

First Sunday in Lent





www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, February 21, 2021

Contents

- 3 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 9 Announcements
- 14 Prayer List

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

Linda Tossing, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org]

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

Barb Kuhlmann, *Director of Christian Education/Youth* [barbk@parkwayucc.org]

Barry Luedloff, *Music Director* [barry@parkwayucc.org]

Mona Smith Herberg, *Office Administrator* [mona@parkwayucc.org]

Kathy Ferrell, *Office Assistant* [kathy@parkwayucc.org]

Rich Race, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]

Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [dawn@parkwayucc.org]

Julie Connors, *Nursery* [juliestl1992@yahoo.com]

Emma Pennycuick, *Nursery* [epennycuick1@live.maryville.edu]

Joyce Ruiz, *Alzheimer’s Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador* [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com]

Polly Rutherford, *Environmental Justice/Sustainability Seekers* [pollyrutherford@gmail.com]

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.

All word and service music reprint permission covered under CLLI License #2464265.

Birthdays

2/21 CONNORS, Jessica

2/25 TALLYN, Wyatt

2/22 SMITH, Charlotte

2/26 MUCHNICK, Kathryn

2/24 WEAS, Henry

2/27 MATTEUCCI, Tommy

2/25 SCHOWALTER, Laura

2/27 ROESLER, Paul

First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 21, 2021 | 10:00am | YouTube

Meditation While the word charity connotes a single act of giving, justice speaks to right living, of aligning oneself with the world in a way that sustains rather than exploits the rest of creation. Justice is not a gift; it's a lifestyle, a commitment to the Jewish concept of tikkun olam – 'repairing the world.' ~Rachel Held Evans

Passing the Peace of Christ

"May the peace of Christ be with you."

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

Prelude *Cantabile*—Nicholas Jacques Lemmens (1823-1821)

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *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



Scripture Genesis 9:8-17 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Call to Worship

One:	God said, “I will be your God.”
Many:	God has promised. God remembers. God is faithful.
One:	God said, “I will lead you in paths of truth.”
Many:	God has promised. God remembers. God is faithful.
One:	God said, “I will forgive you.”
Many:	God has promised. God remembers. God is faithful.
One:	God said, “My kingdom is near.”
Many:	God has promised. God remembers. God is faithful.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Lenten Candles

We light seven candles as we continue on this Lenten journey. We want the light to illumine our path as we seek to be the words and ways of Jesus. We commit to being more infused by the Spirit as we travel.

Even as we know this is good and important work, we recognize that it isn't easy—and we may come upon the shadow side of humanity and some of our own unique darkness.

We will extinguish one candle each time we gather for worship this season, acknowledging that this can be tough and exhausting work. As we approach the desertion and depletion of Good Friday, we also prepare ourselves for the dawn and love of Easter morning...the light that never goes out.

Prayer at the Candles

Holy One, we watch and listen to Jesus this Lenten season. We do so with the expectation that we will be inspired to follow him and echo his words and actions. We pay particular attention to our hands that wipe tears; make music; tremble; prepare food; applaud and lift others up; struggle with carpal tunnel or arthritis; hold others' hands and embrace; sometimes do harm; wash feet; build and repair; touch the earth gently; strain in handcuffs; wring amid nail biting; write letters and make calls; sting from splinters or papercuts; engage in hand-offs, handouts and hand-me-downs; clench in fists; draw-sculpt-carve-paint-stitch-weave; swat; pray; commit to being open and available. Amen.

Response *Put Peace into Each Other's Hands*—Fred Kaan

Tune: St Columbia, Irish Traditional Melody—With Joy Draw Water; Immortal Love; Mother of All

Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it; protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation; be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands, like bread we break for sharing; look people warmly in the eye: our life is meant for caring.

Put Christ into each other's hands, he is love's deepest measure; in love make peace, give peace a chance and share it like a treasure.

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.**

Psalter Lesson Psalm 25:1-10

Gospel Lesson Mark 1:9-15 (CEB - Common English Bible)

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him.

And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. Jesus was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God’s good news, saying, “Now is the time! Here comes God’s kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!”

Sermon

Call to Prayer *O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go*

1 O Love that will not let me go,
2 O Light that fol - lows all my way,
3 O Joy that seeks me through my pain,
4 O Cross that rais - es up my head.

I rest my wea - ry soul in you;
to you I yield my flick - ering flame;
to you I can - not close my heart;
from you I dare not seek to flee;

I give you back the life I owe, that
Re - new my spir - it's fee - ble ray, that
I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
Life's glo - ries with - er and are dead, but

in your o - cean depths its flow may swell with ar - dor true.
from your bril - liant sun - lit day it may new bright - ness claim.
know the prom - ise is not vain that you will ne'er de - part.
from the ground there blos - soms red, life that shall end - less be.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer *Sung to the tune by Nate Stout*

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

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

Call to Generosity ^{2nd Mile Lent/Easter}

Heifer Project | Lydia's House | Unleashing Potential | Eden Seminary

Offering Interlude *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*—Albert Beck, based on the hymn tune by Melchior Vulpius (1609)

Response *Make Me A Servant*

Make me a servant, humble and meek.

Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.

And may the prayer of my heart always be:

Make me a servant. Make me a servant. Make me a servant today.

Commitment to Serve

Sister, brother, let me be your servant. Let me be as Christ to you. Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too. We are pilgrims on a journey. We are siblings on the road. We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear. I will hold my hand out to you; speak the peace you long to hear. I will weep when you are weeping. When you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through. Amen.

Song *Lead Me, Guide Me*

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,

for if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me. _____

Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth Postlude in A Minor—A. Haase

Announcements

TODAY: Speaker Series

***Forgiveness—Simple and Yet Complex* by Dr. Jan Worley**

Sunday, February 21 | 11:15am-1:15pm | via Zoom

Oscar Wilde once said, “Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them more.” Taking a less cynical view will be Dr. Worley, a previous Parkway Speaker Series presenter; this time with a two hour presentation to occur on one Sunday. Don't worry, the time will fly given the subject and the intellect and insight of Dr. Worley, a master teacher.

Contact Richard Scherrer: 90fivetpr@gmail.com

Video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84898581439?pwd=V1JhZXNod1JSTjVJcm1QYWhOck9JQT09>

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

NEXT WEEK: Speaker Series

***It's not just a slogan! BLACK LIVES really do matter* by John**

Russell Sunday, February 28 | 11:15am | via Zoom

John Russell is passionate about science. With equal passion, he now offers his insights on race relations and the Black Lives Matter movement. Hear the answer to the question, “Why just focus on black lives; don't all lives matter?” Come prepared to be uncomfortable, even if you are sure that you don't have a racist bone in your body.

Contact Richard Scherrer: 90fivetpr@gmail.com

Video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84898581439?pwd=V1JhZXNod1JSTjVJcm1QYWhOck9JQT09>

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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue New Book Starts 2/23

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

Please join us to discuss the *The Sword and the Shield* by Peniel Joseph. This book is a dual biography of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. Despite markedly different backgrounds, these two men inspired and pushed each other throughout their adult lives. The author tells the story of each man's identity and how their ideas shaped America and the struggle for racial equality which gives us greater understanding of the foundation for Black Lives Matter.

We will be covering the first 100 pages of the book for Feb 23 session.

How about a little social time before the book discussion? We miss the old days of TED potlucks and fun dinner conversation so starting Feb 23 we will start the call at 6:45 for some time to visit with each other and catch up on life before we start our book talk. Contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86172300024?pwd=bFdGQ0xKRHFGTnZXM0kyRC9FdZGQ09>; **Meeting ID:** 861 7230 0024 | (312) 626 6799 US | **Passcode:** 13607034

PUCC Inquirers

Wednesday, February 24 | 7-8:00pm | via Zoom

Do you want to know more about PUCC? Do you want to be known?

Join us on Zoom for an Inquirers' Hour

Our goals that evening include:

- * getting to know one another a bit more
- * discussing some key issues of faith
- * describing Parkway's worship, outreach, education, leadership, fellowship
- * taking a look at our denomination, the United Church of Christ
- * sharing ideas about the exciting future of Parkway UCC
- * soliciting your thoughts on how we can be a more welcoming and inviting community of faith
- * answering any of your questions

You will find our time together meaningful and informative!

Some churches call this sort of gathering a New Members Class – we do not.

While we do know that there are a number of you who have expressed interest in becoming members of the church, we do not assume that Inquirers are seeking membership. We just want to be hospitable, get to know you and have the chance to express gratitude for your presence among us.

Questions? RSVP? Please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84955150339?pwd=R1FDNG5uaFF2NnpNbTZoRmp3ZjVSUT09>

Meeting ID: 849 5515 0339; **Passcode:** 824483

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue NEW BOOK

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

Please join us on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, as we begin a new book by Trevor Noah, *Born a Crime: Stories of a South African Childhood*. We will discuss Section 1, pages 1 - 111. Are you new to book groups or new to Parkway?

We'd love to have you. Brew a cup of tea and join us. Sue Moellering will facilitate the discussion for this book. Questions? Contact Jackie, jeiffert2@gmail.com or Gerry, gcr123055@gmail.com

Video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMlU4ay9oNndTWw4yZUYwUT09>

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

Absolutely Fearless: The Life of Raymond H. Littge, Missouri's Top Scoring WWII Fighter Pilot Ace

A biography based on research materials, military records, interviews with family and diaries of his sister, Altheda Littge Schmelig (Grandmother of Greg Schmelig). The 352nd Fighter Group (aka Blue Nosed Bastards of Bodney), was one of the most decorated fighter groups of WWII. It produced many aces, including Raymond H. Littge. This book tells the story of Ray's short life, focusing on his years as a P-51 Mustang pilot in WWII. This book is dedicated to our family and to all who served. ~Greg Schmelig [All profits go to the Lutheran Heritage Center and Museum in Altenburg, Missouri.]

