



www.parkwayucc.org Sunday, November 7, 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

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.

**Today's Flowers** are given by Pat and Bill Owens.

**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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## **Wedding Anniversaries**

11/08 BRUEGGEMANN, Michelle & Brad (13)

## **Birthdays**

11/10 SABLEMAN, Lynn 11/11 BOWERMASTER, Ryan

11/10 YESS, Tyler 11/13 DWYER, John

## **All Saints Day**

Sunday, November 7, 2021 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

**Meditation** I am reminded of the biblical use of the term saint in the book of Acts. That it applies to each of us. All who are attempting to imitate the Christ in their lives merit the title of 'saint'. ~Matthew Fox

## **Welcome and 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**

Please come forward anytime now or during the opening hymn to place the photo(s) of your loved one(s) on the communion table. May their memories be a blessing.

## Welcome Song You Are Welcome Here



**Scripture** Isaiah 25:6-9 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And God will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; God will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,

and the disgrace of the people will be taken away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for God, so that we might be saved. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in this salvation.

\*Call to Worship Julia Seymour

One:	On this All Saints Day, we remember the countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage through time.
Many:	We remember the tender touch of loved ones, the example of heroes, the healing words of comforters, the remarkable acts of fearless ones.
One:	We remember the gentle strength of grandparents, the loyalty of friends, the kindness of strangers, the joy of children, the selflessness of parents.
Many:	We remember the incredible love of Jesus, the immeasurable blessings of the Spirit, the impact and import of Jesus' words, the sharing of his stories and teachings, the glory of his resurrection shown forth in the lives of his disciples, young and old, dead and living.
One:	We remember the articulate and silent, strange and familiar, brilliant and ordinary.
Many:	We remember in every time and place the saints of God who have shown us facets of God. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

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

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee; Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee, Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee, Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see; Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee, Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea; Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

## \*Opening Prayer William Wallace

We believe in you, God, though you are Mystery. You are beyond definition. You are a flame that is glimpsed through darkened glass, the hope of our human condition. We believe that the paths of life and death are part of the Cosmic recycling, for nothing will ever end as waste, nor feature a pointless destroying. We believe we are each a child of Yours, possessing a rich inner treasure. We believe that forgiving holds the key - unlocking the chains of our hurting and helping us grow in grace, beyond all our hatred's subverting. We believe that life's fullness can be found through loving, silence, wonder - which can empty our ever busy mind and fill it with mystery's deep splendor. We believe all the parts are interlinked, creating an integral oneness, that seeking this way can give us compassion and wholeness. All of this is our great inclusive dream, a dream that we seek to deliver through joining with all like-spirited partners in living a NOW that's forever. Amen.

#### \*Response Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, move among us all; Spirit of the living God, make us one in love; humble, caring, selfless, sharing— Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

**Children's Time** Children are invited to Room 12 (Lower Level) and Youth to Room 15 (Lower Level) following this Children's Time. We will also be on Zoom for those at home. We continue to require masks for all.

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.

## **Stewardship Moment Phil Waite**

## **Invitation to Generosity**

Our mission is to engage in God's mission to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty and wipe the tears from every eye. This is accomplished through our gifts of time, talent and treasure. Give generously so that God's will might be done on earth as it is in heaven.

## **Offering Interlude**

## \*Response

Praise God whose many names abound; Our Peace, our Rock, Our Holy Ground, Our Home, our All, Earth's Majesty, Love, Spirit, Light and Mystery. Amen.

## \*Prayer of Dedication

Living God, we are your people, we carry your presence. Use us and our gifts to accomplish your mission in the world. Multiply our effort to meet every need. This we pray in the name of Christ, whom with you and the Holy Spirit, reign in our hearts and lives, one God now and forever. Amen.

#### **Scripture** John 11:32-44 (CEB – Common English Bible)

When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died."

When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. He asked, "Where have you laid him?"

