

A View from the Past





www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, November 21, 2021

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

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

Congregational Statement

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

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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Welcome to Parkway

Thank you for joining us this morning virtually or in person. 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 A view from the past

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Wedding Anniversaries

- 11/21 Gerry & Mike Rogers; Brandi & John Osborne; Mona & Dan Herberg
- 11/24 Alice & Perrin Stifel
- 11/28 Lisa Davidson & DJ Meyer; Elise & Jeremy Bowman

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------------|-------|---------------|
| 11/21 | Ella Penico | 11/24 | Sean Crawford |
| 11/21 | Carol Wilbois | 11/27 | Julie Connors |
| 11/22 | Lana Biondo | 11/29 | Carol Cobb |
| 11/22 | Alaina Muchnick | 11/30 | Kent Tallyn |

26th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, November 21, 2021 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation When eating fruit, remember the one who planted the tree.
~Vietnamese proverb

Welcome and Passing the Peace of Christ

Prelude *Prelude in D Major*

S. Schuyt (?-1616), arr. by Carlo Rossini

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *We Plow the Fields and Scatter, v3*



1. We plow the fields and scat - ter The good seed on the land,
2. You on - ly are the Mak - er Of all things near and far;
3. We thank You, then, Cre - a - tor, For all things bright and good,



But it is fed and wa - tered By God's al - might - y hand;
You paint the way - side flow - er, You light the eve - ning star;
The seed-time and the har - vest, Our life, our health, our food;



God sends the snow in win - ter, The warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey You, By You the birds are fed;
Ac - cept the gifts we of - fer, For all Your love im - parts,



The breez-es and the sun - shine, And soft, re - fresh-ing rain.
Much more to us, Your chil - dren, You give our dai - ly bread.
And what You most would wel - come, Our hum - ble, thank-ful hearts.

Scripture Joel 2:21-27 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things!
Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for God has given the early rain for your vindication, has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years

that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

***Call to Worship**

BRIGHT MORNING STAR
Jesus RESTORER OF HOPE Lord of Lords
THE WORD Holy One
Bread of Life Master BRANCH
ALPHA & OMEGA Teacher
Dayspring Prince of Peace
Son of Man COMFORTER
everLASTING SHILOH Anchor
FATHER The Almighty Light
Counselor TRUE VINE of the
MESSIAH THE LIFE HIGH
Giver of Life PRIEST World
& Blessings THE BELOVED
FAITHFUL & TRUE WITNESS Shield ROCK
Mediator Wonderful Counselor
The Resurrection King of Kings
Immanuel The Amen
LAMB OF GOD Healer | AM Servant
Good Shepherd Savior LIVING WATER
Advocate Redeemer
The Way, the Truth & the Life

ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

*Song *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Refrain



All things bright and beau-ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,



All things wise and won - der - ful: The Lord God made them all.



1. Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, Each lit - tle bird that sings:

2. The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, The riv - er run - ning by,

3. The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas-ant sum-mer sun,

4. God gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell



God made their glow-ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.

The sun - set, and the morn - ing That bright-ens up the sky,

The ripe fruits in the gar - den: God made them ev - ery one.

How great is God Al - might - y, Who has made all things well.*

*Opening Prayer

Holy One, we come here to give thanks, to give over the things that are too heavy for us to carry alone, to give support to one another and to give ourselves a break. We come to get a fresh perspective, to get a bit of Spirit spunk and wisdom, to get some courage and deep compassion in order to be Jesus in the world today. 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.

Scripture Matthew 6:25-33 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)
 Jesus said, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will God not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed God knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Response *Seek Ye First*



1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God And His
 2. Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and
 righ - teous - ness, And all these things shall be
 ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be
 add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 o - pen - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Sermon

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.]

