

A photograph of a winter scene. In the foreground, a stream flows over green mossy rocks. The banks are covered in snow. In the background, there are snow-covered trees and a building with a white and dark brown checkered pattern. The text "IN LIFE, IN DEATH, IN LIFE BEYOND DEATH, GOD IS WITH US." is overlaid in white capital letters.

IN LIFE, IN DEATH,
IN LIFE BEYOND DEATH,
GOD IS WITH US.



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, January 31, 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

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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.

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.

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Anniversaries

1/31 MCDUGALL, Ben & Marilyn (51)

Birthdays

1/31 HERBERG, Mona

2/4 WADDELL, Alexa

2/1 STAPPENBECK, Andrew

2/5 BOWMAN, Elise

2/2 ZOLLER, Michael

2/5 OEHLER, Emily

2/3 MUCHNICK, Natalie

4th Week after Epiphany

Sunday, January 31, 2021 | 10:00am | Zoom

Meditation *Think for yourself and question authority.* ~Timothy Leary

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Affirmation of Community First Congregational UCC, Memphis
We will be together. We will stand as brothers and sisters given life by one God. We will be together. We will watch out for one another. We will listen to what needs to be said in a spirit of compassion. We will respect the power of silence. We will wait for the slowest. We will sooner or later catch up with the fastest. We will dry the tears of those who are weeping and know that they will dry ours when the time comes. We will let ourselves begin to feel at least a little of the pain of those we have considered our enemies. We will entrust our stories to each other. We will not be skeptical that peace can come. We will not forget the joy of life. We will not forget to be grateful. We will do our best to stir in each other hope, courage and faith.

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

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

Prelude Postlude—J. Blied, arr. Carlo Rossini

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

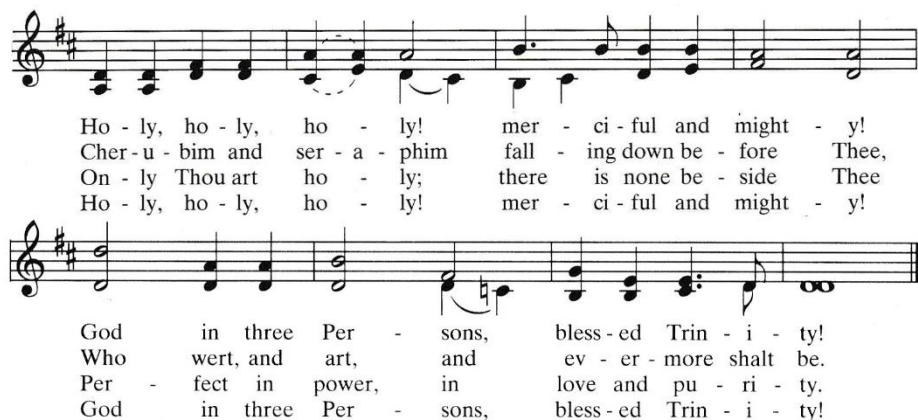
Welcome Song *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!* v1 and 4



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide Thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
Though the eye of sin - ful-ness Thy glo - ry may not see,
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 Per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Scripture Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (CEB—Common English Bible)

The Lord your God will raise up a prophet like me from your community, from your fellow Israelites. This prophet is the one you must listen to. That’s exactly what you requested from the Lord your God at Horeb, on the day of the assembly, when you said, “I can’t listen to the Lord my God’s voice anymore or look at this great fire any longer. I don’t want to die!”

The Lord said to me: “What they’ve said is right. I’ll raise up a prophet for them from among their fellow Israelites—one just like you. I’ll put my words in their mouth, and they will tell them everything I command them. I myself will hold accountable anyone who doesn’t listen to my words, which that prophet will speak in my name.”

