# **Fifth Sunday in Lent**





www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, March 21, 2021

### Contents

- 3 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 11 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

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# Welcome to Parkway

**Thank you for joining us this morning.** Please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat.

**Welcome Children.** We invite children to full participation in worship.

**Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer.** A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop their work and join in 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

3/26 CARTER, Deborah & Greg (27)

### **Birthdays**

- 3/26 BRUEGGEMANN, Brad
- 3/27 BIEST, Julia
- 3/27 DETJEN, Douglas

# **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Sunday, March 21, 2021 | 10:00am | Facebook Live

### **Meditation**

In the cold and snow of winter, there's a spring that waits to be—unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see. ~Gary Freeland

Welcome Let us know you are here!

### **Passing the Peace of Christ**

"May the peace of Christ be with you." (We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

### Prelude

### Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

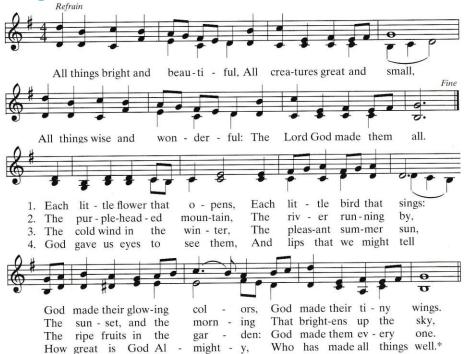


**Scripture** Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version) The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their partner, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### **Call to Worship**

Onei	Come with expectations that this will be a finitful devi
One:	Come with expectations that this will be a fruitful day!
Many:	In this hour of worship, may our eyes be open to beauty.
One:	May our ears be tuned to harmony.
Many:	May the fragrance of God's love permeate each moment.
One:	May the touch of God's hand guide all we do.
Many:	May we taste with delight the joy of God's presence here today.
One:	May we be encouraged and enlivened by Jesus' words and ways.
Many:	May we be inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

#### **Song** All Things Bright and Beautiful



### **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**

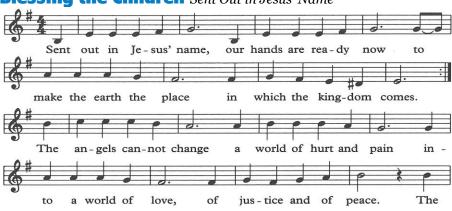
Holy One, we watch and listen to Jesus this Lenten season. We do so with the expectation that we will be inspired to follow him and echo his words and actions. We pay particular attention to our hands that wipe tears; make music; tremble; prepare foods; struggle with carpal tunnel or arthritis; applaud and lift others up; hold other 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 and papercuts; engage in hand-offs, handouts and hand-medowns; 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

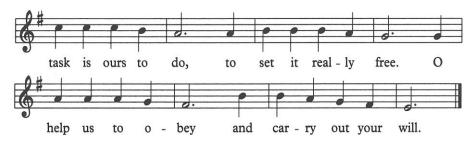
Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it; protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

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

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



### Blessing the Children Sent Out in Jesus' Name



#### Scripture John 12:20-26 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Some Greeks were among those who had come up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and made a request: "Sir, we want to see Jesus." Philip told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

Jesus replied, "The time has come for the Human One to be glorified. I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever. Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. God will honor whoever serves me."

#### Sermon





### 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** Womb of Life

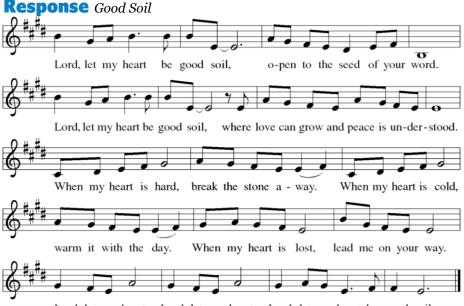




Mission Moment 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Lent/Easter

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

### **Offering Interlude**



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

### Prayer of Dedication Pamela Hawkin

O God, who makes all things new, new stars, new dust, new life; take my heart, every hardened edge and measured beat, and create something new in me. I need your newness, God, the rough parts of me made smooth; the stagnant, stirred; the stuck, freed; the unkind, forgiven.