Dedication of Pledges for 2022

Mission Moment *Every Child's Hope*

Offering Our Gifts to God *We Gather Together*

based on the Netherlands folk hymn Kremser (Cassie Rosenberger, flute)

*Response *Give Thanks*

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes repeat signs, first and second endings, and a coda. The lyrics are: "Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One, give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ his Son. Give Son. And now let the weak say, 'I am strong'; let the poor say, 'I am rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for us.'" And us." Give us." Give thanks! _____

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the

Ho - ly One, give thanks be - cause he's

giv-en Je - sus Christ his Son. Give Son. And

now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the

poor say, "I am rich be-cause of what the Lord has

done for us." And us." Give

us." Give thanks! _____

*Prayer of Dedication *Brian Wren*

Thank you, God, for water, soil and air, large gifts supporting everything that lives. Forgive our spoiling and abuse of them.

Help us renew the face of the earth.

Thank you, God, for minerals and ores, the basis of all building, wealth and speed. Forgive our reckless plundering and waste.

Help us renew the face of the earth.

Thank you, God, for priceless energy, stored in each atom,
gathered from the sun. Forgive our greed and carelessness of
power. Help us renew the face of the earth.

Thank you, God, for weaving nature's life into a seamless robe, a
fragile whole. Forgive our haste, that tampers unaware. Help us
renew the face of the earth.

Thank you, God, for making planet earth a home for us, and ages
yet to come. Help us to share, consider, save and store. Come and
renew the face of the earth. Amen.

*Song of Parting *Let All Things Now Living*

Unison

1. Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks - giv - ing
2. By law God en - forc - es. The stars in their cours - es,
To God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
The sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;
Who fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
The hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains,
By guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
The depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

Harmony

God's ban - ners are o'er us, Pure light goes be - fore us,
We, too, should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth *Nun Danket Alle Godt*

Two settings for organ, based on the tune by Johann Crüger

Announcements

The Parkway Speakers Series: Critical Race Theory

Today | 11:15am | Heritage Room and ZOOM

Professor David Spener teaches Sociology at Trinity University in San Antonio and 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. Last week's important and impactful introductory session can be experienced here again or for the first time – <https://youtu.be/6BxKaG3ehds>

Gather with us in the Heritage Room TODAY for a discussion with Dr Spener revolving around questions you posed last week and the things that have been on your mind, heart and spirit about CRT this week.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwdoEzVoVHV1IyQT09>; Meeting ID: 846 9147 6997 | Passcode: 181565 |

Reminder from The Stews

As we are raking up leaves and getting ready for winter, so are your “Stews” collecting pledges so that PUCC can prepare for 2022. If you have not already turned yours in, please do so. We will have baskets available on Sunday, or you can mail yours in. Need a new card? Just let Harold Cobb (ccjcoobb@aol.com) or Ellie Svenson (svensonellie@gmail.com) know. Your serious consideration for making a generous gift is vital to the life of the church. - Your Stewardship Commission

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue

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 December 7 we will discuss pages 102-200, and December 14 pages 201-288. Discussion starts at 2pm... 1:45pm for fellowship.

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

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 6:45pm Fellowship | 7:00pm book discussion | via ZOOM

Please join us for our second session discussing *Hallelujah Anyway*:

Rediscovering Mercy by Anne Lamott. Ms. Lamott describes mercy as the permission you give others—and yourself—to forgive a debt, to absolve the unabsolvable, to let go of the judgment and pain that make life so difficult.

We will be covering Chapters 4-6 at our next meeting on November 23. **Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86172300024?pwd=bFdGQ0xKRHFGTnZXM0kyRC9FdZGQT09>

Meeting ID: 861 7230 0024; **Passcode:** BookClub

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 household items as International Institute gears up for current and arriving Afghans. We will let you know when items will be collected.

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 ccj Cobb@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 ccj Cobb@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

recently met 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 and test positivity rate 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.

Flowers from Here to There

Kevin Cameron

My maternal grandmother was in the hospital. I was 19 years old, a sophomore in college. I came home to visit her. She was not herself – groggy, uncomfortable, agitated. She faded in and out while I was there. She did come out of her funk enough to tell me about the beautiful bouquet that was on her tray table. She perked up for several minutes and couldn't stop talking about them. She told me to read the card. It was from her church.

