



*As the deer pants for  
the water, so my  
soul longs after you.*



[www.parkwayucc.org](http://www.parkwayucc.org)

Sunday, February 13, 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.

**Today's flowers** are given by Pat and Bill Owens in honor of Pat's birthday.

**Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer.** A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop their work and join in prayer.

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## Anniversaries

2/3 SABLEMAN, Brian & Daphane (1)

## Birthdays

2/14 RUZICKA, Donna

2/18 CAMERON, Dexter

2/14 SIEBER, Peggy

2/18 NOLTE, Bill

2/15 BOWMAN, Ivey

2/18 OWENS, Pat

2/16 TALLYN, Harrison

2/19 RISTAU, Ryan

2/16 TALLYN, Sterling

# 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 13, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

**Meditation** *Make a habit of shutting down conversations that aim to tear others down.* ~Unknown

**Welcome** Let us know you are here!

**Passing the Peace** “May the peace of Christ be with you.”

**Choral Introit** *Arise, Shine Forth, O People*—arr. Joy Patterson  
Based on *Wie Lieblich ist der Maien* by Johannes Steurlein (1575)

**Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome Song** *As the Deer* #2025

As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af - ter  
you. You a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I  
long to wor - ship you. You a - lone are my  
strength, my shield; to you a - lone may my spir - it  
yield. You a - lone are my heart's de -  
sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

**Scripture** Psalm 1 (NRSV—New Revised Standard Version)

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.



Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

**\*Call to Worship** Based on Psalm 1

One:	We are trees, trees planted strong by living streams.
<b>Many:</b>	<b>We are rooted deep, deep in love. We will survive.</b>
One:	We see the death dealing, manipulating, soul crushing paths and roads on which many go.
<b>Many:</b>	<b>Yet we are trees, trees planted strong by living streams. We are rooted deep, deep in love. We will survive.</b>
One:	Some are driven by isolating, fascist leaning, fear and consuming greed that always feeds.
<b>Many:</b>	<b>And still we are trees, trees planted strong by living streams. We are rooted deep, deep in love. We will survive.</b>
One:	We flourish and grow. Flowers and fruits blossom as we live like Jesus and trust the Spirit.
<b>Many:</b>	<b>Therefore we are trees, trees planted strong by living streams. We are rooted deep, deep in love. We will survive.</b>
One:	We will intertwine our root systems. We will give one another shade. We will nurture and encourage those around us.
<b>All:</b>	<b>Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>

**\*Song** *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth #2050*



1. Moth-er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright  
 2. Moth-er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing  
 3. Moth-er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of

morn - ing of this world. Cre - at - or, source of  
 me your food of light, grain of life, and  
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I

ev - ery breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.  
 grape of love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.  
 root and grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

## **\*Opening Prayer** Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

**Holy One, you bless the poor in spirit. Those in mourning will find comfort as an answer to their prayers. Meek ones whom this world despises will inherit everything. God, your kingdom still surprises; may we seek the love you bring. You bless those who hunger and thirst for what is right. They will not be prone to wander, for your will and ways are their delight. Those who show your care and mercy will receive that mercy too. Those who share the peace you give them will find blessings as your own. Those oppressed for faithful living will call heaven's kingdom Home. When the world's ways seem distressing and we feel life's painful sting, remind us of the blessings you bring. 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** *Book Sunday!*

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.**

## **Scripture** Luke 6:17-26 (NRSV—New Revised Standard Version)

Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

## **Moment of Silent Reflection**

## Sermon

### **Song** *Blessed Are the Poor Among You*

PROMISES 11.11.11.9 with Refrain ("Standing on the Promises")

**Blessed are the poor among you, Jesus said.  
Blessed are you hungry ones who long for bread.  
Blessed are you mournful when your tears abound.  
God is turning everything around.  
Hear the good news!  
God is giving you the kingdom and the laughter.  
God will fill you...And you will know the joy that overflows.**

**Blessed are you weary who are long oppressed,  
All because you follow God in faithfulness.  
Leap for joy, for God will give you life anew.  
Long ago, the prophets struggled, too!  
Hear the good news!  
God is giving you the kingdom and the laughter.  
God will fill you...And you will know the joy that overflows.**