They replied, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus wept. The Jews said, "See how much he loved him!" But some of them said, "He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. Jesus said, "Remove the stone."

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, "Lord, the smell will be awful! He's been dead four days."

Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?" So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, "Abba, thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me." Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

#### **Moment of Silent Reflection**

#### Sermon

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

courageous action and spirited inquiry.

## **Communion Song** For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who Thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; Thou in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia! O Blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia! Alleluia! From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, Singing to God, the Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People**

## **Lord's Prayer**

Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

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

## \*Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine/Juice

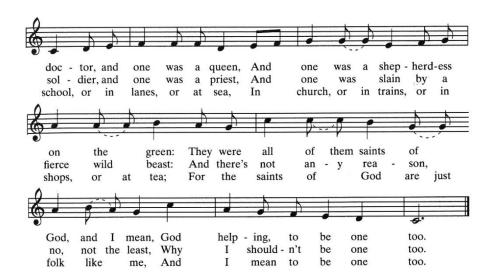
## \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thank you most Holy God, for meeting us in this simple meal. May your presence within us ripple beyond us, ever expanding, until the day when you gather all your saints from the four winds to share in your eternal banquet. In all our words and actions may your name be praised—now and forever more. Amen.

## \*Song of Parting I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Please come forward during the hymn or after to retrieve the photo(s) of your loved one(s) from the communion table. We grieve and give thanks with you.





#### \*Benediction

## \*God's Light Goes Forth

## \*Music for Going Forth

#### **Advent Around the Corner!**

After a brief experience of greeting one another in the Fellowship Hall, please consider meeting back here in the sanctuary or on Zoom at 11:20am to take a look at the lectionary scripture texts for Advent. We will read through the scriptures for the four Sundays before Christmas and ponder how they speak to us today... and think about some other things we might do together in this upcoming holiday season.

The readings can be found here:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/po9b7lyzj6d4ig7/Advent Scripture Readings 2021.pdf?dl=0

#### Zoom Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwd0EzV0VHV1lyQT09 **Meeting ID:** 846 9147 6997 | **Passcode:** 181565 | **Dial** (312) 626-6799

## **Announcements**

Harper School Open House Sun, Nov 7 | 11:30am-3:30pm

Harper School will be holding an Open House and we would love to have you check out our program which we hold on the Parkway UCC campus M-F. We offer programs for toddlers (2 years old) through 1st grade. We have a before school care program which start at 7:00 a.m., half day and full day programs that start at 8:20 a.m. and go until 11:30 a.m. (half day) or 3:30 p.m. (full day). We also offer an aftercare program which ends at 5:30 p.m. Please feel free to stop in after Church on Sunday, invite your friends too! Visit us atwww.harperschool.org/stl/ for more information.

## **Intertwine Interfaith Initiative Volunteer**

**Opportunity** Sat, Nov 13 | 1:00pm | Queeny Park | 1675 S Mason Rd The Intertwine Interfaith Initiative together with Congregation Shaare Emeth and TASOM (Turkish American Society of Missouri) will host a clean-up at Queeny Park. We will be cutting down honeysuckle and cleaning up the gardens. This is at the entrance off of Mason Road.

Afterwards we will move to the Smith Shelter located at 550 Weidman Road from 3-4:30pm to make s'mores. Questions? Please contact Paige Penico: andipaige@hotmail.com. Please RVSP by November 6.

## **Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue November**

 $1^{\rm st}$  &  $3^{\rm rd}$  Tuesdays | 1:45 Fellowship | 2:00pm book discussion | via ZOOM Join us as we continue the book, *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*, a novel by Christy Lefteri. It is a story about the refugee experience, full of hope and very timely as we welcome immigrants into our city and nation. We continue to meet and discuss on November 16.

