



Christmas  
*in*  
July



PARKWAY  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org  
Sunday, July 31, 2022

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## Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

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### 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:** Michelle Brueggemann

**Today's flowers:** Jackie Eiffert

**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

988 (new nationwide 3-digit number similar to 911... call or text)

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

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

8/2 WOODSON, Jennifer & Curt (11)

## Birthdays

8/1 RAUSCHER, Steffanie

8/3 WADDELL, Brian

8/2 SCHEFFEL, Helen

8/4 CONNORS, Lori

8/3 FRAZIER, Robert

# 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 31, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

**Meditation** *Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have Christmas.* ~unknown

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

## Passing the Hope, Peace, Love and Joy of Christ

“May the gifts 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** *O Come All Ye Faithful* #41, v1 and 3

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant**

**O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem**

**Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!**

**Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!**

**Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**

Refrain: **O come, let us adore Him...O come, let us adore Him**

**O come, let us adore Him...Christ the Lord.**

**Scripture** Isaiah 9, selected verses

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Parent, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## \*Call to Worship

One: The Angel Gabriel comes to visit Mary.

Many: **She is minding her own business, doing her own thing, and along comes this startling visitor.**

One: Mary learns that she is part of a miracle that God is bringing into the world. She says YES - though she is confused.

**Many:** An angel also went to see Joseph as he had an important role in all of this too. He wasn't sure he could say YES.

**One:** Joseph is open to more visions and revelations from angels later. He wants to help keep his family nurtured in community and safe from harm.

**Many:** We come in the middle of the summer, doing our own thing, wondering what might happen if we say YES to what God is asking us to do.

**One:** We are available to God's call as it comes in ways expected and unexpected.

**Many:** We wait. We watch. We listen.

**One:** We are eager to be a part of what God is about to do next.

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

### \*Song *People, Look East #12*

1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near Of the crown-ing of the  
year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, Trim the  
Peo-ple, look east and sing to - day:  
hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo-ple, look east:  
Love the guest is on the way.

### \*Opening Prayer

Holy One, this is another opportunity—though it is midsummer—to absorb the truth of Christmas. You love us and want to be with us always. Your child was born and named Emmanuel—which means “God with us.” Thank you for this gift - the promise of being with us. You are with us on holidays, holy days, ordinary days, long days, painful days, delightful days as well as in the days with all questions and no answers. Help us to experience you here now. Amen.

## \*Response *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice #28, v1*



1. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      With heart, and soul, and voice;  
2. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      With heart, and soul, and voice;  
3. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      With heart, and soul, and voice;



Give ye heed to what we say:      Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
Now ye hear of end - less bliss:      Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
Now ye need not fear the grave:      Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, And He is in the man - ger now.  
He hath o - pened heav - en's door, And we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all To gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

**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** *Joy to the World*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come, Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing**

## **The Christmas Story**

Luke 2:1-4

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

*Response:* O Little Town of Bethlehem

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

Luke 2:5-7

Joseph went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*Response: Away in As Manger*

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

Luke 2:8-11

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be delivered to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

*Response: The First Nowell*

**The First Noel, the Angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel!**

Luke 2:12-14

The angel said to them, "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

*Response: Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing,  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo... Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Luke 2:15-18

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

*Response: What Child is This?*

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary**

Luke 2:19-20

Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.



*Response: Angels We Have Heard on High*  
**Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

## **Invitation to Prayer** *O Holy Night*

**Truly he taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and his gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise his holy name.**

## **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.]

### **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 are also offering plates in the Gathering Space just outside the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Offering Interlude**

**\*Response** *We Three Kings of Orient Are* #66, v2-4

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.**

Refrain: **O, Star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!  
Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a deity nigh,  
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshiping God most high.**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb.**

**Glorious now, behold Him arise, King and God, and Sacrifice  
Alleluia, Alleluia sounds through the earth and skies!**



## \*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, each of us has gifts to share - all different shapes and sizes. We never quite know what someone else needs, so we listen lavishly as we figure out how we can bring more hope, peace, joy and love into the world around us - and to places far from here. Give us discernment, direction and determination to bless others in all the rhythms, cycles and seasons of our lives. Amen.

## \*Song of Parting *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow #50*



1. There's a star in the East on the Christ - mas morn,
2. If you take good heed to the an - gel's words,



Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low, It will lead to the place where the  
Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low, You'll for - get your flocks, you'll for -



Christ was born, Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.  
get your herds, Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.



Fol - low, fol - low, Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low,



Fol-low the Star of Beth-le - hem, Rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.

## \*Benediction *The Work of Christmas—Howard Thurman*

African-American theologian, educator and civil rights leader  
When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost, to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.

