





www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, February 6, 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 from Tom and Mary Maxeiner in honor of Tom'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.

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

Cover Photo: Rockwoods Reservation

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

2/7 FAGERBERG, Virginia

2/9 SPERRY, Leah

2/7 LOWENTHAL, Sharon

2/9 WADDELL, Quinn

2/8 MAXEINER, Tom

2/11 WINKELMANN, Jim

2/9 DEGROOTE, Jennifer

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 6, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *I long to accomplish a great and noble task; but it is my chief duty and joy to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble...The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.*
~Helen Keller

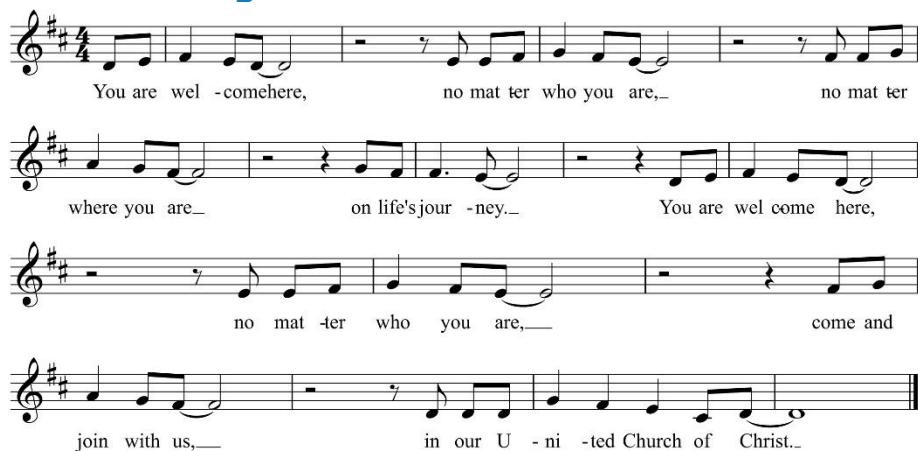
Welcome Let us know you are here!

Passing the Peace “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 *You Are Welcome Here*



Scripture Isaiah 6: 1-8 (CEB – Common English Bible)

In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a high and exalted throne, the edges of his robe filling the temple.

Winged creatures were stationed around God. Each had six wings: with two they veiled their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew about.

They shouted to each other, saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of heavenly forces! All the earth is filled with God's glory!”

The doorframe shook at the sound of their shouting, and the house was filled with smoke.

I said, “Mourn for me; I'm ruined! I'm someone with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips. Yet I've seen the Lord of heavenly forces!”

Then one of the winged creatures flew to me, holding a glowing coal taken from the altar with tongs.

They touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips. Your guilt has departed, and your sin is removed."

Then I heard the Lord's voice saying, "Whom should I send, and who will go for us?" I said, "I'm here; send me."

*Call to Worship

One: Plenty of bread at the feast of life. Plenty of bread to share.

**Many: Bread for every hunger. Bread of hope and kindness.
We have plenty to share.**

One: Plenty of wine at the feast of life. Plenty of wine to share.

**Many: Wine of our remembrance. Wine of our forgiveness.
We have plenty to share.**

One: Plenty of room at the feast of life. Plenty of room to share.

**Many: Room for those forgotten. Room for all the children.
We have plenty to share.**

One: Come fragile, fierce, grateful, grappling, hopeful, hurting.

**Many: We come hungry, thirsty. We come looking for sacred
space and ordinary space.**

One: Come now with a commitment to give and receive.

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

*Song *Here I Am, Lord* #525



- | | | | | |
|----|-------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. | I, the Lord | of sea and sky, | I have heard | My peo-ple cry. |
| 2. | I, the Lord | of snow and rain, | I have borne | My peo-ple's pain. |
| 3. | I, the Lord | of wind and flame, | I will tend | the poor and lame. |



All who dwell in deep-est sin	My hand will save.
I have wept for love of them,	They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them,	My hand will save.



I who made the stars of night,	I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone,	Give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide	Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear My light to them?	Whom shall I send?
I will speak My word to them.	Whom shall I send?
I will give My life to them.	Whom shall I send?

Refrain Unison

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have
heard You call-ing in the night I will
go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your
peo - ple in my heart.

***Opening Prayer** David Sparks

Holy One, prepare our minds to hear the call. Prepare our hearts to take up the mission. Prepare our hands to act for justice and love. 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 the lower level. Masks for all.

Blessing the Children *Where Children Belong #2233*

This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-comed as part of the
wor - ship - ing throng. Wa - ter, God's Word, bread and
cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be - long.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Interlude

*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

Holy One, we are so grateful and humbled that we are people of abundance. We have enough bread, wine and room that we can be generous and gracious in our sharing. Continue to lead us and return us to places where we can be both givers and receivers in the great flow and momentum of your gifts. Amen.

Scripture Luke 5:1-11 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Invitation to the Communion Table We invite *all* to this **open table**. All accepted—no exceptions—as we commit ourselves to limitless love, courageous action and spirited inquiry.

Communion Song *Bread to Share*

Plen-ty of {bread / fish / wine / room} at the feast of life, Plen-ty of {bread / fish / wine / room} to

share; Plen - ty of {bread / fish / wine / room} at the feast of life, there is

To verses *Last time*

plen - ty of {bread / fish / wine / room} to share. share. There is

Slower

plen - ty of {bread / fish / wine / room} to share, there is plen-ty of {bread / fish / wine / room} to share.

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.]

*Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine/Juice

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thank you, Holy One, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Amen.

