

Easter





www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, April 4, 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.

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Anniversaries

4/4 MOHL, Mike & Peggy (46)

Birthdays

4/4 KR PAN, Jennifer

4/7 DOTY, Ian

4/4 SCHRENKER, Rick

4/7 RUIZ, Joyce

4/6 SIMONSON, Florence

4/7 WILCOXEN, Pinky

4/6 WATKINS, Sera

4/9 WAITE, Phillip

EASTER Sunday

April 4, 2021 | 10:00am | YouTube

Meditation *Easter is about removing stones.* ~Rebecca Barlow Jordan

Gathering Music Improvisations on seasonal hymn tunes

Welcome

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

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

Prelude *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*—Setting Healey Willan

Based on the tune *Easter Hymn* from *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Choral Introit *Dramatic Call to Worship*

Welcome Song *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, alleluia!

Who did once, upon the Cross, alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss, alleluia!

To the tomb the women bring, alleluia!

Spices rich, an offering, alleluia!

Asking where might Jesus be, alleluia!

Savior come to set us free, alleluia!

There the angel clothed in white, alleluia!

Tells the news with great delight, alleluia!

This the news the angel gives, alleluia!

That the Sovereign glorious lives, alleluia!

Hasten now to Galilee, alleluia!

Tell the others what you see, alleluia!

With excitement trembling, alleluia!

Off they run, good news to bring, alleluia!

Christ appears in full array, alleluia!

Sing with joy this paschal day, alleluia!

Christ now from the dead is raised, alleluia!

Holy Trinity be praised, alleluia!

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 118, selected verses (The Message)

Thank God because God is good, because God's love never quits. Tell the world, Israel, "God's love never quits." And you, clan of Aaron, tell the world, "God's love never quits." And you who are in awe of God, join in, "God's love never quits."

Pushed to the wall, I called to God; from the wide open spaces, God answered. God is now at my side and I'm not afraid; who would dare lay a hand on me? God is my strong champion; I flick off my enemies like flies.

Far better to take refuge in God than trust in people; Far better to take refuge in God than trust in celebrities.

I was right on the cliff-edge, ready to fall, when God grabbed and held me.

God is my strength and also my song, and now God is my salvation. Hear the shouts, hear the triumph songs in the camp of the saved?

"The hand of God has turned the tide! The hand of God is raised in victory! The hand of God has turned the tide!"

I didn't die. I *lived!* And now I'm telling the world what God did. I was tested, I was pushed hard, but I wasn't handed over to Death.

Swing wide the city gates—the righteous gates! I'll walk right through and thank God! This Temple Gate belongs to God, so the victors can enter and praise.

Thank you for responding to me; you've truly become my salvation! The stone the masons discarded as flawed is now the capstone!

This is God's work. We rub our eyes—we can hardly believe it! This is the very day God acted—let's celebrate and be festive! Salvation now, God. Salvation now! Oh yes, God—a free and full life!

Call to Worship

One: We had a festive parade last Sunday. We were waving palms, shedding our cloaks, shouting and singing and dancing.

Many: And then day by day—it began to get dim, detangled, dark. We have experienced despair, desertion, dread.

One: We have been hunkered down—waiting, watching, wondering where Jesus has been these last couple of days.

Many: We locked ourselves away. Real fear took hold and it was hard to shake. We were frozen, numb.

One: Then this morning things began to look and feel different. We are awakening to a new reality. Can it be?

Many: We are being swept up in this fresh piece of the story, this breaking news. Death is not the final answer. For sure it still stings, but it is not our ultimate undoing.

One: We are humbled and holy. We are resurrection people. We can carry this burst of life and love forward with our words and our actions.

Many: God comes to us as the stone has been rolled away—again. Jesus is alive. This is the moment. We knew it was coming—and yet our belief faltered from time to time.

One: So let's gather our compassion, calm and creativity. Let's put into practice our limitless love, set out for courageous action and stretch our understanding and wisdom with spirited inquiry.

All: Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Song *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*



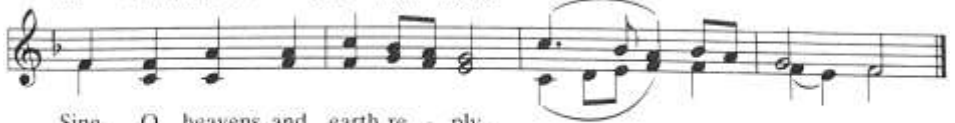
1. "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"
2. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King;
4. Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven!



