

The heavens are
telling the glory
of God.



www.parkwayucc.org
Sunday, January 23, 2022

Contents

- 3 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 12 Announcements
- 14 Prayer List

Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

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

Congregational Statement

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

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

Linda Tossing, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org]
Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]
Barb Kuhlmann, *Director of Christian Education/Youth* [barbk@parkwayucc.org]
Barry Luedloff, *Music Director* [barry@parkwayucc.org]
Mona Smith Herberg, *Office Administrator* [mona@parkwayucc.org]
Kathy Ferrell, *Office Assistant* [kathy@parkwayucc.org]
John Dwyer, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]
Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [dawn@parkwayucc.org]
Julie Connors, *Nursery* [juliestl1992@yahoo.com]
Emma Pennycuick, *Nursery* [epennycuick1@live.maryville.edu]
Joyce Ruiz, *Alzheimer’s Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador* [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com]
Polly Rutherford, *Environmental Justice/Sustainability Seekers* [pollyrutherford@gmail.com]
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.

Today's Flowers are from Jean Mueller in memory of Virginia Faveere.

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

Cover Photo: Photo by **Mohan Reddy** from **Pexels**—
<https://www.pexels.com/photo/northern-lights-over-mountain-and-forest-4388593/>

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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Anniversaries

1/26 SABLEMAN, Mark & Lynn (37)

1/28 SCALION, Karen & Mike (15)

Birthdays

We remember and cherish Tyler Wessel today on his 20th Birthday. Prayers continue for Cindy & Ralf and Andrew in their grief.

1/23 WOLFF, Scott

1/26 BURETTA, Evelyn

1/24 RISTAU, Evan

1/27 DOTY, Grant

1/24 SCHRENKER, Cheryl

1/29 DIESTELHORST, Vickey

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 23, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation

Love is what God is, love is why Jesus came, and love is why he continues to come, year after year to person after person... May you experience this vast, expansive, infinity indestructible love that has been yours all along. May you discover that this love is as wide as the sky and as small as the cracks in your heart no one else knows about, and may you know, deep in your bones, that love wins. ~Rob Bell

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, v2*



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 19 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong one runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Choir Introit *Walk in the Light*—Ellen Purchase
Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

*Call to Worship

One: God of Life,

Many: you are as near to us as our breath.

One: Touch our eyes,

Many: that we may see you in one another.

One: Open our ears,

Many: that we may hear your voice in the cries of the oppressed.

One: Enter our hearts,

Many: that we may be filled with your love toward all people.

One: Come, O God of life and breath and wholeness.

Many: Be with us now. Show us the way to new life and grant us the courage to be people of your Way.

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

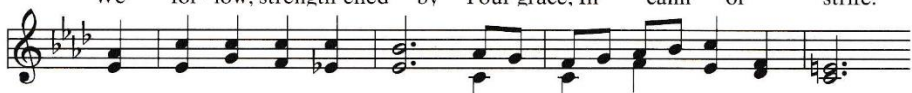
*Song *O God of Earth and Sky #274*



1. O God of earth and space, Of sea and fire and air,
2. Where faith-ful-ness is shown, Where love and truth a-bound,
3. Wherever free-dom reigns, Where sin is o-ver-thrown,
4. Your word com-mands re-sponse And sum-mons us to life.



Your prov-i-dence sur-rounds us here And ev-ery-where.
Where beau-ty grac-es hu-man life, There You are found.
Where jus-tice fused with mer-cy rules, There You are known.
We fol-low, strength-ened by Your grace, In calm or strife.



In fruit and grain and tree, In shel-ter from the cold,
In-spir-er of all thought! Cre-a-tive force of art!
Give us the cour-age clear To make the earth a home
Our ev-er-pres-ent help, Our chal-lenge and our prod,



In cool - ing breez-es, flow - ing wells, Now as of old.
The mel - o - dy on ev - ery tongue, In ev - ery heart!
For all to live in har - mo - ny In Christ's sha - lom.
We praise You now and to life's end, E - ter - nal God.

***Opening Prayer** Jonny Baker

God of justice, peace and righteousness come into this sacred space with us now. Breathe your breath, your Spirit of prophecy, your energy, your enlivening, your imagination on us.

Wake us up. Open our eyes. Unplug our ears. That we might hear. That we might see. That we might grieve. That we might dream. That we might follow the ways 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 *Jesus Loves Me*

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,

Wanting as a friend to give, life and love to all who live

Yes, Jesus loves me...

Scripture Luke 4:14-21 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’

He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *You Are Mine*



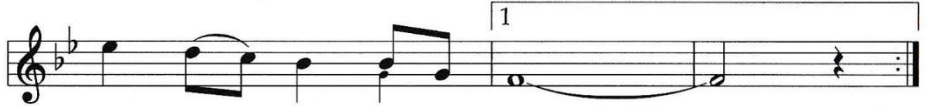
1. — I will come to you in the si - lence, —
2. — I am hope for all who are hope-less, —
3. — I am strength for all the de - spair-ing, —
4. I am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



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. _____ Do not be a - fraid, I am
 live! _____



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.

