





www.parkwayucc.org  
Sunday, June 19, 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 scripture reader:** Harold Cobb.

**Today's flowers:** Lisa Duke, in honor of the June 16 birthday of her twins Josie and Ben and in memory of her father Art's birthday on June 20.

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

**Subscribe to our email lists:** Text your email address to 22828 or sign up at [www.parkwayucc.org](http://www.parkwayucc.org)

**Communications Requests:** Please use the form at [www.parkwayucc.org/communications](http://www.parkwayucc.org/communications) for all announcements for all our media. Bulletin and eNews deadline is noon Monday.

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## Mental Health Support

24/7 Crisis Hotline 800-273-8255 (TALK)

988 (new nationwide 3-digit number similar to 911)

800-SUICIDE: 800-784-2433

24/7 Missouri Department of Mental Health 800-811-4760

Text 741741 and someone will text right back... [www.crisistextline.org](http://www.crisistextline.org)

Behavioral Health Network of Greater St Louis 314-449-6713

## Anniversaries

6/20 FAGERBERG, Roger & Virginia (63)

6/24 STOLZE, Mike & Cherie (22)

6/25 MAXEINER, Tom & Mary (22)

## Birthdays

6/19 DUKE, Ben

6/22 SEETHARAMAN, Jay

6/19 DUKE, Josie

6/24 MASON, Lisa

6/19 SVENSON, Ellie

6/24 SCHEFFEL, William

6/20 CAMERON, Tavis

6/25 DOMBEK, Charles

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, June 19, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

**Meditation** *Every day in a hundred small ways our children ask us, “Do you see me? Do you hear me? Do I matter?” This behavior often reflects our response. ~L R Knost*

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

## Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.” T

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

**Prelude** *Be Thou My Vision* – traditional Irish melody

Translated by Mary E. Byrne

## Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

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

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and pastoral, with lyrics written below the notes. The song concludes with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

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

**Scripture** Psalm 42 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Just like a deer that craves streams of water, my whole being craves you, God. My whole being thirsts for God, for the living God. When will I come and see God’s face? My tears have been my food both day and night, as people constantly questioned me, “Where’s your God now?” But I remember these things as I bare my soul: how I made my way to the mighty one’s abode, to God’s own house, with joyous shouts and thanksgiving songs—a huge crowd celebrating the festival!

Why, I ask myself, are you so depressed? Why are you so upset inside? Hope in God! Because I will again give God thanks, my saving presence and my God. My whole being is depressed. That’s why I remember you from the land of Jordan and Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

Deep called to deep at the noise of your waterfalls; all your massive waves surged over me. By day the Lord commands faithful love; by night God’s song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life.

I will say to God, my solid rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why do I have to walk around, sad, oppressed by enemies?” With my bones crushed, my foes make fun of me, constantly questioning me: “Where’s your God now?” Why, I ask myself, are you so depressed? Why are you so upset inside? Hope in God! Because I will again give God thanks, my saving presence and my God.

**\*Call to Worship** Roger Lynn

One:	Drawn by God’s presence...
Many:	<b>...we gather together as a faith community - eager to be invitational, hospitable, warm and authentic.</b>
One:	Inspired by God’s Word...
Many:	<b>...we worship with scripture, song, silence and with questions, concerns and needs.</b>
One:	Empowered by God’s grace...
Many:	<b>...we live our lives modeled after Jesus as we commit ourselves to saying and doing the things he said and did.</b>
One:	Opened by God’s love...
Many:	<b>...we share what we have been given alongside the momentum of the Holy Spirit that still catches us and sends us out.</b>
All:	<b>Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>

## \*Song Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #376



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy
4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less



earth come down, Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing,  
trou - bled breast! Let us all in Thee in - her - it,  
life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,  
let us be; Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion



All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, Thou art all com -  
Let us find the prom - ised rest; Take a - way the love of  
Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways  
Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee; Changed from glo - ry in - to



pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with  
sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as  
bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove; Pray, and praise Thee  
glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

## \*Opening Prayer

Holy One, we welcome you amongst us today and celebrate the gift of community. Open our ears so that we may hear your voice. Open our minds so that we may receive your wisdom. Open our spirits so that we may know your leading and guidance. And open our hearts so that we may receive your lavish 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 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** Luke 8:26-39 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

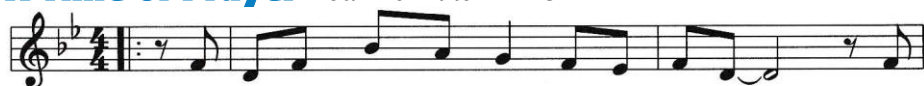
Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As Jesus stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me”— for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

## **Moment of Silent Reflection**

## **Sermon**

# A Time of Prayer *You Are Mine* #2218



1. — I will come to you in the si - lence, —
2. — I am hope for all who are hope-less, —
3. — I am strength for all the de - spair-ing, —
4. I am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from — all your fear.  
 I am eyes for all who long to see. In the  
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be  
 shad-ows of the night, I will be your light,  
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and  
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain, stand



still and know I am here. —  
 come and rest in  
 all will know my  
 up, now walk, and



me. —  
 name. — Do not be a - fraid, I am  
 live! —



with you. I have called you each by name.



Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine. —



## **Father's Day Litany** Leah Schade

One: Today we think of expectant fathers; those who are waiting with joy, and those who are filled with uncertainty and fear. We pray for men who are new fathers, that they may be full partners in caring for and raising their children.

**Many: We pray for men who long to parent, but who struggle with infertility. Join their cries with Sarah and Abraham and others.**

One: We pray for men who are fathers, either by birth, by adoption, through foster care, or through raising grandchildren. We pray that they may be supported in their parenting by their partners, fellow fathers, their workplaces, supervisors, and other men in their lives; that their children may be provided with sufficient food, shelter, education, and healthcare.

**Many: We pray for fathers who have lost children. Comfort them, Holy Spirit, with your everlasting presence and assurance.**

One: We pray for fathers who are incarcerated; fathers who have been abusive, hurtful and neglectful; fathers who have left their families. Touch their hearts.

**Many: We pray for men who give of themselves not just through childbearing, but with their intellect, skills, gifts, physical abilities. Bless all men, that they may advocate for women to have equal compensation for their work, may be an ally to protect women from abuse and harassment, and may be valued as unique individuals.**

One: We pray for people of all genders and sexual orientations, those who are transitioning, and those who are parenting in many forms and in the many ways families come together. Help us to understand who you have created them to be and the gifts they offer in their bodies, minds, and spirits. May those who are in danger be protected during their time of vulnerability, and show us ways to keep them safe.

**Many: We pray for boys and men who struggle against a culture of toxic masculinity. We pray for men who strive to protect and advocate for those most vulnerable – children, the poor, God's Creation, the disenfranchised, women, and those men and women whose voices go unheard. May they heed your call to justice.**

One: We pray for those for whom this is a day of mourning and sadness. For those who have lost fathers and other important men in their lives, that they may be comforted with the peace that passes all understanding. Surround them with your peace.

**Many: We give thanks for men who have been our father, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, sons, husbands, life-partners, and friends. We give thanks for women who have had to serve as both mother and father as a single parent for their children. We pray for men who strive to reflect the caring, affection, nurturing, and friendship modeled by so many who have gone before us.**

**All: Give them your grace and bless them in their lives. Hold all of us together as one human family. Hear us, Loving God. Amen.**

## 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.

## Offering Our Gifts to God

If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate on the communion table before the end of the closing hymn. There is also an offering plate at the sanctuary doors. Thank you for your generosity.

## Offering Interlude

*They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*—arr. Charity Book Putnam

### \*Response *For the Fruit of All Creation* (tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos)

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God;  
for the gifts of every nation, thanks be to God;  
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

### \*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, we recognize that the greatest gift is the gift of love. May our offerings distribute this love to the world: the small world we inhabit and the wider world as well. Amen.

### \*Song of Parting *Song of Hope* (verse 2 on next page)



May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, Fill-ing all our  
lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus-tice speed us  
on our way, Bring-ing light and hope to ev-ery land and race.  
*Refrain*  
Pray-ing, let us work for peace, Sing-ing, share our joy with all,  
Work-ing for a world that's new, Faith-ful when we hear Christ's call.

Keep a prayer within your heart throughout the day  
Hope is always there for those who trust the Lord  
Give your time and comfort in a simple way  
Call for justice, hope will surely be restored.

Giving, use our gifts with love,  
Helping, for the ones in need,  
Striving, for equality  
Justice, when the need demands.

## \*Benediction

## \*God's Light Goes Forth

## \*Music for Going Forth *God of All Nations*—Steven Scott

# Announcements

## Speaker Series

**TODAY! *Modern Perspectives of a Native American*** by Simona Charles.

June 19, 2022 | 11:15am - 12:15pm | Heritage Room & Zoom

Simona Charles is a member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation (Nevada and Idaho), where she grew up. Ms. Charles now lives and works in this area after earning a Masters in Social Work at Washington University. Her presentation will focus on her experiences growing up on the reservation and her views of modern-day life as a Native American.

