





www.parkwayucc.org
Sunday, May 15, 2022

Contents

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

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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: John & Joyce Ruiz in celebration of their wedding anniversary

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

5/18 WILLIAMS, Meera & Roy (32)

5/19 RUIZ, John & Joyce (38)

5/20 LIVENGOOD, Ross & Kim (44)

Birthdays

5/15 BRUEGGEMANN, Michelle

5/21 CLIFFORD, Thomas

5/15 PATEL, Elin

5/21 DOTY, Nathaniel

5/15 WESSEL, Andrew

5/21 OEHLER, Kurt

5/18 WAITE, Felix

5th Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 15, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *Let your door stand open to receive God. Unlock your soul to God. Offer God a welcome in your mind, and then you will see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the joy of grace. Throw wide the gate of your heart, stand before the sun of the everlasting light. ~Ambrose*

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 Sanctuary #2164



Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
Lord, pre - pare me to be your lov - ing e - cho, kind and
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a
gen - tle, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a
liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.
liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

Scripture Psalm 148:1-5, 7-13, adapted

Praise the Eternal One! Praise God from the heavens; praise God in the heights! Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars! Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Love, for God commanded and they were created.

Praise the Creator from the earth, you sea dragons and all creatures of the deep, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Rulers of the earth and all peoples! Young of all genders alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Eternal One, for God's name alone is exalted; God's glory is above earth and heaven.

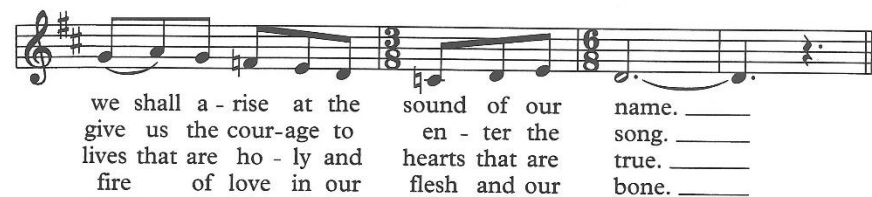
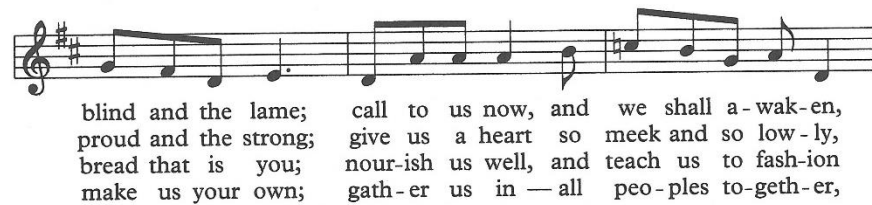
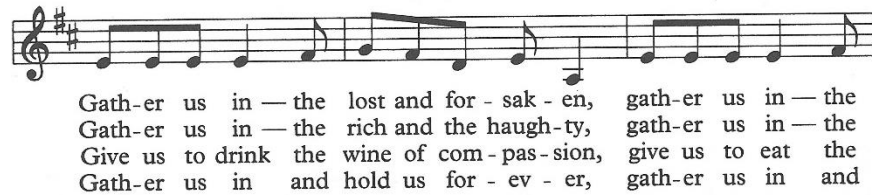
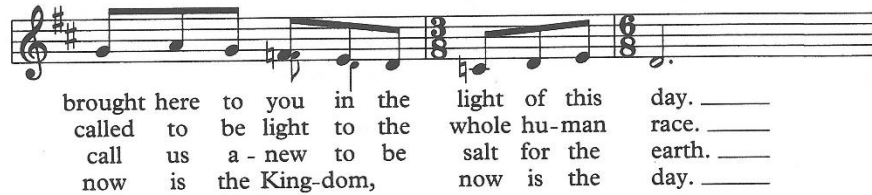
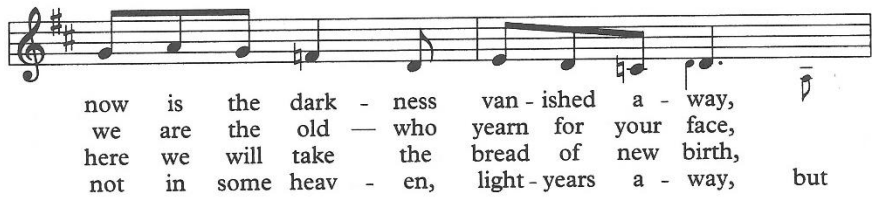
***Call to Worship** Sarah Jewell