Habitat News 35 years and 400 homes ago, a group of Parkway members, along with others from the St. Louis Association, brought Habitat for Humanity to St. Louis. In the last 25 years, this Saint Louis UCC/HFH partnership has generated \$800,000 in donations towards building affordable housing in St. Louis. While at this time, due to Covid-19, volunteer opportunities are not available, this need for affordable housing continues. Please consider helping continue this worthy effort. Please make checks payable to UCC Habitat Build and send them to Tim Weaver, Samuel UCC, 320 N. Forsyth Blvd., Clayton, Mo 63105 Please direct any questions to Tom McKenzie: 314-567-0429 | mckenzie1947@att.net.

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, jeiffert2@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

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

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

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/open-and-affirming-convocation-tickets-138541004875>. Link to be provided once tickets are purchased.

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.

For Lent 1966

Madeleine L'Engle

It is my Lent to break my Lent,
To eat when I would fast,
To know when slender strength is spent,
Take shelter from the blast
When I would run with wind and rain,
To sleep when I would watch.

It is my Lent to smile at pain
But not ignore its touch.
It is my Lent to listen well
When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence, turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.

Prayer List

as of February 17, 2021

Celebrations

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

Black History Month

Shrove Tuesday ... Ash Wednesday tomorrow!

Brian Sableman & Daphane Tan married here at PUCC last wkend.

Concerns

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

Continuing

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

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

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

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 Brodgerski - 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 - 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.

PUCC 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.

St Louis Assn UCC Covenant Partner

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

*Week ending February 21 - **Eden Theological Seminary**,*

Webster Groves; eden.edu

A Black History Month Voice...

Waiting for Rosa

Anthony L. D. Scott

Some speculate, Rosa Parks was chosen because she was an image of respectability. But, alas, there may never be another Rosa. This is not because there will never again be a “respectable” black person victimized, sacrificed, lynched on the altar of White Supremacy. It is because the wider world will, faithfully, find reason to discount us. There doesn’t need to be another unblemished lamb. The blood of too many sisters and brothers cries out from the ground asking, begging, pleading to be heeded. Hear the blood of Emmett and Trayvon, of Sandra and Atatiana, of Aiyana and Tamir. Hear the blood of Michael and Amadou, of Botham and Natasha, of Renisha and Breonna. Hear the blood of Jordan and Elijah, of Alexia and Janisha, of Rekia and Bettie. Hear the blood of Murrietta and Genevieve, of Tony and Clemente, of Cynthia and Tanisha. Hear the blood of Gabriella and Maya, of Philando and Oscar, of Aura and Meagan. I’m sorry that your blood was not enough. I’m sorry that your lives were not enough. I’m sorry that your deaths were not enough. I’m sorry that we were not enough.

Enough blood has been spilled. Enough is enough. Politics of respectability failed us in the civil rights movement of the 1960’s and it continues to fail us today. Hear the voice of your sister, your brother crying out from the ground and harden not your heart. Hear them, not because they were perfect but because they were human. Fear be damned. Respectability be damned.

First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

God's Loving Paths

Psalm 25:1-10

Teach me your paths, O Lord, the Psalmist cries.

Teach me your paths! These are powerful words as we take our first steps into the season of Lent.

As we enter Lent, we are invited into humility. We remember that no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey, we still have things to learn. We approach Lent as students of Christ's way. When we agree to be a student, we agree to be transformed. We agree to come out of the period of teaching different than the way we went in, aware that everything new that we learn will change us.

As we enter Lent, we look to Christ, who each year has something new to teach us.

No matter how often we have taken this journey, the Lenten path is waiting for us, and ready to teach us.

The psalm, with its plural "paths" rather than singular "path" reminds us that there is more than one way to embark on the Lenten journey. If you have always approached Lent the same way (by giving up something in particular, or by taking on something in particular, or even by doing nothing unusual at all) try a different path this year. Follow the Holy One in another way and allow yourself to be transformed.

As we enter Lent, we remember that we are never alone. We are always accompanied by The Teacher, who wants for us the renewing and transformation of our minds, hearts, and souls. So, be open to Christ's teaching, be ready to follow a new path if one appears before you.

A prayer to carry with you into Lent:

Teach us in your paths, O Lord! Guide us as we walk and instruct us as we journey. As new paths open before us, help us to follow them with curiosity and joy. Remind us that no matter the path you guide us on, you always desire to lead us in the way of new life. In your name we pray, Amen.