***Electric, Gas or Hybrid?*** Kent Tallyn, presenter

June 26, 2022 | 11:15am - 12:15pm | Heritage Room & Zoom

Come to this Speakers Series presentation and learn the truth from our own Kent Tallyn, who is always faithful in presenting a comprehensive and informative presentation. Be smart, be conscientious, be an informed consumer and responsible steward of our resources and attend this program as you dream about and plan the purchase of your next car.

## TED—Tuesday Evening Dialogue June 28

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

We conclude 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](mailto:barbharris@charter.net)

## TAD—Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue June 21

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

TAD discusses the second half of the novel *The Mammy*. *The Mammy* is Agnes Browne—a widow struggling to raise seven children in a North Dublin neighborhood in the 1960s.

**Video:** [hus02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMlU4ay9oNndTWw4yZUYwUT09](https://hus02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMlU4ay9oNndTWw4yZUYwUT09)

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

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

School is out, many supplies are used up, and children will be taller by the end of summer. Let's help school children be ready for next fall. Parkway UCC is asked to provide 300 2-pocket folders for the Isaiah 58 Back-to-School event on July 30. Underwear and socks for any ages, small children through adult sizes would be most appreciated. We are also invited to host a game, activity booth, or resource table.

Isaiah 58 serves our neighbors in the Choteau, Jefferson, Cherokee, and S. Kingshighway boundaries. As you are able, please consider donating 2-pocket folders, socks, and underwear and place in the designated box in the church lobby by July 29. Contact Evelyn Buretta: burettaevelyn@gmail.com

## 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!

## Parkway Habitat Work Day Saturday, September 10 | 7:45am – 3:00pm

Save the date. Parkway has been assigned a work date for this year. Parkway will be allowed 4 workers for Saturday, September 10. Contact Tom McKenzie: mckenzie1947@att.net. Please consider donating to Habitat. Checks for our UCC Build should be made out to UCC HABITAT BUILD and sent to Tim Weaver c/o Samuel UCC, 320 N. Forsyth Blvd, Clayton 63105.

## Environmental Inspiration: The Honorable Harvest

(From ***Braiding Sweetgrass*** - *Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*). This is the book chosen by the TED reading group.

The guidelines for the Honorable Harvest are not written down, or even consistently spoken of as a whole – they are reinforced in small acts of daily life. But if you were to list them, they might look something like this:

- Know the ways of the ones who take care of you, so that you may take care of them (weed, water, gather rocks, etc.)
- Introduce yourself. Be accountable as the one who comes asking for life.
- Ask permission before taking. Abide by the answer.
- Never take the first. Never take the last.
- Take only what you need.
- Take only that which is given.
- Never take more than half. Leave some for others.
- Harvest in a way that minimizes harm.
- Use it respectfully. Never waste what you have taken.
- Share,
- Give thanks for what you have been given.
- Give a gift, in reciprocity for what you have taken.
- Sustain the ones who sustain you and the earth will last forever.

Indigenous People live their life by this rule of Honorable Harvest. At the level of human interactions, we do this. It's what we teach our kids. If you're visiting your sweet grandma and she offers you homemade cookies on her favorite china plate, you know what to do. You accept them with many "thank yous" and cherish the relationship. You gratefully take what has been given. You wouldn't dream of breaking into her pantry and taking all the cookies without invitation, grabbing her china plate for good measure. That would be, at a minimum, a breach of good manners, a betrayal of the loving relationship. Your grandma would be heartbroken, and not inclined to bake more cookies for you any time soon. As a culture though, we seem unable to extend these good manners to the natural world.

The DISHONORABLE Harvest has become a way of life – we take what doesn't belong to us and destroy it beyond repair. There are too many examples of this to list here. They are gifts from our sweet Grandmother Earth, which we take without asking. HOW DO WE FIND THE HONORABLE HARVEST AGAIN?

"It is our collective and individual responsibility ... to preserve and tend to the world in which we all live." ~Dalai Lama

"All things share the same breath – the beast, the tree, the man. The air shares its spirit with all the life it supports." ~Chief Seattle

Submitted by Parkway UCC's Sustainability Seekers.

## **Today is JUNETEENTH**

Juneteenth (a combination of the words "June" and "nineteenth") is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating emancipation of enslaved African Americans. It is also often observed for celebrating African-American culture. Originating in Galveston, Texas, it has been celebrated annually on June 19 in various parts of the United States since 1865.

The US Senate unanimously passed a resolution on June 15, 2021 to give Juneteenth the legal holiday status. The House overwhelmingly passed it on June 16, 2021. When the president signed it into law on June 17, Juneteenth joined the 11 other federal holidays.