- One: We aren't worthy of love and mercy and grace because we do everything right, because we never make a mistake, never say the wrong thing, never fall on our faces.
- Many: **We are worthy of love and mercy because we get it wrong, because we fail, because we are weird and wonderful, and don't fit in, because we are outcasts and oddballs.**
- One: Because we have experienced a pandemic that turned our lives – as we knew them—and our world—as we knew it—upside down and inside out—and it's very possible nothing will ever be the same again.
- Many: **And that is the whole point of Jesus, of his life and his ministry and his love that wouldn't even stop at death. To turn the world upside down and inside out and leave it different than it was before.**
- One: That's also the whole point of Easter—leaving the darkness and coming back to life with a whole new way of thinking about ourselves and each other and the world.
- Many: **Because the final words Jesus spoke to his long-time friends and followers before his betrayal and arrest, before they knew he would die, were these: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”**
- One: And that's not meant to be some abstract or generic “love,” but a love “just as I have loved you:” compassionate and tangible, as he showed them in everything he did.
- Many: **That's why being radical and weird and loud, making people uncomfortable and forcing them to look at the way they are living makes Jesus the greatest outcast and oddball of all times.**
- One: The kind that makes room at the table for everyone – including you and me. That's why the world needs outcasts and oddballs, and of course, more Jesus.
- All: **Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.**

***Song** Gather Us In #2236



- | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|------|---------|-----|--------------|-------|---------------|
| 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, |



*Opening Prayer

Holy One, you sent Jesus as a person to walk among us and live love and inclusion regardless of race, creed, gender, status, or any other human-made "differentiators" we or others devise. May we continually strive to be more like Jesus in this and other ways. 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.

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 Acts 11:1-18 (CEB – Common English Bible)

The apostles and the brothers and sisters throughout Judea heard that even the Gentiles had welcomed God's word. When Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him. They accused him, "You went into the home of the uncircumcised and ate with them!"

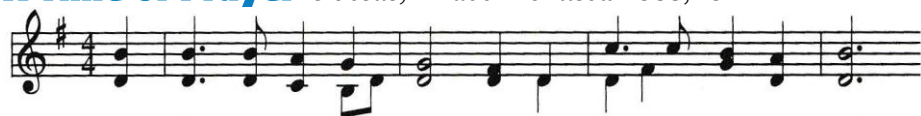
Step-by-step, Peter explained what had happened. "I was in the city of Joppa praying when I had a visionary experience. In my vision, I saw something like a large linen sheet being lowered from heaven by its four corners. It came all the way down to me. As I stared at it, wondering what it was, I saw four-legged animals—including wild beasts—as well as reptiles and wild birds. I heard a voice say, 'Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!' I responded, 'Absolutely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' The voice from heaven spoke a second time, 'Never consider unclean what God has made pure.' This happened three times, then everything was pulled back into heaven. At that moment three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea arrived at the house where we were staying. The Spirit told me to go with them even though they were Gentiles. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered that man's house. He reported to us how he had seen an angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and summon Simon, who is known as Peter. He will tell you how you and your entire household can be saved.' When I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as the Spirit fell on us in the beginning. I remembered the Lord's words: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, then who am I? Could I stand in God's way?"

Once the apostles and other believers heard this, they calmed down. They praised God and concluded, "So then God has enabled Gentiles to change their hearts and lives so that they might have new life."

