

LookFORWARD





www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, December 12, 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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John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

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.

Today's flowers are given by Val and Doug Detjen.

Subscribe to our email lists: Text your email address to 22828 or sign up at www.parkwayucc.org

Communications Requests: Please use the form at www.parkwayucc.org/communications for all announcements for the bulletin/eNews/website/social media/etc. Bulletin and eNews communications request deadline is noon Monday.

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Anniversaries

12/12 OWENS, Bill & Pat (57)

Birthdays

12/12 OWENS, Bill

12/18 JONES, Daniel

12/13 YAKEL, Amy

12/18 JONES, Mikey

12/14 WAITE, Henry

12/18 TALLYN, Evelyn

12/15 ROGERS, Mike

12/18 WILLIAMS, Anthony

3rd Sunday of Advent: *Joy*

Sunday, December 12, 2021 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ~Romans 12:15

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Passing the Joy of Christ

Prelude *Savior of the Nations, Come*—Setting Albert Beck

Based on the plainsong melody Eyn Enchiridon, (Erfurt, 1524)

Choral Introit *Gathered Here*

Gathered here, in the mystery of the hour. Gathered here in one strong body.
Gathered here in the struggle and the power. Spirit, draw near.

Lighting the Candles & Ringing the Bell

Carol *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* —arr. Lloyd Larson

Offered by Doris McCarter and the Parkway Sanctuary Choir

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until . . . the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Arrangement based on the 12th Century Latin hymn Veni Emmanuel

Gathering at the Advent Wreath: Joy

*Call to Worship

One: As we come to find joy, express joy, share joy and multiply joy,
we look at scripture...

**Many: A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit
dries up the bones.**

One: Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may
be in you, and that your joy may be full."

**Many: Jesus said, "You have sorrow now, but I will see you
again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take
your joy from you."**

One: Jesus said, "Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of
God over one who repents/returns."

**Many: Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words
became to me a joy and the delight of my heart.**

One: And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you
good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Many: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

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

Response *Joy Before Us*

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, using eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The first staff contains the first two lines of the response. The second staff contains the next two lines. The third staff contains the next two lines. The fourth staff contains the final two lines. The melody is repeated throughout the piece.

Joy be - fore us, joy be - hind us,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
joy un - der our feet.
al - le - lu - ia.
Joy with - in us, joy o - ver us,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
let all a - round us be joy.
al - le - lu - ia.

Children's Time Children are invited to Room 12 (Lower Level) and Youth to Room 15 (Lower Level) following this Children's Time. 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.**

1st Lesson *Genesis 3:8-15*

In the Garden of Eden, God tells Adam that the serpent will be punished.

They heard the sound of the God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the couple hid themselves from the presence of God among the trees of the garden. But God called to the man, and said to him,

“Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” Then God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Carol *God Walked in Eden's Garden Fair*

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir

**God walked in Eden's Garden fair,
such beauty there none could compare
It soon became a place of shame;
there Adam's sin disowned God's name.**

**Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,
Kyrie eleison.**

**A world of peace was swept away when Adam chose to disobey.
Like Adam, here we sometimes fall
when we refuse to hear God's call.
Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison.**

**The tale of Adam is our own.
Like him we see God's love made know;
Yet when we fail and go our way, the Holy One hears when we pray.
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.**

original material by Hal H. Hopson, based on Conditor Alme Siderium

2nd Lesson Isaiah 9:2,6,7

The prophet Isaiah foretells the birth of Christ.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting One, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and the kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Carol *Advent Verse*—arr. Deborah Governor
Alleluia, Alleluia!

**A virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and call his name Emmanuel.**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia, Allelu!

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Based on Veni Emmanuel

3rd Lesson Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

Isaiah speaks of the peace that Christ will bring to the world.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Choral Reading Luke 1:1-7, 18-19

Blessed be the Lord, God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

But you, child...

you will be called the prophet of the Most High.

For you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.

To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Song *You Are Mine*



1. — I will come to you in the si - lence, —
2. — I am hope for all who are hope-less, —
3. — I am strength for all the de - spair-ing, —
4. I am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from _____ all your fear.
I am eyes for all who long to see. In the
heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame. _____
am the peace the world can - not give. _____



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be
shad-ows of the night, I will be your light,
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain, stand



still and know I am here. _____
come and rest in
all will know my
up, now walk, and



me. _____
name. _____
live! _____

Refrain



with you. I have called you each by name.



Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine. _____

4th Lesson Luke 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel appears to the Virgin Mary.

On the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He

will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn #16—The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (red hymnal)



1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
 2. "For know a bless - ed moth - er you shall be, All
 3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, "To
 4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born In

wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
 gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly, Your
 me be as it pleas - es God," she said, "My
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And

hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,"
 Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told." Most
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:

high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!

5th Lesson Luke 2:1, 3-7

The birth of Jesus is described by Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol

We'll Welcome Him/ Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent —Ruth Anne Schram

**In the silent and the darkness,
we have wandered, wandered,
waiting for our Savior's birth;
and our minds and hearts are longing
for the Savior, Savior,
waiting, waiting.**

**When our Lord descends to earth, we'll welcome Him,
We'll welcome Him. We'll welcome Him.**

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand.
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in His hand
Christ, our God, to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.**

(Let all mortal flesh keep silence...)

**In the silent and the darkness,
we have wandered, wandered,
waiting for our Savior's birth;
and our minds and hearts are longing
for the Savior, Savior, waiting, waiting.**

When our Lord descends to earth, we'll welcome Him.

Christ our God to earth descendeth.

We'll welcome Him. We'll welcome Him. We'll welcome Him.

6th Lesson Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds journey to the manger.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Hymn #23— Angels We Have Heard on High (red hymnal)



1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?
3. Come to Beth-le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun-tains in re-ply Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some tid - ings be Which in-spire your heaven - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.



7th Lesson Matthew 2:1-11

Three wise men follow the star and are led to Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Mission Moment 2nd Mile Advent

Circle of Concern | **Emmaus Homes** | The Christmas Fund

Offering Our Gifts to God

We must have humor in our lives, and warmth and giving. ~Maya Angelou

Carol *Hosanna*—by Allen Pote

Based on Isaiah 40:21, 28, 31

**Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told to you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.**

**They that wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.
They shall mount up with wings like eagles.
They shall run, and not be weary.
They shall walk, and not faint.**

**Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**

***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.**

8th Lesson John 1:1-5, 10-12, 14

John unfolds the mystery of Christ's birth.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, and the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of God's only son, full of grace and truth.

***Song** *The Summons v1, 3, 5*



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? ____ Will you go where you don't know and
 your name? ____ Will you care for cruel and kind and
 your name? ____ Will you set the pris - oners free and
 your name? ____ Will you quell the fear in - side and
 my name. ____ Let me turn and fol - low you and



nev - er be the same? ____ Will you let my love be
 nev - er be the same? ____ Will you risk the hos - tile
 nev - er be the same? ____ Will you kiss the lep - er
 nev - er be the same? ____ Will you use the faith you've
 nev - er be the same. ____ In your com - pa - ny I'll



shown, ____ will you let my name be known, ____ will you
 stare ____ should your life at - tract or scare? ____ Will you
 clean, ____ and do such as this un - seen, ____ and ad -
 found ____ to re - shape the world a - round, ____ through my
 go ____ where your love and foot - steps show. ____ Thus I'll



let my life be grown in you and you in me? ____
 let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me? ____
 mit to what I mean in you and you in me? ____
 sight and touch and sound in you and you in me? ____
 move and live and grow in you and you in me. ____

9th Lesson John 15, selected verses

Jesus commissions the disciples to love in joy.

Jesus said, “As God has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept God’s commandments and abide in God’s love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from God. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that God will give you whatever you ask in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

***Benediction**

***God’s Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth**

Improvisations on *Bereden Väg För Herran (Prepare the Way, O Zion)*

Original melody published 1697

Sometimes I Wonder Karen Shetler

sometimes I wonder
if Mary breastfed Jesus.
if she cried out when he bit her
or if she sobbed when he would
not latch.
and sometimes I wonder
if this is all too vulgar
to ask in a church
full of men
without milk stains on their shirts
or coconut oil on their breasts
preaching from pulpits off limits to
the Mother of God.
but then i think of feeding Jesus,
birthing Jesus,
the expulsion of blood
and smell of sweat,
the salt of a mother’s tears
onto the soft head of the Salt of the
Earth,
feeling lonely
and tired
hungry
annoyed

overwhelmed
loving
and i think,
if the vulgarity of birth is not
honestly preached
by men who carry power but not
burden,
who carry privilege but not labor,
who carry authority but not
submission,
then it should not be preached at
all.
because the real scandal of the
Birth of God
lies in the cracked nipples of a
14 year old
and not in the sermons of
ministers
who say women
are too delicate
to lead.