All cre - a - tion, join to say;
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won; Al - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now your sting?
Praise to You by both be given;



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high;
Death in vain for - bids Him rise; Al - le - lu - ia!
Je - sus died, our souls to save;
Ev - ery knee to You shall bow,



Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
Christ has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now,

Lenten Candles

We lit seven candles as we started our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday. We wanted the light to illumine our path as we sought to be the words and ways of Jesus. We committed to being more infused by the Spirit as we travelled. Even as we knew this is good and important work, we recognized that it isn't easy—and we come upon the shadow side of humanity and some of our own unique darkness.

We extinguished one candle each time we gathered for worship throughout the season, acknowledging that this can be tough and exhausting work. We made it through the desertion and depletion of Good Friday. Now we light all of the candles again – to welcome the dawn and love of Easter morning...the light that never goes out!

Prayer at the Candles

Holy One, we have been watching and listening to Jesus this Lenten season. We have done so with the expectation that we would be inspired to follow him and echo his words and actions. We have paid 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-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.

Children's Time

Blessing the Children *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

**Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.
Every child in every land, Jesus holds them by the hand.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

Mission Moment 2nd Mile Lent

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

Offering Our Gifts to God

Thank you for sending your gifts in the mail, via bill pay with your bank or by using PayPal at <https://parkwayucc.org/giving/>

Response

**Praise God for visions great and small,
Praise God who calls us one and all,
Praise God whose Spirit gives new sight,
Praise God who fills our lives with light. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

God of great gifts, with resurrection reverberating in our hearts and minds, we present these gifts to You, a tangible chorus of thanksgiving, a harmony of hope for your kingdom come. We pray that this gesture of generosity will germinate and lead us further into lives of lavish loving in all shapes and sizes. Amen.

Easter Gospel Lesson John 20:1-18 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they’ve put him.”

Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn’t go in. Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus’ head. It wasn’t with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. They didn’t yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. The angels asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

She replied, “They have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they’ve put him.” As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni” (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, “Don’t hold on to me, for I haven’t yet gone up to God. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, ‘I’m going up to God, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, “I’ve seen the Lord.” Then she told them what he said to her.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Song *The Day of Resurrection*



1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, That we may see a - right
3. Now let the heavens be joy - ful, Let earth the song be - gin,



The Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The Pass - o - ver of God.
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light;
Let the round world keep tri - umph, And all that is there - in;



From death to life e - ter - nal, From this world to the sky,
And, lis - tening to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen Their notes of glad - ness blend,



Our Christ hath brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.
His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain,
For Christ the Lord is ris - en, Our joy that hath no end.

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 *Now the Green Blade Rises*



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,



Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:



Refrain
Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Postlude *Psalm 19: Heavens Declare the Glory of God—Benedetto Marcelllo (1636-1739)*

Announcements

Next Week Speaker Series

Act II of Demystifying Juvenile Court—Judge Tom Frawley

Sunday, April 11 | 11:15am | via YouTube

Back in February, Judge Frawley spoke on the juvenile court's duties for delinquent or status matters for a young offender. This time, in ACT II, the Judge talks about the court's handling of what are known as “care and neglect” cases. In addition, Judge Frawley will also weave into his talk, his spouse's and his experience from the other side of the bench, as foster and adoptive parents. Contact Richard Scherrer: 90fivetpr@gmail.com

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue - April 6

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

We continue *Born a Crime: Stories of a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah. We will discuss Section 3. 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=bUxPZEdDMIU4ay9oNndTWW4yZUYwUT09>

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

Intertwine Interfaith Baking Class & Outreach

Saturday, April 10 | 7:00pm

Please RSVP by Thursday, April 8 here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8JTEMjilCmQSsTE0Krx7U4qVium1ll u7XFgDslAd7FdrYILA/viewform>

Zoom Link on April 10:

us02web.zoom.us/j/84416325835?pwd=VUJwc2hjZzUyYkllNeEdmM0pDejJkQT09

Meeting ID: 844 1632 5835 **Passcode:** 105972

We hope you and your family are well and enjoying the beginning of spring! Intertwine Interfaith Initiative is excited to get together (virtually) to share more friendship, fun - and FOOD- to nourish our connection in 2021!

