



**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

October 11, 2020

Sunday, October 11, 2020

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## Contents

- 3 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 12 Announcements
- 15 Prayer List

## 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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John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

# Welcome to Parkway

**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 Monday. 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

10/12 PEEK, David & Marsha (29)

10/14 OEHLER, Kurt & Barbara (31)

10/14 SIMONSON, Andrew & Julie (25)

## Birthdays

10/15 WILLIAMS, Marina

10/16 CAMERON, Maya

10/17 MOHL, Mike

# 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday *after* Pentecost

October 11, 2020 | 10:00am

**Meditation** *Without God, I can't. Without me, God won't.* ~St Augustine

**Welcome** Let us know you are here!

## Passing the Peace of Christ

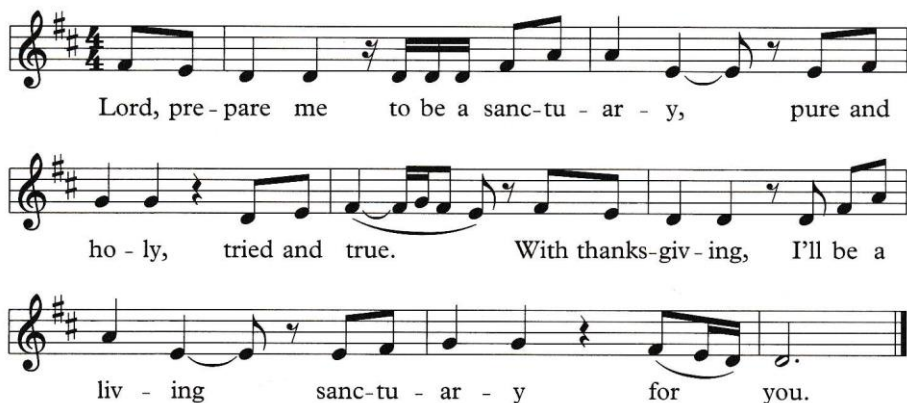
"May the peace of Christ be with you."

(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

**Prelude** *Deep Peace*—John S. Dixon

## Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

**Welcome Song** *Sanctuary*



**Scripture** Isaiah 55, selected verses (New Revised Standard Version)

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Seek the Lord while the Lord may be found, call upon God while God is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to God, that God may have mercy on them - our God who will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there

until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy - and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

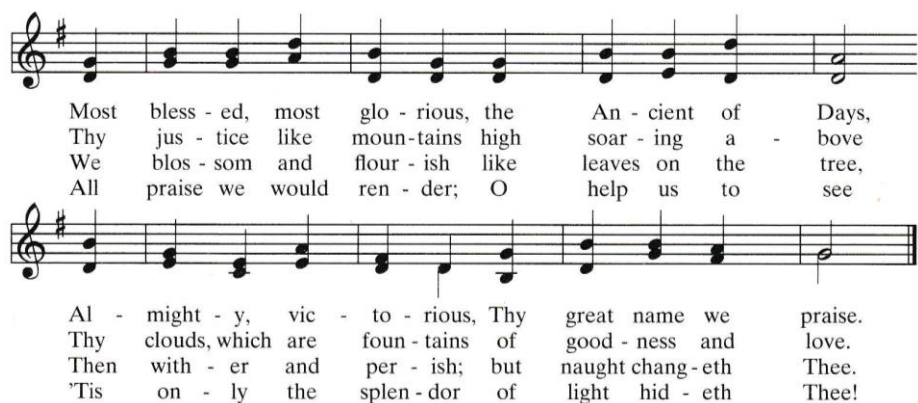
## Call to Worship

One:	God is with us here and now - as God is in all places at all times - right now.
Many:	<b>We gather to ponder the wisdom of the Scriptures and to think about God’s mind.</b>
One:	We draw near to share God’s strength and power.
Many:	<b>We want to be powerful - even as we know that true power is the giving up of power.</b>
One:	We come to meet God, to sit with God, to sing with God.
Many:	<b>We are here to hear God’s word, and to engage with God’s will and ways.</b>
One:	We come to ask God questions and to open all of our senses for some inspiration, guidance... and maybe even a few answers.
Many:	<b>We want to feel God’s love and to know more of God’s heart.</b>
One:	There is so much still to know about God. So we pay attention to learn and experience as much as we can these days and nights.
All:	<b>Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>

## Song *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, Thou rul - est in light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;  
In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.  
 Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 Then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth Thee.  
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

## Opening Prayer

God of all the ages, we want to be more aware of your presence with us each day. As you have been with our forebears throughout countless generations, remind us of the stream of history in which we stand, the faithful people of every age, who have struggled to bring meaning, purpose, and renewed faith from the stress and challenges of their lives, certain only of their relationship with you and of the faith that drove them on.