#poemsfortheresistance

Announcements

TODAY! Speaker Series: The Fall of County Executive Steve Stenger – As I Saw It by Winston Calvert

Sunday, December 12 | 11:15am | Heritage Room and Zoom

In April of 2019, Steve Stenger, the then St. Louis County Executive, was convicted of public corruption, resigned, and subsequently was sentenced to federal prison following an FBI probe. Winston Calvert, a senior member of the current St. Louis County Executive's office, observed the downfall of Stenger as it unfolded, and will share his views and observations, some of which may not generally be known by the public. Contact Richard Scherrer: 90fivetpr@gmail.com | (314) 591-6803

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwD0EzV0VHV1lyQT09> **Meeting ID:** 846 9147 6997 | **Passcode:** 181565 | **Dial** (312) 626-6799

Second Annual Celebration of Nativity Scenes will take place December 14-21.

It's a great deal less complicated than last year!

Drop off any nativity scene(s) that you would like to share with other PUCCers on Sunday or Monday, December 12-13 on the tables in the Gathering Space. We will display them all around the sanctuary so they are ready for viewing beginning on Tuesday afternoon, December 14.

Come anytime to enjoy them — please wear a mask and practice physical distancing. We ask that you do not touch the nativity scenes as many of them are fragile and all are precious to our families.

Please retrieve your nativity scene(s) anytime December 22-23.

We are looking for a few angels to help with setup on Tuesday, December 14 at 9am. Please let us know if you would like to help.

Come Christmas Caroling with us!

There are a few options to choose from:

Wednesday, December 15 from 9-11:45am; Saturday, December 18 from 9-11:45am or 1:30-3:30pm and Friday, December 24 from 10am-12pm.

Santa hats, jingle bells and holiday attire welcomed!

December 15 and December 18 mornings will start at church. We will visit church members and friends as we sing traditional carols of the season. We will have small songbooks to share. Please bring a mask. Reach out to Kevin (314-872-9330; kevin@parkwayucc.org) if you have any questions about these first two options.

December 18 afternoon and Christmas Eve morning will walk a neighborhood and sing secular songs – Deck the Halls; Frosty; Here Comes Santa Claus; Holly Jolly Christmas; Jingle Bell Rock; Jingle Bells; Rudolph; Santa Claus is Coming to Town; Up on the Housetop; We Wish You A Merry Christmas; and

Let It Snow). Dress for the weather, bring your water bottle and print song book for reference: <https://bit.ly/caroling-songbook>

PUCCEr Angela Lamb and daughter Alexa are coordinating these two final opportunities. Gather outside her mother-in-law's home -- 6253 Westminster Pl, St Louis 63130. (The neighborhood association knows we are coming and they welcome us!)

If you'd like to practice, come by the Lamb's home on Fridays, December 3 and/or December 10 from 6:30-8pm... 140 N Mosley, St Louis 63141.

Please contact Angela (314-604-6797; info@artisticsoup.com) to RSVP for practice or if you have any questions.

Sing! Share the Spirit of the season!

AWOL Movie Night

As we head toward the fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of LOVE, join AWOL (Adventurous Women Out Late) for the film *Love Actually*.

Love Actually is a 2003 Christmas-themed romantic comedy featuring an ensemble cast. Mostly filmed on location in London, the screenplay delves into different aspects of love as shown through ten separate stories involving a wide variety of individuals, many of whom are shown to be interlinked as the tales progress. Please RSVP to Carmen (314-330-0813) cfbum@charter.net

Embrace: Paintings & Poetry by Angela L. Chostner—Solo Art Show opening!

Sunday, December 16 | 4:30 – 7:30pm

Longview Farm House Art Gallery, 13525 Clayton Road, Town & Country

<https://www.facebook.com/events/532907704770441/?ref=newsfeed>

Come experience new angels with themes of harmony, healing and imagination! PUCCEr Angela L. Chostner's solo exhibit runs December 16 through January 27. Opening reception Thursday, Dec. 16 from 4:30 to 7:30pm. This is a free event, children are welcome. (This event complies with active St. Louis County mandates and orders.)

Reminder from The Stews

Tie a ribbon on your finger, put a post-it on the "fridge." Put a rubber band around your wrist. Don't forget your pledge card. Time is running out! Pledge online from our website: <https://parkwayucc.org/giving/pledge/> **OR** 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 email it.

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 21 pages 201-288.

