



INWARD OUTWARD



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, July 25, 2021



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, July 25, 2021

Contents

- 3 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 10 Announcements
- 14 Prayer List

Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open—minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God’ s calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God’ s grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

Linda Tossing, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org]

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

Barb Kuhlmann, *Director of Christian Education/Youth* [barbk@parkwayucc.org]

Barry Luedloff, *Music Director* [barry@parkwayucc.org]

Mona Smith Herberg, *Office Administrator* [mona@parkwayucc.org]

Kathy Ferrell, *Office Assistant* [kathy@parkwayucc.org]

John Dwyer, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]

Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [dawn@parkwayucc.org]

Julie Connors, *Nursery* [juliestl1992@yahoo.com]

Emma Pennycuick, *Nursery* [epennycuick1@live.maryville.edu]

Joyce Ruiz, *Alzheimer’ s Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador* [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com]

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.

Cover Photo: <https://pixabay.com/photos/art-watercolor-color-colorful-2681039/>

All word and service music reprint permission covered under CLLI License #2464265.

Anniversaries

7/25 DISCHINGER, Doug & Sally (51)

Birthdays

7/25 SCHARF, Caitlin

7/27 WILSON, Anna

7/25 SCHATZ, Jill

7/27 WILSON, Emily

7/27 HOGARTY, Kevin

7/28 WADDELL, Chase

7/27 LOWENTHAL, Andrew

7/29 STOLZE, Sarah

7/27 TALLYN, Diane

7/30 PLEIS, Marion

9th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, July 25, 2021 | 10:00am

Meditation *Generosity is the lifestyle of Discipleship*

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 *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit, v1*



1. There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, And I
2. There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive Till you



know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; There are
know Him in His full - ness and be - lieve; You're the



sweet ex - pres-sions on each face, And I know they feel the
one to prof - it when you say, "I am going to walk with



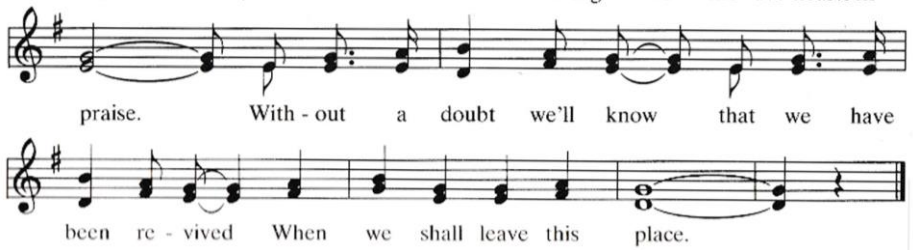
pres-ence of the Lord. Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it,
Je - sus all the way."



Sweet heav-en-ly Dove, Stay right here with us, Fill-ing us



with Your love; And for these bless-ings We lift our hearts in



Scripture John 6:1-13 (MSG - The Message Bible)

After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (some call it Tiberias). A huge crowd followed him, attracted by the miracles they had seen him do among the sick. When he got to the other side, he climbed a hill and sat down, surrounded by his disciples. It was nearly time for the Feast of Passover, kept annually by the Jews.

When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, “Where can we buy bread to feed these people?”

He said this to stretch Philip’s faith. He already knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered, “Two hundred silver pieces wouldn’t be enough to buy bread for each person to get a piece.”

One of the disciples - it was Andrew, brother to Simon Peter - said,

“There’s a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But that’s a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this.”

Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” There was a nice carpet of green grass in this place. They sat down, about five thousand of them.

Then Jesus took the bread and, having given thanks, gave it to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish. All ate as much as they wanted.

When the people had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples, “Gather the leftovers so nothing is wasted.”

They went to work and filled twelve large baskets with leftovers from the five barley loaves.

Call to Worship United Church of Canada

One:	We live with such abundance.
Many:	Yet people go hungry every day and live their lives below the poverty line.
One:	We have so many blessings.
Many:	Yet people try to sleep when they are cold, hot, fearful, alone and unsafe.
One:	We have been supplied with all the seed we need.
Many:	Yet people are limited based on their color, creed, ability, identity, age, orientation, education, and language.

