

Peace like a river



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, June 27, 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.

Cover Photo: Meramec River at Moselle, MO by Mona Herberg

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Anniversaries

6/27 ROESLER, Paul & Stephanie Polster (28)

6/30 CONNORS, Dan & Lori (31)

7/2 RUTHERFORD, Polly & Mike (48)

Birthdays

6/27 SHELTON, Peter

6/29 DEUSER, June

6/30 WADDELL, Andrew

5th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, June 27, 2021 | 10:00am Facebook Live... YouTube later

Meditation *To heal is to touch with love that which we previously touched with fear.* ~Stephen Levine

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 *Holy Ground*



Scripture Psalm 130 (CEB – Common English Bible)

I cry out to you from the depths, Lord—my Lord, listen to my voice! Let your ears pay close attention to my request for mercy! If you kept track of sins, Lord — my Lord, who would stand a chance? But forgiveness is with you—that’s why you are honored.

I hope, Lord. My whole being hopes, and I wait for God’s promise. My whole being waits for my Lord—more than the night watch waits for morning; yes, more than the night watch waits for morning!

Israel, wait for the LORD! Because faithful love is with the Lord; because great redemption is with our God! God is the one who will redeem Israel from all its sin.

Call to Worship Elyse Berry

One:	Breath of God, you are the one in whom we live and move and have our being.
Many:	And we are the ones in whom you live and move and have your being, for you made us in your image and likeness.
One:	May your unifying energy be felt here among us,
Many:	And rekindle the fire within, that makes us feel alive when we care for others.
One:	Let us draw from the well of living water that Jesus offers – deep and wide
Many:	And be attentive to what the Spirit points out to us - that which needs nourishing in ourselves and in our world.
One:	Come, let us worship where all are welcome in the house of God,
Many:	And find safe-haven in the heart of the Divine.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Song *God Whose Will is Health and Wholeness*

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**God whose will is health and wholeness,
hear your people as we pray:
Many now are facing illness; more face sickness every day.
As we lift our song toward heaven, may we use the gifts you give—
Science, justice, and compassion—to help others safely live.**

**Jesus taught that your commandments call for us to use the mind.
May we use the gifts of science to seek health for humankind.
Bless the ones who work for healing; bless the ones who seek to be
Builders of a health care system that protects society.**

**God, you call for love and justice, yet our laws are far from wise:
Many don't have good insurance;
lack of health care threatens lives.
Many workers must keep working, sick or not, to pay the bills.
Turn us round when we have sanctioned
greed that leads to greater ills.**

**Loving God, we ask your blessing on the sick and those they love,
And we pray for those now grieving as they lift their cries above.
There is trouble all around us; illness causes pain and fear.
Give compassion, love and kindness as we serve your people here.**

Opening Prayer *Prayer of St Francis*

Lord make Me an instrument of Your peace
Where there is hatred let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness joy.
O Divine aster grant that I may
Not so much seek to be consoled as to console
To be understood, as to understand.
To be loved. as to love
For it's in giving that we receive
And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it's in dying that we are born...
To eternal life. 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 *I've Got Peace Like A River*

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
2. I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an

riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er in - a my
foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain in - a my
o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean in - a my

soul. I've got riv - er in - a my soul.
soul. I've got foun-tain in - a my soul.
soul. I've got o - cean in - a my soul.

Scripture Mark 5:21, 24b-34 (NRSV – New Revised Standard)

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease.”

Response *Do You Hear?*


♩ = 84 *Unison*

1. Do you hear, oh my friend, in the
2. Through the roar, through the rush, through the
3. From the place where you stand to the

place through, where through you stand, through the
throng, through the crush, do you

sky, through the land, do you hear, do you hear? In the
hear in the hush of your soul, of your soul? Hear the
hear, oh my friend, do you hear, do you hear? All the

heights, on the plain, in the vale, on the main, in the
cry fear won't still, hear the heart's call to will, hear a
dreams, all the dares, all the sighs, all the prayers—they are



sun, in the rain, do you hear, do you hear?
sigh's star- tling trill in your soul, in your soul?
yours, mine, and theirs— do you hear, do you hear?

