

**Seek justice,
share power,
and live
together in
love and
equality.**



www.parkwayucc.org
Sunday, January 16, 2022

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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. If you are with us virtually, 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 all our media. Bulletin and eNews deadline is noon Monday.

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Birthdays

1/19 MASTERSON, Max

1/21 DARLAND, Nancy

1/20 PATEL, Corinne Niraj

1/21 LANGTON, Benjamin

1/20 WOLFF, Vivienne

1/21 SIMONSON, Hannah

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 16, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *Love is the greatest force in the universe. It is the heartbeat of the moral cosmos. They who love is a participant in the being of God.*
~MLK Jr

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 *Gather Us In* #2236, v1, 4



1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing,
2. We are the young — our lives are a mys - t'ry,
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
we are the old — who yearn for your face,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, but



see in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day. _____
called to be light to the whole hu-man race. _____
call us a - new to be salt for the earth. _____
now is the King-dom, now is the day. _____



Gath-er us in — the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in — the
 Gath-er us in — the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in — the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak-en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in — all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name. _____
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song. _____
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true. _____
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone. _____

Scripture Psalm 36:5-10 (CEB—Common English Bible)

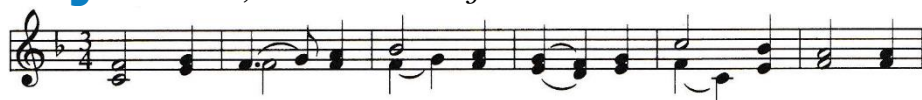
But your loyal love, Lord, extends to the skies; your faithfulness reaches the clouds. Your righteousness is like the strongest mountains; your justice is like the deepest sea. Lord, you save both humans and animals. Your faithful love is priceless, God! Humanity finds refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the bounty of your house; you let them drink from your river of pure joy. Within you is the spring of life. In your light, we see light. Extend your faithful love to those who know you; extend your righteousness to those whose heart is right.

*Call to Worship

One:	We gather to worship God,
Many:	Who creates us and loves us;
One:	Who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community;
Many:	Who gives Jesus Christ to show us how to live;
One:	Who inspires children, youth, young adults, and people of all ages,
Many:	To seek justice, share power, and live together in love and equality;
One:	Who invites us to join the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all,

Many:	and whose presence, grace, love and Spirit sustain us in our living.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

***Song** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #376*



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy
4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less



earth come down, Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing,
trou - bled breast! Let us all in Thee in - her - it,
life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,
let us be; Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion



All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, Thou art all com -
Let us find the prom - ised rest; Take a - way the love of
Nev - er more Thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways
Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee; Changed from glo - ry in - to



pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove; Pray, and praise Thee
glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

***Opening Prayer** MLK Jr

O God, we thank you for the fact that you have inspired men and women in all nations and in all cultures. We call you different names: some call you Allah; some call you Elohim; some call you Jehovah; some call you Brahma; some call you the Unmoved Mover. But we know that these are all names for one and the same God. Grant that we will follow you and become so committed

to your way and your kingdom that we will be able to establish in our lives and in this world a brother and sisterhood, that we will be able to establish here a kingdom of understanding, where men and women will live together as brothers and sisters and respect the dignity and worth of every human being. In the name and spirit of Jesus. Amen.

***Response** *Spirit of the Living God*
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

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 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (NRSV–New Revised Standard Version)
Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Sermon

Invitation to Prayer *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*
Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand.
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord, take my hand.
When my way grows so drear, precious Lord, linger near.
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall
Take my hand, precious Lord, take my hand.

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 *We All Are One in Mission* #435



1. We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2. We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
3. Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var-ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min-is-tries are dif-ferent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem-ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
To touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur-pris-ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth-er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - ery folk and na-tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var-ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Interlude

*Response *Make Me A Servant* #2176



Make me a ser-vant, hum-ble and meek, Lord, let me



*Prayer of Dedication

We thank you for your church, founded upon your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon you. Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace. Help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children—Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow—will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the reign of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen.