PUCcEr Melissa Lane Hostetter will be teaching us to bake scones and while our scones bake, we will enjoy some games together.

Here are the ingredients and equipment you should have in advance:

Ingredients:

2 cups (10 oz) all-purpose flour

1 Tablespoon baking powder

3 Tablespoons sugar

1/2 teaspoon salt

5 Tablespoons unsalted butter, chilled and cut into 1/4-inch pieces (can substitute coconut oil for dairy-free/vegan)

1 cup heavy cream (can substitute canned coconut milk for dairy-free/vegan)

1/2 frozen berries (do not thaw)

Equipment:

medium/large bowl

large fork or pastry blender

rubber spatula

baking sheet

Parchment paper (good to have, but not necessary)

Event is free but a \$10 donation is suggested to Project Downtown that benefits those who are in need. You can donate anytime online at <http://pdstl.org/index.html>.

Tuesday Evening Dialogue New Book – April 13

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 6:45pm social time | 7:00pm Book discussion | via Zoom

Please join us for our first session discussing *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. This novel is about twin sisters who choose to live in two very different worlds: one black and one white. This book explores race, gender and identity and also how the lasting influence of these shape a person's personality, desires and expectations. Please read to the end of Chapter 4 to page 101 for the April 13 session.

We start at 6:45 for social time then book discussion starts at 7:00. Contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net

Video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86172300024?pwd=bFdGQ0xKRHFGTnZXM0kyRC9FdZGQT09;>

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

Faith Action Climate Week with Free Film Screening:

A moral call for climate change action

April 16 – 25 | faithclimateactionweek.org/ | Registration begins 4/1

Ten days in April during Earth Month when IPL congregations focus on how we can all take action to protect our climate. The 2021 theme is *Sacred Ground: Cultivating Connections Between our Faith, our Food, and the Climate*.

Interfaith Power and Light is offering a free screening of the film *Kiss the Ground* from April 10 - 26. You may register beginning April 1 and will be sent your own personal link to view the film at home at your leisure. The link to the web address above has a link to register for the film and a link to the screening kit if you would like more information or to share it with a group for a discussion.

Kiss the Ground is a new film about how regenerating the world's soils has the potential to rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. This film explains why transitioning to regenerative agriculture could be key in rehabilitating the planet, while simultaneously invigorating a new sense of hope and inspiration in viewers.

This film has been chosen as the featured film of Interfaith Power & Light's Faith Climate Action Week, April 16-25, 2021. Our theme this year is Sacred Ground: Cultivating Connections between our Food, our Faith, and the Climate.

Social Justice Symposium May 1

Virtual zoom symposium sponsored by Peace UCC and Eden Seminary. This event is free but register at the website provided within the flyer (below) so you will receive a link.

Mothering the Earth
PEACE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
**SOCIAL JUSTICE
SYMPOSIUM**
IN MEMORY OF MARILYN STAVENGER
Co-sponsored by Eden Seminary

Saturday, May 1, 2021 9:00AM-12:00PM
Virtual by Zoom

S P E A K E R S

Rev. Jim Antal - "Responding Faithfully to the Climate Emergency." Rev. Antal is Special Advisor on Climate Justice to the General Minister & President of the United Church of Christ and author of Climate Church, Climate World

Rev Dr. Cassandra Gould - "Environmental Racism." Rev. Dr. Gould is the Executive Director of Missouri Faith Voices.

Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson - "They Shall Inherit the Earth: Justice for Marilyn's Children." Rev. Dr. Wilson is the President & CEO, of the Children's Defense Fund

There is no charge to participate in this virtual Symposium. Please register for the Symposium by going to tinyurl.com/peace-symposium-registration. In addition to the talks by the three speakers, there will be a break-out session with each of the speakers. These break-out sessions will be held simultaneously, so you will be asked to prioritize your interest in the break-outs.

Peace UCC, 204 E Lockwood Ave
Webster Groves, MO 63119, ~ 314-968-1727
churchoffice@peaceucstl.org

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 donations '2nd Mile' throughout the season of Lent and Easter. Our mission partners will each receive a fourth of the total given. Thank you for your generosity for people near and far!

