



www.parkwayucc.org Sunday, November 14, 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]

 $\label{local-composition} Joyce Ruiz, Alzheimer's Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador \cite{Monthson} [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com] Polly Rutherford, {\it Environmental Justice/Sustainability Seekers} [pollyrutherford@gmail.com] John Nourse, {\it Pastor Emeritus}$

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 Country road in Franklin County by Mona Herberg

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

Wedding Anniversaries

11/15 RUNTZ, Joe & Naomi (69)

Birthdays

11/14	RAUSCHER, Nathan	11/17	TOSSING, Linda
11/14	ROSS, Emma	11/18	RUSSELL, John
11/15	POLSTER, Stephanie	11/18	SCHMELIG, Greg
11/17	PENICO, Steve	11/20	LIVENGOOD, Kim

25th Sunday after **Pentecost**

Sunday, November 14, 2021 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation

Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity. ~Simone Weil

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 We Are One in the Spirit, v2



yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love,

by our

Scripture 1Samuel 2:1-10 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version) *Harold Cobb. reader*

Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory. There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you: there is no Rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by God actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. The Lord kills and brings to life, brings down to Sheol and raises up. The Lord makes poor and makes rich. The Lord brings low, and also exalts. The Lord raises up the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them are set the world. God will guard the feet of the faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail. The Lord's adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth. The Lord will give strength to the king, and exalt the power of the anointed."

*Call to Worship Neryl McCallum

One:	We are God's people, the community of Christ, living compassion and hope.		
Many:	In this moment and in this place we gather around to worship God, to uphold one another in prayer and to be bound to each other in friendship and concern.		
One:	We come as a community bound by the spirit who calls us to be vital, vibrant people, living our faith, forward looking, alert and ready to bring healing and wholeness to the world.		
Many:	God of life, gather us in and hold us in love. We come for we have heard the call to live compassion's way, to welcome the stranger and break down barriers of exclusion, to reconcile our differenced and set aside wrongs, to embrace our diversity and know the blessing and harmony that is found when we open our hearts and minds to all.		
One:	God of justice, gather us in and encircle us with grace. We come to sing hope's song, to ring in the light when darkness abounds, to be a beacon of joy in desperate places, to respond to God's love as it beckons us into a still more excellent way.		
Many:	God who makes all things new, gather us close as we walk your path of love.		
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.		



*Opening Prayer Womanist Lord's Prayer

Grace Cathedral Episcopal, San Francisco

Our Mother, who is in heaven and within us, we call upon your names. Your wisdom come. Your will be done, in all the spaces in which You dwell. Give us each day sustenance and perseverance. Remind us of our limits as we give grace to the limits of others. Separate us from the temptation of empire, but deliver us into community. For you are the dwelling place within us, the empowerment around us and the celebration among us - now and for ever. 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 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 1Samuel 1:4-20 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version) *Harold Cobb. Reader*

On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord. and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head." As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made." And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."

Response My Soul Rejoices in the Lord (tune: The Day of Resurrection!)



- 1. My soul re joic es in the Lord; my God gives strength to me.
- 2. O God, you turn the world a-round and make things fresh and new.
- 3. The bur dens that we long have known by grace are cast a way.
- 4. This song was Han-nah's joy-ful shout of won-der and sur prise.

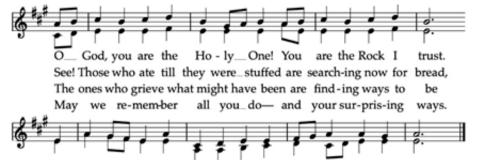


I feel my_heart with - in me soar at God's great vic - to - ry.

The proud and migh-ty are cast down; the poor find life in you.

You lift the poor to sit on thrones and bring a just, new day.

Young Ma - ry, too, would sing it out, that you change peo-ple's lives.



I sing with joy what you have done—for you've de-liv-ered us. while those who nev-er had e-nough feast at_your ta-ble spread. the bless-ing-bear-ers, lov-ing kin, in your com-mu-ni - ty. May acts of_love and jus-tice, too, grow from our songs of praise.