**Woe to all you rich who live with blinders on,  
Feasting at your tables till the food is gone.  
Woe to you who laugh and live without a care,  
Woe! when people praise you everywhere.  
God has spoken:  
You have all received your joy and consolation.  
I was hungry...But did you share what God had given you?**

**God, your way of working is a great surprise!  
Help us all to see your world through faithful eyes.  
Only in your kingdom is our true joy found.  
By your Spirit, turn our lives around!  
Yours is good news!  
You have offered us the kingdom and the laughter.  
Please, God, fill us, And we will know the joy that overflows.**

Tune: Russell Kelso Carter, 1886 ("Standing on the Promises")

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## **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.]

## **Offering Our Gifts to God** Souper Bowl of Caring

### **Offertory** *Blest Are They*

Music: David Haas and Michael Jones / Text: David Haas

## \*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.

## \*Prayer of Dedication

One Great Hour of Sharing

We offer these gifts, O God of all people, in the hope and trust that they will be used to bring healing and hope where there is need. May these gifts help build new life. May these gifts enable caring and welcoming hearts and hands. May our gifts be a sign and instrument of reconciliation. Thank you, God, for the privilege of this offering. May it indeed do more than we can imagine! Amen.

## \*Song of Parting

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian #372*



1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In - a my heart, in - a my heart,
2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart, in - a my heart,
3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In - a my heart, in - a my heart,
4. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In - a my heart, in - a my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In - a my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In - a my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In - a my heart.



In - a my heart, In - a my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In - a my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In - a my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In - a my heart.

## \*Benediction and Postlude

*Prelude from Prelude and Fugue in C —J.S. Bach, 1685-1750*



# Announcements

**TODAY: Book Sunday** We celebrate our children and youth on Book Sunday, today during the 10:00am worship service. A book chosen for children from birth through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be given away. Parents are asked to contact Barb Kuhlmann at [barbk@parkwayucc.org](mailto:barbk@parkwayucc.org) for the book they want for their children and the book will be delivered to their home.

## **Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue February 15 New Book**

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 1:45 Fellowship | 2:00pm book discussion | via ZOOM

Please join Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue (TAD) in reading *No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)* by Kate Bowler, Associate Professor at Duke Divinity School. TAD will begin this book Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Kate Bowler believed that life was a series of unlimited choices, until she discovered, at age 35, that her body was wracked with cancer. In *No Cure for Being Human*, she searches for a way forward as she mines the wisdom (and absurdity) of today's "best life now" advice industry, which insists on exhausting positivity and on trying to convince us that we can out-eat, out-learn, and out-perform our humanness. We are, she finds, as fragile as the day we were born.

With dry wit and unflinching honesty, Kate Bowler grapples with her diagnosis, her ambition, and her faith as she tries to come to terms with her limitations in a culture that says anything is possible. She finds that we need one another if we're going to tell the truth: Life is beautiful and terrible, full of hope and despair and everything in between—and there's no cure for being human.

## **From Changing Diapers to Changing the World:**

*Why Moms Make Great Advocates and How to Get Started*

by Cynthia Changyit Levin

PUCer Cindy has cared deeply about global poverty and hunger even before becoming a parent. But mothering her own children toughened her resolve to stand up for her values and work to become a better world for all kids.

The Pre-Sale for Cindy's book is officially open! Visit her new website at [www.changyit.com](http://www.changyit.com) to pre-order autographed and inscribed paperback copies for \$20.00 (plus shipping) to be mailed out on March 8, 2022. You can even order for friends and she will write a personal inscription for them, too! Just note the names you'd like her to write when you complete the order.

It's been a long journey of learning and she is delighted to share the fruits of her labor with you at last.

Questions? Feel free to contact Cindy...

[cynthia@changyit.com](mailto:cynthia@changyit.com) | [www.changyit.com](http://www.changyit.com) | Twitter: @ccylevin

## 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 your home

Beginning on Wednesday, January 19th, at 7pm CT, we meet with John and others live on Zoom! After John speaks, we'll have an open Zoom chat 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.