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

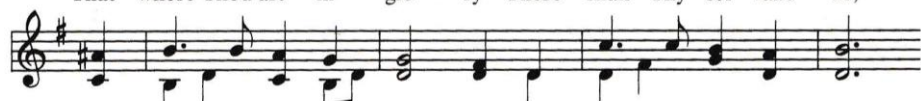
A Time of Prayer *O Jesus, I Have Promised* #388, v3



1. O Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end;
2. O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ev - er near;
3. O let me hear Thee speak - ing In ac - cents clear and still,
4. O Je - sus, Thou hast prom - ised To all who fol - low Thee



Be Thou for - ev - er near me, My Mas - ter and my friend;
I see the sights that daz - zle, The tempt - ing sounds I hear;
A - bove the storms of pas - sion, The mur - murs of self - will;
That where Thou art in glo - ry There shall Thy ser - vant be;



I shall not fear the bat - tle If Thou art by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, A - round me and with - in;
O speak to re - as - sure me, To has - ten or con - trol;
And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end;



Nor wan - der from the path - way If Thou wilt be my guide.
But, Je - sus, draw Thou near - er And shield my soul from sin.
O speak, and make me lis - ten, Thou guard - ian of my soul.
O give me grace to fol - low, My Mas - ter and my friend.

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.]

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Interlude

***Response** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow #591*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Christ, all peo - ple
 here be - low; Praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
 Praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, in this act of generosity, whether enacted now or set in motion years ago with our financial institution, is a move toward community and belonging. We share some of our financial resources and add our thoughts, prayers and actions to the mix in order to create, sustain and repair a just world for all. Amen.

***Song of Parting** *O For a World #386*

1. O for a world where ev - ery - one Re - spects each oth - er's ways,
 2. O for a world where goods are shared And mis - er - y re - lieved,
 3. We wel - come one world fam - i - ly And strug - gle with each choice
 4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, The fool - ish ones are wise.

Where love is lived and all is done With jus - tice and with praise.
 Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, E - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
 That o - pens us to u - ni - ty And gives our vi - sion voice.
 Tell all who mourn; Out - casts be - long, Who per - ish - es will rise.

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth**

Announcements

TODAY: Interfaith Sprouts of Peace for Families

Sunday, May 15 | 12:00 – 1:00pm | PUCC playground & back parking lot

We are ready to launch our free interfaith Sprouts of Peace 2022-2023 for Pre-K through 5th graders—kids that age out can be helpers! We are so pleased to be doing this again with our Muslim and Jewish friends – as well as with our friends from Peace UCC in Webster Groves.

We are having an info and kickoff event for Parkway UCC and Peace UCC here at Parkway on the back parking lot and playground today, May 15 at noon....

If you're at church, you may just want to stick around and play on our playground, walk the Labyrinth or head over to Drace Park or Des Peres Park while the Peace UCC arrive at noon from Webster Groves --- or wherever they are coming from that day.

Please bring a picnic lunch. We will provide drinks and popsicles. We will play some old and new games as well as other fun activities. There will also be a BAG for each family to bring home.

No need to RSVP for May 15 but do please consider registering now for Sprouts 22-23: <https://interfaithstl.org/programs/sprouts/cohorts/>

We are so excited about this! Questions? Please let us know!

TODAY: You are invited to take a musical trip with the singers of Allegro:

a St. Louis Choral Community and be dazzled as they share songs of classic Broadway!

Our concert will be held Sunday May 15 at 3pm at Parkway UCC, 2841 N. Ballas Rd, St. Louis, Mo 63131.

Allegro's concerts are always free. It is part of our mission to make musical programs free and accessible to your entire family. We will gratefully accept your freewill donation to help us continue making great music in the St. Louis area. You may contribute in person at our concert or on our website.

For more information or to donate visit us at Allegrochoral.org or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AllegroChorusStLouis>

We look forward to sharing our passion for music with you!

Mining for Memories

A great opportunity to look back at your life and build relationships now. We share a word or a phrase that might spark a memory - eg. stairs, library, all work and no play, water, train, a fool and their money are soon parted, eyeglasses, button, turn the other cheek.

Monday, May 16 | 11:00am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87654782106?pwd=bUVqbDdXM0xPSXF0d1FPZFtUVUxQdz09>

Meeting ID: 876 5478 2106; Passcode: 796557

TAD—Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue 5/17

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 1:45 Fellowship | 2:00pm book discussion | via ZOOM
Please join TAD as we conclude discussing *Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival, and Hope in an American City*. Contact Jacki Eiffert: jeiffert2@gmail.com
Video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMlU4ay9oNndTWw4yZUYwUT09>
Phone: 312 626 6799 | **Meeting ID:** 836 7061 7428 | **Passcode:** 480007

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)

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.missouribotanicalgarden.org/things-to-do/events/event-details/sreventid/1565.aspx>

(Please RSVP to Carmen.)

