

THEN SHADOWS AND SHAPES,
SHROUDED FIGURES, APPEARED TO
JOIN HIM, APPARITIONS, ANCIENT,
MYTHICAL FACES, WISE AND
BEAUTIFUL, LIKE HOLY GHOSTS,
SHIMMERING AROUND HIM, BESIDE
HIM, BEYOND HIM...

Sunday, February 14, 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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<https://pixabay.com/de/photos/sterne-startrails-astronomie-nacht-3625515/>

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Birthdays

2/14 SIEBER, Peggy

2/18 CAMERON, Dexter

2/15 BOWMAN, Ivey

2/18 NOLTE, Bill

2/16 TALLYN, Harrison

2/18 OWENS, Pat

2/16 TALLYN, Sterling

2/19 RISTAU, Ryan

Transfiguration Sunday

Sunday, February 14, 2021 | 10:00am | YouTube

Meditation *Then shadows and shapes, shrouded figures, appeared to join him, apparitions, ancient, mythical faces, wise and beautiful, like holy ghosts, shimmering around him, beside him, beyond him, enveloped by a brume indescribable, shot through with shafts of pink and blue and gold, as though the heavens themselves had opened up and poured out the light into the world.* ~Peter McKinnon

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

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

Prelude Beautiful Savior—Albert Beck, based on the Silesian folk tune

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Holy Ground*



Scripture Mark 9:2-8 (NRSV—New Revised Standard Version)

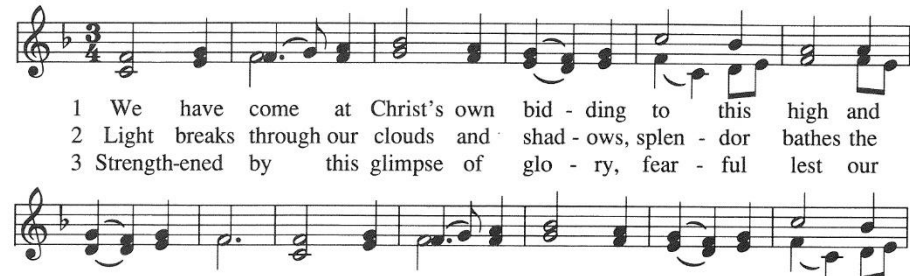
Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

Call to Worship based on Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

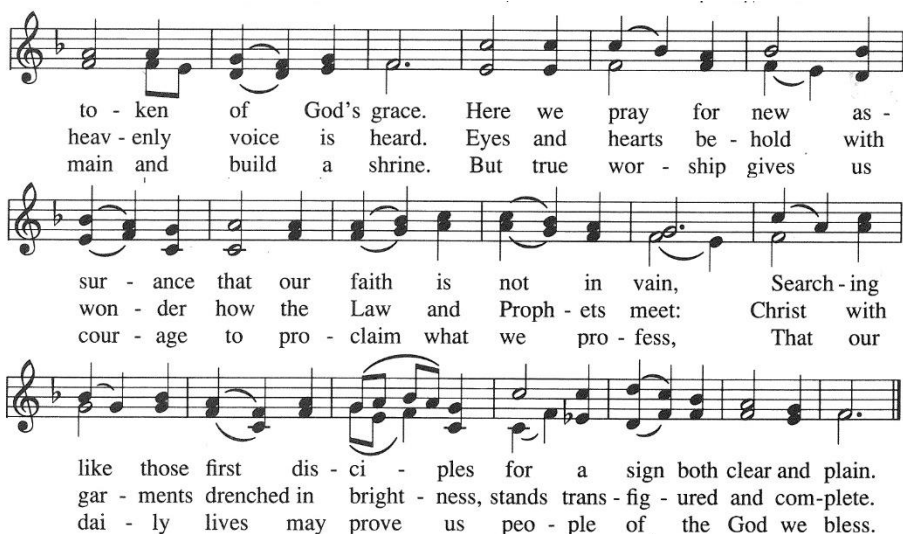
One:	One day Jesus climbed a mountain to a place of prayer and rest. Peter, James and John went with him to that lonely wilderness.
Many:	In a moment so amazing, Jesus shone with brightness blazing, wrapped in glory, heaven-blessed.
One:	Words could not contain the wonder of that most amazing sight. Jesus’ face was bright with splendor and his clothes were dazzling white.
Many:	There appeared two others with him; Moses and Elijah met him on that lonely mountain height.
One:	Jesus talked there with the prophet and the bearer of the Law. When his three disciples saw it, they were filled with joy and awe.
Many:	Peter told him, “Let us stay here. We can worship God and pray here.” Then a cloud came over all.
One:	From that cloud a voice was saying, “This is my beloved son.” And the voice said, “Listen to him!” — to God’s faithful chosen one.
Many:	So today we listen long. We pray our prayers and sing our songs. We find nurture in this space and we commit to be Christ-like.
One:	We watch Moses, Elijah, Jesus. We see one another too. We open ourselves to all the ways the Holy comes to visit with us – body, mind, spirit and relationships.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Song *We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding*