You might also hear today referred to as Juneteenth National Independence Day; Jubilee Day; Emancipation Day; Freedom Day; Black Independence Day.

Visit [juneteenth.com](https://juneteenth.com) to learn more –

The understanding and excitement of Juneteenth is growing at a phenomenal rate. Cities and States all across the US are realizing the wonderful opportunity we have to come together in appreciation, reconciliation, and commemoration. During Juneteenth we acknowledge the African American spirit and pay tribute to the roles and contributions which have enriched our society.

The [juneteenth.com](https://juneteenth.com) provides a channel in which to connect and unite all whom share the vision of this celebration. Through the efforts of those at the grassroots level, to those on the state and national levels, Juneteenth celebrations are now held in most, if not all, 50 states. Over half have passed some form of legislation establishing Juneteenth as a Special Day of Recognition. Several other states have similar legislation pending.

The recognition and honor of Juneteenth extends even beyond our borders. Expatriates, teachers, US military and others have continued their celebrations internationally. We cherish their dedication, as well as each and every one of you, who see the wisdom and vision of an America who comes to terms with truth, acknowledges its mistakes and commits to *liberty and justice for all*.

We live in a different world today. There is no room, nor time, for bigotry, hatred and racism within our own citizenry.

That indeed, is our vision.

# Prayer List

as of Wednesday, June 15, 2022

## Celebrations

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

**Pride Month** - <https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/01/health/pride-month-explainer/index.html>

## Concerns

**Naomi Runtz and family** - as they grieve and give thanks for Joe.

**Steve & Andrea Barnes** - as he recuperates from Covid.

**Bart Coleman** - preparations have begun for a heart procedure.

**Marv Herpel** - healing and gaining strength in a rehab ctr after a fall.

**Joan Biest** - chemotherapy treatment #6 of 6 was on June 9.

**Kraichley Family** - remembering and celebrating Carolyn.

**All impacted by Covid-19** - individuals, families, healthcare workers; If anyone needs help getting vax/booster or if anyone vaccinated would like to be on the Care Team, please reach out to [kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org)

**The people of Uvalde, TX; Buffalo, NY** and other places in pain.

**The war in Ukraine.**

**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).

**Dusty & Lindsay; Matt & Kim** - expecting babies with complications.

**Sharon** - struggling with many health issues (Gerry Rogers' cousin).

**The Haack's neighbor** - stage 4 cancer... single parent of a 2.5 yr old.

**Sydney Palmgren** - terminal cancer; mother of 2 yo (Becca's sister).

**Janet Schoedinger** - chemotherapy for 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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.

## **St Louis Association UCC Covenant Partner**

Week ending June 12 - **Missouri Mid-South Conference**; mmsucc.org

Week ending June 19 - **Kirkwood UCC**; kirkwooducc.org

## **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 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 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.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

In God's Presence

*Father's Day*

One of today's lectionary texts tells the story of Elijah, worn out by political maneuvering, isolated and afraid. At the very end of his rope, Elijah was ready to give up. God did not give up on him, though, and spoke to him, giving him clarity and a renewed sense of purpose. Strengthened, he was able to go back out to follow God's way. How about you? Are you also feeling isolated and weary? If so, take heart. God is near! Listen for God's guidance as you remember that your actions and your voice matter now more than ever.

You need look no further for clarity and purpose than the many *Our Faith, Our Vote* resources available online from the Justice and Local Church Ministries advocacy office in Washington DC. There, you will find nonpartisan resources that will help you study issues through the lens of your faith and conscience, as well as get information on how church communities may and may not legally be involved in this congressional election year.

Sandy Sorensen, director of the Justice and Local Church Ministry Washington DC office, advises that churches can legally "hold voter registration drives, take action for democracy protections, and generate voter mobilization as we near midterms — including rides to polls, getting folks registered, etc. It will also be critical in these divisive times to establish relationships with state and local elections officials to support fair elections...Urge legislators to pass democracy protections. Engage in media advocacy around voting rights in your community through op-eds, letters to the editor, social media and other outlets. Learn what your state legislature is doing to change election laws in your state."\*

The UCC is a longtime supporter of the Poor People's Campaign, and its actions to ensure equal access to elections, including marches near the date of Juneteenth, which have taken place both on the ground in local cities and online in the past few years. Find out what the Poor People's Campaign has planned in your area, if you would like to connect with others interested in these issues.

\*Holznagel, Hans. "National Ministries Eager to Work with Local Churches on Full 2022 Agenda." United Church of Christ accessed 4 Jan. 2022, <https://www.ucc.org/national-ministries-eager-to-work-with-local-churches-on-full-2022-agenda/>.