In the Scriptures we read stories of faithful commitment to you, and we learn of failures and sorrows along with hopes and joys. We live in a time of tumult, but so did those who came before us. As it was with our predecessors, the faith was passed to us. Forgive us for our forgetting, our despair, our turning aside from faith; help us to keep faith alive when we become discouraged or worried. Call us to join the eternal parade of those who have kept the faith, those who have lived and loved boldly, filled with commitment and compassion—that we too may be faithful witnesses to those who follow us. Cheered and buoyed by your love in Christ's name, we continue with confidence. Amen.

## Response *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;  
 Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.  
 Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!  
 Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

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

## Blessing the Children *Weave*

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



## **Hebrew Scripture** Exodus 32, selected verses (New Revised Standard)

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and Aaron took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf. When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.” They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.” But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.


## **New Testament** Philippians 4, selected verses (New Revised Standard)

Stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## Moment of Silent Reflection

**Sermon** *God's Mind and Heart*

**Call to Prayer** *God is So Good*



1. God is so good, God is so good,  
2. God cares for me, God cares for me,  
3. God loves me so, God loves me so,  
4. God is so good, God is so good,

God is so good,  
God cares for me,  
God loves me so,  
God is so good, } God's so good to me.

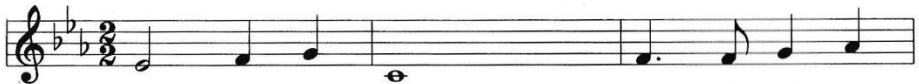
## Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

### 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.]

**Song** *Bring Many Names, v1, 4, 5*




1. Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and  
2. Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and  
3. Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery  
4. Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less  
5. Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the  
6. Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly






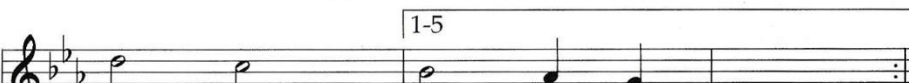
good, cel - e-brate, in par - a - ble and  
 day, plan - ning all the won - ders of cre -  
 child, feel - ing all the strains of hu - man  
 care, calm - ly pierc - ing e - vil's new dis -  
 move, say - ing no to false-hood and un -  
 known, joy - ful dark-ness far be - yond our



sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry,  
 a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion,  
 liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing  
 guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es,  
 kind - ness, cry - ing out for jus - tice,  
 see - ing, clos - er yet than breath - ing,



liv - ing, lov - ing God. Hail and Ho -  
 ge - ni - us at play: Hail and Ho -  
 till we're rec - on - ciled: Hail and Ho -  
 wis - er than de - spair: Hail and Ho -  
 giv - ing all you have: Hail and Ho -  
 ev - er - last - ing home: Hail and Ho -



1-5  
 san - na! bring man - y names!  
 san - na! strong moth - er God!  
 san - na! warm fa - ther God!  
 san - na! old, ach - ing God!  
 san - na! young, grow - ing God!  
 san - na!



6  
 great, liv - ing God!

## Offering Our Gifts to God

**Offering Interlude** *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*  
 —arr. Tedd Smith, based on the familiar hymn by Peter Scholtes

# Response *The Summons, v5*



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? \_\_\_\_ Will you go where you don't know and  
 your name? \_\_\_\_ Will you care for cruel and kind and  
 your name? \_\_\_\_ Will you set the pris - oners free and  
 your name? \_\_\_\_ Will you quell the fear in - side and  
 my name. \_\_\_\_ Let me turn and fol - low you and



nev - er be the same? \_\_\_\_ Will you let my love be  
 nev - er be the same? \_\_\_\_ Will you risk the hos - tile  
 nev - er be the same? \_\_\_\_ Will you kiss the lep - er  
 nev - er be the same? \_\_\_\_ Will you use the faith you've  
 nev - er be the same. \_\_\_\_ In your com - pa - ny I'll



shown, \_ will you let my name be known, \_ will you  
 stare \_\_\_\_ should your life at - tract or scare? \_\_\_\_ Will you  
 clean, \_ and do such as this un - seen, \_ and ad -  
 found \_\_\_\_ to re - shape the world a - round, \_ through my  
 go \_\_\_\_ where your love and foot - steps show. \_\_\_\_ Thus I'll



let my life be grown in you and you in me? \_\_\_\_  
 let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me? \_\_\_\_  
 mit to what I mean in you and you in me? \_\_\_\_  
 sight and touch and sound in you and you in me? \_\_\_\_  
 move and live and grow in you and you in me. \_\_\_\_

