

Sunday, April 10, 2022

PARKWAY

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org Sunday, April 10, 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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# **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** given by Linda Tossing in memory of Bill Tossing

**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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# **Anniversaries**

4/12 HASLER, Rick & Cathy (25)

# **Birthdays**

4/11	WESSINGER, Nancy	4/15	NOLTE, Karen
4/14	COMENS, Michael	4/15	REED, Vivienne
4/14	OSBORNE, Andrew	4/16	DOTY, Alexander
4/14	SCHERRER, Betty	4/16	TALLYN, April
4/15	HOCH, Richard	4/16	WADDELL, Sheila
4/15	KRPAN, Paige	4/16	YESS, Kari

# **Palm/Passion Sunday**

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

**Meditation** On this day, our Palm Sunday, a Roman imperial procession was also entering Jerusalem for Passover from the other side of the city. It happened every year: the Roman governor of Judea, whose residence was in Caesarea on the coast, rode up to Jerusalem in order to be present in the city in case there were riots at Passover, the most politically volatile of the annual Jewish festivals. With him came soldiers and cavalry to reinforce the imperial garrison in Jerusalem. ~Marcus Borg

**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

**Scripture** Mark 11:1-11 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Greg Schmelig, reader

When Jesus and his followers approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives. Jesus gave two disciples a task, saying to them, "Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter it, you will find tied up there a colt that no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'Its master needs it, and he will send it back right away."

They went and found a colt tied to a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. Some people standing around said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them just what Jesus said, and they left them alone. They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes upon it, and he sat on it. Many people spread out their clothes on the road while others spread branches cut from the fields. Those in front of him and those following were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!" Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. After he looked around at everything, because it was already late in the evening, he returned to Bethany with the Twelve.

### **\*Song** Blessed is He (choir and congregation)

Verse 1: Hosanna, hosanna! Hosanna, hosanna!

(Choir only) Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
All glory, laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer King,
To whom the lips of children all sing, they sing.

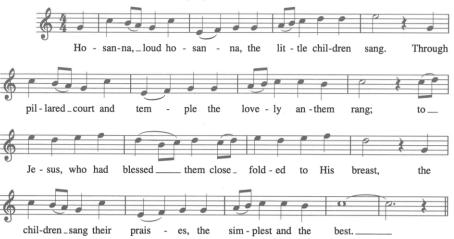
Verse 2: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. (Choir only) The company of angels are praising Him on high,

And we with all creation reply, reply: Hosanna, hosanna, the little children sang. Hosanna, hosanna, the lovely anthem rang.

Verse 3: (Choir only)

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, the little children sang. Hosanna, hosanna, the lovely anthem rang. All glory, laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer King, To whom the lips of children all sing, they sing.





**Postlude:** Hosanna, hosanna! Hosanna, hosanna, on high! (Choir only)

# \*Gathering at the Lenten Candles Jesus Does. How about you?

# **\*Opening Prayer**

Holy One, as we make this Lenten journey, we see what Jesus does—in order that we might do similar things. We can. We sense his power and we can exercise our own agency and make choices. We feel his empathy and we can bring more love into the world. We see him spend time apart from everything else and we can take time to step away and be still. We listen to his stories and can weave our stories together with people near and far. We watch him touch people and we can release our reassurance to others. We hear him speak up and we can be bold for ourselves and others. We sense his struggles and we can find our own courage and stamina. We receive his peace and we can become calm amid storms of every kind. Amen.

\*Response I Want Jesus to Walk with Me #363, v1

I want Jesus to walk with me (walk with me)

I want Jesus to be in me.

All alone this Lenten journey.

Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. (with me)

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

### **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 and Reflections Greg Schmelig, reader

John 8:2-11 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

### Mark 2:1-12 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

### Matthew 21:12-13 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a den of robbers."

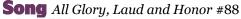


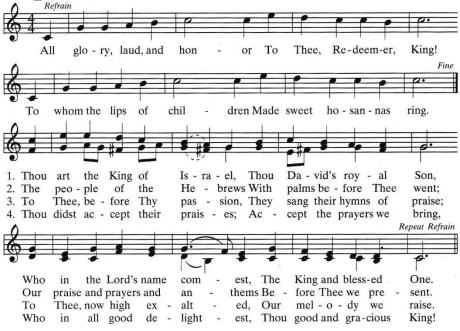
# Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

### **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.]





**Mission Moment** 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Lent/Easter—Mark Sableman Heifer Project | Lydia's House | Unleashing Potential | **Eden Seminary** 

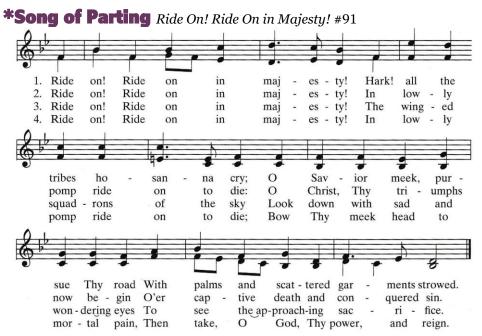
# Offering Our Gifts to God Offering Interlude

### \*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, bless these gifts that they might multiply in the sharing. Bless our voices that they might be bold and unwavering. Bless our waiting, watching and worry this week - that they might give way to a deeper faith and trust in You and one another. Amen.



### \*Benediction

# \*God's Light Goes Forth

# \*Music for Going Forth

### **TODAY! Speaker Series April 10**

In Search of Birds, my Adventures as a Long-time Birder by Claudia Spener Select Sundays | 11:15am | Heritage Room & Zoom

A birder is a person who person who observes or identifies wild birds in their habitats. The fast-growing recreational activity of birding is relatively inexpensive and can be done by anyone. It can provide enlivenment, peace, meaning, and the incalculable wealth of time spent quietly in the beauty of nature. Ms. Spener, a serious birder, has many fascinating stories to tell of her worldwide search for birds and how she has put together what is called her "life list" of birds she has seen and identified.

**Zoom:** us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwd0EzV0VHV1lyQT09 **Meeting ID:** 8469147 6997 | **Passcode:** 181565 | **Dial** (312) 626-6799

# **Announcements**

# **Holy Week**

Worship with us during Holy Week – in person and Facebook Live

Maundy Thursday | April 14 | 7:00pm in the Sanctuary

**Good Friday** | April 15 | Prayer Service at noon in the Historic Sanctuary **Good Friday** | 7:00pm in the Sanctuary

**Easter Vigil** | 8:00pm Friday through Easter morning. Sign up for one hour: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d4ca4ac23ab9-annual

Easter Sunrise | 6:15am | Elm Lawn Cemetery behind Historic Sanctuary Easter Morning Worship | April 17 at 10:00am

### **Easter Flowers**

Please consider purchasing a lovely hanging basket of Boston Fern to decorate the sanctuary this Easter. A signup sheet is in the gathering space where you may place your order and indicate if you would like to dedicate the flowers to someone. The ferns may be taken home after the Easter service. Please make your check payable to PUCC, noting on the check "for Easter flowers," and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Thank you for your generous support. (\$20.00 per basket of ferns) ~The Sanctuary Committee

# **Easter Egg Hunt for PUCC Children**

Sunday, April 17 | following Worship Service Today is the deadline for your donations of individually wrapped candy. Thanks for supporting a beloved tradition. Contact Barb Kuhmann: 314-872-9330 | barbk@parkwayucc.org

### **Tuesday Evening Dialogue April 12**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays | 6:00pm Potluck | 7:00pm Book discussion | Heritage Room Please join us on dinner and fellowship.. This is our second sesion for the book *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. We will be discussing pages 111-222 or chapters Kojo up to Willie. We are excited to meet back in person and welcome newcomers! Masks are recommended.

Contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net

# **TAD—Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue**

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 1:45 Fellowship | 2:00pm book discussion | via ZOOM Please join TAD as we continue discussing *Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival, and Hope in an American City.* Contact Jacki Eiffert: jeiffert2@gmail.com Video: hus02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMIU4ay9oNndTWW4yZUYwUT09 Phone: 312 626 6799 | Meeting ID: 836 7061 7428 | Passcode: 480007

### **IIWC Welcomes Family from Afghanistan**



The Intertwine Interfaith Welcome Circle has been helping the Afghan family to acclimate to living in the US. Read more about this family of six and how you can continue to support them: https://parkwayucc.org/about/intertwine-interfaith/

### **Go AWOL with us—Adventurous Women Out Late**

Help us build community and enjoy one another's company! Questions? Carmen Bumgarner (cfbum@charter.net; 314-330-0813)

Friday, April 22 | 6:00pm | Dinner at Walnut Grill – Ellisville 1386 Clarkson Clayton Center, Ellisville, MO 63011 We may eat outside - depending on weather and group consensus. https://eatwalnut.com/location/ellisville-mo/ (Please rsvp by April 17)

Sat, May 21 | 1:00pm | Chinese Cultural Days | Missouri Botanical Garden Meet us there at the Garden at 1pm or carpool from church at 12:30pm Admission: \$16 Non-member adults

https://www.missouribotanical garden.org/things-to-do/events/event-details/sreventid/1565.aspx

(Please rsvp by April 24)

Saturday, June 25 | Movie Night at local theater—TBA We will meet there at theater or at church at 6:30pm to carpool. (Please rsvp by midnight Thursday)

Wednesday, August 3 | The Color Purple at the MUNY (largest outdoor musical theatre in North America)

The Color Purple makes its Muny debut! Ticket prices and details coming soon.

(Please rsvp by April 24) Carmen Bumgarner cfbum@charter.net

### **Intertwine Interfaith Iftar Dinner 2022**

As the Holy Month of Ramadan is upon us, Congregation Shaare Emeth, Parkway United Church of Christ and the Turkish American Society of Missouri invite you to attend our Intertwine Interfaith Iftar Dinner. We are so excited that this will be our very first large in-person gathering since the pandemic physically distanced us.

Iftar Dinners bring individuals from different religious and cultural communities together to learn about the significance of the month of Ramadan in Islam, engage in friendly table conversation, and break fast with an Iftar dinner. All faiths are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Iftar is the name for a community dinner held daily after sunset to mark the end of a day of fasting. Ramadan, the ninth month in the Muslim calendar, is a special time for the Muslim community. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims worldwide fast from dawn to sunset to achieve greater self-discipline, self-purification, and compassion for those less fortunate.

We hope you can join us at Shaare Emeth.

Please RSVP by April 17, 2022 using this link...

https://congregationshaareemeth.shulcloud.com/form/intertwine-interfaith-iftardinner

This is a free event but a \$10.00 donation per person is appreciated to cover the cost of food.

Ramadan Mubarak!

**Alzheimer's News April 2022** 

New findings suggest that regular exercise may help protect cognitive function. This new study was published in Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association. Several studies have shown these benefits but "how" was not well understood. This new work gives us clues about the underlying biology. This new study shows that regular exercise boosts the presence of specific proteins in the brain. These proteins play a role in facilitating the exchange of information between brain cells through a connection known as the synapse. This study also demonstrated an association between lower levels of these proteins and increased risk of cognitive decline. "Synapse are the critical communicating junctions between nerve cells and are really where the magic happens when it comes to cognition," said Kaitlin Casaletto, Ph. D. "All of our thinking and memory occurs as a result of these synaptic communications."

You can learn more by going to www.alz.org/help-support/resources or the Alzheimer's Helpline which is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master's level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision making, and disease information. You can find virtual dementia caregiver resources online at alz.org/covid19help. Tools and support are also available in Spanish.

