7/21 MCLACHLIN, Judy

7/25 SCHARF, Caitlin

7/21 WADDELL, Ty

7/25 SCHATZ, Jill

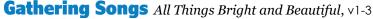
7/23 BIEST, Kelly

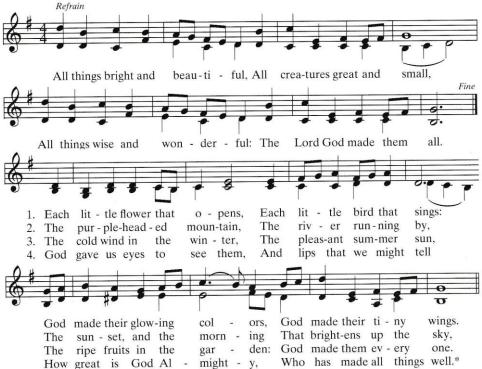
7th Sunday after Pentecost

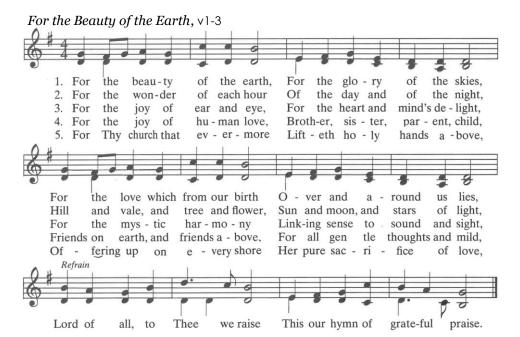
July 19, 2020 | 9:55am

Meditation

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently, nourish the life of the world in our care: Gift of great wonder, ours to surrender, trust for the children tomorrow will bear. We who endanger, who create hunger, agents of death for all creatures that live. We who would foster clouds of disaster, God of our planet, forestall and forgive! Let there be greening, birth from the burning, water that blesses, and air that is sweet, Health in God's garden, hope in God's children, regeneration that peace will complete. God of all living, God of all loving, God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun. Teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us, using us gently, and making us one. - Shirley Erena Murray

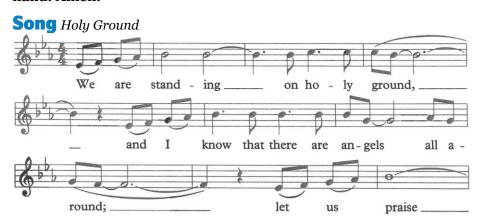






Gathering Words John Dalles

Come to tend God's garden, seeds of hope to sow, planting fields of justice, watching mercy grow! In an arid wasteland, spread a verdant health! In a land of tumult, cultivate God's peace! As we tend God's garden, from its furrows rise, stems of fresh beginnings, stretching toward the skies! Graciousness, our meadow, joyfulness, our root, unity, our foliage, righteousness, our fruit! May God's garden flourish, may our toil succeed, May God bless our actions, every word and deed! Serving Christ each season, with God's diagram, charted by the Spirit, for the task at hand! Amen.





Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Hebrew Lesson Psalm 8 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth! You made your glory higher than heaven! From the mouths of nursing babies you have laid a strong foundation because of your foes, in order to stop vengeful enemies. When I look up at your skies, at what your fingers made—the moon and the stars that you set firmly in place—what are human beings that you think about them; what are human beings that you pay attention to them? You've made them only slightly less than divine, crowning them with glory and grandeur. You've let them rule over your handiwork, putting everything under their feet—all sheep and all cattle, the wild animals too, the birds in the sky, the fish of the ocean, everything that travels the pathways of the sea. Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!

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. All the shades from dark to light, they are precious in his sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world.

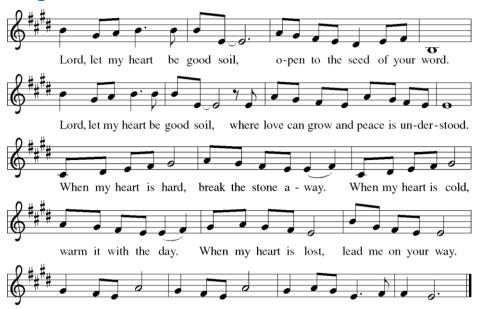
Scripture Matthew 13:1-9, 18b-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises

on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Song Good Soil



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

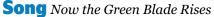
Reflection Falling Seeds, Failing Seeds, Fruitful Seeds

Scripture Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."

He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of God. Let anyone with ears listen!"





Reflection Wheat and Weeds Together

Call to Prayer Wendell Berry

When despair grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds. I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.

I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the dayblind stars waiting for their light. For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free...