Prayer List

as of March 31, 2021

Celebrations

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

The Journey of Lent, Holy Week and Easter!

Nathaniel Goldstein and family celebrating his first birthday.

Chris Pickett - PUCCer and Greensfelder Chief Diversity Office just named to Meritas Black Lawyers Forum Inaugural Leadership Counsel.

[https://www.stltoday.com/pr/business/greensfelder-chief-diversity-officer-christopher-pickett-named-to-meritas-black-lawyers-forum-inaugural-leadership-counsel/article_3f0d14f8-785a-11eb-87f5-ff443a10e182.html]

Concerns

Joan Biest - healing after recent elbow surgery.

Madison Schmelig and Jon Golner - as they grieve the sudden and unexpected loss of his mother.

Maria Hendrix and Denise Hein (Stifel).

Janet Prendergast - preparing body and spirit for surgery (Larson).

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

Healing in Boulder and Atlanta.

Continuing

Jim & Polly Winkelmann - he is continuing to make progress!

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 Wilcoxon - PUCC sisters with health challenges.

Bill Darland - ongoing health issues.

Brian - still awaiting double lung transplant due to COVID (Tossing).

Anne Brodgerski - responding well to new chemotherapy (Svenson).

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

Carolyn & Hank Kraichley - serious health challenges.

Anthony - multiple challenges as he lives his post-incarceration life.

Gary - risky behaviors; seeking balance and stability.

Grateful Tran - half-way house, new skills, schizophrenia (Buretta).

Bob - continues to struggle with Parkinson's.

Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack - chronic health challenges.

The extended Eggebrecht Family - healing and wholeness.

Ginny Brown Daniel and our Missouri Mid-South Conference as her resignation is effective later this spring.

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.

Conversations about the Death Penalty in the United States.

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 April 4 - **First Congregational UCC**, St. Louis;

firstcongregational.org

Week ending April 11 - **First Congregational UCC**, Webster Groves;

firstchurchwg.org

Seven Stanzas at Easter

John Updike

Make no mistake: if he rose at all
It was as His body;
If the cell's dissolution did not reverse, the molecule reknit,
The amino acids rekindle,
The Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,
Each soft spring recurrent;
It was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled eyes of the
Eleven apostles;
It was as His flesh; ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes
The same valved heart
That—pierced—died, withered, paused, and then regathered
Out of enduring Might
New strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
Analogy, sidestepping, transcendence,
Making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the faded
Credulity of earlier ages:
Let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mache,
Not a stone in a story,
But the vast rock of materiality that in the slow grinding of
Time will eclipse for each of us
The wide light of day.

And if we have an angel at the tomb,
Make it a real angel,
Weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with hair, opaque in
The dawn light, robed in real linen
Spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,
For our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,
Lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are embarrassed
By the miracle,
And crushed by remonstrance.

Christ Has No Body

Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Easter Day

April 4, 2021

Now What?

Mark 16:1-8

The resurrection story is the story of a journey from death to life - not only for Jesus the Christ but also for those who loved and followed him.

Jesus' friend Mary is the first to the tomb, along with some other women disciples. She arrives at the tomb uncertain, and in the telling from the Gospel of Mark, leaves that place "trembling and bewildered." At first, the Gospel says, they said "nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." And yet the story must have leaked out, because we tell it again today. The story moved from the tomb of confused silence to the resurrection light of confident proclamation.

We also often find ourselves trembling and bewildered, silent and afraid. How can we move from the speechlessness of fear to the joyful speech of the good news? Maybe following Mary to the tomb can give us some ideas about how to take the journey ourselves from death to life. Like Mary and her friends, we can meet grief face to face, and to take the risks that challenge us in that encounter.

Mary was willing to meet grief face-to-face. Personally, she had witnessed the brutal torture and murder of her teacher, healer and friend. By tending to the tomb of her loved one, Mary was enacting one of the rituals of grief. At first, it might cause more sadness, but she had the wisdom to know that pausing to grieve was an important step on transformation's path. How awful it must have been to face that terrible grief. But the good news is that no matter the grief, joy will come in the morning.

In her grief, Mary was also willing to take a risk. How scary it must have been for Mary and the other women to be there in the garden, before first light had come. There is so much that tells us to be afraid. But the good news is that the new life that Christ promises is greater than any fear.