1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -



to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us
 sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
 won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our
 like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
 gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.
 dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

Response *Come Away with Me*—Mary Nelson Keithahn

Come away with me to a quiet place, apart from the world with its frantic pace, to pray, reflect, and seek God's grace. Come away with me. Come away.

Come and pray with me on a gentle sea, on top of a hill, in the Galilee, in gardens like Gethsemane. Come away with me. Come away.

Come today with thoughts of the countless ways that God's steadfast love blesses all our days, and join with me in silent praise. Come away with me. Come away.

Come and say, in words whispered from your soul, the feelings and actions you can't control. Your spirit needs to be made whole. Come away with me. Come away.

Come away with me to a quiet place, to God's loving arms waiting to embrace all those who come in hope of grace. Come away with me. Come away.

Children's Time Book Sunday—Liz Lyons

We are grateful for those of you who use your eScrip Card at Schnucks tied to education at PUCC so we can purchase these great books. Not using it? Let us know so we can help you get there!

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

Blessing the Children *This Little Light of Mine*

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (x3)
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!**

Scripture Exodus 20:1-19 (The Message)

God spoke all these words: I am God, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of a life of slavery. No other gods, only me.

No carved gods of any size, shape, or form of anything whatever, whether of things that fly or walk or swim. Don't bow down to them and don't serve them because I am God, your God, and I'm a most jealous God, punishing the children for any sins their parents pass on to them to the third, and yes, even to the fourth generation of those who hate me. But I'm unswervingly loyal to the thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

No using the name of God, your God, in curses or silly banter; God won't put up with the irreverent use of this name.

Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Work six days and do everything you need to do. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to God, your God. Don't do any work—not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting in your town. For in six days God made Heaven, Earth, and sea, and everything in them. God rested on the seventh day. Therefore God blessed the Sabbath day; God set it apart as a holy day.

Honor your father and mother so that you'll live a long time in the land that God, your God, is giving you.

No murder.

No adultery.

No stealing.

No lies about your neighbor.

No lusting after your neighbor's house—or wife or servant or maid or ox or donkey. Don't set your heart on anything that is your neighbor's.

* * *

All the people, experiencing the thunder and lightning, the trumpet blast and the smoking mountain, were afraid—they pulled back and stood at a distance. They said to Moses, "You speak to us and we'll listen, but don't have God speak to us or we'll die."

Message *Moses and Jesus*

Scripture 2Kings 2:1-12 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho.

The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when Elisha could no longer see Elijah, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Message *Elijah and Jesus*

Scripture John 21, selected verses

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ Jesus said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’ After this Jesus said to him, ‘Follow me.’