*Song of Parting *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore #377*



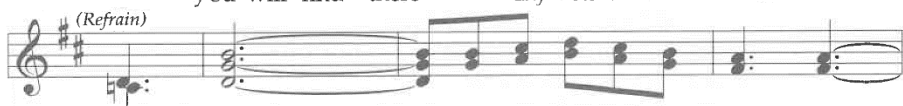
1. Lord, you have come to the lake - shore
2. You know so well my pos - ses - sions;



look - ing nei - ther for wealth - y nor wise ones;
my boat car - ries no gold and no weap - ons;



you on - ly asked me to fol - low hum - bly.
you will find there my nets and la - bor.



O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,



and while smil - ing have spo - ken my name;



now my boat's left on the shore - line be - hind me;



by your side I will seek oth - er seas.

3. You need my hands, full of caring
through my labors to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving. *Refrain*

4. You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me. *Refrain*

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth

Announcements

TODAY: Speaker Series: *The Adventure of my Life, A Tour of Duty with the Peace Corps* by Denyse Schrenker, a child of Parkway.

The Peace Corps is an independent agency and volunteer program run by the USA, providing international social and economic development assistance by volunteers, described as "missionaries of democracy". Critics such as Richard Nixon predicted it would become a "cult of escapism" and "a haven for draft dodgers." Ms. Schrenker sees it differently and experienced an amazing, life altering African adventure with pluck and humanity.

Book Sunday We will celebrate our children and youth on Book Sunday, February 13, during the 10:00am worship service. A book chosen for children from birth through 8th grade will be given away. With the pandemic still looming we will once again ask parents to contact Barb Kuhlmann at 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 15th.

From Amazon: It's hard to give up on the feeling that the life you really want is just out of reach. Everyone wants to believe that they are headed toward good, better, best. But what happens when the life you hoped for is put on hold indefinitely?

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

PUCCEr 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 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 | 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 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 PUCCErs after each session. Join us on our PUCCE 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.

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.”

Quotes for Black History Month – and every month

“Never be limited by other people’s limited imaginations.”

—Dr. Mae Jemison, first African-American female astronaut

“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.” —Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression.” —W.E.B. Du Bois

“In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute.”

—Thurgood Marshall, first African American U.S. Supreme Court member

“Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated.” —Coretta Scott King

“Whatever we believe about ourselves and our ability comes true for us.”

—Susan L. Taylor, journalist

“Defining myself, as opposed to being defined by others, is one of the most difficult challenges I face.” —Carol Moseley-Braun, politician and lawyer

“One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings.”

—Franklin Thomas, activist, philanthropist, and former president of the Ford Foundation

“My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.”

—Desmond Tutu

“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.” —Langston Hughes

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” —Frederick Douglass

“The time is always right to do what is right.” —Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Have a vision. Be demanding.” —Colin Powell

“Freedom is never given; it is won.” —A. Philip Randolph, civil rights activist

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.”

—Booker T. Washington

“I have learned over the years that when one’s mind is made up, this diminishes fear.” —Rosa Parks

“Just don’t give up what you’re trying to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don’t think you can go wrong.” —Ella Fitzgerald

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Celebrations

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

Pat & Bill Owens - settling in at Mason Pointe this week ...

13198 S. Outer 40 Rd; Apt 212; Town & Country, MO 63017.

Concerns

Ellie Svenson - hospitalized for tests after a mild stroke on Tuesday.

Joan Brannigan and family - grieving & giving thanks for Larry.

Sally Boughman - continued issues with back pain.

Conrad Damsgaard - up and down at Mason Pointe – now in Care Ctr.

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

Steve and Andrea Barnes - preparing for his surgery 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

Don Wandless - Covid positive ... feeling better each passing day.

Don Luedloff - Covid positive... asymptomatic (Barry's father).

The political pressure in the Ukraine.

Continuing

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

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

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.

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 of Feb 6 - Christ the King UCC, Florissant; ctk-ucc.org

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

5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 6, 2022

Luke 5:1-11

A Surprising Catch

Today's scripture story tells how Jesus called the first disciples to be evangelists or "fishers of people." Although we have our roots in the evangelical tradition, many United Church of Christ congregations shy away from proudly evangelizing. In their book, *Glorify*, published by The Pilgrim Press, Rev. Emily Heath encourages the UCC to reclaim the title of evangelist. In chapter two, they write,

"I sometimes describe myself as a liberal evangelical. I'm sad that the public understanding of the word "evangelical" forces me to use a qualifier, but so be it. I believe in spreading the good news of God's love to all. But how I hope to do that looks very different from what most (at least in our North American context) might expect from an evangelical. To me, evangelism looks like this: marching in the local gay pride parade, growing vegetables to donate to the local food pantry, advocating for fair labor practices, working for peace, protesting racial injustice, providing good quality health care to those who don't have it, and so much more.

All of these things help spread the good news of God's love. All of those things are evangelism. We do them not just because we want to be good people, but more importantly because we are God's people...

When we are talking about evangelism, it's important to make sure we clear up one popular misconception: evangelism is not about church growth.

We do not do the work of evangelism in order to recruit new members for the team. This is not about adding to our membership rolls. And if the only time your church talks about evangelism is as a way to get more money in the offering plates and "save the church," trust me when I say it just won't happen. People will walk into the doors of your church and see the ulterior motivations from a mile away.

The point of sharing the good news is just this: to share the good news.*

How can you reclaim the title of evangelist and share the good news in your community?

*Heath, Emily C., *Glorify: Reclaiming the Heart of Progressive Christianity*, Cleveland, Ohio, The Pilgrim Press, © 2016, Pages 26-27, Used by permission.