



**PARKWAY**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ALL ACCEPTED, NO EXCEPTIONS

November 8, 2020



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

Sunday, November 8, 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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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

11/08 BRUEGGEMANN, Michelle & Brad (12)

## Birthdays

11/10 SABLEMAN, Lynn

11/13 DWYER, John

11/10 YESS, Tyler

11/14 RAUSCHER, Nathan

11/11 BOWERMASTER, Ryan

11/14 ROSS, Emma

# 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday *after* Pentecost

## Meditation

*Wise people stay calm in a crisis. They can step back and see the bigger picture. They're thoughtful and self-reflective. They recognize the limits of their own knowledge, consider alternative perspectives, and remember that the world is always changing. Wisdom must not be confused with intelligence.*

## Ring of the Bell

**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.)

## Welcome Song *Seek Ye First*

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God And His  
2. Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and

righteous - ness, And all these things shall be  
ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

## Scripture Psalm 78:1-7 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Listen, my people, to my teaching; tilt your ears toward the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a proverb. I'll declare riddles from days long gone—ones that we've heard and learned about, ones that our ancestors told us.


We won't hide them from their descendants; we'll tell the next generation all about the praise due to God and God's strength—the wondrous works God has done. God established a law for Jacob and set up instruction for Israel, ordering our ancestors to teach them to their children.

This is so that the next generation and children not yet born will know these things, and so they can rise up and tell their children to put their hope in God—never forgetting God’s deeds, but keeping God’s commandments.


### Call to Worship

|              |                                                                                                          |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| One:         | I see things, but I haven’t seen it all.                                                                 |
| <b>Many:</b> | <b>I don’t always see things they way that you do.</b>                                                   |
| One:         | I hear things, but I haven’t heard it all.                                                               |
| <b>Many:</b> | <b>I don’t always hear what other people hear.</b>                                                       |
| One:         | I have had all kinds of experiences but I have so much to learn about your experiences and perspectives. |
| <b>Many:</b> | <b>I want to understand you and know more about your motivations, challenges and delights.</b>           |
| One:         | I want to be available and vulnerable so I can be known too.                                             |
| <b>Many:</b> | <b>We are in this together. We need one another.</b>                                                     |
| <b>All:</b>  | <b>Let us worship our God together – Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>                                     |


### Song *This is My Song* by Jane Sibelius




1. This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,  
2. My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o-cean,  
3. This is my prayer, O Rul-er of all na-tions:



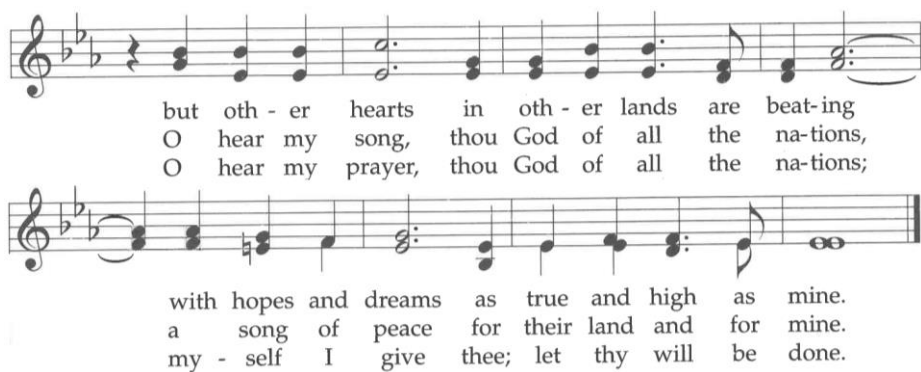
a song of peace for lands a-far and mine.  
and sun-light beams on clo-ver-leaf and pine;  
let thy reign come; on earth thy will be done.



This is my home, the coun-try where my heart is;  
but oth-er lands have sun-light too, and clo-ver,  
In peace may all earth's peo-ple draw to-gether,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho-ly shrine;  
and skies are ev-ery-where as blue as mine.  
and hearts u-nit-ed learn to live as one.



## **Opening Prayer at the Candles—Left & Right**

Holy One, in a time of shadows, we gather to seek the light.

In a time of sorrows, we gather to claim the light.

We light this candle with holy hope.