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 that 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.

Carmen Bumgarner cfbum@charter.net

TED—Tuesday Evening Dialogue

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 6:00pm Potluck | 7:00pm Book discussion | Heritage Room

Please join us on dinner and fellowship. We continue our discussion of *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wells Kimmerer: *Planting Sweetgrass* and *Tending Sweetgrass*. Our author is a botanist and a member of the Potawatomi Nation. We look forward to contemplating ancient wisdom and contemporary concern about caring for God's creation. Please join us. (We ask that you use the Harper entry at the back of the building to avoid disturbing rehearsal of the children's choir.)

Contact Barbara Harris: barbharris@charter.net

Racial Justice Ministries—United Church of Christ

Our UCC acknowledges and supports the equality of all humans. We are one of the very few Christian churches that are leading bold and courageous conversations, engaging in direct social activism, and participating in civil disobedience as a way to bring attention to and disrupt racist systems and structures. The reality of racism, white supremacy and nationalism threatens God's sacred human family. As people of faith we remain vigilant anti-racists advocates and activists responding to threats and acts of violence towards our sisters and brothers—our siblings of African, Asian, Latin, and Native descent—whose civil and human rights are violated on a daily basis.

<https://www.ucc.org/racial-justice-ministries/>

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Celebrations

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

2022 Grads: including Grant Oehler - graduating from dental school this week - fourth Dr. Oehler... sister Emily and parents Kurt & Barbara.

Wessel Family - celebrating the engagement of Andrew & Shannon.

Concerns

Charlotte Smith - recovering from surgery to remove deep skin cancer.

Family and friends of Pearl Sellenriek - funeral was on May 3rd.

<https://www.schrader.com/obituary/pearl-sellenriek-nee-wenzel>

Sally Boughman - just had her last lumbar epidural steroid injection.

Joan Biest - in the midst of challenging chemotherapy treatments.

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.

Continuing

Lori Connors and Bill Schulenburg - healing for broken arms.

Kathleen Tarr - healing after recent foot surgery.

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

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

Jackie - special needs adult battling Parkinson's, cancer, and dementia (sister/sister-in-law of Nick & Sue McMillon).

Janet Schoedinger - chemotherapy for 3rd cancer battle (Litzinger).

Lynda Ruby - living with cancer (Lindner).

Val - strength and patience (Jim Winkelmann's 101 year-old mother).

Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack - chronic health challenges... Bill is in the midst of the lengthy prep process for extensive back surgery.

Cherie & Mike Stolze - her health; her father's kidney disease.

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.

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]

Gladys Sims - *Friendship Village - 15200 Village View Dr, #2418*; Chesterfield, MO 63017; 636-898-8873 [birthdate: July 4]

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

Lucia McKenzie and John Bieg - engaged to be married.

The Shelton Family - as Killian prepares to welcome a baby 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.

Peace and Justice near and far... **US Military** around the globe.

St Louis Association UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending May 8 - **Holy Trinity Community UCC, Memphis**;
holyytrinitymemphis.org

Week ending May 15 - **Hope UCC, DeSoto**; hopeunitedchurchofchrist.com

Reproductive Justice from United Church of Christ resources...

As a human rights issue, reproductive justice promotes the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.

Since the Supreme Court decision in 1973, *Roe v. Wade*, which constitutionally protected abortion in the U.S., there has been a continued campaign to ban or severely limit access to safe abortion services. Also since that time, the UCC has joined with a multitude other faith groups to protect women's equal and fair access to abortion and family planning. The Supreme Court recently heard arguments in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* another direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade* and abortion access in the United States.

The strategies of those seeking to overturn *Roe* have also focused on state legislation. Many states continue to pass more restrictive measures around access to abortion. Among these are: parental consent for minors, bans on specific types of abortion procedures, unusually stringent and burdensome regulations on abortion providers, and funding roadblocks. In 2021 there were more of these laws passed by states than any other year since 1973.

