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PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, August 22, 2021



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, August 22, 2021

Contents

- 3 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 10 Announcements
- 12 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

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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.

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Anniversaries

8/23 TALLYN, Jameson & April (13)

8/24 RUSSELL, John & Carol (53)

8/26 DETJEN, Val & Douglas (49)

Birthdays

8/23 SCHATZ, Dave

8/27 RACE, Helen

8/23 SCHOWALTER, Todd

8/27 SHELTON, Kelly

8/24 POUNDS, Madison

8/28 YAKEL, Lauren

8/26 LYONS, Summer

13th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, August 22, 2021 | 10:00am | Historic Sanctuary & Facebook

Meditation

Peace be to all who visit this sacred house of God sanctified by years of prayer. Pause awhile...allow the past to speak words of comfort to your soul, then add your prayer to ours before you go forth from the calm of this shelter into the busy world. ~posted in the Narthex of the Historic Sanctuary

Welcome

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

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

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *O for a Church* (Tune: AZMON)

**O for a church with open doors
that's been so long our dream
Where faith and hope, and care for all
show the love of Christ supreme!**

**O God of love, O Christ of peace,
the Holy Spirit's power:
Break down the walls, unite us all,
making this a shining hour.**

Scripture Psalm 84 (NRSV - New Revised Standard Version)

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed. For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield, bestowing favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

***Call to Worship** 175th Anniversary of the Church (2013)

One: We are a people with a history of searching and settling, plowing and planting.

Many: We have come from one language to multiple languages.

One: We have been engaged in reaching inward and stretching outward beyond ourselves.

Many: We have known many a conflict, too many wars.

One: We have experienced courting and covenanting, birthing and building families, death and despair.

Many: We have been subjected to fashions and fads through the years. We have been exposed to unspeakable beauty.

One: Through it all, we have stayed focused on faith and family.

Many: We are celebrating 175 years as a church. We have changed our name—and even our address—but we have always been rooted and fruited in the Spirit.

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

***Song** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide Thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
Though the eye of sin - ful-ness Thy glo - ry may not see,
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
Per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

***Opening Prayer** 100th Anniversary of Historic Sanctuary (1971)

Almighty God, by whose word and power all things were made, and without whose blessing we cannot worthily bring anything into the service of thy praise: send thy Holy Spirit upon us, we beseech thee, and help us to reconsecrate this building to thy purposes. Look graciously toward this place, and as thou didst move another generation to build for thee a house of worship, do thou fulfill also the desire of our hearts that this may be for many a house of prayer and the very gate of heaven. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 will be escorted across the street for a Back-to-Sunday School Extravaganza. They will be back over here when they hear the ice cream truck song!

Blessing the Children *Weave*

**Weave, weave, weave us together
Weave us together in unity and love,
Weave, weave, weave us together
Weave us together, together in love.**

Scripture 1 Kings 8:27-30, 41-43 (CEB – Common English Bible)

But how could God possibly live on earth? If heaven, even the highest heaven, can't contain you, how can this temple that I've built contain you? Lord my God, listen to your servant's prayer and request, and hear the cry and prayer that your servant prays to you today. Constantly watch over this temple, the place about which you said, "My name will be there," and listen to the prayer that your servant is praying toward this place. Listen to the request of your servant and your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Listen from your heavenly dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive!

Listen also to the immigrant who isn't from your people Israel but who comes from a distant country because of your reputation - because they will hear of your great reputation, your great power, and your outstretched arm. When the immigrant comes and prays toward this temple, then listen from heaven, where you live, and do everything the immigrant asks. Do this so that all the people of the earth may know your reputation and revere you, as your people Israel do, and recognize that this temple I have built bears your name.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon *That Was This, Now is Then*

Call to Prayer *Cares Chorus*

I cast all my cares up-on you, _____ I
lay all of my bur - dens down at your feet, and
an - y-time that I don't know what to do, I will
cast all my cares up - on you. _____

The musical notation is in 3/4 time, G major. It consists of four staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The second staff continues: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The third staff continues: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The fourth staff continues: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). There are rests and a fermata over the final notes in the first and fourth staves.

