

# GOD LEADS BESIDE THE STILL WATERS



[www.parkwayucc.org](http://www.parkwayucc.org)

Sunday, June 6, 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](http://www.parkwayucc.org)

**Communications Requests:** Please use the form at [www.parkwayucc.org/communications](http://www.parkwayucc.org/communications) for all announcements for the bulletin/eNews/website/social media/etc. Bulletin and eNews communications request deadline is noon Monday.

**Cover Photo:** Sontag's Spring, Wildwood, MO by Mona Herberg

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## Anniversaries

6/6 NOURSE, John & Audrey

6/11 BIEST, Scott & Kelly (26)

## Birthdays

6/7 DISCHINGER, Sally

6/8 HOOD, Oliver

6/7 STOHR, Paul

6/9 LIVENGOOD, Ross

6/8 HOOD, Finn

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

June 6, 2021 | 10:00am

## Meditation

*In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!*

~Shirley Erena Murray

## 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

## Welcome Song

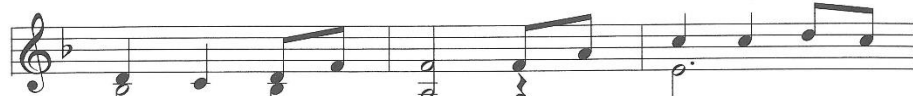
*Come and Find the Quiet Center, v1*



1. Come and find the qui-et cen-ter in the crowd-ed life we
2. Si-lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the
3. In the Spir-it let us trav-el, o-pen to each oth-er's



pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our  
pain, let our loves and fears un-rav-el, cel-e-



be-ing, touch-es base, mak-ing space with-in our  
brate the space we gain: there's a place for deep-est



think-ing, lift-ing shades to show the sun, rais-ing  
dream-ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the





things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.  
 cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun.  
 Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare!

## Scripture Psalm 23 [KJV – King James Version]

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

## Call to Worship

One: God calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves;

**Many: the one who is weak and the one who is strong,**

One: the one who is happy and the one who is sad,

**Many: the one who is enjoying mental wellness today**

One: and the one who is struggling with mental illness today,

**Many: the one whom we understand and the one we don't,**

One: the one who is embraced and the one who is shunned,

**Many: the one who is like us and the one who is different.**

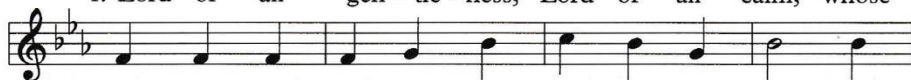
One: Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

**All: We come, trusting and promising abundant love!**

## Song Lord of All Hopefulness



1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy, whose  
 2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith, whose  
 3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace, your  
 4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm, whose



trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy: Be  
 strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe: Be  
 hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace: Be  
 voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm: Be



there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray, your  
 there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray, your  
 there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray, your  
 there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray, your

bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
 strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
 love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
 peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

## Opening Prayer

God, we all live in communities where there are people whose lives are challenged by substance abuse, mental illness and brain disorders. The families of people living with serious mental health issues often feel overwhelmed and isolated by the many challenges these issues create. Holy One, create in us a tender ness to the needs of all, an openness to everyone's gifts, and a commitment to the struggle for justice. We offer this prayer in the name of the Risen Christ who makes all things new. Amen.

## Response *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

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

## Blessing the Children *Jesus Love Me*

Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to God belong, They are weak but he is strong

Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

## Offering Our Gifts to God

## Offering Interlude

## Response

Praise God whose many names abound;

Our Peace, our Rock, Our Holy Ground,

Our Home, our All, Earth's Majesty,

Love, Spirit, Light and Mystery. Amen.

## Prayer of Dedication

**Holy One, every time we come to this moment of offering, it's a crossroads. There is an inner struggle between selfishness and generosity, a pull between fear of the future and belief in Your promises. We give our offering this morning, God, stepping out in faith down the road of grace. We do this together, as your people, called and sent to be a blessing for all the world. In the hospitable and trustworthy spirit of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

## Psalter Lesson Psalm 88 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Lord, God of my salvation, by day I cry out, even at night, before you—let my prayer reach you! Turn your ear to my outcry because my whole being is filled with distress; my life is at the very brink of hell. I am considered as one of those plummeting into the pit. I am like those who are beyond help, drifting among the dead, lying in the grave, like dead bodies—those you don't remember anymore, those who are cut off from your power.