The act of praying with and for someone at an often difficult time of decision is a reminder that one doesn't have to journey alone; it is an act of companionship and love precisely at a time when women and their families may feel very much alone. The prayers below are from our partners at the [Religious Coalition of Reproductive Choice](https://rcrc.org/prayers/) (<https://rcrc.org/prayers/>). They cover numerous topics and come from many different faith traditions. We hope you'll find one that speaks to you.

For Women with Problem Pregnancies | *"We pray for women who know that life is beginning within them, who face the agony of wondering what to do when they do not know if they can cope..."*

For Partners | *"... It might not be my body, It might not be my decision, But I am here: Because she matters to me, Because I care, Because no one should have to do this alone..."*

For Men | *"... We ask that you would help them be all that you have created them to be. Help them to see themselves as whole persons..."*

For Those Who Choose Adoption | *"We pray for birth mothers. We ask for informed maturity, compassionate ears and shoulders, and tough love to help them make good choices for themselves and their children..."*

For Children in Need | *“Help us, Creator of All, to continue to open our hearts and hands to those children in our world whom we can see are motherless, fatherless, hungry, ill, abandoned...”*

For Providers of Women’s Health Care | *“Gracious Provider of Care and Protection, we remember and stand with health care professionals who furnish health care for women.”*

For Women Coerced and Forced Against Their Will | *“God of our lives, help us to find ways to break the silence that perpetuates the cycles of sexual abuse and violence...”*

For Women Who Are Immigrants and Seek Refuge | *“Gracious God, you who guided Naomi and her family to look for bread in Moab, a foreign land, protect the women everywhere who have to leave behind their home or homelands so that they and their families can survive...”*

For Women Who Struggle to Feed and House Their Families | *“... But we also acknowledge that there are so many — especially women —who, in these times of an overabundance of low wage jobs, struggle to keep food on their tables and roofs over their heads...”*

For Those Called to Elected Leadership | *“... You have created and are creating still. Inspire our leaders to follow your teachings. Empower them to engage in conversations that will shed light and compassion. Help them listen to those with whom they disagree...”*

For Those Called to Support Elected Officials | *“... Merciful One, inspire and renew those called to serve on each staff so that whether seen or unseen, they know that they remain grounded in your care...”*

A Chaplain’s Prayer | *“... Promise yourself, whether or not others understand, you will always be true and faithful to your own deepest self...”*

A Protestant Minister’s Prayer | *“O God, you who are closer and more loving to me than I am to myself: I pray for your blessing as I join this sisterhood of difficult choices. As I sort out my feelings, lead me in the path of healing and resurrection.”*

5th Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022

Revelations 21:1-6 *Imagine Mental Health Sunday*

The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network is a special interest group within the UCC that works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership, and work of congregations. According to their website: mhn-ucc.org, “We envision a future in which people with mental illnesses feel welcomed, supported, valued and included in their congregations.”

A new curriculum released last autumn describes how a mental health diagnosis intersects and interacts with other parts of persons, bringing both challenge and clarity to the quest for identity.

In a video clip publicizing the curriculum, Rhina Ramos claims her identities as “an immigrant woman, from El Salvador, a lesbian and a Christian.” When asked how those identities interact within herself, as well as what others think of her identities, Ramos reflects, “Well, I can get confused because I am all these identities. But people outside me get confused because they tend to see just pieces of it...but I’m a whole person. I’m a whole person who is very colorful!”

In describing his identity, JJ Flag says, “I am both a black male, and one who lives with a physical disability...I navigate the world using a wheelchair because I was born with cerebral palsy. Being both a black man who has a disability, it’s interesting to see how those two things play out in my life...It was the Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas that said, “if you want to see what God looks like, look into the face of the other.” He continues, “I have sat down and really toyed with the idea, “What would it mean to get to heaven and God be a direct reflection of who I am? People talk about ‘when one day you’ll get to heaven and you’ll be walking around.’ And I’m like, ‘what if I get there and God’s ROLLing around?’”

David Finnegan Hosey reflects, “A lot of my identities are at the intersection of advantages I’m given. White, male, cisgender, straight - and a lot of those forms of identities that tend to carry a lot of power within our society are really quite fragile. I mean, you get kicked out of the boy’s club really quick when you break down crying every five minutes because you’re having a bi-polar episode.”

Listen to these stories, and many more, and explore the intersections of your identities at mhn-ucc.org.