We light this candle to acknowledge the grief of those who lost loved ones to violence and to illness, to injustice and to inaction, to brutality and to lies.

We light this candle for the dead and the grieving. We light this candle to shine light on the oppressed and the marginalized, for the forgotten and the dismissed, for the poor and the powerless.

We light this candle for the least of these. We light this candle for black and brown siblings living under the weight of systemic, institutional racism in the self-described “land of the free.”

We light this candle because black lives matter. We light this candle for children made orphans by state-sanctioned cruelty, for young ones kept in cages, for people fleeing violence only to find violence.

We light this candle for humanity unrecognized. We light this candle to see injustices, to see them and commit ourselves to their dismantling. We light this candle for justice and equity. We light this candle for rainbow siblings, for L and G and B and T and Q and I and A and beyond - who live in fear of lost rights, harmed bodies, and unholy rejection. We light this candle because love is love and labels destroy.

We light this candle to embolden our faith that we may speak truth to power and cry out against the idolatries of wealth, power, and weaponized religion. We light this candle for the soul of our nation.

We light this candle because we believe in the light that cannot be overcome, in the light that shines justice, in the light of peace, in the light of truth, in the light of a whole-hearted faith. We light this candle because we are called to be of the light.

**Holy One, see this light and brighten it, see this light and know our struggles, see this light and know our faith. Let this be for us a liberating light, a loving light, a light to guide our feet toward mercy, toward justice, and toward a steadfast love for all. 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,**

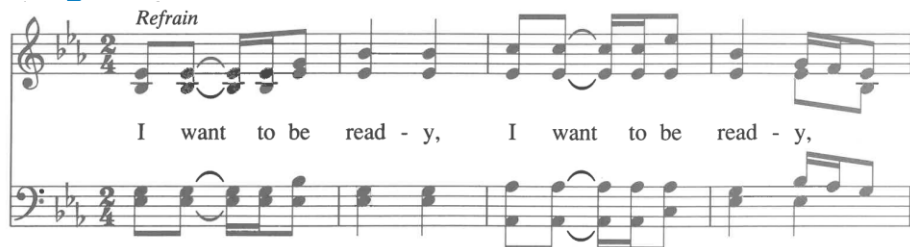
**Weave, weave, weave us together**

**Weave us together, together in love.**

### **Scripture** Matthew 25:1-13 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

### **Song** *I Want to Be Ready*



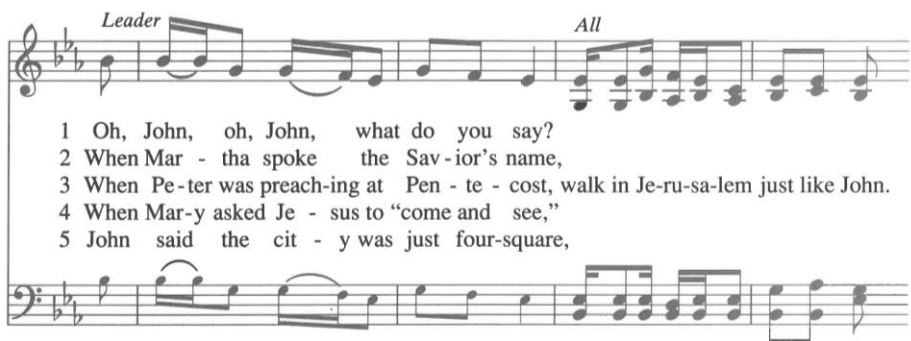


*Last time, end*



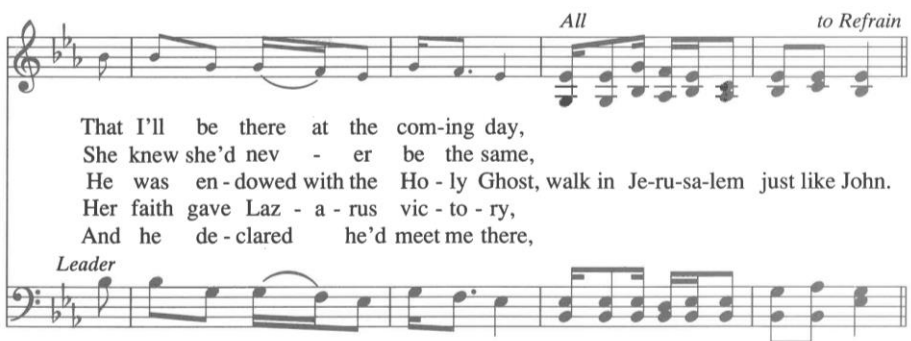
I want to be read - y to walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.