**Video:** https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMIU4ay9oNndTWW4vZUYwUT09

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

### **The Parkway Speakers Series**

Selected Sundays | 11:15am | Heritage Room and ZOOM

November 14 and 21

*Critical Race Theory* by David Spener, Professor of Sociology at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas and an adjunct professor in the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin. He teaches Critical Race Theory, a body of scholarship and an academic movement that seeks to critically examine the intersection of race and US law. (Youth are encouraged to attend too).

These presentations are currently scheduled in the Heritage Room following worship, as well as on Zoom.

#### Zoom Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwd0EzV0VHV1lyQT09 **Meeting ID:** 846 9147 6997 | **Passcode:** 181565 | **Dial** (312) 626-6799

## **Welcoming Afghans to St. Louis**

The International Institute is grateful for the contributions from communities around St. Louis. They are overwhelmed by this generosity and currently need volunteers to help sort recent gifts from everyone.

The Institute asks that future donations of goods not be dropped off at their location until they are ready—to allow for sorting, organizing, and assessing future items most needed.

#### You can help by:

- 1. Signing up to volunteer for sorting current items. The volunteer slots can be found at https://iistl.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=57148
- 2. Donating: We have postponed in-kind donation drop offs until further notice! We continue to receive financial donations and gift cards.
- 3. Continue saving items household items as International Institute gears up for current and arriving Afghans. Items can be placed in the church lobby and marked for later delivery to the Institute.

**Labeling Online Donations** We are grateful for all of our online contributors! Please use your church envelope # as the payer account number. Also, if splitting your gift between the General Fund and the Building Fund, please indicate the amounts in the mem line. Thank you from the Sunday morning counters. Question? Reach out to Harold Cobb ccjcobb@aol.com

#### **Special Olympics Bowling Tournament**

Sat, Dec 4 | 10:30an - 2:00pm | Cave Springs Lanes | 4055 Mexico Rd 63303

You will have a GREAT TIME getting to know some special people and cheering for them as they compete.

Lane Assistant is by far the BEST job at the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament! Lane assistants get to know the athletes bowling on their lane and will keep athletes in order and bowling at a good pace all while making sure everyone is having fun. Lane assistants will track scores at the end of each game. Please RSVP as one of our ten to kevin@parkwayucc.org

From a backyard summer camp for people with intellectual disabilities to a global movement, *Special Olympics* has been changing lives and attitudes since 1968. When people speak of the origin of Special Olympics, they look no further than the first Camp Shriver - founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in the early 1960s. They talk of one woman's dream that started in her own backyard. They speak of her vision: how through sports, the lives of people with intellectual disabilities would be transformed and public perceptions would be changed forever.

Back in 1960, a woman from Bethesda, Maryland called Eunice and told her that she was having trouble finding a summer camp for her child with intellectual disability. The child wouldn't be accepted into a mainstream camp, and, at that time, the public education system couldn't figure out what to do with special-needs children never mind supply them with summer activities. Then another woman told her almost the same thing. "Enough," said Eunice.

In Eunice's world, "enough" always meant "do something about it."

## **Hospitality is Parkway UCC's middle name**

Speaking biblically, hospitality is treating strangers and friends alike. We are looking toward the future as we plan Sunday Hospitality Weekly Teams. Each team would be responsible for just one Sunday a month, with a total of 12 Sundays in a year. Some tasks can be done now, others in the future.

A church group met recently to discuss the forming of weekly teams to provide for ushering, greeting, coffee makers, food hosts, beverages, clean up, flower purchasers/arrangers, and preparing bouquets for shut-ins. We have some former hospitality volunteers willing to continue, but we could use more volunteers for specific or any tasks needed.

We especially need ushers for first Sunday and Communion servers, ushers for fourth Sunday and subs for any week, and one flower purchaser/arranger.

Please contact Ellie Svenson svensonellie@gmail.com (314) 323-7194 or Carol Cobb ccjcobb@aol.com (314) 640-8166 to volunteer for a specific week and possibly a particular task. Many hands make the tasks lighter.