*Song of Parting *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*



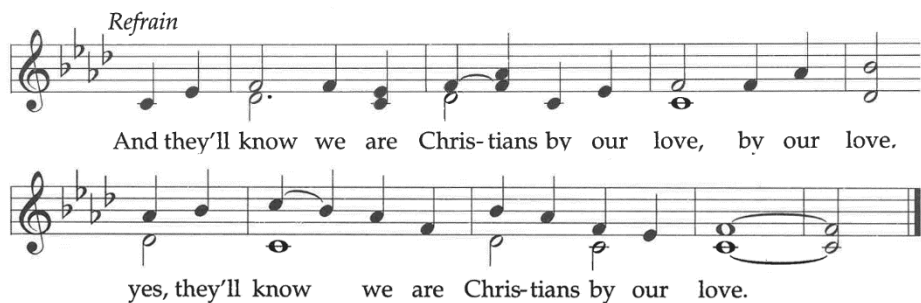
2. We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,
4. All praise to the Fa-ther, from whom all things come,



we will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je-sus, God's on-ly Son,



and to-geth-er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard each one's dig-ni-ty and save each one's pride:
and all praise to the Spir-it, who makes us one:



*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth

Announcements

TODAY: "Mom and Dad, I'm Gay."

Sunday, January 16 | 11:15am | Sanctuary and Zoom

"OMG, what do we do now?" Turn to PFLAG, a Parkway Tenant, *Fighting for a Diverse and Inclusive World*, featuring Beth Gasparovic and a Panel of Parents of LGBTQ+ Children.

For many LGBTQ youth, breaking the news to Mom and Dad is the scariest part of coming out. "Once my parents were behind me, I knew that I could handle anything else." Ever wonder how parents of gay and lesbian children face their unique parenting challenges? Many find help in PFLAG, a community of individuals who are committed to creating a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Want to support a coworker, friend, or loved one but are not sure how? Or, do you consider yourself an LGBTQ+ ally but are confused by how quickly language and understanding of LGBTQ+ identities seem to change? An important aspect of PFLAG is educating the community about LGBTQ+ issues. Please join us for a panel of PFLAG parents who will share their personal stories and answer your questions

(Please note that if you have questions and prefer to ask them without identifying yourself, consider submitting them to Kevin Cameron before the program.)

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwD0EzVOHVH1lyQT09>

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

More info? Contact Richard Scherrer: 90fivetpr@gmail.com | (314) 591-6803

If God is Love, Don't Be a Jerk

Welcome to *If God is Love Online!* with John Pavlovitz. We are so glad you're considering spending the next six weeks with us. More than just a discussion of the book, we're hoping the community you find will be encouraging, inspiring, and lifegiving! (See more info about book below.)

This experience is designed to be flexible, so whether you're participating on your own or with others you can move at a pace you're comfortable with. See the two-minute intro from John here:

<https://www.ifgodislove.com/membership-area1637547949296>
(login... username: kevin@parkwayucc.org; password: JPav2022!)

On Demand Chapter Videos

Three pre-recorded videos are added to the If God is Love website each Sunday morning to the member area and each video will cover a chapter from the book. Bookmark the page and come back to view the new videos. Don't feel compelled to watch three videos per week. You'll have these videos on-demand and can watch them whenever you'd like after the six weeks. (Use same web address and login as above.)

Live Zoom Gatherings from our Heritage Room or your home

Beginning on Wednesday, January 19th, at 7pm CT, we'll meet with John and others live on Zoom! He will give a message on a topic that spans the entire book, so regardless of where you are in your reading/watching, you'll be great! After John speaks, we'll have an open Zoom conversation about anything that's on your mind. You can ask questions about the book, expand an idea, share a story, and encourage one another. If you can't make the live gatherings, don't worry. They will also be recorded so you'll be able to watch at your convenience.

We will debrief each Zoom as PUCCers after each session. If you're not here in the Heritage Room, join us on our PUCC Zoom (unique from the JPav Zoom): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwD0EzV0VHV1IyQT09> Meeting ID: 846 9147 6997; Passcode: 181565

Here is the link for the weekly Zoom gatherings with John on Wednesday evenings: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81362160670>

Zoom Gathering Schedule with John and others (all are at 7pm CT):

January 19; January 26; February 2; February 9; February 16;

February 23... and a final wrap up at 8pm CT on Saturday, February 26.