*Leader* *All*



1 Oh, John, oh, John, what do you say?  
 2 When Mar - tha spoke the Sav - ior's name,  
 3 When Pe - ter was preach - ing at Pen - te - cost, walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.  
 4 When Mar - y asked Je - sus to "come and see,"  
 5 John said the cit - y was just four-square,

*All* *to Refrain*



That I'll be there at the com - ing day,  
 She knew she'd nev - er be the same,  
 He was en - dowed with the Ho - ly Ghost, walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.  
 Her faith gave Laz - a - rus vic - to - ry,  
 And he de - clared he'd meet me there,

*Leader*

## Sermon *Foolish and Wise*

## Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

### Lord's Prayer

**Our** [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] **who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

[A variety of names for God are welcome here—including in the Lord's Prayer.]



## Invitation to Generosity

*I Will Sing of Your Love Love Love*—Christopher Grundy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUyjdGNIYH4>

I will sing of your love, love, love; of your steadfast love for as long as I live  
and I will sing of your love, love, love for as long as I live.

I will sing of a love so wide that it welcomes the neighbor  
and will not divide

and I will sing of your love, love, love for as long as I live.

I will sing, “Let the children come. Do not hinder them,”  
for you love every one,

and I will sing of your love, love, love for as long as I live.

I will sing of the trees so tall of the oceans so deep and your love for them all  
and I will sing of your love, love, love for as long as I live.

Descant: Your love is stronger than the mountains;  
soaks through me like the pouring rain.

It’s no wonder that I’m answering your call.

Whenever someone needs a neighbor

and wherever there’s a child in pain

we’ll be working on a just world for all.

## Stewardship Moment Ellie Svenson

## Offering Interlude

## Response

**Praise God whose many names abound;**

**Our Peace, our Rock, Our Holy Ground,**

**Our Home, our All, Earth’s Majesty,**

**Love, Spirit, Light and Mystery. Amen.**

## Prayer of Dedication Stephen Fearing

**God of Justice, we gather amidst discord, dissonance, disruption,  
and disorientation. Even in the midst of such trials, you call us to  
be neighborly to one another - to our black, brown, indigenous  
neighbors, to our LGBTQIA+ neighbors, to our undocumented  
neighbors, to our unemployed neighbors, to our addicted  
neighbors, to our neighbors without health insurance, and all  
other neighbors who are in any sort of need.**

**Guide our words and our actions to fervently and faithfully pursue  
your call to justice.**

**May we protect the least of these among us.**

**Giver of Every Mercy, give us a double portion of your Spirit now  
that we might be guided by wisdom and held in hope. This we pray  
in the name of your Beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Song of Parting** *Guide My Feet*



1. Guide my feet  
2. Hold my hand while I run this race,  
3. Stand by me  
4. I'm Your child



- Guide my feet  
Hold my hand while I run this race,  
Stand by me  
I'm Your child



- Guide my feet  
Hold my hand while I run this race, For I  
Stand by me  
I'm Your child



don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

**Benediction**  
**God's Light Goes Forth**  
**Music for Going Forth**  
**Announcements**

# Announcements

## **TODAY! Parkway Speaker Series: Sailing the Inland Seas and the Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald**

Sunday, November 8 and 15 | 11:15 am | via Zoom

While a college student, Parkway member John Dwyer worked in the summers as a merchant seaman on Great Lakes “ore boats.” This included a summer on the Edmund Fitzgerald, which on November 10, 1975 was lost with all hands during a ferocious storm on Lake Superior. On November 8th, John will talk about his experiences on the “ore boats,” and on November 15th he will tell the story of the storm that took down the “Fitz,” the disappearance, and the efforts to solve the mystery of the sinking.

### **Join with video:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84898581439?pwd=V1JhZXNod1JSTjVJcm1QYWWhOck9JQT09>

**Join by phone:** 312-626-6799...

**Meeting ID:** 848 9858 1439; **Passcode:** 256973

## **Tuesday Evening Dialogue November 10**

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. Please read up to page 180 for this discussion.