Response *Wait Out the Rain*—Mica Richards Moellering

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zPOCYj9LnA>

When the door slammed shut, she knew she was in for it

My heart wasn’t broken, but sprained a bit

I don’t even recall the details of it

But I still feel the ache

She was there in the chair in the living room

She looked up from her book as I came in the room

And she held out her arms in an offer

She knew I would take

Climb up next to me, we’ll look out at the sky

Tell me all of your troubles and as always I’ll try

To answer with a wisdom that will wipe away the worries and pain

We’ll just sit with my arms wrapped around you and wait out the rain

By the sand and the sea under Spanish skies
They called me a woman now, but it still seemed a disguise
We'd sat on the roof top 'til sunrise
With olives and beer
Then a sadness crept in like a tide on the bay
And it threatened to rise and wash me away
But he'd seen it before, and he knew what to say
To tether me here

Climb up next to me, we'll look out at the sky
Tell me all of your sorrows and as always I'll try
To answer with a wisdom that will wipe away the worries and pain
We'll just sit with my arms wrapped around you and wait out the rain

At the side of the road with the blinkers on
In the back seat you beg me to keep driving on
I don't mind, I don't think the storm will last too long
The skies will clear
In the car it is only the two of us
And the rain on the windows is thunderous
And you look more than a little bit nervous
So I say, "Come here,"

Climb up next to me, we'll look out at the sky
Tell me all of your questions and as always I'll try
To answer with a wisdom that will wipe away the worries and pain
We'll just sit with my arms wrapped around you
Feel the love of another surround you
We'll just sit with my arms wrapped around you and wait out the rain

Message *Jesus, You and Me*

Call to Prayer *Invocation*—Christopher Grundy
<https://youtu.be/A95UbOPVQKc>

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

Offering Interlude *Every Step of the Way*—Christopher Grundy
<https://youtu.be/Wj0cHXzAGTI>

Response *We Are Called, v2*



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



light for the king-dom, to live in the free-dom of the
 hope for the hope-less so all ha-tred and blind-ness will
 walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and broth-ers u -



cit-y of God! _____
 be no more! _____ We are called to act with
 nit-ed in love! _____



jus-tice, _____ we are called to love ten-der - ly, _____



— we are called to serve one an - oth - er, _____ to



walk hum-bly with God! _____

Prayer of Dedication

A Morning Prayer of Thanksgiving—LaGretta Bjorn

Loving God, Creator of all that has been, all that is, and all that is to come;
You made us human and gave us hearts to love you and follow you.
We thank you for the many blessings you have given us over this past year.

God, we thank you for all of the blessings you have given us throughout our lives: Food to eat, Clothes to wear, Shelter from the storm, People who love us unconditionally. We thank you for their love because we recognize that their love for us is a reflection of your love.

We acknowledge that there are times in our lives when we, ourselves, feel unloved and unlovable. Give us the grace to love others, even when they are difficult.

We trust in your faithfulness to carry us over the rough places of life.
We trust in your love to walk with us through the difficulties of our days.
We trust in your promise of life everlasting and put all of our hope in you.
We thank you for Jesus.
We thank you that he lived so that we might have eternal life.

Forgive us for our sins: The things you asked us to do and we failed to do as well as the things you told us not to do but we did anyway. We are sorry and we ask that you strengthen us so that we will more closely follow you.

We pray that your Holy Spirit will be felt by people who are in pain in mind, body, spirit or relationship. Help them to know that you are with them and you are able to carry them through their trials.

Bless our church family. Bless our community. Bless our nation. Bless our world. Enable us to live so that your dreams might be made real in the world around us.

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus, our Friend and Savior. Amen.

Song of Parting

God, You Wrap Your Love Around Us—Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
CONVERSE 8.7.8.7 D ("What a Friend We Have in Jesus")

God, you wrap your love around us, Like a blanket, soft and warm.
You give rest when we are weary, You protect us from the storm.
May each person who finds shelter In these blankets that we share
Also feel the joy and comfort Of your love's protecting care.