Silent 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 All Good Gifts Around Us

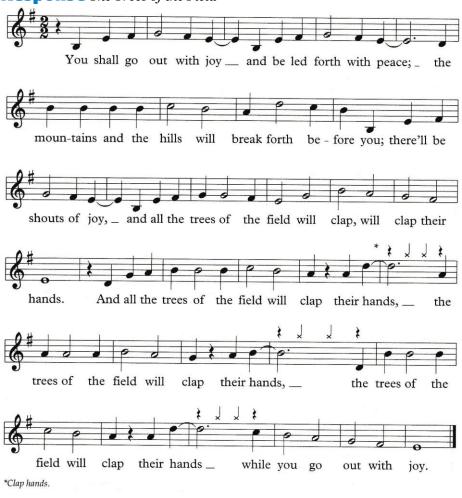
Prayer of Dedication

Song In the Bulb There is A Flower



Benediction

Response The Trees of the Field



God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth Sing of the Lord's Goodness

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/



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 — entering 5th grade (We need 6th 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/1FAIpQLSccTLKm8mxIxv-jXsI57U1YUenR2xxt-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.



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 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.

ZOOM link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84898581439?pwd=V1JhZXNod1JSTjVJcm1QYWhOck9JQT09

Meeting ID: 848 9858 1439

Password: 256973 (312) 626-6799

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).

More info? Contact Pam Manning: pmanning5078@gmail.com

Helping Our Neighbors Now through August 16

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 SCHOOL BUS just inside the main doors at your convenience and/or add to your food pantry donations in August.

Contact Evelyn Buretta: burettaevelyn@amail.com

Sign-up for "Clean-up, Fix-up, Paint-up!"

Monday July 27 – Monday August 10

Miriam Academy is now housed in their new facility and it is time to make Parkway UCC's education wing ready for whatever the future holds. **YOU** are needed to clean, paint and help with minor repairs. Two-hour shifts are available each day the last week of July and first week of August for all skill/willing-to-help levels. The times are spread out so that that social distancing can be practiced during this project. We will provide the paint but we ask that you bring any other needed supplies. Signup here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040445adad2ca7fb6-clean Questions? Contact Mike Mason (Mike Mason mmason_family@yahoo.com) or Kathy Ferrell (kathy@parkwayucc.org). More details as you sign up. Thank you very much!

PUCC Prayer List as of July 15, 2020

Celebrations

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

Concerns

Marv Herpel - healing after a fall.

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 - moved out ICU with COVID-19 (Bill's dad).

Pastor Tom and family - his healing (Barry Luedloff).

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

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

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

Rod and Linda - his bone cancer treatments and broken bones; her grief over her father who died from COVID-19 (Tarr).

Lori Connors - for strength, stamina through some health challenges. **Ruth Peace & Pinky Wilcoxen** - PUCC sisters with health challenges.

Bill Darland - ongoing health issues.

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 19 - Prince of Peace UCC, St. Louis; princeofpeaceucc.com Week ending July 26 - Samuel UCC, Clayton; samuelucc.org

Prayer (I) by George Herbert

Prayer the church's banquet, angel's age,
God's breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth
Engine against th' Almighty, sinner's tow'r,
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
The six-days world transposing in an hour,
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;
Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,
Exalted manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,
The milky way, the bird of Paradise,
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,
The land of spices; something understood.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 19, 2020

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Wheat and Weeds Together

Jesus taught an agricultural and fishing people who were close to the source of the food they shared and consumed. Most people are many steps separated from the production of the food we eat each day. But, even if we have less understanding of agriculture than our ancestors did, we still understand that Jesus' command to feed one another refers to physical as well as spiritual feeding.

Whether or not they know where or how their food is grown, many United Church of Christ congregations affirm that food once produced is meant to be shared. Food pantries and meals offered by UCC congregations live out the most basic form of care for one another - giving of food.

Windsor Severance Food Pantry at Faith UCC in Colorado gives away the canned goods familiar to many food pantries. But they also offer an evening of fellowship and eating together each Wednesday evening. The pantry truly offers "a place at the table" for anyone in the neighborhood looking for a hot meal. You can find out more about their work at: https://www.faithunited.churchofchrist.com/a-place-at-the-table.

The food pantry in Kirtland, Ohio's Old South United Church of Christ has seen so much need in recent years that they have expanded into three times their former space. Now Kirtland's pantry has moved to a more modern model of providing food. Clients to the pantry now shop the shelves, as if they are in a grocery store. You can read more at: https://www.news-herald.com/news/ohio/kirtland-s-old-south-united-church-of-christ-reopens-food/article_10bbff05-6707-52e0-af30-f795736acf98.html.

In Connecticut, the food pantry in Norfolk United Church of Christ pantry recently expanded not space, but hours, making their food pantry more accessible to those in need in their town. More here: http://norfolkctucc.org/ucc/norfolk-food-pantry/.

Wherever you are located, give some thought to your local congregation. How do you follow Christ's lead in feeding people in body as well as spirit? Prayerfully consider if there is some way that you could expand your feeding programs.