### **Zoom Link**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89263841824?pwd=eIVDSVVUMHZZeStLZlBlEzJWVWVZzO9>

**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                     | can of cranberry sauce |
| 32oz. box of chicken or vegetable broth |                        |

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.

We are so grateful.

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*

## **Building St. Louis. Building Together.**

*Celebrating 25 Years!*

Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis and The United Church of Christ congregations are celebrating more than 25 years of partnership to build affordable homes and create positive change in our shared community!

Our local affiliate was established in 1986, and UCC Congregations were part of our founding board. Habitat Saint Louis built two homes in those first two years - and as our organization has grown to meet the needs of our community, UCC has been with us every step of the way, providing financial and spiritual support as well as many hours of volunteerism. Over the years, UCC congregations have contributed more than \$900,000 to Habitat Saint Louis by hosting year-round fundraisers and going into their own pockets. They've logged hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours on worksites, committees, and boards. Their dedication to building affordable housing has directly impacted the lives of over 100 Habitat families.

Today, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the UCC congregations of the St. Louis region for more than 25 years of collaboration with Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis. We look forward to many more years of building homes, communities and hope together!

**Meet Our New Americorps Volunteer!** Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis is happy to welcome Jordan - our new Americorps volunteer!

Like many of us, Jordan's life has taken some unexpected turns due to the pandemic. She decided to take a gap year before starting as a freshmen at MIT to volunteer through Americorps for the 2020-2021 service term.

Serving her community is nothing new to Jordan, who's been a camp counselor for children with special needs. She looks forward to building a new skill set during her time with Habitat Saint Louis before she heads to Cambridge to study aerospace engineering. Join us in welcoming Jordan to our construction crew and thanking her for making the most of her gap year by serving our community!

Visit us online at [www.habitatSTL.org](http://www.habitatSTL.org)

## Join Us for Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue (TAD)

1st & 3rd Tuesdays beginning 11/17 | 2:00-3:00pm | via ZOOM

TED has a new sibling! Introducing TAD, Tuesday afternoon Dialogue, a Zoom book discussion group. Everyone is welcome. We will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, starting November 17th. The book we have selected is *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope* by Anne Lamott. This book is an exploration of hope and the place it holds in our lives. Copies are available through local bookstores, Amazon, and local libraries. On our first meeting we will discuss the Prelude and the first two chapters. We look forward to this new adventure, and hope to see you on Zoom. Questions or comments? Please contact Gerry Rogers or Jackie Eiffert.  
gcr123055@gmail.com, jeiffert2@gmail.com

## Pledge Campaign: Parkway UCC Consecration Sunday November 15

Just a reminder that Consecration Sunday for the Stewardship pledge campaign is November 15, 2020. If you didn't receive your pledge card and letter, call Harold Cobb at 965-4147 or Amy Yakel at 275-8039. You may also submit an electronic pledge card from our website:  
<https://parkwayucc.org/giving/pledge/>

Thank you for your continuing support of Parkway United Church of Christ.



### Parkway UCC 2021 Pledge

General Ministries\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Includes Missions

Building Fund \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you plan to give?

- ☐ Weekly  
☐ Monthly  
☐ Quarterly  
☐ Annually

My Total 2021 Giving: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Print name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Keep for your Records

General Ministries \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Building Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total 2021 Giving: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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



### Frequency:

☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually



## Beloved, Love Creation.

***“We may think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it’s our garden that is really nurturing us.”*** - Jenny Uglow

**F**rom the beginning of the creation narrative in the Bible, we learn about the design of stewardship. The beloved story of Adam and Even in the garden portray an understanding of care for creation – tending of the garden. The original Hebrew translates with the words “till” and “keep.” The word “till” implies “to be bound in service to” and the word “keep” in its original form implies “to preserve” for the future. This understanding is the foundation of stewardship in any form. Our role as stewards of creation can best be understood by our connection to creation, that it was made for our own sake. Most importantly, that by our own actions of love and care we are fed – literally physically and spiritually.

To Love creation was the call of the beloved community at St. Mary’s United Church of Christ in Maryland when their pastor reported for summer military duty, far away from his church and congregation. Tasked with maintaining the parsonage’s flower garden, the community grew flowers for the shut-in and hospitalized members.