We will debrief each Zoom as PUCers after each session. Join us:

<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 challenged ourselves to live a faith that 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. Additional quotes from this book:

“I still ask for people to pray and I still pray, but I try to reorient my prayers these days. I no longer believe in a supernatural Santa Claus who dispenses life and death based on the conduct or the heart of the recipients and their friends. I don’t believe in a God who withholds miraculous healing or compassionate care until sufficiently begged by us to do so. I believe prayer works by unlocking our empathy for others, that it knits us together in deeper relationship. I believe it to be a beautiful expression of love for and solidarity with people who are suffering; that it connects us personally to one another and to God in ways that cannot be quantified. I believe it is a sacred act of kindness we extend to other human beings to declare oneness with them. But I don’t believe prayer can change God’s mind about healing people we love—nor do I want it to.”

“Yes, God loves us unquestionably and effusively (we are told), but there are caveats and conditions under which we earn and keep that love: prerequisites for belonging among God and God’s people, the moral scores that need to be settled in order to be fully welcomed. It may be helpful to leave behind those scary stories of our childhoods because they make for terrified adults, and terrified adults historically do not love very well.”

“..they worship a deity made in their own image: white, American, Republican, male—and perpetually terrified of Muslims, immigrants, science, gay children, special counsel reports, mandalas, Harry Potter, Starbucks holiday cups, yoga, wind turbines—everything.”

## **Every Day Inclusion: Right Here, Right Now!**

Consider attending some or all of this free conference on Tuesday, March 1 and Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

Registration is now open for the 2022 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Conference -- **Every Day Inclusion: Right Here, Right Now!**

“What can we do?” It is a common question in response to the social inequities that persist in our communities. The Webster University 2022 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Conference: Every Day Inclusion: Right Here, Right Now! will deliver immediate, practical, and impactful ways to practice everyday inclusion as individuals and institutions. We know that community exists wherever we come together under a common purpose or mission. We see the workplace, classroom, board room, and civic life—as community. Webster University is an agent of change for our students, our community, and for society. The DEI Conference is a key piece of that change strategy, and we’ve curated it with sessions from compelling thought leaders, interactive workshops and practical exercises that distinguish our conference as a bold and engaging departure from ineffective, boilerplate DEI trainings. The 2022 DEI Conference will be open to both in-person sessions on the Webster University Webster Groves campus and virtual attendance. The conference is FREE to all attendees, thanks to the generous support of our conference sponsors.

Learn more and register here - <https://events.bizzabo.com/380073>

## Alzheimer's News February 2022

### *Foods that Protect Brain Health: Reduce the risk of Alzheimer's Disease and improve your general wellbeing.*

- Whole grains- such as pasta, oatmeal or brown rice
- Nuts- such as almonds, pecans, or pistachios
- Vegetables- leafy greens, root vegetables, vegetables from 4 petal flowered plants
- Fish- such as Salmon, Tuna, or Sardines
- Fresh fruit- such as berries, melons, or pomegranates

Foods to eat in moderation:

- Red Meat
- Butter, margarine and cheese
- Fast Foods
- Sweets

Please note that the above is not an exhaustive list of suggested foods, but a starting point for healthier eating. Food is one of many factors that influence a person's overall health. By choosing to eat more of foods that protect brain health and avoiding unhealthy "junk" foods you may improve your health and decrease your risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.

You can learn more by going to [www.alz.org/help-support/resources](http://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](http://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](http://alz.org) and/or contact PUCC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association: Joyce Ruiz at [joyceruiz7@gmail.com](mailto:joyceruiz7@gmail.com)

### **I, too ~ Langston Hughes**

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.

They send me to eat in the kitchen

When company comes,

But I laugh,

And eat well,

And grow strong.

Tomorrow,

I'll be at the table

When company comes.

Nobody'll dare

Say to me,

"Eat in the kitchen,"

Then.

Besides,

They'll see how beautiful I am

And be ashamed --

I, too, am America.

## Football Fun on Super Bowl Sunday

*Name the team ...*

Native American leaders

Gold prospectors

Kings of the jungle

Tigers

Lara Croft, for example

Porpoise relatives

Pieces of paper money

Jousting horses

Country lovers

Young male horses

People from a certain state

Wild horses

Peregrines

Big cats of South America

Huge people

Vatican bigshots

Cattle ropers

Airplanes

Mill workers

Bald, Golden, etc.

