



Getting Along



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ALL ACCEPTED, NO EXCEPTIONS

October 18, 2020



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, October 18, 2020

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open—minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God’s calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God’s grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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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

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 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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Wedding Anniversaries

10/19 KLEINE, Kim & Steve (35)

Birthdays

10/18 STOLZE, Matthew

10/22 HASLER, Cathy

10/19 OSBORNE, John

10/24 WEAS, Ben

10/19 YANG, Jae

10/20 OSBORNE, Brandi

20th Sunday *after* Pentecost

October 18, 2020 | 10:00am

Meditation *Here I Am, Lord*

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” ~Isaiah 6:8

Passing the Peace of Christ *Peace Like A River*

For this is what the Lord says: “I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flowing stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees.” ~Isaiah 66:12

Prelude *There is A Balm in Gilead*

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered? ~Jeremiah 8:22

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

This Little Light of Mine

Jesus said to them, “Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand?” ~Mark 4:21

Welcome Song *We Rejoice in the Grace of God*

I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction; you have known the distress of my soul, and you have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy; you have set my feet in a broad place.

~Psalm 31:7-8

Scripture Psalm 133:1-3 (MSG—The Message)

How wonderful, how beautiful, when sisters and brothers get along! It’s like costly anointing oil flowing down head and beard, flowing down Aaron’s beard, flowing down the collar of his priestly robes.

It’s like the dew on Mount Hermon flowing down the slopes of Zion. Yes, that’s where God commands the blessing, ordains eternal life.

Call to Worship *This is the Day*

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

~Psalm 118:24

For thus saith the Lord, “Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees.” ~Isaiah 66:12

Opening Prayer *As the Deer*

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. ~Psalm 42:1

Response *Open My Eyes that I May See*

And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. "And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. ~2 Kings 6:17

Children's Time *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." ~Matthew 11:28-30

Blessing the Children *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. ~Mark 10:13-16

Scripture Deuteronomy 11:18-21a

You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand - and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give them.

Response *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

And a person shall be as in a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. ~Isaiah 32:2

Reflections *Bible Blessings You Can Give to Others*

Call to Prayer *You Are My Hiding Place*

Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. ~Psalm 32:7

Prayers of the People *Standing in the Need of Prayer*

But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me..." ~Luke 18:9-14

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.]

Stewardship Moment *Beloved, Love—Harold Cobb*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ~1 John 4:7

Invitation to Generosity *Zacchaeus Was A Wee Little Man*

And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich ... and Zacchaeus stood and said to Jesus, “Behold, Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” ~Luke 19:1-8

Response *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. ~Genesis 8:22

It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because God’s compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. ~Lamentations 3:22-23

Prayer of Dedication *Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?*

Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than their master; neither they that is sent greater than they that sent them. ~John 13:16

Song of Parting *Song of Hope*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. ~Romans 15:13

Benediction *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

The Lord bless you and keep you. God’s face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up countenance upon you, and give you peace. ~Numbers 6:24-26

Response *There Shall Be Showers of Blessing*

And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in this season; there shall be showers of blessing. ~Ezekiel 34:26

God’s Light Goes Forth *Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come*

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. ~Isaiah 60:1

Music for Going Forth *Amazing Grace*

One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. ~John 9:25b

Announcements

Announcements

Speaker Series: *Defender of the Poor and Oppressed*

TODAY - Sunday, October 18 | 11:15am | YouTube

Nina Sykora is a lawyer practicing law in St. Louis. For many years, she was an Assistant Public Defender in the City of St. Louis, trying many jury trials in the defense of the indigent. She has many stories to tell and opinions about our criminal justice system.

This was pre-recorded at PUCC on October 16 and a link sent out over the weekend.

Check this out from Harold Cobb – *A Lifetime of Books* – shared over the summer.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIvOWrC6TM8&list=PLUii2liRO-U6_zfbrNKzXOYVUdKPUieXm

You can find his book list here - <https://parkwayucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/A-Lifetime-of-Books.pdf>

Outside Halloween Adventure

Saturday, 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 | 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 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 Saturday, 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>

Questions? Joyce Ruiz - Joyceruiz7@gmail.com or by phone 314-494-8979.

Tuesday Evening Dialogue October 27

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 7:00pm | via Zoom

We continue our discussion *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.

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=eIVDSVVUMHZZeStLZIBLeEZjWVBVZz09>

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

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

Circle of Concern Thanksgiving Baskets due Nov 15

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.

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.

Please leave your donations between the sets of front doors, under the table with the sign that says Circle of Concern Thanksgiving Baskets.

Thank you in advance for your help, Parkway family.

Take good care!

~Lana Biondo

Recent Past President of the Board at Circle of Concern

PUCC Prayer List as of October 14

Celebrations

Laura & Phil Waite, big bros Henry, Oscar, Felix welcome Linus!

1444 Glenlea Dr, Maryland Hts, MO 63043

John and Joyce Ruiz - wedding of granddaughter Kaitlyn & Zachary.