Video: <https://bit.ly/PUCC-TAD>

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 Tuesday December 14 at 7 pm to discuss the book *Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy* by Anne Lamott. We will be discussing the last three chapters. We will also be choosing our next TED book to start in January. Everyone is welcome to join us. You may find it's a fun way to connect with our PUCC family!

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/PUCC-TED>

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

Christmas Eve Worship Services Friday, December 24

4:30pm Family Friendly Worship—A lively and spirited service with Nativity scriptures, carols and contemporary reflections. We will sing *Silent Night* by candlelight as we prepare to go out into this holy night.

7:30pm Candlelight & Communion—This traditional service includes the Christmas Gospel, choir and carols as we ponder what this love story means for us today. We will share Communion at our open table and sing *Silent Night* by candlelight.

Walk to End Alzheimer's Recap The results of the St. Louis Walk to End Alzheimer's have been tabulated. The St. Louis Walk was the 5th largest in the country raising a total of \$1,074,511. In this second year of COVID and the walk in our neighborhood, Parkway's contribution was \$2,355.00. Thanks to all who donated.

Joyce Ruiz, Faith Outreach Ambassador and Team Captain

Alzheimer's News

If you are a caregiver living with a person who has Alzheimer's, consider modifying your holiday celebrations. Strive for minimal confusion. Decide which traditions are most important to you. This may require a family meeting to get everyone on the same page, and asking others to help by dividing up responsibilities. You may want to consider multiple smaller gatherings, or scheduling events at the time of day that is the best time of day for the person with Alzheimer's. At your celebration you could all wear name tags, and introduce yourself when talking with the person who has Alzheimer's. Avoid guessing games. Use a quiet location with the TV off, or music is low. Be sure the space is well lit.

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

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Celebrations

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

Advent gifts of hope, peace and joy!

Concerns

Ellen Albers and Jeff Mitchell and family - grieving the sudden death of her daughter, Kayla... prayers for her husband and young son.

Steve and Andrea Barnes - preparing for surgery on his elbows and wrists due to nerve damage from sarcoidosis and as his mother undergoes treatment for cancer.

Grieving families at the Holidays - including Albers, Larson, Nolte, Peek, Sperry, Stappenbeck, Wessel.

Marv Herpel - healing after back surgery at Delmar Gardens, Chstrfld.

Conrad Damsgaard - healing after heart surgery at REACH Rehab.

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).

Oxford High School victims and their families in Michigan.

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.

Lana Biondo - healing from her recent knee replacement.

Jim and Polly Winkelmann - healing and strengthening at home.

George & Peg Lestina - as he continues to recuperate from surgery.

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

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 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.

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]

John Nourse *The Village at Cape Albeon*; 3300 Lake Bend Dr, #103; Valley Park, MO 63088 [birthdate: October 26]

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]

Dick Witte - Meramec Bluffs Assisted Living; 40 Meramec Trails Dr; Apt #104; Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-368-7324 [birthdate: March 25]

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 Association UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending December 12 - **Ivy Chapel UCC**, Chesterfield; ivychapel.org

Week ending December 19 - **Mount Tabor UCC**, St. Louis; mounttaborucc.org

Look Forward

A prayer inspired by Luke 3:7-18

Holy One,

In this sacred season of the year, blinded as we are by the lights and the parties, deafened as we are by the songs and celebrations, we pause for a moment to look and to listen. We see the muddy prophet, crying on the riverbank. We hear, as John's listeners did long ago, the crackling fire of truth and repentance. And we ask, as they did, "what should we do now?"

Holy One,

In this sacred season, we stop and breathe as we look and listen. Too often, we put our belief in the past, too often we ally ourselves with a tradition that is dead and gone. In all times, but in Advent especially, you desire for us to embrace the new life being born, to look toward the future with hope, and to be co-creators with you of that future.

Holy One,

In this sacred season, may all we do be a prayer. We prepare gifts for those we love. Let that preparation be a prayer that propels us to be your generous people to all who are in need of opportunities to give and to receive. We celebrate with special food and drink. Let those celebrations be a prayer that helps us to live fully the wisdom of moderation. We repose in relative comfort. Let us have open eyes to see how much of what seems like safety is purchased at the terrible cost in violence and oppression.

Holy One,

In this sacred season, we stand on tiptoes and peek into the manger, hoping for a glimpse of the baby, sweet and small. When we see and hear you as you really are, roaring truth and demanding justice, grant us the wisdom and the courage to welcome you into our churches, into our celebrations, into our lives.

Amen.