The success of this effort inspired the development of a raised bed garden adjacent to the church, which is now tended by the entire congregation. St. Mary's connected with a sister church in this effort. Together, their efforts provided produce for the food pantry in their community. Through this project, all generations cultivated the bounty and beautiful blessings of creation together.

As we think about stewardship, can we expand our definition of harvest? What are the needs of your broader community? And who are your partners in answering those needs? Do you provide a tangible or physical product? Or is your harvest more intangible, like an experience of community? Whatever it may be – may it be fruitful and multiply.

## WEEKLY GIVING IF THE PERCENTAGE IS

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

| Annual Income | Monthly Income | Weekly Income | 2%    | 4%    | 6%    | 8%    | 10%   | 15%   |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 16,000        | 1,333          | 308           | 6.00  | 12.00 | 18.00 | 25.00 | 31.00 | 46.00 |
| 20,000        | 1,667          | 385           | 8.00  | 15.00 | 23.00 | 31.00 | 39.00 | 58.00 |
| 25,000        | 2,083          | 481           | 10.00 | 19.00 | 29.00 | 38.00 | 48.00 | 72.00 |
| 30,000        | 2,500          | 577           | 12.00 | 23.00 | 35.00 | 46.00 | 58.00 | 87.00 |
| 35,000        | 2,917          | 673           | 13.00 | 27.00 | 40.00 | 54.00 | 67.00 | 101   |
| 40,000        | 3,333          | 769           | 15.00 | 31.00 | 46.00 | 62.00 | 77.00 | 115   |
| 45,000        | 3,750          | 865           | 17.00 | 35.00 | 52.00 | 69.00 | 87.00 | 130   |
| 50,000        | 4,167          | 962           | 19.00 | 38.00 | 58.00 | 77.00 | 96.00 | 144   |
| 60,000        | 5,000          | 1,154         | 23.00 | 46.00 | 69.00 | 92.00 | 115   | 173   |
| 75,000        | 6,250          | 1,442         | 29.00 | 58.00 | 87.00 | 115   | 144   | 216   |
| 100,000       | 8,333          | 1,923         | 38.00 | 77.00 | 115   | 154   | 192   | 288   |
| 125,000       | 10,417         | 2,404         | 48.00 | 96.00 | 144   | 192   | 240   | 361   |



# PUCC Prayer List

as of November 4

## Celebrations

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

## Concerns

**Karen and Bob Boyd** - as she begins to receive Hospice care at home.  
**Bill Haack and family** - grieving/giving thanks for his father.  
**Pinky Wilcoxon** - just home after a few days in the hospital.  
**Brad Lyons** - recovering from abdominal surgery.  
**Sally Boughman** - recuperating at home after recent hip replacement.  
**Roxanne de Vries** - healing after surgery to repair badly broken finger.  
**Nate Goldstein and Family** – healing from his recent surgery.  
**Claire Stolze** - collegian just tested positive for Covid-19.  
**Burt** - rehab facility for a couple of weeks (Mona Herberg's brother).  
**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.**  
**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...**  
*including earthquakes and typhoons.*  
**The Election.**

## Continuing

**Judy Toombs** and family as they grieve the sudden death of Gene.  
**Cherie & Mike Stolze** - her health; her father's kidney disease.  
**Nelson Spencer** - very serious heart condition (Ellie Svenson).  
**Blake** - recent cancer diagnosis (Greg Schmelig).  
**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 Memory Care Division* #1001; 15250 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 November 8 - St Philip's UCC, St Louis; [stphilipsucc.com](http://stphilipsucc.com)

Week ending November 15 - St Thomas UCC, Chesterfield; [stthomasucc.org](http://stthomasucc.org)

## Thank You

I want to thank everyone for the prayers and nice cards and well wishes I received following my fall and recent surgery. I am now at home and doing well with therapy and hope to be back to normal as soon as possible.

Thank you all. ~Sally Boughman

## **Psalm for Election** by Evelyn Wheeler

God who created all things, out of no thing,  
who created order and connection -  
Where is your word and your creative power now,  
when we are so conflicted?

Everything now is overturned,  
everything is out of place, unstable, lost.

