

AMBER WAVES OF GRAIN...



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, July 4, 2021



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, July 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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parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

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

John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

Welcome to Parkway

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

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

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

Subscribe to our email lists: Text your email address to 22828 or sign up at www.parkwayucc.org

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

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Anniversaries

7/6 ENGEL, Gayle & Donna (53)

Birthdays

7/6 HENKE, Kai

7/8 HOUSER, Sue

7/7 SCHOWALTER, T.J.

7/8 MASON, Ian

7/7 WOLFF, Quin

7/8 SIEBER, Jack

7/8 COBB, Harold

7/9 BOWMAN, Jeremy

6th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, July 4, 2021 | 10:00am | YouTube

Meditation

For you were called to freedom, sisters and brothers; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Live by the Spirit... ~Galatians 5:13-16a

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

My Country ‘Tis of Thee

Let music swell the breeze

and ring from all the trees

Sweet freedom’s song;

Let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathes partake;

Let rocks their silence break,

The sound prolong.

Scripture

Ezekiel 2:1-5 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

God said to me: “O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.” And when God spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard God speaking to me. God said to me, “Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God.’” Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Call to Worship

Laurel Koepf Taylor

| | |
|--------------|--|
| One: | The prophets of old spoke of God’s justice, even when it was unwelcome. Who will hear their message? |
| Many: | We will listen and we will hear! |
| One: | Responding to God’s call, Jesus traveled, preaching and teaching with all who would listen. Who will hear his message? |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Many: | We will listen and we will hear! |
| One: | Christ sent out disciples two by two, to spread the good news in any place that would welcome them. Who will hear their message? |
| Many: | We will listen and we will hear! |
| One: | God's prophets are among us still, around the world and where you are sitting right now. Who will hear their message? |
| Many: | We will listen and we will hear! |
| All: | Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit. |

Patriotic Songs

God Bless America

**God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above
From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home**

The Star-Spangled Banner

**O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?**

America the Beautiful

**O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed God's grace on thee
And crown thy good with siblinghood From sea to shining sea!
O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!**

Opening Prayer

Holy one, you are the God of all. We celebrate this fact. We also acknowledge that many here in the United States feel a sense of pride and exceptionalism because of being Americans. On this Independence Day, equip us, inspire us, challenge us to help bring freedom and grace to all people near and far. Amen.

Response *In Christ There is No East or West*

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

Join hands, companions in the faith, whate'er your race may be!
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

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

Blessing the Children *This Land is Your Land*

This land is your land; this land is my land
From California to the New York island
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me

Offering Our Gifts to God

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, as we share our offering, we commit ourselves again to
the ideals of freedom, justice and peace. We recommit to being
people of promise, prayer and possibilities. We make firm our
desire to align with your dream - that everyone will have enough
and no one will have too much. Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us.
Amen.

Song *This is My Song, O God of All the Nations*



1. This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,
2. My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o-cean,
3. This is my prayer, O Rul-er of all na-tions:



a song of peace for lands a-far and mine.
and sun-light beams on clo-ver-leaf and pine;
let thy reign come; on earth thy will be done.



This is my home, the coun-try where my heart is;
but oth-er lands have sun-light too, and clo-ver,
In peace may all earth's peo-ple draw to-gether.



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat-ing
O hear my song, thou God of all the na-tions,
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the na-tions;

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

Scripture Mark 6:1-13 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

Jesus left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then Jesus went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Response *Our Country May It Be*

Tune: My Country 'Tis of Thee

**1. Our country, may it be
pointed towards unity
That all might sing.**

**Sing of transgender pride
Immigrants verified
No person nullified
Let freedom ring.**

**2. This land of native pride
All through this countryside
Was loved before,
Before the pilgrims came
Before it had this name
Before we staked our claim
From shore to shore**

**3. Let us be proud to see
Rich in diversity
Our cherished land,
Embracing every voice
Respecting women's choice
Teaching our children to rejoice
As our hearts expand.**

**4. Our country will be free
When on our streets we see
That all are fed,
Looking in every face
People of every race
Nurturing all things interfaith
As we forge ahead.**

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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.

Words of Confession

Si Fui Motivo de Dolor, Oh Dios—CM Battersby

**If I have been the source of pain, O God, if to the weak I have
refused my strength, if in rebellion I have strayed away; forgive
me, God.**

**If I have spoken words of cruelty, if I have left some suffering
unrelieved, condemn not my insensitivity; forgive me, God.**

**If I've insisted on a peaceful life, far from the struggles that the
Gospel brings, when you prefer to guide me to the strife; forgive
me, God.**

**Receive, O God, this ardent word of prayer, and free me from
temptation's subtle snare, with tender patience; lead me to your
care, God.**

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 *In the Singing*



1. In the sing-ing, in the si-lence, in the hands ex-pec-tant,
2. In the ques-tion, in the an-swer, in the mo-ment of ac -



o - pen, in the bless-ing, in the break-ing,
cep - tance, in the heart's cry, in the heal-ing,



in the Pres-ence at this ta - ble —
in the cir - cle of your peo - ple —

Refrain



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace:



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine/Juice

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Nurturing One, we have received these simple sacred gifts. We are grateful and commit ourselves anew to living more Christ-like lives—with what we say and what we do each day. Continue to pour your spirit upon us that this broken bread will be made whole in our taking...that this cup will overflow in our sharing. Bless our efforts as we seek to set one another free. Amen.

