



www.parkwayucc.org Sunday, November 28, 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.

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Wedding Anniversaries

11/28 BOWMAN, Elise & Jeremy (22)

11/28 DAVIDSON, Lisa & DJ Meyer (23)

12/01 SCHEFFEL, William & Helen (42)

Birthdays

11/29 COBB, Carol 12/03 HALE, Lauren

11/30 TALLYN, Kent 12/03 OWENS, Pamela

12/02 STOLZE, Claire

1st Sunday of Advent: Hope

Sunday, November 28, 2021 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness. ~Desmond Tutu

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Passing the Hope of Christ

"May the hope of Christ be with you."

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, v1



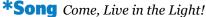
Gathering at the Advent Wreath: Hope

Scripture Jeremiah 33:14-16 (CEB – Common English Bible)

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David's line, who will do what is just and right in the land. In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is what he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

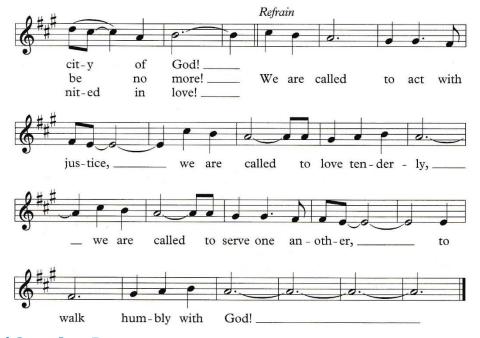
*Call to Worship Bernadette Farrell

One:	Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.
Many:	Christ, be our light!
One:	Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.
Many:	Spirit, shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
One:	Longing for joy, many feel sadness. Longing for comfort, many still weep. Make us your hands caring for others, sharing Your love to all.
Many:	Christ, be our light!
One:	Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kindom come.
Many:	Shine in—and through—your church gathered and scattered today.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.





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



*Opening Prayer

Holy One, we light this candle, a flicker of starlight cradled in a forever circle of green, a sign of belonging, of growth, of possibility, of awe and wonder. May it be a reminder of your divine spark, kindling new beginnings within us. *Hope be born among us*. We wait in hope with all your people down through the ages - today and into tomorrow. Amen.

*Response In The Bulb There is A Flower

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree. There's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

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 Be Near Me, Lord Jesus

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray Bless all the dear children in your tender care, And teach us, dear Jesus, to laugh and to share.

Scripture Luke 21:25-36 (NRSV – New Revised Standard)

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world,

for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Invitation to Prayer Hope Before Us



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.]

Song Arise, Your Light is Come



Pro - claim the cap-tives' lib - er - ty, Good ti - dings to the poor.

Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones And com - fort those who mourn.

Rise up like ea-gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Mission Moment Second Mile Advent

Circle of Concern | Emmaus Homes | The Christmas Fund

Offering Our Gifts to God Offering Interlude

*Response

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace Praise God for gifts of joy and love Praise God for sending Christ to dwell On earth for us—Emmanuel. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication Quentin Chin

Holy One, we give in grateful thanksgiving for all that You have given us. In the upside down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but by what we can give away. We share our hope generously, in this offering and in the words we use and the actions that we take—to bless your church, your people, your creation. Amen.

***Song of Parting** Song of Hope

Words for 2nd verse—Evelyn Buretta



Keep a prayer within your heart throughout the day Hope is always there for those who trust the Lord Give your time and comfort in a simple way Call for justice, hope will surely be restored.

Giving, use our gifts with love, Helping, for the ones in need, Striving, for equality Justice, when the need demands.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

***Music for Going Forth**

Advent is Here

by Rosalie Sugrue

Advent is here

In this liturgical season of anticipation
Free us to embrace *Christmas in all its fullness*Help us enter the magic world of myth and story
With the unfettered imagination of children
Present in the moment
Living in the story

Advent is here

In this liturgical season of preparation
Free us from becoming overburdened
By the many things we have to do
Help us meet angels in our story
May angels quell our fears
As they did for Mary and Joseph

Advent is here
May angels give us safe directions
As they did for the Magi
May angels startle us to wonder
As they did for the shepherds

And may we sing from angel song-sheets

Songs of hope and peace that evoke joy and spontaneous acts of love. Amen.