## The PUCC COVID Team met Wednesday, October 27

to review our status and consider future changes. We noted two positive developments: community transmission is declining; and the approval of vaccination for 5–11-year-old children has the potential to curb the spread of the virus. We encourage vaccination for all eligible children as the vaccines have proven to be safe and effective in this age group in clinical trials. Still of concern is the low vaccination rate (53%) and test positivity rate (6+%) in St. Louis County. However, if community transmission and test positivity rates continue to decline with increasing immunization, we look to transition to more normal interactions after the first of the year. We plan a gradual relaxation of social distancing protocols.

In accord with our spirit of extravagant welcome and our commitment to being an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation, we will not consider vaccination mandates. Therefore, to provide maximal protection for all worshipers, we will retain masking and contact tracing requirements in the near to intermediate future.

#### **Environmental Justice**

Sat, Nov 13 | 12:30pm - 3:30pm | Epiphany UCC | 2911 McNair 63118

PUCC's sibling congregation, Epiphany United Church of Christ, is hosting an MCU environmental justice canvass on the blocks around the church on Saturday, November 20. Are there some of you who might be willing to help? It would be appreciated since Epiphany is a small congregation with several members with disabilities who cannot join this activity.

There will be training at 12:30 p.m., and then we will canvass until 3:30 p.m. If it is raining, we will reschedule. If attending, please eat lunch before you come since eating indoors together without masks is not something Epiphany UCC is encouraging at this time.

To register, go to this link:

https://secure.everyaction.com/IKZPEFCWU0CvNMHOsyApLQ2. We need you to register so that we select the right number of blocks for door-knocking. Benton Park is a diverse neighborhood in so many ways - racially,

ethnically, income level, religion, age, occupation, sexual orientation, etc. You will be an asset to this canvass no matter what identities you claim.

We will be asking questions about experience of air quality, respiratory illnesses or conditions in the household, and observations of illegal dumping. We will also invite those we meet to stay in touch with us if they'd like to learn more about air quality monitoring. Epiphany UCC also asks that canvassers leave a flyer at doors that includes the church's Advent and Christmas programming schedule and how to download an Advent daily readings booklet that writers and artists in the congregation create each year.

I welcome any questions you may have. Jeanette Mott (J-MO) Oxford, M.Div. 314-775-3261 talk/text Organizer & Lead Campaign Strategist for Metropolitan Congregations United

#### **November** Elizabeth Stoddard

Much have I spoken of the faded leaf; Long have I listened to the wailing wind, And watched it ploughing through the heavy clouds; For autumn charms my melancholy mind.

When autumn comes, the poets sing a dirge: The year must perish; all the flowers are dead; The sheaves are gathered; and the mottled quail Runs in the stubble, but the lark has fled!

Still, autumn ushers in the Christmas cheer, The holly-berries and the ivy-tree: They weave a chaplet for the Old Year's heir; These waiting mourners do not sing for me!

I find sweet peace in depths of autumn woods, Where grow the ragged ferns and roughened moss; The naked, silent trees have taught me this,— The loss of beauty is not always loss!

#### November E.C.

I would forget so many things;
The moaning wind, and rain,
Uncanny sounds of ghostly hands
At door and window pane.
I would forget the perished leaves
And grass, dismantled trees—
Old loves and hopes, the youth of me
That passed away with these.
But when I see November come,
How shall I then forget;
The other years return with her - remembrance and regret.

## Prayer List as of Wednesday, November 3, 2021

#### **Celebrations**

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

Marion Pleis - moving to Cape Albeon retirement community this week; address as of Nov 5 -- 3374 Lake Bend Dr; Valley Park, MO 63088

#### **Concerns**

Conrad Damsgaard - healing after heart valve replacement.

Pinky Wilcoxen - home after a few days in the hospital.

Lana and Joe Biondo - preparing for her knee surgery on Nov 10.

Sally Boughman - strengthening at home; pain management

Sue Moellering - healing after knee replacement surgery.