Want to learn more about the Alzheimer's Association and what they do here in St. Louis? Visit alz.org/greatermissouri and/or contact PUCC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at joyceruiz7@gmail.com

# **Video System Update**

Thank you for your incredible response to our call for contributions to complete payment for our new audio-visual system in the sanctuary.

Many different people have contributed, including members and friends outside of St. Louis, and some in St. Louis who have only been able to attend worship because of the av system.

The contributions to date ensure that we have funds to make the final payment on the new sanctuary av system, an approximately \$30,000 non-budgeted project. We will also be able to repay the Council Discretionary Fund (accessible church reserves) for the portion of the initial payment on this project that came from that fund.

All additional money collected in this appeal will be applied to our next av project - portable av equipment that can be used for worship services conducted outside the main sanctuary, such as outdoors or in the Historic Sanctuary. We are also considering an improved av set-up for the Heritage Room, -- for adult education and other uses.

Your Church Council thanks all members and friends for their great generosity. We also continue to thank Kent Tallyn, John Ruiz and the members of the AV Team for assembling, installing, and operating a system that so many people have found beneficial and worthy of their contributions.

# **2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Lent & Easter 2022**

### Go the 2nd Mile with us!

We are pleased to announce that Parkway is again supporting four worthy organizations with its Second Mile Giving for Lent and Easter. We believe this blend of support will help Parkway create a local, national and international impact with its gifts. Please remember that Second Mile Giving is over and beyond the Operational Budget and donations will be divided evenly among the organizations listed below. Your generosity is appreciated.

Please be sure to clearly mark your 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile gifts throughout the season of Lent.

#### Lydia's House | lydiashouse.org

Lydia's House works in faith to end domestic violence in St Louis by being a place of healing and a voice of hope for abused women and their children. The agency provides safe, confidentially-located furnished apartments for up to two years, assists women in creating and implementing goal plans that will help them live independently, and increases community awareness of domestic violence.

#### **UP-Unleashing Potential** | neighborhoodhouses.org

For more than 100 years, UP (formerly **Neighborhood Houses**) has loved children in St Louis. Currently, there are three main facets to their mission:

Early Childhood Education—Caroline Mission is a licensed and accredited Early Childhood facility operated by Neighborhood Houses. Our Mission is to provide quality affordable childcare for children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age. Caroline Mission is a "home away from home."

*Girls' Night Out:* Neighborhood Houses and Parents as Teachers collaborated together in the design and execution of a program dedicated to supporting and assisting young mothers, ages 13-22.

After School Programs: Neighborhood Houses is the #1 provider of after school programming with the St Louis Public Schools ... fun & creative activities, homework assistance, character education, cultural awareness, health & fitness focus, arts & crafts, supervised recreation, and much more!

### Heifer International | heifer.org

Heifer International helps people to feed themselves. The goal of every Heifer project is sustainability—project partners achieving self-reliance. They become links in a network of hope, dignity and self-reliance that helps hundreds of others care for themselves.

### Eden Seminary | eden.edu

Eden Theological Seminary is a graduate school preparing women and men for ordained Christian ministry. It is committed to the study of theology in the context of the ecumenical Christian community and the contemporary interfaith world. One of the six seminaries of the United Church of Christ, Eden is a community that seeks God's justice and peace in the world. Eden is welcoming, inclusive and ecumenically diverse.

Eden was established in 1850 at Marthasville, Missouri. Its first graduating class included six Evangelicals as well as a Methodist and a Mennonite.

Eden admitted its first African American student in 1933. In 1965, the late Joseph Cardinal Ritter of the Saint Louis Archdiocese became the first Roman Catholic Cardinal to address a graduating class in a Protestant seminary. Today, students from many different denominations are engaged in theological education here. Eden remains committed to educating faithful and effective leaders for church and society. The seminary counts among its distinguished graduates Reinhold and H. Richard Niebuhr and Walter Brueggemann.

# Prayer List as of Wednesday, April 6, 2022

#### **Celebrations**

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

Emma Ross - accepted int the Vet School at Mizzou.