## **Prayer of Dedication** UCC Prayers for Justice and Peace

**Grant us, God, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor; a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect; a world where peace is built with justice, and where justice is guided by love. May it be so through our lives, in honor of those who have come before and those who will follow after us. Amen.**

## **Song of Parting** *All of Life is Filled with Wonder*

(Tune: Hymn to Joy = Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee)

**All of life is filled with wonder, so we thank you, God of love —  
For the crash of evening thunder, clearing clouds, then stars above;  
For the night that turns to glowing as we feel the morning mist,  
God, we praise and thank you, knowing  
every day we're truly blessed.**

**For the joy of daily waking, for the gift of each new day,  
For the smell of fresh bread baking, for the sound of children's play,  
For the ways we seek to serve you as we work and volunteer,  
God we humbly praise and thank you  
for your presence with us here.**

**For the ways we're blessed with plenty—  
love and laughter, neighbors, friends.  
Nature's wonders, seasons' bounty, life in you that never ends,  
For the ones who've gone before us, giving witness to your way—  
We rejoice in all you give us every moment, every day.**

**For your love in times of trouble,  
for your peace when things are tough,  
For your help when hardships double,  
for your grace that is enough,  
For a stranger's gentle kindness, for a doctor's healing skill —  
God, we thank you that you bless us,  
and you bless your world as well.**

**For the baby in the manger, for the cross and empty tomb,  
For each time a searching stranger  
finds at church a welcome home,  
For your kingdom's great surprises—  
poor ones lifted, lost ones found—  
God, we thank you! Hope still rises, for your gifts of grace abound.**

## **Benediction**

## **God's Light Goes Forth**

## **Music for Going Forth** *Redemption—Bethany K. Smith*

# Announcements

## TODAY! Parkway Speaker Series

*My PhD Journey: How it Unfolded and What I Learned*—Dr. Jo Grove

October 11 | 11:15am | via Zoom (our regular Speaker Series Zoom)

Parkway member, Dr. Grove will present on her dissertation, which studied the challenges and experiences of blind and visually impaired students as they navigated their time in college.

### **ZOOM link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84898581439?pwd=V1JhZXNod1JSTjVJcm1QYWWhOc k9JQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 848 9858 1439 | **Passcode:** 256973 | **Phone:** (312) 626 6799

## Tuesday Evening Dialogue – a new beginning this week!

Oct 13, 2020 | 7:00pm | via Zoom

The next TED book is *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. This is a tale of three generations, from the Civil War to the 20th century: a story about fathers and sons and the spiritual battles that still rage at America's heart. Pulitzer Prize winner 2004. Please read up to page 63 for our first session with *Gilead*.

You can get the book on your device, through the library or the bookstore of your choice.

### **Zoom Link**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89263841824?pwd=eIVDSVVUMHZZeStLZIBLeEZjWVB VZzO9>

**Meeting ID:** 892 6384 1824 | **Passcode:** Book Club

**Phone:** (312) 626 6799 US | **Passcode:** 410992587

## Halloween Candy Needed... please and thank you!

By Oct 17 please | Container in the front entrance under the food donations

We are seeking candy to send our college students a little Halloween treat to let them know we are thinking about them. Also, in place of our annual Trunk or Treat we're offering a Community event, Outside Halloween Adventure on Saturday, October 24 from 5:00-6:00 PM. It will be held rain or shine around the church grounds. Families with masks and social distance will meet superheroes telling their stories and will receive candy as if trick or treating. So, we are asking for candy at this event as well. Thanks for helping us!