Join us in the Heritage Room or from your home.

Questions? Contact kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330

More about the book...

Imagine for a moment what the world might look like if we as people of faith, morality, and conscience actually aspired to this mantra. What if we worked to create a world that was more loving and equitable than when we arrived?

What if we invited one another to share in wide-open, fearless, spiritual communities truly marked by compassion and interdependence?

What if we daily challenged ourselves to live a faith that simply made us better humans?

John Pavlovitz explores how we can embody this kinder kind of spirituality where we humbly examine our belief system to understand how it might

compel us to act in less-than-loving ways toward others.

This simple phrase, “Thou Shalt Not Be Horrible,” could help us practice what we preach by creating a world where:

- spiritual community provides a sense of belonging where all people are received as we are;
- the most important question we ask of a religious belief is not Is it true? but rather, is it helpful?
- it is morally impossible to pledge complete allegiance to both Jesus and America simultaneously;
- the way we treat others is the most tangible and meaningful expression of our belief system.

In *If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk*, Pavlovitz examines the bedrock ideas of our religion: the existence of hell, the utility of prayer, the way we treat LGBTQ people, the value of anger, and other doctrines to help all of us take an honest look at how the beliefs we hold shape our relationships with God and our fellow humans—and to make sure that love has the last, loudest word.

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue - January 18

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 1:45 Fellowship | 2:00pm book discussion | via ZOOM
Join TAD continue discussing the book, *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times*, by Jane Goodall, Douglas Abrams, and Gail Hudson. The Book of Hope touches on vital questions, including: How do we stay hopeful when everything seems hopeless? How do we cultivate hope in our children? What is the relationship between hope and action? Everyone is welcome.

Contact Jackie Eiffert: jeiffert2@gmail.com

Video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMlU4ay9oNndTWW4yZUYwUT09>

Phone: 312 626 6799 | **Meeting ID:** 836 7061 7428 | **Passcode:** 480007

A few quotes from *The Book of Hope*:

- Hope is often misunderstood. People tend to think that it is simply passive wishful thinking: I hope something will happen but I'm not going to do anything about it. This is indeed the opposite of real hope, which requires action and engagement.
- Hope does not deny the evil, but is a response to it.
- Forgiveness is how we unchain ourselves from the past.
- A great deal of our onslaught on Mother Nature is not really lack of intelligence but a lack of compassion for future generations and the health of the planet.

Intertwine Interfaith Welcome Circle (IIWC)

WE NEED YOUR HELP - to welcome an Afghan family as new Americans!

Nearly 40,000 Afghanis are currently being housed on American Army bases. The Army can only house these families until mid-February. Consequently, the US Department of State issued a call to action to expand the United States' capacity to welcome these families and help them begin their new lives as Americans.

Congregation Shaare Emeth (CSE), Parkway United Church of Christ (PUCC) and Turkish American Society of Missouri (TASOM) have committed to answer this call.

Intertwine Interfaith is launching an emergency initiative through the Welcome Circle program with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) which was founded in 1881 and has settled more than 4.5 million refugees over the years.

Our Welcome Circle has committed to supporting the resettlement of an Afghani family in St Louis. Together, Intertwine Interfaith Welcome Circle (IIWC) must raise a total of \$27,750 which will cover essential needs such as housing, clothing, food, utilities, etc. for the first six months in St. Louis.

The IIWC Core Team is made up of reps from each faith community. The Core Team will have direct contact with the Afghani family and will help enroll kids in school and help the parents learn the fundamentals of food shopping, transportation, language skills, banking in St Louis and more. We will also need the participation of everyone in our communities for indirect support, furniture donations, apartment set-up, resource identification, and other activities.

Contributions are needed no later than January 17, 2022 – MLK Jr. Day. All contributions are tax deductible and 100% of your donation will go toward the needs of the family. Please make your contribution online via our GoFundMe account

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/welcome-an-afghan-family-arriving-in-st-louis> or by check made payable to We Believe Inc at 16535 Baxter Forest Ridge Drive; Chesterfield, MO 63005.