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Vater unser im Himmel,
geheiligt werde dein Name;
dein Reich komme; dein Wille geschehe,
wie im Himmel so auf Erden.
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute.
Und vergib uns unsere Schuld, wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern;
und führe uns nicht in Versuchung, sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.
Denn dein ist das Reich und die Kraft und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit. Amen.

**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.**

Song *This Is My Song, O God of All the Nations* (tune: Finlandia)

**This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine;
this is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine:
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

**My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine:
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.**

**This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a prayer that peace transcends in every place;
and yet I pray for my beloved country—
the reassurance of continued grace:
God, help us find our one-ness in your great love,
in spite of differences of age and race.**

**May truth and freedom come to every nation;
may peace abound where strife has raged so long;
that each may seek to love and build together,
a world united, righting every wrong;
a world united in its love for freedom,
proclaiming peace together in one song.**

Offering Our Gifts to God Matthew 25:35-36

I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in,
I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Offertory

Response *The Doxology*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Litany Celebration of Renovation and Rededication (1982)

One: Save us, O Lord, from living in the past, and from resting on the work of others. Let us find a new beginning and a new vision, that we may know our task in this place and this world today:

Many: O Lord, please hear us.

One: Keep us from pride that excludes others from the shelter of thy love; and from mean prejudice and mass evils that scar the tissues of our common life:

Many: O Lord, please hear us.

One: Spare us from the selfishness that uses thy house as a means of getting social position or personal glory, and let us not hold back what we have or what we are when there is so much need:

Many: O Lord, please hear us

One: Defend us from the ignorance that perpetuates injustice and from indifference that causes hearts to break, that, in these times of racial bitterness, we may show forth thy love and live as Christ's men and women, beyond color caste:

Many: O Lord, please hear us.

One: Help us avoid isolation in our apartments and our private homes while others near us do not have a bed of their own or any quiet place; and, as we work to bring a decent life to others, may we know a purer enjoyment of all thy blessings:

Many: O Lord, please hear us.

Song of Parting *In the Midst of New Dimensions*



1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war - ring fac-tions and de - spair,
3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
4 We are one and we are man - y all per-sua-sions, old and young,
5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,



Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain



God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your



peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth

Announcements

TODAY! Back to Sunday School Extravaganza!

Sunday, August 22

Back to Sunday School Extravaganza! Sunday, August 22 during the Sunday School Hour. For youth and Children to cross the bridge and move up to the new grade. Lots of fun things planned as we get back together! Carnival games, crafts and much more! Plan on being with us with masks on!

TODAY! Small Group Tours

Historic Sanctuary: Narthex, Stained Glass Windows, Organ, and Elm Lawn Cemetery. Special thanks to our wonderful 150th Anniversary Committee: Kim Livengood, Naomi Runtz and Kent Tallyn.

TODAY! Be sure to visit the ice cream truck for your complimentary treat!

Parkway UCC Night at The Muny

Friday, August 27 | 8:00 – 10:00pm | 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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue Resumes 8/24

Tuesday, August 24 | 6:00pm | Heritage Room

Our summer book is *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. This novel tells the mystical story of Santiago, a shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. 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.

Coffee Makers Needed

Starting October, or later, we will return to making coffee for social time before & after Sunday service. We are in need of 2-3 people willing to make coffee one Sunday/month. Please consider volunteering for a scheduled Sunday or to be a substitute. If we get enough volunteers it could mean coffee duty less than once a month!