Sermon

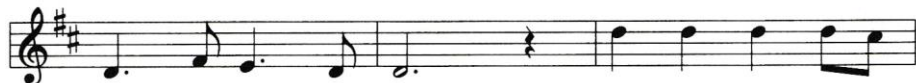
Call to Prayer *As the Deer*



As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af - ter



you. You a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I



long to wor - ship you. You a - lone are my



strength, my shield; to you a - lone may my spir - it



yield. You a - lone are my heart's de -



sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

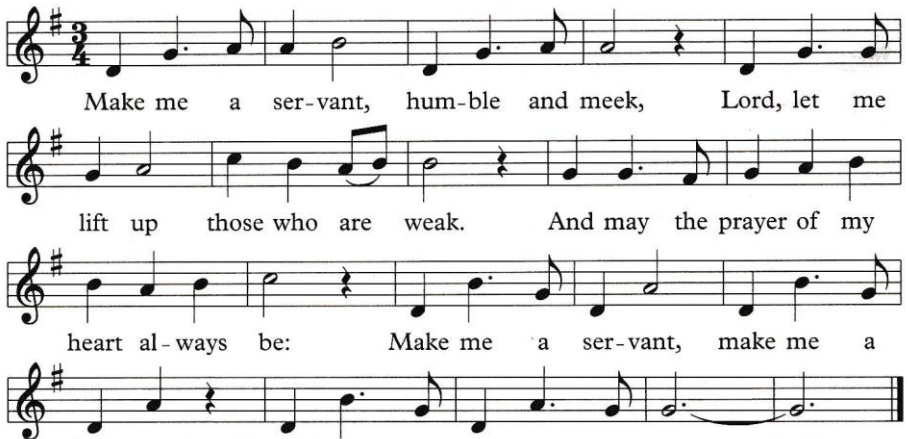
Lord's Prayer sung to the tune by Nate Stout

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.]

Offering Our Gifts to God

Response *Make Me A Servant*



Make me a ser-vant, hum-ble and meek, Lord, let me
lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my
heart al-ways be: Make me a ser-vant, make me a
ser-vant, make me a ser-vant to - day. _____

Prayer of Dedication *Carol Penner*

Generous God, over and over your grace sustains us, your love provides for us, your warmth heals us, your arm steadies us. We give you these gifts, with gratitude and joy, thankful that you encourage us to help sustain, provide, heal and steady one another. Amen.

Song of Parting *Put Peace into Each Other's Hands*



1. Put peace _ in - to each oth - er's
2. Put peace _ in - to each oth - er's
3. Put peace _ in - to each oth - er's
4. Give thanks _ for strong -yet ten - der-
5. Reach out _ in friend - ship, stay _ with

hands and like a trea - sure hold
hands with lov - ing ex - pec - ta -
hands like bread we break _ for shar -
hands, held out in trust _ and bless -
faith in touch with those _ a - round



it, pro - tect it like __ a can - dle
tion; be gen - tle in __ your words and
ing; look peo - ple warm - ly in the
ing. Where words fall short, __ let hands speak
you. Put peace in - to __ each oth - er's



flame, with ten - der - ness en - fold it. __
ways, in touch __ with God's cre - a - tion. __
eye: our life __ is meant for car - ing. __
out, the heights __ of love ex - press - ing. __
hands: the Peace __ that sought and found you. __

Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth

Announcements

TODAY! Speaker Series—Covid Tales

A Roundtable Discussion Presented by You the people of Parkway

Sunday, June 27 | 11:15am | via Zoom

We have lived through a profound and extraordinary time. Please join us following worship to share a Covid story....

Maybe it's about your children, grandchildren, neighbor, old friend; how your faith was tested; the isolation; your search for a vaccination; something funny; something poignant; Instacart; Zoom gatherings; toilet paper; travel adventure; or working remotely. Was there a 'silver lining' to this challenging and frightening time? What lessons did you learn about yourself and others? What were your theological thoughts and ponderings? Join us at the Zoom roundtable. You have a story to tell.

