





www.parkwayucc.org
Sunday, May 29, 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: Betty & Richard Scherrer

Today's Scripture Reader: Mark Sableman

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

5/30 BORGMAN, Kari & Keith (41)

5/30 LOWENTHAL, Andrew & Sharon (41)

6/3 DWYER, John & Dottie (49)

Birthdays

5/30 KRPAN, Maggie

5/31 SHELTON, Karla

6/1 DOMBEK, Claire

6/2 BUMGARNER, Carmen

6/2 SPERRY, Abby

6/3 WATSON, Jenna

Ascension Sunday

Sunday, May 29, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation

You yourself are your own obstacle. Rise above yourself. ~Hafez

Welcome

Let us know you are here!

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

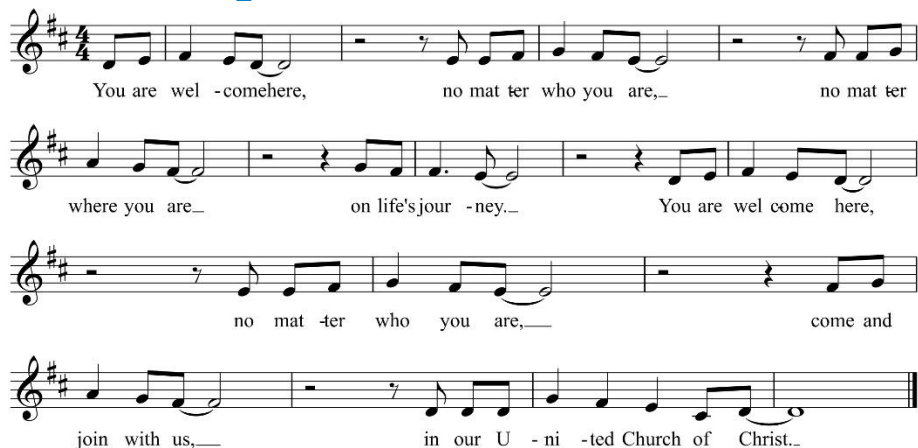
(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song

You Are Welcome Here



Scripture

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

Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, right up to the day when he was taken up into heaven. Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God’s kingdom. While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what God had promised. He said, “This is what you heard from me: John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, “Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?”

Jesus replied, “It isn’t for you to know the times or seasons that God has set by God’s own authority. Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has

come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. They said, “Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven.”

*Call to Worship

One: Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ’s return to God.

Many: We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!

One: But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.

Many: Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God’s love to us.

One: Let’s get to work—knowing that we are not alone in it.

Many: Let’s make our hearts ready for the tasks ahead.

One: We want to be compassionate, creative, compromising.

Many: We want to model ourselves after Jesus and feel him guiding and encouraging us.

One: We look up, down, around and within as we rise to the challenges and feel the blessings of this sacred work.

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

*Song #142 All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!



1. All hail the power of Je - sus’ name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2. Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael’s race, Ye ran - sored from the fall,
3. Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, On this ter - res - trial ball,
4. O that with yon - der sa - cred throng We at His feet may fall!



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown Him Lord of all!
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!
To Him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, And crown Him Lord of all!
We’ll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown Him Lord of all!



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown Him Lord of all!
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!
To Him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, And crown Him Lord of all!
We’ll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown Him Lord of all!

*Opening Prayer

Holy One, we will follow your lead. The choice of paths is before us—and you mark out the faithful ones for us. You show us the compassionate way, and give us good companions for the journey. In moments of celebration, in the testing days, you are here with us. We will follow your lead, O God. For in Jesus, you have shown us what it means to respond wholeheartedly to your leading. 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 *Jesus Loves Me*

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

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

Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes Jesus loves me!

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

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

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

Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes Jesus loves me!

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

Scripture Luke 24:44-53 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

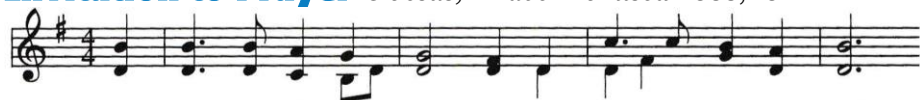
Then Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what God promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Invitation to 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

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

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

Song #564 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

**Oh beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesty above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!**

**Oh beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law!**

Oh beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!

Oh beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

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, just as Jesus used his hands to reach people, heal people, help people up, feed people, bless people, connect people, lead people...may we do these same things in our own time and in our own ways. Amen.

***Song of Parting** *Doxology for Humanity*—Kurt Struckmeyer

Music: Old Hundredth / Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise life that makes us change and grow
Praise love that makes compassion flow
Praise peace that ends all strife and fear
Praise hands that work for justice here

Praise ears that hear the children's cries
Praise truth that drives out cruel lies
Praise hearts that value human worth
Praise lives that build a better earth

Praise eyes that see all human need
Praise minds that cast out selfish greed
Praise lips that challenge those in power
Praise those who struggle every hour

Praise faith that keeps us ever strong
Praise hope that triumphs over wrong
Praise dreams that make our spirits rise
Praise voices raised in joyful cries

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth**

Announcements

TODAY! Speaker Series—*Though the Earth Should Change: The Urgency of Outdoor Worship in an Era of Ecological Crisis*

Select Sundays | 11:15am | Heritage Room & Zoom

How might our practices of worship help us to make the enormous changes that will be needed to ease the impact of global warming? Join in conversation with Eden Seminary Professor Christopher Grundy as he makes the case for more frequent and earth-honoring outdoor worship during the climate crisis.