You placed me down in the deepest pit, in places dark and deep. Your anger smothers me; you subdue me with it, wave after wave. You've made my friends distant. You've made me disgusting to them. I can't escape. I'm trapped! My eyes are tired of looking at my suffering. I've been calling out to you every day, Lord—I've had my hands outstretched to you!

Do you work wonders for the dead? Do ghosts rise up and give you thanks? Is your faithful love proclaimed in the grave, your faithfulness in the underworld? Are your wonders known in the land of darkness, your righteousness in the land of oblivion?

But I cry out to you, Lord! My prayer meets you first thing in the morning! Why do you reject my very being, Lord? Why do you hide your face from me? Since I was young I've been afflicted, I've been dying. I've endured your terrors. I'm lifeless. Your fiery anger has overwhelmed me; your terrors have destroyed me. They surround me all day long like water; they engulf me completely. You've made my loved ones and companions distant. My only friend is darkness.

## Gospel Lesson Luke 8:26-39 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"—for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.

Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.


When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Moment of Silent Reflection


Sermon

**Invitation to the Communion Table** We invite *all* to this **open table**. All accepted—no exceptions—as we commit ourselves to limitless love, courageous action and spirited inquiry.


**Communion Song** *Come, Share the Lord*




1. We gath-er here in Je - sus' name, his love is  
(3. He joins us) here, he breaks the bread, the Lord who  
(5. We'll gath-er) soon where an - gels sing; we'll see the



burn-ing in our hearts like liv - ing flame; for through the  
pours the cup is ris - en from the dead; the one we  
glo - ry of our Lord and com-ing King; now we an -



lov-ing Son the Fa-ther makes us one: }  
love the most is now our gra-cious host: } Come, take the  
ti - ci - pate the feast for which we wait: }



bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

*Fine*





2. No one is a stran-ger here, — ev - ery - one be -  
 4. We are now a fam - i - ly of which the Lord is  
 longs; find - ing our for - give-ness here, we in  
 head; though un - seen he meets us here in the  
 turn for - give all wrongs. 3. He joins us  
 break - ing of the bread. 5. We'll gath - er

## 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.**

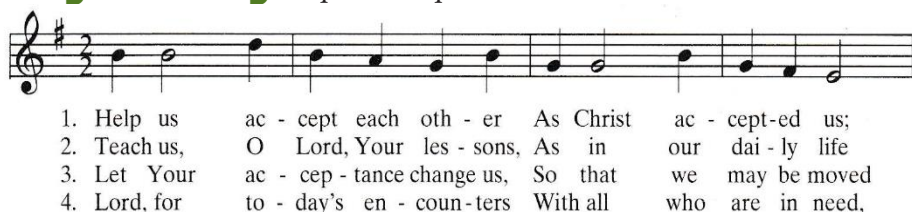
[A variety of names for God are welcome here – including in the Lord's Prayer.]

## Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine/Juice

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. May it be so. Amen.**

### Song of Parting *Help Us Accept Each Other*



1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er As Christ ac - cept-ed us;  
 2. Teach us, O Lord, Your les - sons, As in our dai - ly life  
 3. Let Your ac - cep - tance change us, So that we may be moved  
 4. Lord, for to - day's en - coun-ters With all who are in need,



Teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, Each per - son to em - brace.  
We strug - gle to be hu - man And search for hope and faith.  
In liv - ing sit - u - a - tions To do the truth in love;  
Who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, For righ - teous - ness and bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us And bring us to be - lieve  
Teach us to care for peo - ple, For all, not just for some,  
To prac - tice Your ac - cep - tance Un - til we know by heart  
We need new eyes for see - ing, New hands for hold - ing on:



We are our - selves ac - cept - ed And meant to love and live.  
To love them as we find them Or as they may be - come.  
The ta - ble of for - give - ness And laugh - ter's heal - ing art.  
Re - new us with Your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

## **Benediction**

### **God's Light Goes Forth**

### **Music for Going Forth**

## **Announcements**

# Announcements

## Tuesday Evening Dialogue—June 8

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays | 6:45pm social time | 7:00pm Book discussion | via Zoom  
Join us for our second session of discussion on the novel entitled *The Heart's Invisible Furies* by John Boyne. It's about an Irish orphan and takes place from the 1940's to present.