Jesus, you were once a baby, Sought by those who would destroy.
Into Egypt you were carried — Far from home, a little boy.
Were you wrapped up warm to travel, Safe from terror, free from harm?
Did you feel God's strong protection, Snuggled there in Mary's arm?

May the women, men and children Fleeing danger every day
Know, through us, your living presence; You walk with them on their way.
Spirit, as you give them comfort, Teach us here to freely give;
May we blanket this world over With your love, so all may live.

Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth

Deo Gracias (Hymn #75: O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair)

Based on The Agincourt Song, England c. 1415

**** Ash Wednesday is this week – the start of our Lenten Journey. ****
Worship with us at 7pm... details in a separate email early in week.

Announcements

TODAY! Demystifying Our Juvenile Courts

Speaker Series, Sun, Feb 14 | 11:15am | <https://youtu.be/07LgXS4aBoA>

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.

TAD—Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 2:00pm | via ZOOM | Next session – February 16

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, jjeffert2@gmail.com or Gerry Rogers, gcr123055@gmail.com

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUXpZEdDMlU4ay9oNndTWw4yZUYwUT09>

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

Month of Grace + Prayer February 21 - March 21, 2021

Month of Grace + Prayer co-hosted by Dayspring Baptist Church and Parkway United Church of Christ. All meetings virtual (Zoom). All are welcome!

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

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

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

Sprouts of Peace—Interfaith Families

Let's bake bread together! On behalf of the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis, United Hebrew Congregation, Parkway UCC, and Peace UCC we bring our Sprouts of Peace families back into community with one another—virtually, of course.

ABOUT: Sprouts of Peace is a free program geared for children, Pre-K—5th grade, and their parents who are interested in building interfaith friendships and learning about how their religious tradition is similar to and different from those of the friends they will make.

VIRTUAL PROGRAM: We have an exciting two-part program planned for everyone focused on the theme of baking, breaking, and sharing bread with one another. To participate, please follow the link below to register for:

- Anytime now - Part 1 of the program
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wh-OVh02ZwI&t=14s>
- Saturday, February 20 at 2pm when we will have the opportunity to come together on Zoom for more fun!
- Upon registering, we will share more details about the exciting program.

REGISTER: <https://interfaithstl.org/sprouts-registration/>

HOME LIBRARY: New this year is the Sprouts of Peace Home Library. Registration includes six children's books free of charge throughout the 2021 calendar year (reading level birth-gr. 3). Book themes will include topics like religious diversity, compassion, generosity, and friendship. Interfaith educational materials will accompany each title.

We cannot wait to see you all again!

Questions? Contact Kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330; 34-330-0629

Erin Fisher, Director of Community Engagement, Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis at efisher@interfaithstl.org.

Gateway 10th Annual ONA Convocation

Saturday, March 6 | 9:00am-3:00pm | via Zoom

Welcome! 2021 marks the 10th Annual Open and Affirming Convocation.

Like so many other events, this year's Convocation will be different from in the past, pivoting to an on-line Zoom event.

Hosted by:

Gateway Open & Affirming - St. Louis

Heartland Open & Affirming Coalitions - Kansas City

Representatives of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/open-and-affirming-convocation-tickets-138541004875>

Event to be held via Zoom. Link to be provided once tickets are purchased.

Alzheimer's News

As reported in the Wall Street Journal; Experimental Alzheimer's drug, donanemab, from Eli Lilly & Co. helped patients in a small trial. It slowed the decline in memory and ability to perform activities of daily living by 32% after 18 months of use in people with mild stage Alzheimer's. Researchers were targeting amyloid that accumulates in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. Donanemab was designed to clear these plaques.

You can learn more by going to www.alz.org/help-support/resources or the Alzheimer's Helpline which is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master's level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision making, and disease information. You can find virtual dementia caregiver resources online at alz.org/covid19help. Tools and support are also available in Spanish.

Want to learn more about the Alzheimer's Association and what they do here in St Louis?