Please contact Michelle Singer at michelle_singer@hotmail.com

Crop Walk 2021

Sunday, October 24 | 4:30 check in | | 5:00pm walk | Eden Seminary: 475 E Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves MO 63119

The 2021 CROP HUNGER WALK will be a hybrid event. For those who feel safe gathering in person to walk together, we shall gather on Sunday, October 24 at Eden Seminary, 475 Lockwood Ave, in Webster Groves 63119--check in 4:30PM and Walk at 5:00PM. However, participants may also register for the Walk, and they may choose to walk wherever and whenever they wants or in small groups. For more details and to register, raise funds, and/or donate:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/saintlouismo>

Type in Parkway UCC where you may join the team or make a donation

The CROP CONCERT will follow the CROP Walk at 7:00PM in the Wehrli Chapel at Eden Seminary Covid Precautions will be in place.

Contact Sue Moellering: susieqslp@sbcglobal.net

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Saturday, October 23 | 10:00am | The Enterprise Center

The Walk to End Alzheimer's is scheduled for Sat. Oct. 23, 2021. The Greater Missouri Chapter is moving forward with plans to host the walk in person downtown at The Enterprise Center. They will continue to offer options to participate online and in your neighborhood for those who prefer to socially distance. It could be, as last year, and be everywhere: on every sidewalk, track and trail. COVID will again dictate. The Parkway team page:

https://act.alz.org/site/Donation2?df_id=47035&PROXY_ID=667857&PROXY_TYPE=22&FR_ID=14598

You can learn more by going to www.alz.org/help-support/resources or the Alzheimer's Helpline which is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master's level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision making, and disease information. You can find virtual dementia caregiver resources online at alz.org/covid19help. Tools and support are also available in Spanish. Want to learn more about the Alzheimer's Association and what they do here in St. Louis? Visit alz.org and/or contact PUCC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at joyceruiz7@gmail.com.

People say, "What is the sense of our small effort?" They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions.

~Dorothy Day

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

~Aesop

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Celebrations

All the acts of kindness, justice and equity near and far!
All students, families, teachers, staff, admins gearing up!
Collegians starting/returning this week and next week.
Charlotte Smith - great-grandsons Owen and Felix born 8/10!

Concerns

Cindy & Ralf and Andrew Wessel - struggling after Tyler's death by suicide. <https://www.schrader.com/obituary/tyler-wessel> (see below)
Mary Maxeiner - healing after knee replacement surgery.
Audrey & John Nourse - as she receives hospice care at Mo-Bap.
Dan & Kim, Ben/Henry/Davis Weas - Dan's cancer treatments.
Polly Rutherford and family - preparing for her mother's memorial service here on August 21 at 2pm; visitation at 1:30pm. *You are invited.* <https://www.schrader.com/obituary/bea-dot-peck-nee-smallwood>
Kathleen Tarr - having a cardiac procedure in a few weeks.
Mike - hospitalized with Covid and pneumonia (McKenzie).
All impacted by Covid-19 - individuals, families, healthcare workers. If anyone needs support or if anyone vaccinated would like to be on the Care Team, please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-330-0629
The wildfires in the United States.
The humanitarian crisis in Cuba.
The aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti.
The turmoil in Afghanistan, Cuba and other places.

Continuing

Skip Larson, Karen Nolte, Janet Prendergast - remembering Ellie.
Joan and Larry Brannigan - continuing health concerns for Larry.
Sr. Mary Kay McKenzie - diagnosed with stage 4 cancer (Tom's sis).
Val - surgery to stabilize fractures in her back (Jim Winkelmann's mom).
Bob - continues to struggle with Parkinson's but is doing a bit better.
Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack - chronic health challenges.
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).
The extended Eggebrecht Family - healing and wholeness.
Marthoma - welcoming their new Achen - Rev Thomas Mathew.

Home/Care Facility/Rehab Center

Carol Aston - *Sunrise on Clayton*; 7920 Clayton Rd, #122;

Richmond Hts, MO 63117; 314-646-7600. [birthdate: December 12]

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.