And then, by the power of your Spirit, I need to be turned toward Love again. Send me out to love others. Amen.



### God's Light Goes Forth Announcements

The author is unknown, unfortunately, but the poet had a deep sense of what it's like being elderly.

Blessed are they who understand my faltering steps and shaking hands. Blessed, who know my ears today must strain to catch the words they say. Blessed are they who look away when tea is spilled on the cloth that day. Blessed are they with a cheery smile who stopped to chat for a little while. Blessed are they who never say: "You've told that story twice today." Blessed are they who make it known that I'm loved, respected and not alone. And blessed are they who ease the days of my journey home, in loving ways.

# Announcements

### **Tuesday Evening Dialogue 3/23**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays | 7:00pm | via Zoom

On March 23 we will be wrapping up our discussion of the book *The Sword and The Shield* so please read to the end. This book is a dual biography of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr.

Video: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86172300024?pwd=bFdGQ0xKRHFGTnZXM0k yRC9FdDZGQT09;

Meeting ID: 861 7230 0024 | (312) 626 6799 US | Passcode: 13607034

### **Next Week: Speaker Series**

#### The Evolving World of Anesthesiology by Dr Bill Owens

Sunday, March 28 | 11:15am | via ZOOM

The core element of anesthesiology comprises the use of various injected and inhaled medications to produce a loss of sensation in patients, making it possible to carry out procedures that would otherwise cause intolerable pain or be technically unfeasible. Safe anesthesia requires in-depth knowledge of various invasive and non-invasive organ support techniques that are used to control patients' vital functions while under the effects of anesthetic drugs.

Parkway UCC member Dr Bill Owens practiced medicine at Barnes Jewish for many decades, was a Professor of Anesthesiology at the Washington University of School of Medicine, chaired the Department of Anesthesiology, and is a fellow of the prestigious American Board of Anesthesiologists.

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

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

### **Easter Sunrise Service in Elm Lawn Cemetery**

Sunday, April 4 | 6:30am | Elm Lawn behind Historic Sanctuary A number of you recently vaccinated PUCCers have asked if you can come to the outdoor Easter Sunrise Service on Easter. Our Covid Team has decided this will be our first in-person worship experience as we begin a measured and intentional transition period – with masks and physical distancing of course. Questions? Contact Kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330

### **Youth Easter Breakfast**

Sunday, April 4 | 8:30 – 10:00am | Back Parking Lot Parkway UCC Calling all Youth! Let's meet in the back parking lot for Easter morning breakfast. Masks and physical distancing will be in order.

You can stay and watch worship on the big screen in the Gathering Space – it's a pre-recorded service. It's been so long since we've been able to get together, I cannot wait! Hope to see you Sunday, April 4—Easter Sunday—at 8:30 for food and fellowship! Questions? Let me know.... BarbK@parkwayucc.org

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Lent & Easter 2021

### Go the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  $2^{nd}$  Mile gifts throughout the season of Lent and Easter. Thank you for your generosity for people near and far.

### Hands by Thalassa-Brytaye

Hold – to grasp and gently so. To wrap around and not let go. To stay, to guide, support, enfold And all in love – this is to hold.

Clasp – to take with firm, strong hand,

To pledge to join the within the band

Of brotherhood. A friend's true grasp;

A faithful promise – this is to clasp.

Touch – to softly wipe a tear. To say, though wordless: "I am here."

To tell, and without saying much: "I care for you," – this is to touch. Lay – to pause with kind concern. To warn, and as a friend, to turn Away from harm. To softly stay A reckless deed – this is to lay.

Press – to push ahead in life To strengthen on in spite of strife. To guide, uphold through pain and stress

Though tough love be – this is to press.