Visit alz.org

and/or

Contact PUCC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com

2nd Mile Lent & Easter 2021

Go the 2nd Mile with us!

Parkway will again support four worthy organizations with its Second Mile Giving for Lent and Easter. We believe this blend of support will help Parkway create local, national and international impact with its gifts. Please remember that Second Mile Giving is over and above the Operational Budget and donations will be divided evenly among the organizations listed below. Please be generous as these organizations need on our gifts in order to be more faithful and effective.

Lydia's House

Lydia's House works in faith to end domestic violence in St Louis by being a place of healing and a voice of hope for abused women and their children. The agency provides safe, confidentially-located furnished apartments for up to two years, assists women in creating and implementing goal plans that will help them live independently, and increases community awareness of domestic violence. For more information, please visit www.lydiashouse.org

UP—Unleashing Potential [formerly Neighborhood Houses]

For more than 100 years, Neighborhood Houses has loved children in St Louis. Currently, there are three main facets to their mission:

Early Childhood Education—Caroline Mission is a licensed and accredited Early Childhood facility operated by Neighborhood Houses. Our Mission is to provide quality affordable childcare for children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age. Caroline Mission is a “home away from home.”

Girls' Night Out: Neighborhood Houses and Parents as Teachers collaborated together in the design and delivery of a program dedicated to supporting and assisting young mothers, ages 13—22. *Girls Night Out* is designed to promote healthy individuals and families.

After School Programs: Neighborhood Houses is the #1 provider of after school programming in the St Louis Public Schools... fun & creative activities, homework assistance, character education, cultural awareness, health & fitness focus, arts & crafts, supervised recreation, and much more! For more information, please visit neighborhoodhouses.org

Heifer International

Heifer International does so much more than put food in the mouths of hungry people. Heifer helps people to feed themselves. The goal of every Heifer project is sustainability -- project partners achieving self-reliance. And year after year, as partner families “pass on the gift” of knowledge and one or more of their animals' offspring to others in need, they become links in a network of hope, dignity and self-reliance that helps hundreds of others care for themselves. For more information, please visit heifer.org

Eden Seminary

Eden Theological Seminary is a graduate school preparing women and men for ordained Christian ministry. One of the six seminaries of the United Church of Christ, Eden is a community that seeks God's justice and peace in the world. Eden is welcoming, inclusive and ecumenically diverse.

Eden was established in 1850 at Marthasville, Missouri. It was established because a European education was not adequate to prepare pastors for Evangelical churches on the North American frontier. From its beginning, Eden has embodied an ecumenical spirit. Its first graduating class included six Evangelicals as well as a Methodist and a Mennonite.

Eden admitted its first African American student in 1933. In 1965, the late Joseph Cardinal Ritter of the Saint Louis Archdiocese became the first Roman Catholic Cardinal to address a graduating class in a Protestant seminary.

Today, students from many different denominations are engaged in theological education at Eden as it remains committed to educating faithful and effective leaders for church and society. The seminary counts among its distinguished graduates Reinhold Niebuhr, H. Richard Niebuhr and Walter Brueggemann.

Eden Theological Seminary is committed to the study of theology in the context of the ecumenical Christian community and the contemporary interfaith world. For more information, please visit eden.edu.

Please be sure to clearly mark your 2nd Mile gifts throughout the season of Lent.

5 Books to Read for Black History Month by Chris Gehrz

I want to share five books that I'm hoping to read for Black History Month, as part of my own continuing education as a Christian, an American, and a student of history.

Jemar Tisby, ***The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*** (Zondervan, 2019)

David W. Blight, ***Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*** (Simon & Schuster, 2018)

Reggie L. Williams, ***Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus: Harlem Renaissance Theology and an Ethic of Resistance*** (Baylor University Press, 2014)

Karen J. Johnson, ***One in Christ: Chicago Catholics and the Quest for Interracial Justice*** (Oxford University Press, 2018)

Michael G. Long and Chris Lamb, ***Jackie Robinson: A Spiritual Biography*** (Westminster John Know, 2017)

Prayer List

as of February 10, 2021

Celebrations

All the acts of kindness, justice and equity near and far!
Black History Month

Concerns

Ruth Peace - home after a couple of days in the hospital.