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer sung to the tune by Nate Stout

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

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

Mission Moment Every Child's Hope

Dedication of Pledges for 2022

Offering Our Gifts to God

*Response

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures high and low. Praise God who's love is fully known. Creator, Christ, and Holy One. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, as we commit ourselves to being as fully engaged in this church's financial ministry and mission for 2022 as possible, we know that you also need our generosity right now. As we move toward Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, help us to see and take the opportunities to bring more love. Help us to feel rooted, grounded and set free in your love so we can share that precious gift with others Amen.

*Song of Parting God of Grace and God of Glory, v1, 4, 5



*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth

Announcements

The Parkway Speakers Series

Today | 11:15am | Heritage Room and ZOOM

Critical Race Theory by David Spener, Professor of Sociology at Trinity University in San Antonio and 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.

This session is pre-recorded and will premiere at 11:15am –

https://youtu.be/6BxKaG3ehds

Come experience it in the Heritage Room and debrief it with Kevin Cameron as we pull together your thoughts, questions and hopes for session 2.

Join us on Zoom if you aren't able to be with us in person –

https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwdoEzVoVHV1IyQTo9

Meeting ID: 846 9147 6997 | Passcode: 181565 | Dial (312) 626-6799

The second session will take place next Sunday when David will be with us for interactive conversation on Zoom.

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue Nov 16

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 1:45 Fellowship | 2:00pm book discussion | via ZOOM We welcome you to join the discussion of Matt Haig's The Midnight Library, a novel about all the choices that go into a life well lived. What would happen if you had the opportunity to go back and change all the decisions you made in your life? On November 16 we'll discuss pages 1-101, December 7 pages 102-200, and December 14 pages 201-288. Discussion starts at 2pm, but feel free to drop in at 1:45pm for fellowship.

Video: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMIU4ay9oNndT WW4yZUYwUT09

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

Welcoming Afghans to St. Louis

The International Institute is grateful for the contributions from St. Louis. They are overwhelmed by this generosity and need volunteers to help sort. The Institute asks that future donations of goods not be dropped off at their location until they are ready

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

Month of Grace + Prayer: An Advent Retreat in Everyday Life

Get ready for Christmas by praying on your own 20 minutes each day and meeting one-on-one with a spiritual companion one hour each week for four consecutive weeks. Starts November 21. All meetings will be virtual (Zoom or phone if you prefer). Weekly meeting times set around your schedule. This is an individually directed retreat tailored to your own deep desires. Committed couples also have the option to participate as a couple. This is an ecumenical ministry, with all adults are welcome regardless of denomination or affiliation. For more information, visit www.momentsofgraceandprayer.org and to register contact Clarence Heller at clarenceheller@gmail.com.

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.

Special Olympics Bowling Tournament

Sat, Dec 4 | 10:30am - 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. 15 Volunteers needed. Please sign up here:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d4ca4ac23ab9-special

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."

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.

November 2021 Alzheimer's News

A new study suggests a popular herb could help prevent Alzheimer's Disease - Basil. The new study published in *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience* reveals that fenchol, a naturally occurring compound found in basil, may have a protective effect against Alzheimer's Disease. Fenchol was found to increase FFAR2 signaling, thus reducing levels of amyloid-beta, a protein linked to the development of Alzheimer's Disease, lowering rates and frequency found in the brains of Alzheimer's patients.

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

Quotes to Ponder

It is not power that corrupts but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it and fear of the scourge of power corrupts those who are subject to it.
- Aung San Suu Kyi

The holiness of God is like a white light: pure, simple, complete. But when that light shines, as it were, through the prisms of individual human lives, it breaks into an infinite variety of colors... each one reveals a unique dimension of the divine holiness. - Robert Barron

Nearly everything in life is unfavorable once it grows to a certain size. It is entirely possible to have too many clients, too much work, too much fame, too much free time, and so on. Pay attention to when the thing you're chasing exceeds its usefulness. - unknown

The strategies that made you successful in the past will, at some point, reach their limit. Don't let your previous choices set your future ceiling. The willingness to try new ideas allows you to keep advancing. - anonymous

