Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only LIGHT can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only WE can do that.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., A TESTAMENT OF HOPE: THE ESSENTIAL WRITINGS AND SPEECHES





www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, January 17, 2021

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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

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f] parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org Office Hours: Mon - Thu 8:30am-3:00pm; Fri 8:30am-12:30pm

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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 praver.

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.

Pledge Campaign for our Mission & Ministry 2021

We are still accepting pledges: https://parkwayucc.org/giving/pledge/

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

Cover image: Mona Smith Herberg

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Birthdays

- 1/19 MASTERSON, Max 1/21 LANGTON, Benjamin
- PATEL, Corinne Niraj 1/20
- 1/20 WOLFF, Vivienne
- 1/21 DARLAND, Nancy

- 1/21 SIMONSON, Hannah
- 1/23 WESSEL, Tyler
 - 1/23 WOLFF, Scott

2nd Week after Epiphany

Sunday, January 17, 2021 | 10:00am | YouTube

Gathering https://youtu.be/aklYMO8Ksew

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, here's a lovely two-minute immersion in amazing archival footage from the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. No doubt Dr. King would want us to remember and celebrate all the people who made the march possible - inspiring us to keep working, marching, and fighting for jobs, freedom, equal rights, liberation, inclusivity, and a world where Black lives are no longer systematically targeted for demise. This labor of love is available for congregations and individuals everywhere, so share it far and wide: in worship, on social media, on your website, with your family and friends. Let freedom ring! www.saltproject.org

Meditation But now, because of the smartphone, America and the world are seeing in vivid detail the brutality that communities have known for generations. You can't deny. You can't look away. It's there. I do believe people are seeing the injustice of it all and are prepared to take action in a way that we've not seen before. And that gives me hope. ~Kamala Harris

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 *Here in This Place*—Christopher Grundy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9LZURdBJxE

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song Sanctuary



Scripture 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Now the boy Samuel was serving the Lord under Eli. The Lord's word was rare at that time, and visions weren't widely known. One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. God's lamp hadn't gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the Lord's temple, where God's chest was.

The Lord called to Samuel. "I'm here," he said.

Samuel hurried to Eli and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go lie down." So he did.

Again the Lord called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call, my son," Eli replied. "Go and lie down."

(Now Samuel didn't yet know the Lord, and the Lord's word hadn't yet been revealed to him.)

A third time the Lord called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

Then Eli realized that it was the Lord who was calling the boy. So Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening." So Samuel went and lay down where he'd been.

Then the Lord came and stood there, calling just as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel said, "Speak. Your servant is listening."

Call to Worship

One:	All people are God's Beloved.
Many:	Across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations—and all the ways we are distinctive from one another.
One:	We are all manifestations of God's image. We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality and tied to a single garment of destiny.
Many:	God calls us into the unending work of justice, peace and love. The Spirit is present among us now.
One:	Let us delight in our diversity that offers glimpses of the mosaic of God's beauty.
Many:	We are strengthened with God's steadfast love and are transformed from despair and fatigue into hope-filled action.
One:	Under the shadow of God's wings in this hour may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope.
Many:	We ask this, inspired by the example of Jesus and others who have caught the vision and who live for love.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit—as we hear God calling us to faith and action.

Song *O for a Church*—Rev. Ann N. Graves

Tune: AZMON

O for a church with open doors that's been so long our dream, Where faith and hope, and care for all show the love of Christ supreme!

With prayer and trust, the time has come to make our vision plain God grant us strength and energy and we shall our goal attain.

Then all who come may enter in, no barriers they'll find, Where young and old, the weak, the strong, may all join with hearts and mind.

O God of love, O Christ of peace, the Holy Spirit's power: Break down the walls, unite us all making this your kindom come.

Opening Prayer

Holy One, we come here to listen and learn more about the common good. We want to see and work for love and laws that establish justice for all. Hearts must change for the Beloved Community to flourish, for your kindom to come. We will open our hearts to an ever-expanding vision of community. We will trust your Spirit to guide and move us between the present and the anticipated Realm of Justice. We will work for a world where lives are enriched by difference; where people of different genders, races and sexual orientations work together in Shalom for the good of the whole. We will work for a nation and world where persons focus on the content of their characters. For you, O God, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all. Give ear, O God, to the prayers of your people. 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 *Rainbow Sun* (see page 15) Written by Alan Stein; sung by Cassie Schulenburg

Scripture Psalm 139:1-18 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version) O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* **Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand.** I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light Take my hand precious Lord, take my hand.

When my way grows so drear, precious Lord, linger near. When my life is almost gone, Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall Take my hand, precious Lord, take my hand.