Thank you! We have raised over \$19K and have another \$8K to go (01-12-22) We are grateful to We Believe Inc, a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation, for their help collecting the funding for IIWC. We Believe was created by Stan Shanker (CSE), one of our IIWC founders, a few years ago in an effort to spread kindness, hope, and positivity while raising money to support social justice issues. Two other IIWC Founders, Lisa Mason (PUCC) and Engin Blackstone (TASOM), serve on the We Believe Board.

Thank you for considering being a part of this important work.

Your Interfaith Intertwine Team: Kevin Cameron, Lisa Mason, Paige Penico, Ali Durhan, Engin Blackstone, Stan Shanker and Debbie Bram

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Celebrations

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

Concerns

Kevin & Rosanna Hogarty - grieving/giving thanks for his mother.

Sally Boughman - 'cement' injection in back; laying low for 10 days.

Conrad Damsgaard - up and down at Mason Pointe REACH Rehab

Anne Doelger - very ill with cancer; hospice (sister of Doug Dischinger)

Mark McKenzie - back in the hospital (Tom's brother).

Steve and Andrea Barnes - preparing for his surgery later this month on elbows and wrists due to nerve damage from sarcoidosis.

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

George Lestina, Jim and Polly Winkelmann - healing and strengthening at home.

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

Don Luedloff - healing after recent hip surgery (Barry's Dad).

Pat & Janet - he is post-radiation/chemo (Skip Larson's son-in-law)

Joan and Larry Brannigan - continuing health concerns for Larry.

Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack - chronic health challenges... Bill has begun the lengthy prep process for extensive back surgery.

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.

Lizzie - awaiting liver transplant (niece of Barb Kuhlmann).

Scott Schmidt - paralysis after serious fall while hiking; some progress.

Mike Guthrie and Mary Guthrie - as Mike is ill (Stifel).

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.

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... Peace and Justice near and far.

St Louis Association UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending Jan 16 - **Interfaith Partnership**, St. Louis; interfaithstl.org

Week ending Jan 23 - **Every Child’s Hope**, St. Louis; everychildshope.org

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 16, 2022

Extravagant Sign

John 2:1-11

Weddings join more than the people being married. They join families, traditions, and stories. Generations come together. Children who were strangers become cousins. Two become one in many ways. In this story told in John's Gospel, there is a wedding with a problem. The wine has run out. Jesus is there, with his mother. In the hands of this gospel author that situation turns into an opportunity to make a point about a moment in the first century when the religious landscape was changing. This is a story about the transformation of traditions.

During the time that John's Gospel came into being, synagogues were being disrupted by Jews who were proclaiming a new religious vision within the context of Judaism. Their voices were raised in worship and community gatherings. What they proclaimed was disruptive to the religious traditions of their day. They were saying that a carpenter's son who was crucified by Roman guards was the Messiah for whom they have been waiting. Talk about conflict! Talk about turmoil! It must have been hard for everyone. John's gospel emerged in the middle of this commotion. That is why this Gospel often takes traditional religious symbols of its day and puts them in the hands of Jesus who transforms them.

The jugs that Jesus fills with wine were used for religious rituals of cleansing. What was sacred and symbolic is, after Jesus gets through with them, now filled with wine...a symbol of celebration and newness. There are many ways we can think about this. One is that by using ritual vessels for wine Jesus joins what we think of as ordinary with our sacred practices.

Many of our churches experiment with new ways of worship and new ways of transforming old traditions. In Cleveland, at our own Amistad Chapel, in the summer of 2018, artists gathered from all over the country. They were visual artists, dancers, scholars of liturgy, writers, and storytellers. They gathered to create and wonder and experiment and discover a new language of our faith – a language for a new century already well underway. They gathered to develop resources for the local church and to support our justice work, and they all came to share how the sacred speaks through our creative selves made in God's image. One of the participants, Rev. Erin Beardemphl said this about art, "If we could, in our churches and in our communities, show people that they really are creative beings, I expect the world would be so much more loving." Like what Jesus did at the wedding, they were filling old vessels with new wine.