Pat and Bill Owens - healing and peace amidst her recent heart issues.

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

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

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

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

India glacier avalanche - victims, search teams, the grieving.

Continuing

Cherie & Mike Stolze - her health; her father's kidney disease.

Lori Connors - for strength, stamina through 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).

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

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 - half-way house, new skills, schizophrenia (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

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.

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

PUC C Family (and others) struggling with healthcare costs and limits.

Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC

Healing of relationships between the public and the police.

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.

The people of politically unstable countries across globe.

Impeachment Trial in US Senate.

St Louis Assn UCC Covenant Partner

*Week ending February 14 - **Christ UCC**, Maplewood; maplewooducc.org*

*Week ending February 21 - **Eden Seminary**, Webster Groves; eden.edu*

JOB OPENING: Kuhlmann Supply, the local sales representative firm for seismic materials, engineering and vibration isolation materials, is looking to hire a recent college graduate to become a product expert. This is a great opportunity for someone to get their “foot in the door” into the world of technical sales. Training will be afforded. Just looking for someone who is organized and willing to learn. Please have anyone who might be interested reach out to me 314-308-1868... Greg Schmelig

I Dream a World by *Langston Hughes*

I dream a world where man

No other man will scorn,

Where love will bless the earth

And peace its paths adorn

I dream a world where all

Will know sweet freedom's way,

Where greed no longer saps the soul

Nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where black or white,

Whatever race you be,

Will share the bounties of the earth

And every man is free,

Where wretchedness will hang its head

And joy, like a pearl,

Attends the needs of all mankind -

Of such I dream, my world!

Excerpt from Marianne Williamson's book *A Return to Love*

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our **light**,

not our darkness

that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves –

*Who am I to be **brilliant**, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?*

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the world.

There is nothing **enlightened** about shrinking

so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We are all meant to **shine**,

as children do.

We were born to make manifest the **glory of God that is within** us.

It's not just in some of us;

it's in everyone.

And as we let our own **light shine**,

we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear,

our presence automatically liberates others.

Transfiguration Sunday

February 14, 2021

Compassionate Community

Mark 9:2-9

Science and Technology Sunday

By a coincidence of the calendar (or perhaps a “God-incidence” of the calendar) today sees the collision of several different religious and secular observances. Today is Transfiguration Sunday, observed throughout Christendom as the day that the disciples saw Jesus for the first time as a truly divine being. In the United Church of Christ, we designate this Sunday as both Racial Justice Sunday and Science and Technology Sunday. And this also happens to be what has become the secular holiday of St. Valentine’s Day.

Observing so many different, and seemingly contradictory, holidays and designations on the same day can seem confusing. It may seem as if they are in competition with each other, and that if we lift up one, then another may fall by the side.

We can hold all of these together, however, as we celebrate this day as what it means to be progressive Christians. **“Progressive Christianity is characterized by a willingness to question tradition, acceptance of human diversity, a strong emphasis on social justice and care for the poor and the oppressed, and environmental stewardship of the earth. Progressive Christians have a deep belief in the centrality of the instruction to “love one another” (John 15:17) within the teachings of Jesus Christ. This leads to a focus on promoting values such as compassion, justice, mercy, and tolerance, often through political activism.”* *Wikipedia.

When we recall the progressive expression of our faith, it takes away the need for competition and a sense of scarcity or anxiety. We remember that in Christ, we are united in love and acceptance. We give thanks that our tent is big enough and wide enough to hold the wonder of miracle, the persistent call to social justice, the yearning for knowledge, and even the sentimentality of a greeting-card holiday.

However you observe this day, give thanks that you do it in company with a great cloud of witnesses who join you in following the same Christ in many ways.