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

Mona Herberg - preparing for surgery next Thursday, November 11.

Family of Tom Ursic - grieving and giving thanks (Svenson).

Family of Rick Pharr - making plans to celebrate his life (McKenzie).

All impacted by Covid-19 - individuals, families, healthcare workers; If anyone needs help getting vax/booster or if anyone vaccinated would like to be on the Care Team, please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org

Graveside service for Ruth Murray - Saturday, November 6 at 10am in Breese, Illinois at the UCC cemetery there. You are invited.

#### **Continuing**

Jim and Polly Winkelmann - healing and strengthening. **George & Peg Lestina** - as he recuperates from surgery in a rehab ctr. Cindy & Ralf and Andrew Wessel - grieving Tyler. Skip Larson, Karen Nolte, Janet Prendergast - remembering Ellie. **Avery** - due 1/6 born 10/17 - now in the NICU doing well (Borgmann). Pat & Janet - his radiation/chemo treatment (Skip Larson's son-in-law) **Joan and Larry Brannigan** - continuing health concerns for Larry. Sr. Mary Kay McKenzie - living with stage 4 cancer (Tom's sis). Val - healing of fractures in her back (Jim Winkelmann's mom). **Bob** - continues to struggle with Parkinson's. 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 Wilcoxen - PUCC sisters with health challenges. Bill Darland - ongoing health issues. **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).

## **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]

**Sue Houser** - Bethany Ctr for Rehab & Healing; 421 Ocala Dr - #209B;

Nashville, TN 37211; 615-577-2049. [birthdate: July 8]

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]

Ruth Peace - 10379-D Forest Brooke Ln; StL MO 63146; 314-983-0253; meadletter222@gmail.com [birthdate: August 8]

Dearl Collegists. Evendable Village Memory

**Pearl Sellenriek** - *Friendship Village Memory Care Division* #1001; 15250 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: March 31]

**Pinky Wilcoxen** - 10379-D Forest Brooke Ln; StL MO 63146; 314-983-0253; meadletter222@gmail.com [birthdate: April 7]

#### **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.

Caregivers of all shapes and sizes.

**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 November 7 - St. Philip UCC, St. Louis; stphilipsucc.com Week ending November 14 - St. Thomas UCC, Chesterfield; https://www.facebook.com/StThomasChesterfield/

**Peggy & Mike Mohl** - relocated to be closer to family in DC area... 3709 S. George Mason Dr., #105E; Falls Church, VA 22041

## **24**th Sunday after Pentecost

November 7, 2021

Ruth 3:1-5, 4;13-17 Risk and Restoration

All Saints Day and All Souls Day are observances of the lives of ordinary people in creating and maintaining the reign of God. This week, we hear the story of generations - a grandmother Naomi, parents Ruth and Boaz, and a child named Obed (who was himself a grandfather and father).

As we celebrate the gifts of these generations, consider being in prayer with the generations this week, using this guide or another.

Monday: Pray for your ancestors in faith. Pray for those whose stories are told in scripture, and those who are known through other stories. Ask to be guided to knowledge by their wisdom, to gain understanding through their errors and to be strong in your faith as they were in theirs.

Tuesday: Pray for the ancestors in your church. Pray for those who founded your congregation, for those who built the building in which you worship, for those - both lay and ordained - who have sustained your congregation through the years.

Wednesday: Pray for the ancestors in your own family. Give thanks for the gifts you have been given by your family and pray to release any burdens you may carry that have been passed to you.

Thursday: Pray for the children in your life. Whether these are children in the church, in your own family or in your neighborhood, ask for God's guiding hand to move with and through them.

Friday: Pray for the children of the world who have no one to pray for them. Pray that God works in their lives and shows them that they are beloved.

Saturday: Pray for yourself as an ancestor. Ask to be given the courage and the wisdom to be a helpful and wholesome ancestor. Ask that you may be a blessing to future generations, as those who have blessed you have been.