Contact Barbara Kuhlmann: [barbk@parkwayucc.org](mailto:barbk@parkwayucc.org) | 314-607-2841

## Outside Halloween Adventure

Sat, Oct 24 | 5:00-6:00 pm | Outside church grounds

Travel around Parkway United Church grounds to meet masked Superheroes that will tell you their stories. Families stay together, physically distanced and also wearing masks. Candy will be dropped into the children's bags with tongs. Costumes are welcome! Come and enjoy a Halloween Outside Adventure in 2020! This is in place of our annual Trunk or Treat. Contact Barbara Kuhlmann: [barbk@parkwayucc.org](mailto:barbk@parkwayucc.org) | 314-607-2841

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

It will be followed by the CROP Concert. All CROP Walk Events will be virtual this year. The need to alleviate hunger continues greater than ever. Please visit the CROP Walk website for details: [www.crophungerwalk.org/saintlouismo](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/saintlouismo) Please join Parkway's team as a virtual walker, or donate to the team. CROP Walk and world hunger need you, Parkway.

If you have questions, please contact your Parkway CROP Team: Mike and Gerry Rogers, Pam Manning, Sue Moellering

## **Walk to End Alzheimer's** October 24 | 10:00am

While we aren't having a large in-person gathering downtown this year, we will walk as a team while others in our community do the same. This year, Walk to End Alzheimer's® is everywhere: on every sidewalk, track and trail. The virtual opening and Promise Garden Ceremony is at 9:00am.

Watch this at home: <https://tinyurl.com/stl-end-alz-walk>

Then meet at Parkway at 10:00am to walk with masks and socially distant. We will walk on sidewalks from church to Clayton Road and down Clayton Road to about Principia and back for our 3 mile walk.

Make donations at: <https://tinyurl.com/stl-alz-donate>

If you have questions, contact Joyce Ruiz @ Joyceruiz7@gmail.com or by phone @314-494-8979.

## **Circle of Concern Thanksgiving Baskets**

In light of Covid, we are streamlining our Thanksgiving Basket program to give holiday foods to 750 families in the month leading up to Thanksgiving. Circle will be providing a frozen turkey and pie, a gift card to Aldi's and many cans of vegetables. We are asking for churches to help provide the contents for a box containing Thanksgiving staples.

With Kevin's blessing, Parkway UCC will hopefully provide 100 of each of the following items by November 15. Joe and I will then pack the boxes and transport them to Circle for distribution.

Each box will contain:

- can of pumpkin
- stuffing mix
- corn bread mix
- canned fruit
- jar of turkey gravy
- 32oz. box of chicken or vegetable broth
- can of cranberry sauce

It would be ideal if each bag donated would contain all 7 items so we end up with equal amounts. If you cannot provide that, please drop off what you can. Kevin suggests leaving all bags between the sets of front doors, under the sign that says COC Thanksgiving Baskets. Thank you in advance for your help, Parkway family. Take good care! ~Lana Biondo

## **Habitat for Humanity St Louis Auction**

You may not have been the high bidder on an item, but some of you bid and several went high. Thanks to you for sharing the Habitat Half St. Patrick's Information.

Over \$3000 was donated/raised through the auction. Proceeds from last St. Patrick Day Lunch and Dinner that was called off (people donated tickets and other donations) were just over \$5000! Habitat STL and our UCC Housing Ministry and future homeowners are the winners. That will be over \$8000!

As Habitat STL features our UCC this month, we will be making donations throughout the month of UCC dollars given. The first check to be written today is \$30,000. ~ Keith Karau

## **Alzheimer's News—Depression and Caregiving**

October is National Depression and Mental Health Screening Month and awareness of these issues has never been more important. A recent article published by Time Magazine revealed that "three times as many Americans met criteria for a depression diagnosis during the pandemic than before it..."

Researchers have found that a person who provides care for someone with dementia is twice as likely to suffer from depression as a person providing care for someone without dementia. Caregiving is hard — and can lead to feelings of stress, guilt, anger, sadness, isolation — and depression. Depression affects different people in different ways and at different times. For example, someone may experience depression right after their family member has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Other caregivers may experience it as Alzheimer's progresses and the cognitive abilities of the person with Alzheimer's diminish.

Depression can be effectively treated. And the earlier treatment begins, the sooner you'll feel better. Treatment commonly involves a combination of medication, therapy and support. If you are concerned that you might be depressed, see your doctor as soon as possible.

In addition to seeking help from a professional, you can take steps to help yourself.