Mona Herberg Family - celebrating daughter Mindy's wedding.

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

The momentum toward justice and equity.

Concerns

Sally Boughman – at Surrey Place recuperating with her new hip.

Alicia Rutherford - tested positive for Covid-19. She is at home doing very well with parents Polly and Mike (no sign of symptoms for them).

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

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

Cherie Stolze - home after time in hospital and rehab center.

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; 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.

People affected by storms, fires yesterday/today/tomorrow.

Indigenous Peoples' Day - today ... <https://www.uua.org/racial-justice/dod/indigenous-day>

Continuing

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

Polly Rutherford - healing from her successful back surgery.

Nelson Spencer - very serious heart condition (Ellie Svenson).

Blake - recent cancer diagnosis (Greg Schmelig).

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.

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 - continues to struggle with Parkinson's (McKenzie).

Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack - chronic health challenges.

The extended Eggebrecht Family - healing and wholeness.

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]

Other

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 October 18 - Emmaus Homes; emmaushomes.org

Week ending October 25 - St Paul's UCC, Oakville; sp4u.org

As your meditation becomes deeper it will defend you from the perpetual assaults of the outer world. You will hear the busy hum of that world as a distant exterior melody, and know yourself to be in some sort withdrawn from it. You have set a ring of silence between you and it; and behold! within that silence you are free. — *Evelyn Underhill*

As a drop of water poured into wine loses itself, and takes the color and savor of wine; or as a bar of iron, heated red-hot, becomes like fire itself, forgetting its own nature; or as the air, radiant with sun-beams, seems not so much to be illuminated as to be light itself; so in the saints all human affections melt away by some unspeakable transmutation into the will of God. For how could God be all in all, if anything merely human remained in man? The substance will endure, but in another beauty, a higher power, a greater glory.

— *Saint Bernard of Clairvaux*

Our Steady Center

by Martha Spong, UCC Pastor

Praise the Lord!

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever.

- Psalm 106:1 (NRSV)

In my early weeks with the first congregation I served, the co-moderators asked to meet with me. Church finances were stretched, they said. Would I consider reducing my hours to part-time ... so they could stop paying for health insurance for me and my children?

The conversations I had with the other parent of my children flashed through my head. Are you sure, he had asked, that it's a good idea to take them off my insurance and put them on yours? I tried to recall the church profile pages about budget and income, my memory blurred by a whirl of anxiety. Weren't these the people who signed my covenant agreement, making promises on behalf of the church?

This was not the last crisis of leadership I would face in ministry, not the last time I would wonder what to do next. But each time, without fail, some word of scripture would come to me, would ground me both in the moment of need and in the days to come. In the order of service for that coming Sunday, I had written a responsive prayer using words from Psalm 106 as a refrain: "God's steadfast love endures forever."

The words became rhythmic in my mind, louder than the questions and accusations I wanted to fling at the co-moderators and at myself.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

There would be more strife to come, but I had found my center and would not lose it.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Prayer

Thank you, O God, for your steadfast love that never leaves us.

In grief, anxiety, and shock, help us to find our steady center in you.

Amen.

20th Sunday *after* Pentecost

October 18, 2020

Living Messages

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Children's Sabbath

Laity Sunday

Abigail Henderson, former pastor at Northfield United Church of Christ in Northfield, Minnesota learned that not just a good feeling, but actual data supported a queer/trans youth group (CYAN) she had started.

She reports that “a coalition of non-profits in the town received a grant to track and work to improve health and well-being outcomes for children and youth in the community. One of the people connected to that grant contacted me... ‘I wanted to share some data with you that we are finally getting from the Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) that all 5-12th graders took last year... As I am sure you recall the 2016 numbers were quite concerning; 25% of LGB youth reported a Positive Identity and Outlook score that was deemed to meet the threshold to be equipped for learning as compared to 60% of all youth. For the Social Competence numbers, they were 55% for LGB youth as compared to 74% for all youth.

Well - I am so happy to be able to tell you that the numbers for LGB identifying youth have seen a significant increase! While still below the numbers for all youth they are the only group where we are seeing growth. In 2019 the Positive Identity and Outlook had increased to 43% for LGB youth as compared to 51% for all youth (an 8% difference in 2019 vs 35% in 2016) and the Social Competence number had increased to 63% for LGB youth as compared to 70% for all youth (a 7% difference in 2019 vs a 19% difference in 2016). Although I wish we didn't see any difference in numbers (and that we saw higher numbers overall), I believe this growth has been remarkable and is noteworthy! I also believe that this growth is because of you, Abby. You started something absolutely remarkable with CYAN that has made, and continues to make, a huge difference in the lives of so many. Thank you. Thank you for being a champion for youth when they needed it most, for changing the conversation in our community, and for being an authentic role model. You have left an incredible mark and I hope that you know that you changed lives. I am so glad that CYAN has been able to continue on the strong foundation that you built - it is needed in our community and for our youth.”

All those of you who pour heart and soul into work with youth without knowing the outcome, take heart! Here's actual data to show that the work you're doing really matters.