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

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 August 15 - **St. Johns Evangelical UCC**, Mehlville;

stjucc.org

Week ending August 22 - **St John’s UCC**, Chesterfield;

stjohnsuccchesterfield.org

If anyone has a lead on a reliable used car, please reach out to Greg Schmelig...for Desi, a friend in a tough spot. Thank you! greg_schmelig@hotmail.com

Tyler Jacob Wessel

passed away on Friday, August 13, 2021 at the age of 19.

After a courageous battle with depression and aggravating health issues, he decided to take his own life.

Tyler was born on January 23, 2002. He is survived by his loving family, Ralf, Cindy and Andrew.

Over the years, Tyler developed long-lasting and meaningful friendships with people attending Parkway School district. Tyler was actively involved in various sports - basketball, soccer, flag football, and tennis.

He met new friends and fraternity brothers during his freshman year at Indiana University. He belonged to the fraternity, Alpha Sigma Phi.

Tyler had a vivid mind, a passion for sports, and loved a good debate. He was an avid fan of Star Wars, Marvel movies, and anime shows.

Tyler was known for bringing people together, seeking to bring into his fold those who may otherwise have been left out. He had a wonderful sense of humor and loved making people laugh. His beautiful smile could light up a room.

We are holding a celebration of Tyler's life on Wednesday August 18, 2021 at Parkway United Church of Christ (ParkwayUCC.org) located at 2841 N. Ballas Rd, St. Louis, MO 63131. Visiting hours start at 4 p.m. Memorial service will start at 5:30 pm. The service will be live-streamed on the church's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/parkwayunitedchurchofchrist>. Following the service, we invite you to join us for a dinner reception.

You are welcome to send flowers to Parkway U.C.C. on Wednesday, Aug. 18, prior to the memorial service or donate to the following charities:

CHADS Coalition for Mental Health <https://www.chadscoalition.org/>
or

National Association of Mental Illness <https://www.namistl.org/crisis-info/>

Friends may sign the family's on-line guestbook at Schrader.com.

Scripture shared at Tyler's Memorial Service

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them, "Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them, because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. I assure you that whoever doesn't welcome God's kingdom like a child will never enter it." Then Jesus hugged the children and blessed them.

Luke 15: 3-6, 8-9

So Jesus told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'

Psalms 23

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 forever.

Romans 8:35, 37-39

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Please put these numbers in your phone now...

24 Hour *National Suicide Prevention Lifeline* 1-800-273-TALK (8255).
(Weekday 9am-5:30pm *Family Support Warm Line* 314-952-8274)

24 Hour *National Helpline*: 1-800-662-HELP (4357) for treatment referral and information service for individuals and families facing mental and/or substance use challenges.

13th Sunday *after* Pentecost

August 22, 2021

Psalm 84

At Home with God

Psalm 84 begins,

How lovely is your dwelling place,

O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints

for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh sing for joy

to the living God.

For many of us, our church buildings are the sacred dwelling places of God. They hold the memories of generations of singing, prayer, baptisms, funerals, and even meetings. They hold the hope for the faith of our children and grandchildren. For many of us, they are home.

So, when a fire broke out at Berkeley First Congregational Church in Berkeley, California in October 2016, for the members of the church and the community around the church, it was like losing a home. But they rolled up their sleeves, cleaned up and began the long process of imagining how they might rebuild.

Like many American cities, Berkeley faces a housing crisis. So, after much prayer and discussion, the decision was made to develop low-income housing on one part of a parking lot, and to rebuild a new community building for worship space and offices. What has been a spiritual home for many generations, will one day be a literal home for those priced out of the competitive housing market in Berkeley. What a beautiful way to realize the sweet dream of Psalm 84,

Even the sparrow finds a home,

and the swallow a nest for herself,

where she may lay her young,

at your altars, O Lord of hosts,

my King and my God.

Happy are those who live in your house,

ever singing your praise.

Scripture citations from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.