Announcements

Reminder from The Stews

We have had a very good early response to our pledge campaign but still have some distance to reach last year's pledge total. We continue to accept your pledges. Pledge cards are available in The Gathering Space. Mail your pledge card to the church office, place in the basket in the Gathering Space, or send it in by email. Thank you for your participation.

~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=bUxPZEdDMIU4ay9oNndTWW4yZUYwUT09

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 <u>Hallelujah Anyway</u>: *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.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86172300024?pwd=bFdGQ0xKRHFGTnZXM0kyRC9FdDZGQT09

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.
- Continue saving items 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 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 recently me 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.

Educate Yourself and Pray/Act on this...

Thanksgiving from the Wampanoag perspective:

https://www.okcps.org/cms/lib/OK01913268/Centricity/Domain/130/NASS %20Thanksgiving%20Lesson%20Plan%20Booklet.pdf

This booklet is designed to give teachers a place to begin when designing their lessons for Thanksgiving. It is written from a perspective of the Indigenous people of our country. We want to acknowledge and recognize the Wampanoag People for being forgotten in the Thanksgiving story for so many years in our country's education system. We hope that teachers near and far use this booklet as a jumping off point to stir their soul, creativity and skills to teach ALL children the truth about Thanksgiving.

Prayer List as of Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Celebrations

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

Concerns

All grieving families at the Holidays.

Brenda Sperry & Julie Stappenbeck families and their father Bill

Langenbacher - as they grieve and give thanks for Mary.

Visitation at Bopp Chapel this Saturday, November 27 from 12-3pm

https://www.boppchapel.com/obituaries/Mary-Frances-

Langenbacher?obId=23087217#/obituaryInfo

Cindy Wessel - healing after recent Achilles surgery.

Conrad Damsgaard - healing after heart surgery at REACH Rehab.

Mona Herberg - healing from recent *successful* cancer surgery.

Bill Haack - beginning the lengthy prep process for extensive back surgery in early summer - approximate recovery time will be one year.

Tom McKenzie's brother and sister - healing and hope now.

Natalie Dixon Crewell - enduring round 1 of leukemia chemo (Lyons).

Christmas Parade victims and their families in Wisconsin.

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

Lana Biondo - healing from her recent knee replacement.

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.

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]

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 28 - **Zion UCC**, Florissant; zionuccstl.org Week ending December 5 - **St. Martin UCC**, High Ridge; stmartinucc-hr.com

1st Sunday of Advent: Hope

November 28, 2021 First Sunday of Advent (Year C) Luke 21:25-36 **Sign of Things to Come** *United Black Christians Anniversary*

'Til Love Comes is the first single on Tracy Howe's album, "Things That Grow", available at tracyhowemusic.com. On this first Sunday of Advent, these inspiring words are a prophetic reminder of the universe-transforming power of the incarnation, the coming of the Christ Child. You can find more of Tracy's music, including a link to a video of this song, at tracyhowemusic.com.

We will march on, will fight on 'Til love comes

If you cut into beauty and try to make it bleed you only find a deeper hope and what makes a person free the depths of love come from where we've been redeemed

So put down your guns and unlock the prison doors You can keep all your money; give yourselves to the poor learn to love Building a world of grace

We will march on, will fight on 'Til love comes

You might make your words a weapon and build power out of fear But it's your own self breaking and fading away in the mirror

Because love Is writing the song

And the mystery of suffering is the life that comes from pain

And the hope we share holds it gives it a name All in love We carry on

We will march on, will fight on 'Til love comes

We gave our lives to this fight, we gave our lives
If we fall it will be alright, if we fall it will be alright
Our bodies wrapped in dust, will tell the tale of both of us
I who heard your cry for help, and you who lived for someone else

We will march on, will fight on 'Til love comes