I decided right then that I would catch the spirit of that care and share it in whatever churches I served in the future.

Later that week, I called Nana's church and told them how meaningful their kindness was to her - and to all of us in the family. I then asked them to please send me a copy of the card. I was grateful to receive it and tucked it away for future use.

The text:

*These flowers are a part of God's creation.
They come to you from Parkway United Church of Christ.
They have heard the organ play and the congregation sing.
They have been present for the reading of scripture, the preaching of the Good News and the outpouring of many prayers.
And now they come to you to bring peace and blessing from the members and friends of Parkway.*

In addition to bringing life and color to someone who needs those gifts, it transports the person right into the center of the sanctuary – among their faith family and the sounds and words and mystery of worship. The sentiment on the card, wafting up out of the flowers, conveys the truth that they matter and that they are blessed. The recipient is in the thoughts and prayers of their people. The echoes of worship can carry the person away from their angst, pain, doubts, grief and/or loneliness for a time. The flowers bring them closer to the Creator.

Thank you to all who have ever donated flowers on Sunday mornings. Know that they are appreciated in the sanctuary and wherever they end up that following week. We all go with them.

The 2022 Flower Chart is on an easel in the Gathering Space. Please consider signing up to provide flowers on an upcoming Sunday morning. Someone will contact you to give you all the details and to solicit your preferences and to learn if the flowers will be in memory and/or celebration of someone or something.

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Celebrations

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

Thanksgiving!

Concerns

Brenda Sperry & Julie Stappenbeck families and their father Bill Langenbacher - as they grieve and give thanks for Mary.

Cindy Wessel - healing at home after recent Achilles surgery.

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

Lana and Joe Biondo - healing from recent knee replacement.

Mona Herberg - healing from last week's successful cancer surgery.

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

Sally Boughman - strengthening at home; pain management

Sue Moellering - healing after knee replacement surgery.

Jim and Polly Winkelmann - healing and strengthening at home.

George & Peg Lestina - as he recuperates from surgery in a rehab ctr.

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

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 Wilcoxon - 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]

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

Pinky Wilcoxon - 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 21 - **Trinity UCC**, St Louis; trinityuccstl.org

Week ending November 28 - **Zion UCC**, Florissant; zionuccstl.org

**

Thanksgiving

Gratitude helps us to see what is there instead of what isn't. ~Annette Bridges

After a good dinner, one can forgive anybody, even one's own relations.

~Oscar Wilde

Not what we say about our blessing, but how we use them, is the true measure of our Thanksgiving. ~W.T. Purkiser

26th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Christ the King Sunday

November 21, 2021

A Wise Reign

Thanksgiving Sunday

John 18:33-37

Jesus talked about money more than any other topic. Eleven of his forty parables were about money and he talked more about money than faith and prayer combined. Why was money so important to Jesus? Because he knew and preached the truth that how we earn, save, and spend our money is one of the most telling markers of our spiritual life.

Since 1993, The United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund (<https://www.cornerstonefund.org/>) has helped to bring Jesus's words to life for congregations and individuals. According to their website, the UCC Cornerstone Fund "helps local churches and non-profit organizations create change within their communities. And we're building transformative products that not only empower these communities, but also help our clients earn even more on their investments."

Founded in 1993 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the UCC Cornerstone Fund holds more than \$100 million dollars in total assets with a total of 3000+ investors. In just a few decades, they have financed more than 650 projects worth more than \$275,000,000 across the United States. They champion green building, supporting projects that save more than 350,000 kWh in energy usage per year. And they help churches save \$3.1 million every year with their refinancing programs.

The website of the Cornerstone Fund (<https://www.cornerstonefund.org/>) offers a wealth of free advice on conscious investing, funding college education and more. There are stories there, too, about churches that have been helped by the Cornerstone Fund to breathe new life into their structures and ministries.

Let the Cornerstone Fund inspire you to plan ahead and to follow Christ's teachings.