**Video:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86172300024?pwd=bFdGQ0xKRHFGTnZXM0kYRC9FdZGQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86172300024?pwd=bFdGQ0xKRHFGTnZXM0kYRC9FdZGQT09;);

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

## Missouri Botanical Garden

Wednesday, June 9 | 9:30am – 12:00pm | Missouri Botanical Garden

Enjoy a morning with Parkway UCC at the beautiful Missouri Botanical Garden Wednesday, June 9th (rain date June 16th). Meet at the Parkway parking lot at 9:30 to carpool, or meet out front of the new Botanical Garden Visitors Center at 10. You can purchase a ticket online up to one week in advance for \$6 if you are a St. Louis City or County resident (\$4 for seniors 65 and over), or by phone (314) 678-7442. There are also limited free tickets available at the door on Wednesdays from 9-11 for residents, but the garden cautions on its website that walkup admission can not be guaranteed. It is recommended that you purchase a ticket in advance to save wait time and ensure that you get in. Please check the weather before purchasing your advance ticket. Unvaccinated visitors must wear a mask.

More info? Contact Jackie Eiffert: [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto:jeiffert2@gmail.com)

## Visit to St Louis Art Museum

Wednesday, June 30 | 9:30am - 12:00pm | St Louis Art Museum

Join Parkway UCC as we head to the beautiful St. Louis Art Museum. Meet at Parkway at 9:30 to carpool, or meet at the main entrance to the Art Museum at 10. Admission is free.

More info? Contact Jackie Eiffert: [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto:jeiffert2@gmail.com)

## Join Us Next Sunday

In-person worship out back of church at 10am

\* We will also be on Facebook Live and on YouTube by early afternoon. \*  
Please wear a mask and bring a lawn chair – masks and chairs will be provided as necessary.

Our Congregational Meeting to elect new leaders - and give thanks for continuing leaders - will begin immediately following worship.

Our Church Council and Covid Team will have more news on our Covid Response and Transition Timeline.

We hope you can be with us next Sunday.

As always, we welcome your gifts of non-perishable food items for our hungry neighbors. The Give-A-Meal Table is located in the main entryway.

# Prayer List

as of June 2, 2021

## Celebrations

**All the acts of kindness, justice and equity near and far!  
Pride Month.**

## Concerns

**Peter Shelton** - healing at home after recent surgery.

**All impacted by Covid-19** - individuals, families, healthcare workers.

**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](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org); 314-330-0629.

**Gun violence and other violence across the US and other lands.**

## Continuing

**Don Wandless** and family as they make plans to celebrate Gloria's life.  
<https://stlouiscremation.com/obituaries/gloria-elaine-wandless/>

**Ellie & Skip Larson** - as she settles into a care unit at Meramec Bluffs.

**Gail Haack** - healing from torn rotator cuff.

**Jim Winkelmann's mother Val Weber** - healing from back injury.

**John** - receiving hospice care at home (lifelong friend of Winkelmanns).

**Brian** - healing after double lung transplant due to COVID (Tossing).

**Al & Cindy** - healing from car accident (Tarr).

**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.

**Maria Hendrix and Denise Hein** (Stifel).

**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.

**Transitional Conference Minister Mary Nelson and our Missouri**

**Mid-South Conference** - beginning our shared ministry.

God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be. - Mother Teresa

If your day is hemmed in with prayer, it is less likely to come unraveled.  
- Cynthia Lewis

You cannot pray for someone and hate them at the same time. - Billy Graham

## 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**

**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.

**Healing of relationships between the public and the police.**

**US Military** around the globe.

**The people of politically unstable countries across the globe.**

**Peace in the Mid-East.**

## St Louis Assn UCC Covenant Partner

*Week ending June 6* - **Immanuel UCC**, Ferguson; [immanuelucc.church](http://immanuelucc.church)

*Week ending June 13* - **The Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC**; [mmsucc.org](http://mmsucc.org)

The Christian life is not about pleasing God the finger-shaker and judge. It is not about believing now or being good now for the sake of heaven later. It is about entering a relationship in the present that begins to change everything now. Spirituality is about this process: the opening of the heart to the God who is already here. – Marcus Borg



# Everything is Changing

Molly Baskette | published on March 30, 2020 (*well over a year ago*)

*“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” – Matthew 6:34 (NRSV)*

Today’s trouble is enough for today.

Jesus, you got that right. You know what the trouble is: a novel coronavirus that has an alarming fraction of the global population ill or dead, and the rest of us hurtling toward lockdown.

Are we allowed to worry now? Are we allowed to stock up on canned soup and toilet paper and ice cream? How exactly will God provide these things if we don’t take responsibility for getting them ourselves? Sometimes life provides us with a problem so big, so complex, it is undeniably a today-worry and a tomorrow-worry.