One:	God calls us to be a thankful people and to respond in kind.
Many:	In this worship experience, may we be reminded that from our abundance we are called to love and serve others, reaching both inward and outward. This is a sacred invitation to be part of God's mission in all aspects of creation.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Song *We Are Called*



1. Come! Live in the light! _____ Shine with the
 2. Come! O - pen your heart! _____ Show your
 3. Sing! Sing a new song! _____ Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called _____ to be
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called _____ to be
 great day when all will be one! God will reign, _____ and we'll



light for the king - dom, to live in the free - dom of the
 hope for the hope - less so all ha - tred and blind - ness will
 walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and broth - ers u -

Refrain



cit - y of God! _____
 be no more! _____ We are called to act with
 nit - ed in love! _____



jus - tice, _____ we are called to love ten - der - ly, _____



_____ we are called to serve one an - oth - er, _____ to



Opening Prayer United Church of Canada

Holy One, Giver who blesses us abundantly, we acknowledge there are times when we have held back the abundance to only benefit ourselves. There have been times when we've treated your abundance as an entitlement, times when we've only scattered the good seed amongst those who reflect our own image, and times when the bread we provide is limited by a list of conditions of our making. We have engaged in service for the compliments, pats on the back, and gift cards instead of seeing our service as living out our gratitude. Help us own our actions and acknowledge the pain they have inflicted on others and ourselves. Help us shift from seeing our lives through the lens of abundance in life - toward life in abundance, so that with you, in Christ and through the Holy Spirit, we can change the world one act of gospel love at a time. 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 Outdoor Sunday School (Fellowship Hall if rain or heatwave) immediately following this Children's Time. We will also be on Zoom for those at home.

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.**

Scripture John 6:1-13 (CEB – Common English Bible)

After this Jesus went across the Galilee Sea (that is, the Tiberias Sea). A large crowd followed him, because they had seen the miraculous signs he had done among the sick. Jesus went up a mountain and sat there with his disciples. It was nearly time for Passover, the Jewish festival.

Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, "Where will we buy food to feed these people?" Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do.

Philip replied, "More than a half year's salary worth of food wouldn't be enough for each person to have even a little bit."

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said, “A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?”

Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted. When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Mission Moment Circle of Concern—Lana Biondo

Sermon

Call to Prayer *Sanctuary*

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
Lord, pre - pare me to be your lov - ing e - cho, kind and
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a
gen - tle, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a
liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.
liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

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.]

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Interlude

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

Holy One, sometimes you work slowly and behind the scenes for the good of all. Help us to not only have generous hearts, but also to have the patience to give of ourselves and love others - even when we can't see the difference it makes. Help us to trust in your wisdom and your power for life. Amen.

Song of Parting *Sent Out in Jesus' Name*

Sent out in Je-sus' name, our hands are rea-dy now to
make the earth the place in which the king-dom comes.
The an-gels can-not change a world of hurt and pain in -
to a world of love, of jus-tice and of peace. The
task is ours to do, to set it real-ly free. O
help us to o-bey and car-ry out your will.

Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Announcements

Music for Going Forth

Announcements

TODAY at 11am—The ice cream truck comes to Parkway.

“I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream!” Today, following worship in the back parking lot, listen for the familiar tune announcing the arrival of the Good Humor Man (the ice cream truck), delivering a free ice cream treat to every Parkway kid and grown-up. [Co-sponsored by Parkway's Sunday School and the Speakers Series.]

The Other Side of the Hill Documentary

Virtual Screening July 10 through TODAY

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/trpfilm2021othersideofthehillisignuptobenotified/index.html>

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

Contact Polly Rutherford: pollyrutherford@gmail.com

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue—8/3

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

Join us for TAD as we continue the book *Great Psalms of the Bible* by Clint McCann. We will be discussing Psalms 32, 51, and 63. This book lends itself to people starting it at any time. Please feel free to join us.

Video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMlU4ay9oNndtWW4yZUYwUT09>

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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue on Summer Break

TED is on Summer Break until August 24. Our summer book is *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. Combining magic, mysticism, wisdom and wonder into an inspiring tale of self-discovery, this novel tells the mystical story of Santiago, a shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different than he ever imagined. His journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams. Please read the first half of the book or up to page 100 for TED on August 24.