Call to Worship

One:	Come with thoughts and beliefs that are old and new.
Many:	We come with words and ways that have been handed down to us generation to generation.
One:	Come with what you have, with who you are.
Many:	We also come with open hands, hearts and spirits that we might experience fresh expressions and experiences of faith—even as we appreciate and honor our ancestors.
One:	Come with respect, deference and a sense that you don’t know it all, that you haven’t figured it all out.
Many:	We come with a healthy suspicion of authority and with a desire to think for ourselves and question the powers.
One:	Come with your convictions, your questions, your willingness to compromise and chart a course together.
Many:	We come with eagerness and a bit of trepidation.
One:	Come, for the Holy is always waiting for you and grateful for your focus and intentionality.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Song *Gather Us In*



1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing,
2. We are the young — our lives are a mys - t'ry,
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
 we are the old — who yearn for your face,
 here we will take the bread of new birth,
 not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, but



see in this space our fears and our dream - ings,
 we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day. ____
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race. ____
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth. ____
 now is the King - dom, now is the day. ____



Gath - er us in — the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in — the
 Gath - er us in — the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in — the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in — all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name. ____
give us the cour-age to en - ter the song. ____
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true. ____
fire of love in our flesh and our bone. ____

Opening Prayer United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. 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 Mark 1:21-28 (NRSV—New Revised Standard Version)

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *Lord, Listen to Your Children*

On bend-ed knee with need-y hearts we
come and pray. — Lord, lis-ten to your
chil - dren. — With will-ing hearts and
o-pen arms we come and pray. — Lord,
lis - ten to your chil - dren. — With
sim-ple words of heart-felt thanks we come. Be

Last time to Coda

D.S. al Coda



liev - ing in your prom - is - es, we come. On

On

⊕ CODA



chil - dren, lis - ten to your chil - dren.

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

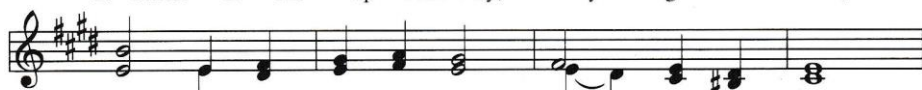
Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

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

Song *Christ of the Upward Way*



1. Christ of the up - ward way, My guide di - vine,
2. Give me the heart to hear Your voice and will,
3. Christ of the up - ward way, My guide di - vine,



Where You have set Your feet May I place mine;
That with - out fault or fear I may ful - fill;
Where You have set Your feet May I place mine;



And move and march wher - ev - er You have trod,
Your pur - pose with a glad and ho - ly zest,
And when Your last call comes se - rene and clear,



Keep - ing face for - ward up the hill of God.
Like one who would not bring less than the best.
Calm may my an - swer be, "Lord, I am here."

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Interlude *I Am His, and He Is Mine*—Rachel Sawyer

Based on *Everlasting* by James Mountain

Response *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Christ, all peo - ple
here be - low; Praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
Praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

Prayer of Dedication United Church of Canada

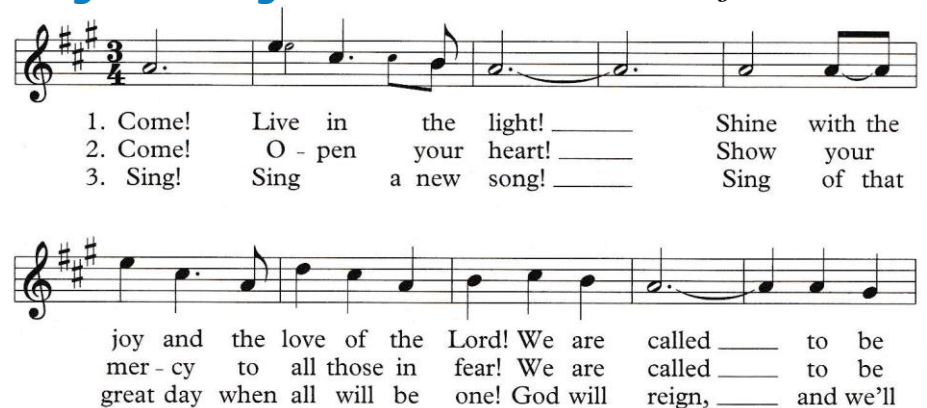
We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