Invitation to Prayer

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Leaning In: A Prayer of Intention—Christopher Grundy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rot5M9Kirhc

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.]

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Interlude Solice-Scott Joplin

Stephanie Polster

Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, turn our hearts, minds and spirits toward those in need. Help us to hear them crying out. We have gifts and resources in our hands. Help us to release much of what we have been given. Encourage us again and again to share from our wealth and privilege. Amen.





Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth Cantabile –Nicholas Jacques Lemmens, 1823-1881

Announcements

Words from new VP Kamala Harris about inclusion

What I want young women and girls to know is: You are powerful and your voice matters. You're going to walk into many rooms in your life and career where you may be the only one who looks like you or who has had the experiences you've had. Remember that when you are in those rooms, you are not alone. We are all in that room with you applauding you on. Cheering your voice. And just so proud of you. So you use that voice and be strong.

Let's speak the truth: People are protesting because Black people have been treated as less than human in America. Because our country has never fully addressed the systemic racism that has plagued our country since its earliest days. It is the duty of every American to fix. No longer can some wait on the sidelines, hoping for incremental change. In times like this, silence is complicity.

There will be people who say to you, 'You are out of your lane.' They are burdened by only having the capacity to see what has always been instead of what can be. But don't you let that burden you.

My parents would bring me to protests strapped tightly in my stroller, and my mother, Shyamala, raised my sister, Maya, and me to believe that it was up to us and every generation of Americans to keep on marching. She'd tell us 'Don't sit around and complain about things; do something.' So I did something. I devoted my life to making real the words carved in the United States Supreme Court: Equal justice under law.

While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last.

Announcements

Speaker Series

TODAY! January 17 Conversation about Water and Baptism

Join our own Florence Simonson today at 11:15am for a conversation about Baptism on YouTube.

Florence will share some of the theology, history, practices, challenges and blessings of Baptism.

As we continue to ponder Jesus' Baptism from worship last Sunday and listen for God's call today, be with us for this educational opportunity.

January 24 Budget Forum—Q & A

It's that time of year again! Our annual budget meeting will be held via Zoom on Sunday, January 31 following the worship service.

There will be a budget forum on Zoom during the Adult Education Speaker Series time next Sunday, January 24. This is your chance to ask questions and get some clarification of the 2021 budget, prior to the Budget Meeting.

All are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

– Amy Yakel, Stewardship

Video: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84898581439?pwd=V1JhZXNod1JSTjVJcm1Q YWhOck9JQT09

Join by phone: 312 626 6799 | Meeting ID: 848 9858 1439 | Passcode: 256973

TAD—Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 2:00pm | via ZOOM

Please join us at 2:00pm on Tuesday, January 19, as we begin a new discussion of Walt Brueggemann's book, Virus as a Summons to Faith: Biblical Reflections in a Time of Loss, Grief, and Anxiety. We will read biblical wisdom from the Old Testament and Brueggemann's interpretation for today. The group meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month, and we anticipate that we will discuss this book over three to four meetings. Come join us! Let's talk and learn together. Questions? Please email Jackie Eiffert, jeiffert2@gmail.com or Gerry Rogers, gcr123055@gmail.com

Video: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMIU4ay9oNndT WW4yZUYwUT09

Join by phone: 312 626 6799 | Meeting ID: 836 7061 7428 | Passcode: 480007

END THE NUCLEAR ERA Support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom US

WILPFStLouis.org * PROP1.org #NUCLEARBAN



The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons becomes International Law on January 22, 2021!

Please join WILPF-St. Louis at the "Ban the Bomb" Demonstration on January 22, 2021.

We will make three half hour stops on the sidewalks at high traffic intersections. Ample nearby parking.

11:00-11:35 a.m. - Clayton Rd. & Lindbergh Blvd. where Schnucks, Plaza Frontenac & the former Schniedhorst Restaurant stand
12:30-1:05 p.m. - Brentwood Blvd. & the south side of HWY 40 overpass
1:30 p.m. - St. Louis City Hall on Market St. & Tucker Blvd. (12th)

1:30 p.m. - St. Louis City Hall on Market St. & Tucker Blvd. (12th St.)

Bring a sign! Be safe! Wear a Mask and Social Distance! Spread the word! It's time to decommission nukes!



Spend the day at Mercy Center

Are you looking for a quiet work space? Somewhere to be by yourself for a few hours?



You can spend the day at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center where you will have access to a private room and bathroom for the day. Each room has a desk and chair, as well as a comfortable chair/rocker for relaxing and reading. Guests will also have access to free WIFI, the chapel, the grounds (including the Labyrinth and Cosmic Walk).