My ears are filled with my own thoughts  
with the sounds of self-drowning out your voice, O God.  
Where is the music of other songs  
the songs of other people?  
Where is your music, God?  
Where are the voices we have let be silenced,  
the voices we have silenced?  
Have we lost our way?  
Have we lost your grace?

We feel like boats unmoored in a raging flood  
like birds blown into the ocean by a mighty storm.  
Bereft, lost, anxious and frightened,  
we turn and turn in circles, seeking you, seeking guidance  
seeking solace and hope.

For you, and you alone, have always been with us,  
you, and you alone, have walked the road of darkness with us.  
You, and you alone, have made whole things of the broken,  
you, and you alone have made and remade creation.  
When your Spirit moved over the face of the waters,  
and life, life, life  
took first breath.

You, and you alone, are the One we need now,  
Come, Lord, come to your people,  
We who cry now for your presence,  
We who seek your voice.

And when we hear it, we will praise you,  
we will sing songs of joy and deliverance.  
We will sing songs of new creation,  
songs of healing and renewal.

Yea, come Lord, come.  
And we will sing our alleluias.

## Prayers for Illumination

*Lamp* by Krystal Leedy

Holy Spirit, lamp for all people,  
guide our way as we open ourselves to be changed by your Word.  
As we dwell in the majesty of the purple mountains,  
or our hand grazes through the amber grain,  
and each time we take fruit from the plain,  
may we never forget that the land which we inhabit,  
is only available by your grace.  
Extend that grace to us today,  
even if the skies seem less spacious  
and the sea less shiny,  
hold up your lamp for all people,  
that we may see you in the faces of one another,  
and the voices that come from Scripture,  
that our pilgrim-feet may find their way back to you. Amen.

*Transformative Work* by Nicole Pickens

Gracious God, whose steadfast love endures forever,  
inspire us to recognize your passion, justice, and mercy for all,  
so that we might follow your example  
and be part of your transformative work  
as citizens and as kinfolk to all humanity.  
We pray in the name of Jesus the Redeemer  
and by the power of your vibrantly moving Spirit. Amen.

*Double Portion* by Stephen Fearing

God of Eternal Wisdom,  
in this time when there are such assaults on the truth,  
clear our minds of all the clutter and clatter of falsehoods  
and still our hearts that we might receive the wisdom of your Word.  
Through the reading of scripture,  
bless us with a double portion of your Holy Spirit  
that She may guide us to the Truth that will set us free. Amen.

*Future* by Rochele Stackhouse

May the power of Christ lift us above despair.  
May the energy of Christ move through our weariness.  
May the peace of Christ settle our anxiety.  
May the challenge of Christ raise our expectations.  
May the grace of Christ assure us of forgiveness when we fall short.  
May the love of Christ, greater than we could ask or imagine, set us dancing  
into the future. Amen.

# 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday *after* Pentecost

November 8, 2020

## Tending God's Light

Matthew 25:1-13

*Stewardship Season*

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this...”

Whenever Jesus begins a story this way, we have a clue that a truth about the reality of the world that God dreams for us is about to be revealed.

Today we learn that the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young women, five of whom have enough oil to keep their lamps burning through the night and five of whom run out of oil, leaving their lamps in darkness.

As with any parable, there are many lenses through which to look at this story. But in the year 2020, one helpful way to look at this parable is as a story about being prepared.

Maybe through this parable, Jesus was giving us some clues about wrong ways and right ways to be prepared. The wrong way was not to anticipate all that might lead to needing a little extra. But it was also the wrong way to keep too much, to have more than was needed.

See, the wise bridesmaids did not bring too much. They did not hoard, did not stock up, clearing the shelves of all the oil and leaving none for their neighbors. They did not come to the evening with more than they would need. They brought enough to be prepared for the night ahead.

If 2020 has taught us anything, it is the importance of being prepared in the right way.

In this Stewardship Season especially, the parable of the ten bridesmaids (as it is sometimes called) gives us the opportunity to look ahead, asking ourselves what it means to be prepared enough, but not to accumulate.

The wisdom of the parable teaches us that it is wise to have all that we might need. But it does not advise squirreling away a treasure hoard.

What we have is to be used to make light in the world.

Let us do so!