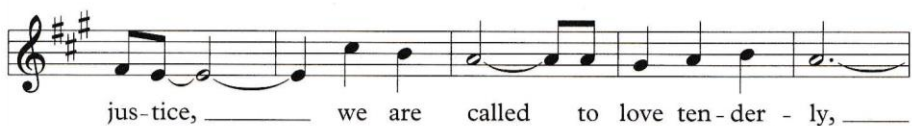
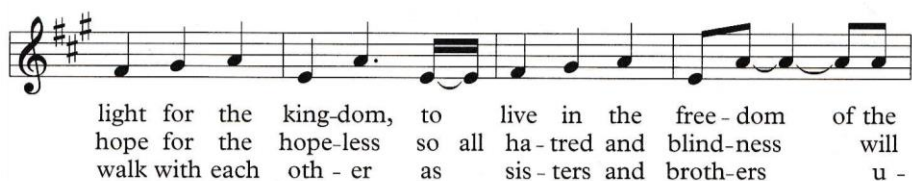
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song of Parting *We Are Called - Come! Live in the Light!*



1. Come! Live in the light! _____ Shine with the
2. Come! O - pen your heart! _____ Show your
3. Sing! Sing a new song! _____ Sing of that
joy and the love of the Lord! We are called _____ to be
mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called _____ to be
great day when all will be one! God will reign, _____ and we'll



Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth

Postlude (in C Major)—Peter Piel (1935-1904), arr. Carlo Rossini

Annual Budget Meeting via Zoom

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

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

Announcements

TAD—Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 2:00pm | via ZOOM | Next session – February 2

We are discussing Walt Brueggemann's book, *Virus as a Summons to Faith: Biblical Reflections in a Time of Loss, Grief, and Anxiety*. Come join us! Let's talk and learn together. Questions? Please email Jackie Eiffert, jeiffert2@gmail.com or Gerry Rogers, gcr123055@gmail.com

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMiU4ay9oNndTWw4yZUYwUT09>

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

TED—Tuesday Evening Dialogue: *This I Believe*

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 7:00pm | via Zoom | Next session – February 9

Please join us for some fun and inspiring discussion of the book *This I Believe* edited by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman. Volume 1.

Based on the NPR series of the same name, it features 80 short essays. Some were written by famous people and other essays were written by lesser known folks. These essays may bring us moments to reflect and rethink not only how we have arrived at our own personal beliefs but also the extent to which we share them with others.

We will be covering page 180 to the end of the book.

Contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5057214679?pwd=czdKUGZGZ1NrTnlKa2d1RnRUNHdpUT09>

Meeting ID: 505 721 4679 | **Passcode:** Book Club

Phone: (312) 626 6799 US | **Passcode:** 07621972

Speaker Series: Demystifying Our Juvenile Courts

Sunday, February 14 | 11:15am | Connection details TBA

Neither Perry Mason nor Atticus Finch ever tried a juvenile case. They probably don't even know the answers to these questions: Can juveniles be held in jail? Do they have any due process rights? May a juvenile be prosecuted as an adult? What is the role of the court, when a child is abused or neglected? Why are proceedings confidential? What is a Court Appointed Special Advocate ("CASA") and how can I be one? Judge Tom Frawley, who ran the City of St. Louis Juvenile Court, will answer these questions and others. It's a civics lesson that promises to be entertaining and educational.

Support Circle of Concern from Home

Many of you are doing more shopping on Amazon as you are staying home so much these days/weeks/months. You can automatically donate a small amount with each purchase by using AMAZON SMILE when you shop. Just go to your Amazon account and sign up for AMAZON SMILE. Select CIRCLE OF CONCERN, Valley Park MO as your charity. Spread the word to your friends/family! Questions? Contact Peggy Sieber pjsieber@yahoo.com

Month of Grace + Prayer

February 21 through March 21, 2021 in Town and Country
Month of Grace + Prayer co-hosted by Dayspring Baptist Church and Parkway United Church of Christ. All meetings virtual (Zoom). Any adult is welcome to participate regardless of church affiliation or denomination.

Group Opening Session: February 21 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Group Closing Session: March 21 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Private meetings with spiritual companions (one hour each) occur once each week via Zoom (or phone at the participant's preference) any time of the week that is mutually agreed between the spiritual companion and the participant.

Registration: Contact Clarence Heller at clarenceheller@gmail.com.
Registration encouraged by February 16. A Zoom link will be sent to you.

Share the Costs: There is no registration fee, but participants are invited to share the costs of the retreat as they are able. Regarding offering amount, the average cost for each retreatant is about \$20, some retreatants contribute less and some contribute more. Offerings are accepted once the retreat has begun.
* Please let Kevin know if you would like us to make a donation in your name.