This is a chance to spend some quiet time reading and relaxing, praying and meditating or just having a safe and quiet place to work other than home for a day or two. Guests are encouraged to bring their own laptops and reading materials.

A brown bag or box lunch will be provided to each guest. You may purchase anywhere from 1 to 5 days to be used over the course of any 30 day period.

Go to www.mercycenterstl.org for details and to make your reservation.

Cost: 1 day - \$40.00 2 days - \$77.00 3 days - \$111.00 4 days - \$146.00 5 days - \$170.00

Check-In 8:00 a.m. or after Check-out by 4:30 p.m.





Prayer List as of January 13, 2021

Celebrations

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

The Lyons Family (Brad, Zoe, Summer and Blake) on Brad's engagement to Courtney Richards.

Concerns

Nate and Dawn Jones Goldstein - just tested positive for Covid-19. Jim & Polly Winkelmann - he is home after a few weeks in a rehab hospital, healing after a stroke. Encouragement welcome! 1504 Wolf Trail Rd; Wildwood, MO 63021; 314-610-3348 (Jim's cell). Audrey and John Nourse - as she finds healing and strength. Howard - healing after quadruple bypass surgery (Gerry Rogers' cousin) Anne Brodginski - nearing the end of her life (Svenson). Nelson Spencer - failing heart valve he received years ago (Svenson). Carolyn & Hank Kraichley - serious health challenges (McKenzie). 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. Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen. The people of Indonesia after recent plane crash.

Our Democracy.

Continuing

All individuals and families who are grieving into 2021. Cherie & Mike Stolze - her health; her father's kidney disease. Lori Connors - for strength, stamina through some health challenges. Ruth Peace & Pinky Wilcoxen - 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 - on parole at half-way house nearer family, learning new life skills, struggling with 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]
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 - those continuing, starting, returning to leadership... including **Biden**|**Harris**. **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 January 17 - **Interfaith Partnership of St. Louis**; interfaithstl.org (Kevin is the MMS Conference UCC representative to IP) *Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis* is a collaborative organization open to people of all religions in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Our Mission Statement is: Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis deepens understanding, respect and appreciation among all persons across lines of religious difference.

Our Motto is: As communities of faith, we agree to differ, promise to love, and unite to serve.

We strive to be a leading, trusted source of all things interfaith in the St. Louis area. Not only do we create our own programs, but we also support, resource and promote St. Louis' interfaith events and programs that move us toward greater understanding and peace.

Week ending January 24 - **Every Child's Hope**; everychildshope.org *ECH* was founded in 1858 by our UCC foremothers and forefathers as an orphanage for immigrant children who lost their parents in cholera outbreaks. As the needs of St. Louis children and families have evolved over the past century and a half, ECH's services and programs have adapted to meet those ever-changing needs.

Rainbow Sun written by PUCCer Alan Stein; sung by Cassie Schulenburg

If you seek a place of refuge A tender shelter from the storm We are here to give you comfort We are here to keep you warm

Our arms reach out in welcome As you reach out as well; Together we're a family Together we will dwell:

> (Chorus): No matter who you are, No matter what you do, We are one in Christ In our great love for you; For we're tied as one In a rainbow sun And our roots are strong and true;

Forming a tapestry Of such diversity We are woven tight With colored threads of light, For we're joined as one In a rainbow sun That will banish all the night.

We are, each of us, a blessing— Whether centered or adrift— But when we are bound together It is such a special gift;

For our home is always your home; It is here where you belong, We are the special lyrics As we live this special song (Chorus)

For together we are wondrous, For together we're this song, For in loving one another We grow together ever strong;

As the tapestry is woven With the many gifts you bring; We open up our hearts to you Affirming as we sing (Chorus) ... Under a blazing Rainbow Sun!

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 2021

Long-Awaited Gift

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 Known and Loved

*O Lord, you have searched me and known me. My God, you see and understand all that I am. You know when I sit down and when I rise up: you discern my thoughts from far away. You know even my most hidden thoughts. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. When I work, when I sleep, you are with me. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. When I speak, you know what I'm going to say before I do. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. You are everywhere, even right here with me! Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. I cannot imagine how you think or feel or create. You are so vast. For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. And yet, you are close by, too. Always giving birth, always making new. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. You even made this sacred body that I call home. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. You know how I was made because you made me! In your book were written all the days that were formed for me. when none of them as yet existed. You write the past, you sculpt the future. *How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!* I cannot weigh or measure you, God, *I* try to count them—they are more than the sand: *I* come to the end—*I* am still with you. I only know that wherever I am, you are too. And that is enough. *Italics from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Psalm 139:1-6, 13 - 18