I release my partner from the obligation to complete me. I release my parents from the feeling they failed with me. I release my children from the need to bring me pride, so they can write their own paths to the rhythm of their hearts. I don't lack anything. I cherish my essence, my way of expressing it, even if not everyone can understand me. I learn from all beings, all the time. I honor the divinity in me and you. - Shamanic translated from Nahuatl

To show compassion for an individual without showing concern for the structures of society that make him an object of compassion is to be sentimental rather than loving. - William Sloane Coffin

What needs to be guarded is the life of the Spirit within us. Especially we who want to witness to the presence of God's Spirit in the world need to tend the fire within with utmost care. . . Our first and foremost task is faithfully to care for the inward fire so that when it is really needed it can offer warmth and light to lost travelers. - Henri Nouwen

Live each day as you would climb a mountain. An occasional glance toward the summit keeps the goal in mind, but many beautiful scenes are to be observed from each new vantage point. So climb slowly, enjoying each passing moment; and then the view from the summit will serve a more rewarding climax for your journey. - Fulton J. Sheen

God is alive. God is love. Love is pulling us on to do new things and we need to trust the power of God in our lives to do new things. - Ilia Deli

Maybe it's not that there are two places beyond the door of death, heaven and hell. Sometimes I wonder if hell is just what heaven feels like for those who haven't learned in this life what this life is intended to teach. - Brian McLaren

In the first five centuries of Christianity, many of the church fathers believed in universal salvation. It seems we were much more hopeful at the beginning that the Gospel really was universally good news! - unknown

Prayer List as of Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Celebrations

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

Veterans Day

Marion Pleis - moved to Cape Albeon retirement community last week - 3374 Lake Bend Dr; Valley Park, MO 63088

Concerns

Cindy Wessel - scheduling surgery after achilles trouble.

Nathan Rauscher - tested positive for Covid.

Conrad Damsgaard - healing after heart valve replacement at REACH Rehab #2227 at Mason Pointe.

Lana and Joe Biondo - healing after her knee replacement surgery.

Mona Herberg - recuperating from major surgery at home.

Sally Boughman - strengthening at home; pain management.

Sue Moellering - healing after knee replacement surgery.

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

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

Continuing

Jim and Polly Winkelmann - healing and strengthening at home.

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 - doing well in the NICU (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]

Mary Herpel - Brookdale West County: 785 Henry Ave. #217:

Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-227-5838 [birthdate: March 3]

Sue Houser - Bethanu 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]

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 14 - St. Thomas UCC, Chesterfield; https://www.facebook.com/StThomasChesterfield/ Week ending November 21 - Trinity UCC, St Louis; trinityuccstl.org

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

25th Sunday *after* Pentecost

November 14, 2021

I Samuel 1:4-20 Praise the Holy One Stewardship Sunday

Today's reading ends on 1 Samuel 1:20, but the story of Hannah does not end there. Keep reading through 1 Samuel chapter two, and you'll hear something remarkable.

In chapter two, when Hannah receives good news that a hope long deferred has finally been realized, she bursts into song.

Her song, flowing from her grateful heart, has brought hope, encouragement, support and strength to generations of women and men who needed reassurance that God's love and presence are steadfast and strong. Her song for example, inspired another song by another woman of hope. Mary, the mother of Jesus, sings a song inspired by Hannah which you can find in Luke 1:46-55. If you compare the two songs, what do you notice that is different? What do you notice that is the same? How do you feel that the first song, by Hannah, inspired the second song, by Mary?

Maybe you also have been inspired by a piece of music and felt the desire to respond. If your response to life's ups and downs is to turn to music, then join United Church of Christ member and disability activist Karl Shallowhorn on his podcast, Mental Health Verses. In each episode, Karl interviews a guest about the music that has encouraged or supported them through various of life's difficulties.

Karl knows that music that inspires is meant to be shared and created to be passed from listener to listener. On the Facebook page for his podcast, Karl invites anyone who would like to "Just send an email to mentalhealthverses@gmail.com with your song and the reason why it has supported you... whether it was a time you may have struggled, or simply when the tune has lifted your spirits to another level."

Who knows? Maybe like Mary, the music shared will encourage you to create and share music of your own.