<http://www.momentsofgraceandprayer.org/>

Learn about this experience from PUCers:

Dottie Dywer -- <https://youtu.be/FpqH4KNkz6k>

Sue Stolze -- <https://youtu.be/if6DWTEnv98>

The Inward Experience—A Virtual Retreat

Saturday, February 27 | 9am – 3pm | Zoom link provided upon registration
Participate in an interactive online self-care process. We will meet online and the event will be limited to 16 people with much of the work being done in cohorts of four people. Our format will be based on unpacking several Core Questions and these questions will be connected to this particular season of our lives which will include the challenges of COVID, the stress of social distancing, and the darkness that often comes with winter. This is a highly reflective and interactive process. If you need to do some inner personal work in the context of a community this may be the event for you!

Registration <https://www.mollygrisham.com/events/virtualwinterretreat>

PUCC would like to pay your \$99 fee so please let Kevin know.

Questions? Email Molly Grisham: molly@mollygrisham.com

Prayer List

as of January 27

Celebrations

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

Concerns

Jim & Polly Winkelmann - he is home healing after a stroke.

Encouragement welcome! 1504 Wolf Trail Rd; Wildwood, MO 63021; 314-610-3348 (Jim's cell).

Charlie - difficulties after open heart surgery (Cassie Rosenberger's cousin).

Shalonda - kidney transplant this week (Cassie Rosenberger co-worker).

Marilyn McDougal's sister - strength/courage for what lies ahead.

Jean Mueller's 96 year old aunt - nearing the end of her life.

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.

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 Wilcoxon - PUCC sisters with health challenges.

Bill Darland - ongoing health issues.

Audrey and John Nourse - as she finds healing and strength.

Anne Brodinski - nearing the end of her life (Svenson).

Nelson Spencer - failing heart valve he received years ago (Svenson).

Carolyn & Hank Kraichley - serious health challenges (McKenzie).

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.

If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.

— Meister Eckhart

I need a God who is bigger and more nimble and mysterious than what I could understand and contrive. Otherwise it can feel like I am worshipping nothing more than my own ability to understand the divine.

- Nadia Bolz-Weber

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

Pres Biden, VP Harris, 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.

Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen.

St Louis Assn UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending January 24 - **Every Child’s Hope**; everychildshope.org

ECH 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.

Week ending January 31 - **Church of the Master UCC**, Florissant; cotm-ucc.org

If God is the source of life, I worship God by living. If God is the source of love I worship God by loving. If God is the ground of being, I worship God by having the courage to be more fully human; the embodiment of the divine.
– John Shelby Spong

The real reason why progressive Christianity exists is not to prune away archaisms and false accretions. It exists to be an authentic gospel voice, to proclaim the good news of Jesus’ life and teaching: a vision of humanity united to the sacred and to one another in love and justice.
—Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2021

Power to Do

Mark 1:21-28

Health and Human Service Sunday

The book of Mark begins with a bang. Jesus is anticipated by John, baptized in the waters of the Jordan, sent into the wilderness for forty days of testing, begins preaching repentance and calls to the fishermen who will become his disciples - all in the first twenty verses.

And now, beginning in verse 21, we hear the story of his first encounter with a suffering person - a man with a so-called “unclean spirit.” As Jesus is teaching in the temple, “with authority,” the man cries out, naming Jesus as Holy. Jesus, showing the firmness of his authority, rebukes the spirit that is causing the man so much torment.

In this first healing story in the book of Mark, we encounter a person who was suffering as much in spirit as in body. When the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe last year, the response to avoid infection was quarantine. While this tactic undoubtedly saved millions of lives, it resulted in another crisis - a spiritual one as many were isolated away from the love and touch of ordinary human interactions.

Health can be thought of as a three-legged stool. Mental, spiritual and physical health work together to support the whole person. The United Church of Christ Council for Health and Human Service Ministries understands this whole-person approach to wellness. So, in addition to providing timely medical and emergency information to clergy and congregations, the Council also provided a corner for tending to spiritual health. For example, The Community Care Space, a YouTube channel and playlist, provided guided meditations and prayers as a way to bring healing to the weary and isolated.

On this Health and Human Service Sunday, we give thanks for the United Church of Christ Council for Health and Human Service Ministries and their work in supporting all the facets of human health.