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer sung to the tune by Nate Stout

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

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

Song *Bring Many Names* #2047



1. Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and
2. Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and
3. Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery
4. Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less
5. Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the
6. Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly

good, cel - e-brate, in par - a - ble and
day, plan - ning all the won - ders of cre -
child, feel - ing all the strains of hu - man
care, calm - ly pierc - ing e - vil's new dis -
move, say - ing no to false-hood and un -
known, joy - ful dark-ness far be - yond our

sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry,
a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion,
liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing
guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es,
kind - ness, cry - ing out for jus - tice,
see - ing, clos - er yet than breath - ing,

liv - ing, lov - ing God. Hail and Ho -
ge - ni - us at play: Hail and Ho -
till we're rec - on - ciled: Hail and Ho -
wis - er than de - spair: Hail and Ho -
giv - ing all you have: Hail and Ho -
ev - er - last - ing home: Hail and Ho -

san - na! bring man - y names!
san - na! strong moth - er God!
san - na! warm fa - ther God!
san - na! old, ach - ing God!
san - na! young, grow - ing God!
san - na!

great, liv - ing God!

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Interlude *I Have Been to the Mountain*—John Carter Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

*Response *Make Me A Servant* #2176

Make me a ser-vant, hum-ble and meek, Lord, let me
lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my
heart al-ways be: Make me a ser-vant, make me a
ser-vant, make me a ser-vant to - day. _____

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, we offer these gifts because we see the needs. We notice where people are hungry, thirsty, cold, sick, afraid, incarcerated - literally and figuratively. We share our gifts because we want to multiply gratitude and joy. We see people dancing, singing, laughing, hoping, growing and building community deep and wide. Receive our generosity as we appreciate our roles as givers and receivers. Amen.

*Song of Parting *Be Thou My Vision #339*



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
3 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth *Send Us Forth in Peace*—Arthur Gorman,
from Chicago Folk Service (sung by the Sanctuary Choir)

Postlude *Prelude in F Major*—J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

Announcements

TODAY: COVID Update and Budget Forum

Following worship today, Dr John Russell will give a brief COVID presentation in the Sanctuary with updates regarding the Omicron variant. Then follows a Budget Forum in the Sanctuary so you can ask questions prior to next Sunday's Congregational Budget Meeting in-person in the Sanctuary and on Zoom after worship. There are hard copies of the Proposed Budget available in person today on the round table in the Gathering Space. You may also request a copy from the office (contact@parkwayucc.org). Thank you to our Stewardship Commission and Church Council for crafting this budget.

If God is Love, Don't Be a Jerk

It's not too late to participate! *If God is Love Online!* with John Pavlovitz.

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 met with John and others live on Zoom! For these sessions, 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 PUCers after each session. If you're not here in the Heritage Room, join us on our PUC 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 (please enter back doors) 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.

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 – February 1

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 1:45 Fellowship | 2:00pm book discussion | via ZOOM
Join TAD as we 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.

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Celebrations

MLK Jr Birthday ...

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

Concerns

Marv Herpel - tested positive for Covid -- no symptoms.

Sally Boughman - 'cement' injection in back last week; laying low.

Conrad Damsgaard - up and down at Mason Pointe REACH Rehab.

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

Sue Schuster - hospitalized after a fall (Amy Yakel's mother).

Mark McKenzie - home after another hospital stay (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

Nate Goldstein (toddler son of Dawn and David) - positive for Covid.

Blake Lyons - positive for Covid.

Dale Barnes - ICU with Covid here in St Louis (Steve's cousin).

Congregation Beth Israel, Colleyville TX - synagogue was under siege.

Continuing

Cindy & Ralf and Andrew Wessel - Tyler's 20th Bday is Sunday 23rd.

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).

Scott - making progress at Shirley Ryan Ability Lab (Sieber).

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 23 - Every Child's Hope, St. Louis; everychildshope.org

Week ending Jan 30 - Church of the Master UCC, Florissant; cotm-ucc.org

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 23, 2022

Luke 4:14-21

Good News, Good Ways

Ecumenical Sunday

Today, Ecumenical Sunday, falls smack dab in the middle of the “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.” One of the ways that Christian unity has found an expression is through ecumenical councils and associations. Because of our denomination’s prayer that “they may all be one,” members of the United Church of Christ are often deeply invested in these organizations.

The Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) is headed by Executive Director Rev. Kerri Parker, a United Church of Christ clergy member. Like many such organizations, the WCC generally works on a variety of projects and advocacy locally helpful in Wisconsin. When the council began as an informal gathering of (all male) clergy in the 1930’s, those original members could not have imagined that ninety years later their organization would be headed by a woman who would become one of the most dependable nation-wide voices for church leadership during these past years of global pandemic.

The WCC’s guide “COVID-19 and our Christian Witness” is a clear and reliable source of information and support that was widely shared and utilized by churches far outside the WCC’s usual constituency during the pandemic months. As their website says, “Churches around the world are learning how to be imaginative in their ministry in order to be present to those in need in a time of social disruption. From the experiences of communities facing crises around the world, we know that faith leaders can play a transformational role in calming fear, disseminating accurate information, and modifying religious practices to help keep people safe while providing spiritual care and honoring important community traditions.”*

Today, we give thanks for the Wisconsin Council of Churches and their role in being a voice of faith and reason both locally and nationally during the global pandemic. If you are not in Wisconsin, what do you know about the ecumenical organization in your area? What impact are they having, locally or more broadly? How can you be involved in this important work?

*“Coronavirus – Wisconsin Council of Churches.” Wisconsin Council of Churches, www.wichurches.org/2020/03/11/coronavirus/.