We are at the moment when we know everything is going to change, but we don’t yet know how—and that is the hardest part. We know people we love will be taken from us, but we don’t know who. We know it will threaten our retirement funds, our livelihoods and jobs, our mental health. We know that it will put some people who are already at the edge, economically and emotionally, over it.

We ask God the ultimate question, “What if it changes everything?”

And God answers, “What if it doesn’t?”

Because some things need changing.

Good things can be caught from this pandemic, as well as bad. Already, you are calling friends you haven’t talked to in ages or checking in with your mother every day. You are pulling out the watercolors, reading novels again, watching documentaries with your fur person, cuddling your kids.

The pandemic is revealing, once again, what really matters, and what the good gifts of life are that don’t arrive by two-day shipping. A particle one-900th thousand times the width of a single human hair has done what we were not able to do by ourselves: stop us in our tracks, personally and communally.

God didn’t send this disaster, but God will for damn sure use it.

## **Prayer:**

God, this pandemic will change everything. May it be so. Amen.

## NAMI – National Alliance on Mental Illness

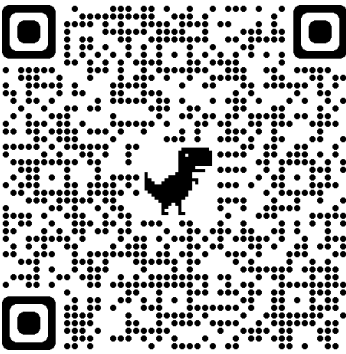
NAMI envisions a world where all people affected by mental illness live healthy, fulfilling lives supported by a community that cares.

NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

What started as a small group of families gathered around a kitchen table in 1979 has blossomed into the nation's leading voice on mental health. Today NAMI is an alliance of more than 600 local Affiliates and 48 State Organizations who work in your community to raise awareness and provide support and education that was not previously available to those in need.

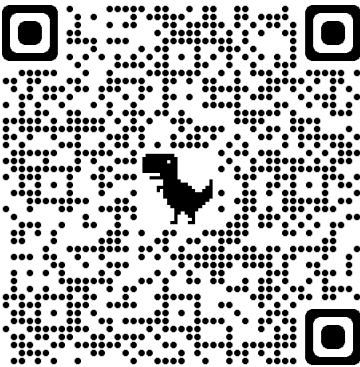
The Ripple Effect of Mental Illness



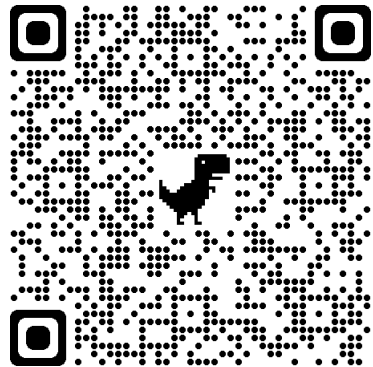
It's OK to Talk About Suicide



Common Warning Signs of Mental Illness



You Are Not Alone



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

June 6, 2021

## God's Will

Mark 3:20-35

One of today's lectionary scriptures tells a story from early in Jesus's ministry. Jesus is teaching a group of disciples in a crowded house when his family arrives to cart him away, afraid that he has lost his wits. Jesus speaks against his mother and his brothers then, saying that those who follow the will of God are the ones who are his true family.

In this story, we see Jesus bravely following his inner knowing of God's will for him, instead of the voices that have long told him who and what he is. In his new community of friends and disciples, he knows that he is truly following God's will.

Have you ever had an experience like this? How has your inner knowing of God's will made itself known to you in a community that knows and believes in you? How did you respond?

Learning to hear, trust, and follow the way God's will makes itself known in your life is called discernment. That is why, in the twenty-first century, we in the United Church of Christ call those who are finding their way toward a career in ordained ministry "members in discernment."

Discernment about ministry comes from both the nudge of the inner voice, and the affirmation and challenge of a community. According to the *Manual on Ministry*, the church "Ordained Ministers belong to both God and the people. They are nurtured and sustained by both; they are responsible to both.... Ordained ministry is ministry of the Church entrusted to individuals; it is not the ministry of individuals acting independently."\*

Is the call of God's will in your life an affirmation of what you've always been told about yourself, or is it an opportunity to listen to new voices in a community you've found for yourself later in life? Either way, if you believe you may be called to ordained ministry, ask your pastor to connect you with a representative from your conference or association.

*\*Manual on Ministry: A Guide to the Authorizing Ministry in the United Church of Christ, Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization, Local Church Ministries, A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ, 2018.*