Song of Parting *Lift Every Voice and Sing*



- 1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has



har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your



rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the
beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our
might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the



roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a
path we pray. Lest our feet stray from the



faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the
way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our
plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the



hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the
wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -



ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our



on till vic - to - ry is won.
gleam of our bright star is cast.
God, true to our na - tive land.

Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth

Announcements

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

Outdoor Movie Night July 9

Come one, come all to our first outdoor movie night of the summer! Friday, July 9 at 7:30pm. Meet us in the back parking lot for fellowship time! When the sun goes down we will enjoy a family friendly movie and popcorn! Bring lawn chairs or if you wish a blanket, This another chance for us to be together and we can't wait!

Mark your calendar now for the next outdoor movie on Friday, August 6 at 7:30pm!

Speaker Series July 11—Impressions of Norway

Presented by Kristen (daughter of Mike & Peggy)

Sunday, July 11 | 11:15am | via Zoom (see June 27 for link)

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 through 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

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

The Other Side of the Hill Documentary

Virtual Screening July 10 - July 25th

Other Side of the Hill is a new film that will be available this summer through IPL for free congregational screenings and individual viewing at home between July 10-25. Where can East & West, Republicans & Democrats, find the common ground needed to address climate change? How can industry and environmentalists work hand in hand? And how can local economies find opportunity in a lower emissions future?

No matter where you are located this important story will inspire you to reach out and bridge the divide. We are more alike than we are different.

Other Side of the Hill explores the impacts of a changing climate in rural Eastern Oregon – as seen through the eyes of local leaders on the ground. From innovative timber operations to large scale solar, our film amplifies the voices of rural communities often left unheard, and shines a light on stories of progress & hope. In a time of unprecedented cultural divide between rural and urban communities, we find common ground in an urgency to address a changing landscape. The film is 30 minutes long.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR FREE ONLINE SCREENING JULY 10-25.
<https://interfaithpowerandlight.salsalabs.org/trpfilm2021...>

WATCH THE TRAILER HERE:
<https://vimeo.com/403409317>

Contact Polly Rutherford: pollyrutherford@gmail.com

Habitat For Humanity Double your gift with Spire

Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis has partnered with Spire to build affordable housing in St. Louis...and you can help. From June 1st through July 30th, your gift to our local office will be matched dollar for dollar by Spire up to \$50,000. Together, we could raise a total of \$100,000!

Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis has partnered with Spire to build affordable housing in St. Louis...and you can help. From June 1st through July 30th, your gift to our local office will be matched dollar for dollar by Spire up to \$50,000. Together, *we could raise a total of \$100,000!*

Spire's generous match is just one reason that your direct support of Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis is more important than ever. ***The cost of building materials is skyrocketing at the same time that demand for affordable housing options has never been greater.*** Any gift you can share today makes a big difference to the hard-working, low-income families who are patiently waiting for their turn to build and buy a home through Habitat Saint Louis' programs. Won't you please help us fulfill our promise to them?

Every contribution makes a difference – and what better time to give than when the impact of your generosity can be doubled? With your investment and Spire's match, we can give families living in substandard rental housing the opportunity to become first-time homeowners, which creates greater financial and social stability for years and generations to come.

Where you send your gift is important! Only gifts sent to our local office in St. Louis will qualify for the Spire Match. And remember...100% of your gift given directly to Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis stays in our local economy, building homes for people right here in our community.

Thank you for helping Habitat Saint Louis make the most of this opportunity to build more homes, stronger communities, and lots of hope in St. Louis.

Contact Tom McKenzie: mckenzie1947@att.net

Donate: <https://www.habitatstl.org/summer-appeal/>

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Celebrations

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

Sue Hanson - strength, stamina, healing through health challenges.

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

Week ending July 11 - **Pilgrim Congregational UCC**, St. Louis; pilgrimucc-stl.org

6th Sunday *after* Pentecost

July 4 2021

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 6:1-13

Sent with Power

Independence Day

In a few weeks, from July 11-18, a General Synod like no other will convene via teleconferencing.

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ is the national decision-making body for the denomination, responsible for giving general direction to the evangelistic, missionary, and justice programs of the UCC. Rather than making proclamations to the church, which the church must obey, General Synod is in a real sense a gathering of the church at large. General Synod speaks to but not for the church, and as we gather together as one, it reminds us of our radical interconnectedness.

Since the beginnings of this youthful denomination more than sixty years ago, regular meetings of General Synod have given direction and purpose to the church as a whole, as well as providing an opportunity for thousands of delegates to learn, participate in service and mission projects, attend inspiring worship, and meet up with friends old and new.

The theme of this year's General Synod is "Rooted In Love," and the logo shows a tree planted by a river to reflect the words of Psalm 1:3a, "they are like trees planted by streams of water." The logo is a poignant reminder of being rooted in Christ's love, and the water that flows like a connection between our churches and other settings of the UCC. Although our gathering will be online instead of in-person this year, the elements that make General Synod so special and uplifting will remain.

On this Independence Day, we remember and rejoice in our fundamental INTERDEPENDENCE as we prepare and plan for General Synod 2021. Visitors are welcome at General Synod. Search for General Synod 33 on ucc.org to register. If you cannot attend all or part of General Synod this year, keep the church as it gathers in your prayers.