Ian Mason - new wknd meteorologist KNOP (NBC) N. Platte, Nebraska.

#### **Concerns**

**Gladys Sims** family - as they prep for Russ' Memorial Service on 04/16 at noon - *Old Barn Inn* in St. Albans. All are invited to attend.

**Family/friends of Conrad Damsgaard** – grieving/giving thanks... Visitation 2pm; Memorial Svc 3pm and a meal - Sunday, April 24 - PUCC

**Joan Biest** - chemotherapy treatments started a week ago Thursday.

**Sharon Eissler** - struggling with several health concerns (Rogers).

Jerry - breathing & heart issues (Stacy Weathers' uncle).

**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

The war in Ukraine.

The people of Sacramento - after mass shooting last Sunday.

### **Continuing**

**Kathleen Tarr** - foot surgery 3/25; crutches 10 days; boot 6 weeks.

**Ellie Svenson** - healing in STL after a mild stroke and ankle surgery.

**Sally Boughman** - last lumbar epidural steroid injection on 4/25.

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

Richard Gaillardetz - recent cancer diagnosis (Barnes).

**Janet Schoedinger** - chemotherapy for 3<sup>rd</sup> cancer battle (Litzinger).

**Val Weber** - 101st Birthday recently; strength and patience as she recuperates from a couple of mild strokes (Jim Winkelmann's mother).

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

Kevin Ceballos - sudden death of husband, Darryl Luffman (Schmelig).

Intertwine Interfaith Welcome Circle - Afghan family in St Louis.

### **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]

Glady Sims - Friendship Village - 15200 Village View Dr, #2418;

Chesterfield, MO 63017; 636-898-8873 [birthdate: July 4]

**Pinky Wilcoxen** - 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**

Lucia McKenzie and John Bieg - engaged to be married.

**The Shelton Family** - as Killian prepares to welcome a sister.

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.

**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.

Peace and Justice near and far.

### St Louis Association UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending April 10 - **First Congregational UCC**, Webster Groves Week ending April 17 - **First Congregational UCC**, Memphis firstcongo.com

# **Palm/Passion Sunday**

April 10, 2022

Luke 19:28-40 Into Jerusalem

Accompany Jesus on his Holy Week journey. Take time to read the scripture and pray each day of this sacred time.

Sunday, April 10 Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem during the festival of Passover.

Read Luke 19:28-40. Jesus asked the disciples to go and find a colt for him to ride. That must have seemed like a strange request, but they did it anyway. What strange thing is Jesus asking of you? How might you respond?

Monday, April 11 Jesus enters the temple and clears out the signs of commerce.

Read Luke 19:45-46. Jesus drove the people who were exploiting the poor out of the temple. Who is being exploited today? How might Jesus respond? How might we?

Tuesday, April 12 Jesus teaches that "the stone the builder rejected will be the cornerstone." Read Luke 19:47-20:19. This passage is imbued with menace, as the political and religious leaders of Jesus' days seek a way to punish him. Why was his message so threatening to those in power in Jesus' day? Why is it so threatening today?

Wednesday, April 13 Jesus continues to teach those gathered in Jerusalem. Read Luke 21. This teaching begins when Jesus observes the difference between the wealthy and the impoverished. What differences do you think Jesus would notice now? What differences do you notice? What stories will grow from noticing these differences?

Thursday, April 14 The celebration of the Passover is followed by arrest and betrayal.

Read Luke 22:1-62. You hear these words when we celebrate communion together. Read them now and listen for what is new or challenging in this message. What does communion mean to you? How do you acknowledge or celebrate that meaning?

Friday, April 15 Good Friday. Jesus is crucified.

Read Luke 23. Jesus is executed in a state-sanctioned act of violence. Even in his final moments of suffering, Jesus promises forgiveness and eternal life to those crucified near him. What places of suffering need to hear Christ's voice? In your own life? In your region? In the world?