Poem by Poe

Canonized people

Color

Prometheus, Cronus, and pals

Meat processors

Ospreys

Stock market pessimists

Norsemen

Inspector Clouseau

Male sheep

Pirates of the Caribbean

Order givers



# Prayer List

as of Wednesday, February 9, 2022

## Celebrations

**All the acts of kindness, justice and equity near and far.**  
**Black History Month.**

## Concerns

**Ellie Svenson** - healing in FL after a mild stroke last Tuesday. She will come home for additional treatment. She would be encouraged by your blessing -- [svensonellie@gmail.com](mailto:svensonellie@gmail.com)

**John Nourse** - recuperating from Tuesday's knee replacement surgery.

**Gladys Sims and family** - grieving/giving thanks for husband Russ  
<https://www.schrader.com/obituary/russell-jay-russ-sims>

**Doug and Sally Dischinger** - mourning and celebrating his sister Anne Doelger.

**Angie Chostner and Family** - grieving/giving thanks for her brother.

**Sally Boughman** - continued issues with back pain.

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

**Mark McKenzie** - back in the hospital again for tests (Tom's brother).

**Judy White** - upcoming cancer surgery (Sue McMillon).

**Donna** - healing (Dottie Dwyer's sister in Cape Girardeau).

**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](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org)

**The political pressure in the Ukraine.**

## Continuing

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

**Joan Brannigan and Family** - grieving & giving thanks 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).

**Anthony** - multiple challenges as he lives his post-incarceration life.

**Gary** - risky behaviors; seeking balance and stability.

## Home/Care Facility/Rehab Center

**Conrad Damsgaard** - *Mason Pointe Care Ctr*; 13190 S. Outer 40 Rd; #1207; Town & Country, MO 63017; 636-236-9639 [birthdate: April 27]

**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** struggling with employment; healthcare costs and limits.

**Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC**

**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 Feb 13* - **Christ Church UCC**, Maplewood; maplewooducc.org

*Week of Feb 20* - **Eden Seminary**, Webster Groves; eden.edu

# 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 13, 2022

Luke 6:17-26

Surprising Teaching

*Racial Justice Sunday*

*Science and Technology Sunday*

Today is Racial Justice Sunday. If your congregation has not already done so, it is a good time to consider the commitment articulated during the wider church's 33<sup>rd</sup> General Synod gathering in 2021, encouraging every UCC congregation to commit to being an anti-racist church. Last summer, a letter from General Minister and President, John Dorhauer, and Associate General Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries, Traci Blackmon, paved the way for a new movement in anti-racism in the wider church.

“Since 1963, the General Synods of the United Church of Christ have voted 12 resolutions, statements, and pronouncements denouncing racism, and in 2003 resolved *that the United Church of Christ is called to be an antiracist church...*

Similar to COVID-19 and as deadly, racism mutates and remains resistant to methods of eradication...Structural racism pervades every institution and every aspect of our society. It has so distorted our biological, sociological, anthropological, and theological perception of “the other” that most people cannot even imagine the anti-racist church and world that we work to bring into being.

**But dismantling white supremacy is not solely about what we must tear down. We must ask ourselves, what must we build in its place?**

Over the next biennium, the national setting invites you to imagine with us: *What does a world free of racism look like to you, and how might we work to bring such a vision into reality across every area of church and society?”\**

\*From the webpage: <https://www.ucc.org/build-on-the-love-join-the-movement/>

Find out more about this vital and timely movement at “[jointhethemovementucc.org](https://www.ucc.org/jointhethemovementucc.org)”.

Dorhauer, John, and Traci Blackmon. “June 9 Webinar to Kick off Reparatory Justice and Reparations Work.” United Church of Christ, 7 June 2021, [www.ucc.org/june-9-webinar-to-kick-off-reparatory-justice-and-reparations-work/](https://www.ucc.org/june-9-webinar-to-kick-off-reparatory-justice-and-reparations-work/). Accessed 7 July 2021.