- Let family and friends help you.  
Take others up on offers to help and ask for help when you need it
- Seek out caregiver support.  
Consider respite services, a local caregiver support group or our online community. Building a support network can keep you from feeling isolated.
- Try journaling.  
Expressing your emotions (both negative and positive) in a journal may boost your mood.
- Learn ways to relax and manage stress.  
Try meditation or yoga to help reduce caregiver stress.
- Take time for yourself.  
Participate in activities that you enjoy.



# PUCC Prayer List as of October 7

## Celebrations

**Laura & Phil Waite**, big brothers Henry, Oscar, Felix welcoming baby boy!

**Doug & Adriana Scherrer** - baby Henry born last week!

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

## Concerns

**Judy Toombs** and family as they grieve the sudden death of Gene.

**Burt** - hospitalized; serious health concerns (Mona Herberg's brother).

**Cherie Stolze** - in a rehab center after a week in the hospital.

**Healthcare workers, homeless** and many others at risk right now.

**Physical 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.**

**Individuals in all levels of leadership** as they make decisions today.

**Healing of relationships between the public and the police.**

## Continuing

**Cherie & Mike Stolze** - as her father deals with kidney disease.

**Polly Rutherford** - healing from her successful back surgery.

**David Haack** - 'acute care'; no longer COVID-19 positive (Bill's dad).

**Lori Connors** - for strength, stamina through some health challenges.

**Ruth Peace & Pinky Wilcoxon** - PUCC sisters with health challenges.

**Bill Darland** - ongoing health issues.

**Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack** - chronic health challenges.

**President Trump, Congress**, all local, national, world leaders.

**The "me too" Movement** - shining a light on sexual abuse.

**PUCC Family** (and others) struggling with healthcare costs and limits.

**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.

## 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]

**Pat Klein** - *Anthology Senior Living of Wildwood*; 251 Plaza Dr, #325; Wildwood, MO 63040 [birthdate: September 21]

**Bill Klein** - *Anthology Senior Living of Wildwood*; 251 Plaza Dr, #104; Wildwood, MO 63040 [birthdate: March 8]

**Pearl Sellenriek** - *Friendship Village Care Center*; #725-2

15201 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: March 31]

**Dwight Smith** - *Garden View*; 13612 Big Bend Rd, Room #2407; Valley Park, MO 63088; 636-923-8693. Now Charlotte can walk from *Cape Albeon* to visit with him at his window. [birthdate: September 6]

**Sue Houser** - *Bethany Ctr for Rehab & Healing*; 421 Ocala Dr - #209B; Nashville, TN 37211; 615-577-2049. [birthdate: July 8]

# 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday *after* Pentecost

October 11, 2020

## Praiseworthy Living

Philippians 4:1-9

*Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week*

In today's reading, Paul sends a letter of encouragement and hope to his beloved friends in Philippi. For centuries, letters have been the way that we reach across the divide of geography to offer solace and challenge with our words. As people of the Word, we continue that tradition whenever we send a letter.

Last March, as the world braced for a pandemic, The Council of Conference Ministers as well as The Officers of the United Church of Christ (The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, The Rev. Traci Blackmon and The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson) sent a letter in the Pauline tradition. As news of the COVID-19 pandemic first began to break, these pastor leaders reached across geography with words to bring hope and comfort.

"As leaders in our beloved United Church of Christ, we write to speak a word of tender care to our congregations, our clergy, and our members...

Remember that we are a Christmas people, and that Jesus is incarnated in every act of love and kindness we extend to one another.

Remember that we are an Easter people and we know that God can reach us beyond all the barriers the world can create.

Remember that we are a Pentecost people who know that the Holy Spirit can revive us and who will be our strength in times of great distress.

We can do this. We are the Church, the body of the risen Christ. As leaders called to serve you, we pledge to you that we will continue to draw on every resource available to us that will help you through this season.

In the love of our blessed Redeemer, we remain as always your humble servants and your beloved covenant partners."

More thoughtful than an email, more lasting than a phone call and further reaching than in-person conversation, letters were not just for Paul's time. They have the power to move and change us even today.

*You can find the full text of this letter at:*

[https://www.ucc.org/news\\_commentary\\_a\\_pastoral\\_letter\\_in\\_a\\_time\\_of\\_pandemic\\_03262020](https://www.ucc.org/news_commentary_a_pastoral_letter_in_a_time_of_pandemic_03262020)

You can learn Bryan Sirchio's song about the Ten Commandments, and other scriptures worth knowing by heart by checking out his music on his website <http://www.sirchio.com/>.