Zoom link for Summer Speaker Series:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkw0EzV0VHV1lyQT09>

Meeting ID: 846 9147 6997 | **Passcode:** 181565

Dial in (312) 626-6799

Speaker Series July 11—Impressions of Norway

Presented by Kristen (daughter of Mike & Peggy)

Sunday, July 11 | 11:15am | via Zoom

Another young person returns to her home church to educate and entertain us. She is Kristen Mohl, who resides in Norway with her spouse and children. And therein lies the source of our genuine interest in Kristen and her life abroad. Norway is not the typical place one would expect an American from the Midwest to permanently reside. Kristen has a story to tell, not only about things unique to her, but also her impressions and observations about Norway. Those of us, who did not embark on a life beyond our home country, likely have many stereotypical views of what we think about Norway. Kristen will set us straight and provide a fascinating account of this unique land and her life there. This is not so much a travel log, as it is an account of a journey to a unique place and what she discovered.

Contact Richard Scherrer: 90fivetpr@gmail.com | (314) 993-5210

In-Person Tuesday Evening Dialogue—July 13

We are excited to announce TED will return to in person meetings in the Heritage Room starting on Tues July 13 at 6 pm! We'll be wrapping up our discussion of *The Heart's Invisible Furies* from page 423 to the end of the book.

Since this will be our first time back we need to be aware of and follow these Parkway Covid procedures:

- Wear a mask and enter the building though the Back Entrance aka PUNS/Harper School/Miriam entrance located to the left of the entrance by Pastor Kevin's office/Music Room.

- There is a keypad there just like the front door. Contact Helen for the access code. Heritage Room will be just down the hall on the left.
- Once inside the Heritage Room you can take off your mask providing you are vaccinated.
- Bring food to share or your own food. We will eat and visit with each other for the first hour then start book discussion at 7pm.
- We will all clean off the tables before and after use.

We hope to offer virtual Zoom sessions in the future during the in-person TED meetings. Questions? Contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net | (314) 401-4382

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue—July 6

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

Please join our discussion of the first two chapters of Great Psalms of the Bible by Psalms scholar at Eden Seminary and friend of Parkway, Clint McCann. We will be discussing Psalms 1 and 8. Feel free to join us whether or not you've studied the Bible before, or can't make all of the meetings because of a busy summer. This promises to be an excellent study of twelve Psalms. We'd love to have you.

Video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMlU4ay9oNndTWW4yZUYwUT09>

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

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

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Parkway UCC continues to serve our long-time outreach midtown ministry, Isaiah 58. Socks and underwear for all sizes and ages are being requested by this ministry for a 24 July Carnival, (raincheck on 31 July). Parkway UCC is also contributing a special requested bulk item as a separate gift. There will be an opportunity to donate school supplies later in the summer during the August Back-to-School sales. As you are able, please consider placing socks and underwear in the designated box in the church lobby and/or add to monthly food pantry donations now through 22 July. Thanks in advance. Questions? Contact Evelyn Buretta at burettaevelyn@gmail.com

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Celebrations

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

Juneteenth - a National Holiday for the first time over weekend.

LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

Gale Haggard – settling in at Laclede Groves independent living...

701 South Laclede Station Road, Apt. G-14; St Louis, MO 63119-4981;

314-222-1309; Haggardmarchgale@aol.com

Marthoma - welcoming their new Achen - Rev Thomas Mathew.

Concerns

Marv Herpel and family after Memorial Service for daughter Georgia.

Polly & Mike Rutherford - as they grieve/give thanks for her mother Bea Dot Peck. Memorial Service here at PUCC later this summer.

<https://www.schrader.com/obituary/bea-dot-peck-nee-smallwood>

Ellie Svenson - recuperating from knee replacement surgery.

Dan & Kim, Ben/Henry/Davis Weas - Dan's cancer treatments.

Marsha Peek's mother Norma - broken hip & shoulder from bad fall.

Rochelle Smith Family & SLU - grieving/giving thanks for Jonathan.

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

... 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.

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

Continuing

Peter Shelton - healing at home after recent surgery.

Larry & Joan Brannigan - healing from his recent heart surgery.

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

Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack - chronic health challenges.

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

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

Edwin - in midst of cancer (spouse of Maria, care giver of Joe Runtz).