Zoom: us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkw0EzVOVHV1lyQT09

Meeting ID: 8469147 6997 | **Passcode:** 181565 | **Dial** (312) 626-6799

1st Sunday Choir Needs YOU! 1st Sunday Choir continues year-round, every month, and it needs YOU to come help. Next singing is SUNDAY JUNE 5th, gathering at 9:00am. No extra rehearsals; just show up in Sanctuary Choir Loft at 9am to learn an easy anthem, then sing it at the 10am service. Easy as that, no weekly rehearsals, one-and-done! Any questions please e-mail or text Music Director Barry: barry@parkwayucc.org or 636.485.5378.

TAD—Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue June 7

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

TAD will discuss the first half of the novel *The Mammy*. "Mammy" is what Irish children call their mothers, and *The Mammy* is Agnes Browne—a widow struggling to raise seven children in a North Dublin neighborhood in the 1960s. We'll read about poverty from a different perspective, in a different country and era from our last book.

Video: hus02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMlU4ay9oNndTWw4yZUYwUT09

Phone: 312 626 6799 | **Meeting ID:** 836 7061 7428 | **Passcode:** 480007

TED—Tuesday Evening Dialogue

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

We continue our discussion of *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wells Kimmerer. Please join us. (Please use Harper entry at the back of the building.) Contact Barbara Harris: barbharris@charter.net

Let's "Reboot" Parkway UCC Fellowship & Vitality

Sunday, June 12 | 11:45am | Gathering Space

Following our Annual Meeting, join us for ice cream and opportunities to volunteer your time and talents. Tables in the Gathering Space will have sign-up for volunteer positions needed right now. Other opportunities will follow later in 2023. Once you have reviewed all the great opportunities, please go to the back parking lot for an ice cream treat.

God's Fun Circus! Saturday, August 6, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Join us for a fun-filled day as we create a Circus! An exciting day of learning, playing and using the gifts God has given us. Ages 3 through entering 5th grade. Lunch will be provided. Let us know of any allergies. The circus we create will shared with family and friends at 2:45pm. So let's get together under the big top and create God's Fun Circus! Free for all!

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Celebrations

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

2022 Grads

Oehler Family - preparing for Grant & Callie's wedding on May 28.

Ellie Svenson - back home after time in a care center after a stroke.

Concerns

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 people of Ulvade, Texas.

The war in Ukraine.

Racial violence in the US.

Infant and Baby Formula shortage across the US.

Palestinian – Jewish conflict.

Women's Justice issues.

Continuing

Lori Connors and Bill Schulenburg - healing for broken arms.

Kathleen Tarr - healing after recent foot surgery.

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 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.

Intertwine Interfaith Welcome Circle - Afghan family in St Louis.

St Louis Association UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending May 29 - **Unleashing Potential** - UP, St Louis

(Formerly Neighborhood Houses); upstl.org

Week ending June 5 - **Immanuel UCC**, Ferguson; immanuelucc.church

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]

Glady 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.

PUCF 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.

Memorial Day (originally known as **Decoration Day**) is a federal holiday in the United States for mourning the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May. It was formerly observed on May 30 from 1868 to 1970.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day to honor and mourn those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Many volunteers place an American flag on graves of military personnel in national cemeteries. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer in the United States.

7th Sunday of Easter

May 29, 2022

Acts 16:16-34

Breaking Chains

When Paul and Silas broke the walls that bound them, they created a new life not just for themselves but for the other prisoners and the jailers, as well. Suddenly, everyone in the story began thinking of themselves and their place in the world in a transformed way. Like the transformed people in the story of Paul and Silas, as old walls and ways of being crumble, many churches and conferences are opening themselves up to a new way of being and doing in the world.

In recent years many UCC Conferences have gone through the wrenching process of letting go of their beloved church camps, for a variety of reasons. Tears have been shed over these decisions, because of the poignant memories and formative faith experiences that have taken place at these camps. Many clergy are camp alumni; they felt their call to ministry in the beauty of nature among extraordinary people.

After the tears, one such camp alum felt propelled by the Holy Spirit to start a non-profit to purchase and operate Camp Mimanagish in central Montana. Rev. Cathy Barker, with her husband, Rev. Dick Weaver, started talking with others who love that particular sacred space. The group sent out a “What If” survey to gauge the interest in seeing Mimanagish into a new future.

Within months the working group had founded and incorporated Singing Waters Montana, a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The group consulted extensively with the U.S. Forest Service, who manage the land, sharing their vision of becoming “A Camp for those who have no Camp.” Mimanagish alumni lent their expertise in fundraising and Singing Waters Montana raised over half a million dollars for the purchase and maintenance of the facility.

At the Dedication Celebration on July 31, 2021, over 50 people, including UCC Conference leaders, honored the past and shared hopes for the future. In addition to faith communities, this lovely wilderness retreat on the Boulder River will host recovery groups, veterans, LGBTQ+ support groups, youth de-stress weeks, Foster and Adoptive Family Camps, and more. Fishing, Art, and Music will round out the schedule. The welcome will be wide.

When the Holy Spirit is leading, anything can happen!