Tour and Visit to World Bird Sanctuary

Wednesday, July 28 | 9:00 – 10:30am (arrive 8:45am) | World Bird Sanctuary
Reserve your spot now! Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the tour. Tour will start at 9:00, Led by WBS Staff. Will learn about WBS' s History, birds and programs. For ease of walking, the tour will be on asphalt with plenty of stops and benches! At the entry gate, please inform the greeter that you will be joining a tour under the name of Linda Tossing. Masks are required unless you have been vaccinated. *We have 10 spots, so contact Linda at 314-495-3063 for reservations.*

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 1 through July 30, 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! 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/>

Movie Night – Take Two!

- The July Movie Night was rained out Friday, August 6 | 7:30pm | Out back at church
Come one, come all to our outdoor movie night! 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 a blanket. We can't wait! Questions? Contact BarbK@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330

A Stroll and A Sweet

Sunday, August 8 | 3pm | Tower Grove Park and Cherokee Street
Carpool from church at 2:30pm or meet us outside the Piper Palm House at 3pm. We will take a stroll through Tower Grove Park
<https://www.towergrovepark.org/>
then head over to enjoy a bit of Cherokee Street—including Diana’s Bakery at 2843 Cherokee St, St. Louis, MO 63118

150th Anniversary Celebration of Parkway UCC Historic Sanctuary

Sunday, August 22 | 10:00 am worship | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm Sanctuary and Elm Lawn Cemetery tours | PUCCH Historic Sanctuary lawn, 2840 N Ballas Rd, east side of Ballas Rd

On August 20, 1871, the building known today as the Historic Sanctuary of Parkway United Church of Christ was dedicated.

On Sunday, August 22, 2021, the 150th anniversary of this special day will be celebrated during the 10 am worship service. After the service, the Historic Sanctuary will be open for tours. Church volunteers will be available to provide background on the building. Members of the Elm Lawn Cemetery Board will also be providing tours of the cemetery located immediately behind the Historic Sanctuary.

Return to this posting each week to learn more about the story of this building.

More info: Kim Livengood | kimclivengood@gmail.com

Parkway UCC Night at the Muny

Friday, August 27 | 8:00 – 10:pm | Muny Theater, Forest Park

Join us for a night at the Muny to see the debut of *On Your Feet!*

Discounted tickets are \$13.50 per person. No backstage tours available this year. Great new show and fun night for all.

Based on the inspiring true story of the queen of Latin pop, Gloria Estefan and her husband, Emilio, *On Your Feet!* is a universal sensation that shows what can happen when two people believe in their talent, music and one another. Their moving rags-to-riches story features some of the most chart-topping songs of the past quarter-century, including *Rhythm is Gonna Get You, 1-2-3, Coming Out of the Dark* and the title hit, *Get On Your Feet*. With this Muny premiere, audiences will leave ready to *Conga!*

RSVP to Dan Connors: connorsd@aol.com | (314) 651-0279

“I feel that Christians have got it all wrong; it seems to me that they’ve created the very thing Jesus was against: Separatism.” – *T. O., Denver*

“I am often distressed at the way some Christians take as a given that Christians and Christianity define goodness. Many of us non-Christians make a practice of doing good; we, too, have a well-developed ethical system, and are devoted to making the world a better place. Christians hardly have a monopoly on what’s right, or good, or just.” – *C.R., Seattle*

“Christians seem to have lost their focus on Jesus’ core message: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and love your neighbor as you love yourself.’” – *R.M., Tacoma*

“I have no problem whatsoever with God or Jesus – only Christians. It’s been my experience that most Christians are belligerent, disdainful and pushy.” – *D.B., Atlanta*

“I don’t know whether or not most of the Christians I come across think they’re acting and being like Jesus was – but if they do, they need to go back to their Bibles, and take a closer look at Jesus.” – *L.B., Phoenix*