Brian - healing at home; dbl 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).

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.

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

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 27 - **Carondelet UCC**, St Louis;

<https://carondeletucc.com/>

Week ending July 4 - **Parkway UCC**, St Louis; parkwayucc.org

From: Gretchen

Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 9:09 PM

To: kevin@parkwayucc.org

Subject: Farewell...and thank you...

Dear Pastor Kevin and my Parkway family,

As I mentioned to some of you last Sunday, I'm moving out West for a new job. I want to thank you all for being so warm, welcoming, friendly, and accepting...I've really enjoyed worshiping with you these last seven months or so.

You don't know how much this has meant to me. Besides my wife, you are the only people who know "Gretchen"; my other friends and family members do not know about her. An event occurred about a year and a half ago that "awakened" something in me...a "femininity" or presence of which I was never before aware. I began reading all I could on transgenderism, trying to understand what was happening to me. Needless to say, my male logic, ego, and psyche were not happy with the new "intruder."

"She" began pressing to express herself more and more, and to interact socially; finally, I could suppress her no longer. Not knowing where else to go, I began looking online for Open and Affirming churches in the area, and I found yours. One Sunday back in April, I dressed as Gretchen and drove myself to your church. My heart was racing as I sat in my car, scared to death to get out. Finally, I made myself get out and walk in the door, ready to face whatever reactions I caused or encountered. To my surprise and utter delight, I was met and welcomed by the warmest, friendliest, and most non-judgmental people I could ever ask for. Every visit has been the same; never have I encountered a dirty look, rude or hurtful remark, or felt snubbed by anyone.

It's been a very rough couple of years for me, with my wife working out of town as a consultant after being laid off from her St. Louis position, and my being laid off this past July. And as you might imagine, introducing Gretchen to my wife in July has posed certain challenges to our marriage that we are now working through.

Being able to worship and interact with you all as Gretchen has quite often been the high point of my week. Moreover, it has allowed me (and Gretchen) to grow, to explore this new dimension of my life, and to understand it better. I'm not sure where Gretchen and I are going from here, but I know that the time I spent with you all will better prepare me for whatever lies ahead, whether Gretchen continues to express herself or not.

Thank you again, one and all, for your warmth, acceptance, and friendship, even though we did not get to know one another well. Parkway will always hold a special place in my heart.

Blessings to all, Gretchen



5th Sunday after Pentecost

June 27, 2021

Mark 5:21-43

Healing Powers

Open and Affirming Sunday

Louis James Irving Mitchell, longtime transgender activist, faith leader, social justice advocate, and community builder, was assigned female at birth, and named and raised as a girl. He says he knew as young as three years old that “she” was not who he was. Louis, also known as LJ, was raised by his mother and grandmother in Los Angeles, CA. An intelligent young adult, he excelled at school but wrestled with addiction and purposelessness.

After finding recovery in 1983, one of LJ’s first jobs was with the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, where he worked with runaway and throwaway youth, trained as a peer counselor, and managed the youth shelter. Passionate about community service and social justice, Louis has been a persuasive advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ community, African-American and other people of color communities, as well as the homeless, HIV/AIDS-affected, and recovering and inmate communities.

His commitment to serve the least, the last, the lost, and the left-out has had a profound impact on countless lives. In the early 1990s, as some of his friends began to transition to male, he realized his true identity and began the process of transitioning to his true self.

Educated at Andover Newton Theological School, Louis is a pioneer, co-founding the advocacy and support organizations Transfaith and Recovering the Promise. His gifts for ministry and advocacy were recognized and upheld by the community when he was ordained as the executive director of Transfaith in the United Church of Christ in 2018.

On this Open and Affirming Sunday, we honor Louis and celebrate the United Church of Christ’s nearly half century of honoring and affirming the gifts of LGBTQ+ clergy. It is with gratitude that we acknowledge Louis J. Mitchell’s gifts and graces for ministry, and all that he has done to enrich and empower our denomination.

The Open and Affirming Coalition advocates for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in the United Church of Christ and beyond and equips UCC congregations to become effective witnesses to Christ’s extravagant welcome. Find out more at openandaffirming.org.