Hands – the chance we have to give.

To hold back death and teach to live.

To gather up the broken strands Of a lost heart – these are our hands.

# Prayer List as of March 17, 2021

### Celebrations

All the acts of kindness, justice and equity near and far! The Journey of Lent. Idah Hazimana Elizabeth born to Agnes/Thomas Havyarimana Fam

### Concerns

Marion Pleis - strengthening after some time in the hospital.
Jo Grove - healing at home after recent surgery and hospital stay.
Mike Comens - healing after recent surgery and brief hospital stay.
Bill Hilgeman - healing at home after a few days in the hospital.
Janet Prendergast - preparing body and spirit for surgery (Larson).
Twins Harlin Scott & Rena Lois - delivered early; in NICU (Tallyn).
Litzsinger School - reeling from several losses/traumas this week.
Healthcare workers, homeless and many others at risk right now.
Physical Distancing... if anyone needs groceries, medicine and/or other support OR if anyone newly vaccinated would like to be part of the Care Team, please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-330-0629
Ginny Brown Daniel and our Missouri Mid-South Conference as she just last week announced her resignation effective this spring.

### Continuing

Jim & Polly Winkelmann - he is healing and making strides! 1504 Wolf Trail Rd; Wildwood, MO 63021; 314-610-3348 (Jim's cell). Cherie & Mike Stolze - her health; her father's kidney disease. Lori Connors - for strength, stamina through health challenges. Ruth Peace & Pinky Wilcoxen - PUCC sisters with health challenges. Bill Darland - ongoing health issues.

Audrey and John Nourse - as she finds healing and strength. Mary Ann Musial - doing well amidst chemo (Larson/Prendergast). Brian - still awaiting double lung transplant due to COVID (Tossing). Anne Brodginski - responding well to new chemotherapy (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]
John and Audrey Nourse - The Village at Cape Albeon 3300 Lake Bend Dr; St. Louis, MO 63088; 636-861-3200
[birthdates: Audrey - December 19; John - October 26]
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 March 21* - **Faith UCC**, Little Rock, AR; faithucclr.org *Week ending March 28* - **First Congregational UCC**, Bonne Terre; fcuccbonneterre.org

### Blessing of the Hands at a Wedding-Rev. Daniel L. Harris

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever. These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future. These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other. These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow, and tears of joy. These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children. These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it. And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

# **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

March 21, 2021

### Deep in our Hearts Jeremiah 31:31-34

God speaks through the prophet Jeremiah, proclaiming that God's law will be written on the hearts of the people. From ancient times until now, the heart has been associated with the capacity to love. To know God's way is to love. And to know God's love on the heart is to be compelled to act out of that love.

Born of a desire to tell the story of how God's love is enacted by God's people, the 3 Great Loves initiative of the United Church of Christ was introduced at General Synod 2017. You can participate by sharing stories of how God's love is shown in the actions of your congregation. The 3 Great Loves initiative has created a resource for congregational action and worship, which you can find here at: https://www.ucc.org/3greatloves. Among many other ideas and encouragements, the resource contains this powerful prayer written by Rev. Darrell L. Goodwin:

Creator you call us into discomfort, you call us to be stretched beyond our wildest dreams and imaginations, you call us into action not only for ourselves but for one another.

Humbly we pray: We pray for courage to dismantle the systems that have been rooted and grounded in White supremacy and exclusion.

God in your Power. We pray that our natural and spiritual eyes can be opened to the suffering in our local communities, our country, and the world; and that we are motivated to act for a just world for all.

God in your Grace. We pray for the strength to hear one another, truly see one another, and accompany one another in this journey called life.

God in your Love. We pray for vulnerability, a renewal of our common humanity, a reminder that we truly need one another to not only survive but thrive,

God in your Tenderness. We pray for a kin-dom where your Spirit is truly poured out upon all flesh, and that your children can walk in the fullness of all you have created us to be without limit.