“When did it become that being a Christian meant being an intolerant, hateful bigot? I grew up learning the positive message of Christ: Do well and treat others with respect, and your reward will be in heaven. Somehow, for a seemingly large group of Christians, that notion has gone lost: It has turned into the thunders and lights of the wrath of God, and into condemning everyone who disagrees with them to burning in the flames of hell. Somehow, present-day Christians forgot about turning the other cheek, abandoned the notion of treating others like they would like to be treated themselves; they’ve become bent on preaching, judging, and selfishly attempting to save the souls of others by condemning them. What happen to love? To tolerance? To respect?” – *S.P., Nashville*

“I grew up Jewish in a Southern Baptist town, where I was constantly being told that I killed Christ, ate Christian babies, and was going to hell. So I learned early that many Christians have – or sure seem to have – no love in their hearts at all. It also seems so odd to me that Christians think that if I don’t accept their message my ears and heart are closed, because it seems to me like they have excessively closed ears and hearts to anyone else’s spiritual message and experience. They seem to have no sense of the many ways in which God reaches out to everyone. As far as I’ve ever known, Christians are narrow in their sense of God, fairly fascistic in their thinking, and extremely egotistical in thinking God only approves of them.” – *B.P., Houston*

“I wish Christians would resist their aggressive impulses to morph others into Christians. Didn’t Jesus preach that we should all love one another?” – *M.G., Shoreline, WA*

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Celebrations

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

In-person worship!

London Shay - great-granddaughter to Florence Simonson.

Concerns

Ellie & Skip Larson – she is back at the Care Center at Meramec Bluffs receiving hospice care.

Sr. Mary Kay McKenzie - just diagnosed with cancer (Tom's sister).

Brian McCarter - blood clots effecting his entire left leg (Doris/David).

Carlene Buenger - hospitalized to get infection cleared up (Connors).

Beth Watson - treatment for stomach cancer (UCC - Searcy, AR).**

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

If anyone needs support or if anyone vaccinated would like to on the Care Team, please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-330-0629

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

Grieving families and workers in Miami after condo collapse.

The unrest in Haiti and South Africa.

The flooding in Western Europe.

The wildfires in the United States.

Continuing

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

Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack - chronic health challenges.

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

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.

Marthoma - welcoming their new Achen - Rev Thomas Mathew.

** We received a letter in the mail from a woman in a UCC church in Searcy, Arkansas, asking us to pray for her friend Beth and asking us to send blessings to her at her home – 2219 Daniel Drive, Searcy AR 72143

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]

Ellie Larson - *Meramec Bluffs Care Center*; 182 Ameren Way #663; Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-225-0416. [birthdate: March 2]

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 25 - **Samuel UCC**, Clayton; samuelucc.org

Week ending August 1 - **Second Congregational UCC**, Memphis.

9th Sunday *after* Pentecost

July 25, 2021

John 6:1-21

God's Abundant Presence

The story of the “loaves and fishes” is one of the most beloved of all Bible stories. The hungry crowds, the presence of children, the abundance left over - it is easy to get pulled into the warmth and joy of this story.

Some say that the feeding of the people that day was one kind of miracle (Jesus made the food appear). Some say it was another kind (the crowd was so moved that they began sharing what they had previously hoarded). Whatever it was, the feeding that occurred was immediate and specific to the situation and responsive to a tremendous and obvious need.

For centuries, the church has been moved to feed people in the same way that the story illustrates in all kinds of situations and conditions. When the COVID pandemic made serving food in person risky, that did not change, even if the method of food distribution had to.

The Faith Cafe, an ecumenical partnership with Bethel United Church of Christ in Beaverton, Oregon and other churches in the area is one great example. Faith Cafe describes itself as a partnership of communities who in love, compassion, and justice, are dedicated to serving neighbors who are hungry for community and food.

“We accomplish this by sharing a free meal, as a family, and advocating for long term social changes that will reduce poverty and hunger... Each person who comes to Faith Cafe is a blessing to us and it is a privilege for us to serve them.”

That posture of humility and gratitude for the ability to serve meant that Faith Cafe was ready and able to pivot to a new way of service when COVID-19 sent the church, along with the rest of the community, into quarantine.

Rather than a hot meal, the weekly Faith Cafe became a to-go counter, with food distributed in sacks that could be taken away. As their food needs were met, and they were treated safely and with respect, Faith Cafe guests were fed body and soul.