## \*Extinguishing the Candles, Becoming the Light

## \*Music for Going Forth

## Make Ready!

*In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. -Luke 3:1-2, NRSV*

The list of people whose names begin this chapter of the book of Luke are powerful and important. The emperor Tiberius was not merely the ruler of the whole known world, he was considered an infallible god. Tiberius himself appointed Pontius Pilate, whose powerful name very loosely translated means, Free Person Who Carries a Sharp Spear. Just hearing his name, everyone would know that Pilate was not only master of his own destiny, but also that his military prowess was unrivaled. Herod and Philip were brothers in a politically successful family who ruled with the twin fists of nepotism and corruption. Lysanias is not mentioned elsewhere in scripture, but in his own time he was a big deal, big enough that he came to the attention of Cleopatra who sent Mark Anthony to depose him. Last but certainly not least, the two high priests mentioned shared the most important religious role of their time. Together occupying a role meant for one person, they were constantly jostling for position and power.

John's words fell into this world of the famous and powerful, the politically savvy and the militarily successful. He spoke not in the city, or the temple, not in the palace or the town square, not on social media or television, but in the wilderness. John was a nobody, and he spoke in the middle of nowhere to an audience (at first) of no one.

And yet, all these centuries later, his message is the one that is still heard, still followed. It was John, the voice on the margins, who pointed the way to Christ, rather than those at the center of privilege and popularity.

Somewhere in each community, a voice is crying in the wilderness right now. Somewhere on the margins, a messenger is urgently telling of Christ's way. The voice may be hard to hear over the clamoring of the powerful. But this year, may we open our ears to hear.

# Announcements

## Speaker Series

*From Changing Diapers to Changing the World: Why Moms Make Great Advocates and How to Get Started*

Sunday, August 7 | 11:15am in the Heritage Room and on Zoom

PUCcEr Cindy Levin has cared deeply about global poverty and hunger even before becoming a parent. Mothering her own children toughened her resolve to stand up for her values and work to bring about a better world for all kids. The sale of Cindy's book is officially open! Visit her new website at [www.changyit.com](http://www.changyit.com) to order autographed and inscribed paperback copies for \$20.00 (plus shipping). You can even order for friends and she will write a personal inscription for them, too!

**Attend All/Any Speaker Series on Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkw0EzV0VHVllyQT09>

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

**We love Special Olympics!** Saturday, August 6 | 12:00 - 3:00pm

Affton Athletic Association Fields, 10300 Gravois Road, Affton, Mo., 63123

We are looking for a few more PUCcErS to join us for the 12-3pm afternoon volunteer shift at SOMO's East Regional Softball Tournament on Saturday, August 6, 2022. This event will be held at the Affton Athletic Association Fields, 10300 Gravois Road, Affton Mo. 63123. Upon arrival, please locate the volunteer check-in table where you be given a volunteer t-shirt and volunteer assignment. Thank you for helping make this day possible for our athletes and their families. Remember sunblock, a hat and a water bottle!

[kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org)

**TED is on summer break until August 9.** You may begin reading *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. It's a story about a boy, a small town and a murder in the summer of 1961—an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God. Please read the first 150 pages for our next TED gathering/potluck on Aug 9.

**TAD on Summer Break until August 16**

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue is taking a break for the summer, but will resume on Zoom on Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm. We'll begin discussing *One Long River of Song: Notes on Wonder*, by Brian Doyle. Borrowing from Amazon: From a "born storyteller" (Seattle Times), this playful and moving bestselling book of essays invites us into the miraculous and transcendent moments of everyday life." And, "Doyle often used his Catholicism to explore the human and natural worlds, but this is perhaps the most generous, universal 'religious writing' you'll ever read." Please join us in August.

**Outdoor Free Summer Concert** Friday, August 12 | Des Peres Park 7pm

Enjoy the super fun band Fatpocket on Friday night, August 12

Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and coolers with your favorite snacks and beverages (alcohol is allowed). Glass bottles are not permitted for safety. No concessions will be sold. Limited parking is available inside the park. Ridesharing is encouraged and overflow parking is available at the Edward Jones Building, 12555 Manchester Road, 63131. In case of inclement weather, please visit [www.desperesmo.org/weather](http://www.desperesmo.org/weather) after 4 p.m. on the day of the event. FREE (no registration required) | All Ages

We are looking for a host that would arrive at the park early and stake out some space for us.

**FatPocket**—<https://fatpocketband.com/home>

FatPocket is the Midwest's highest energy party band featuring the hottest horns, powerhouse vocalists and a setlist that keeps you on your feet. This band will move your guests to the dance floor for a nonstop dance party until the house lights turn on.

No backing tracks, no sheet music and no "standing still" on stage, FatPocket is a band that brings back the LIVE energy of the 60s-80s to the Top 40 Chart Toppers of today. Unlike a traditional wedding band, the FatPocket horns and singers are up front partying with you and strutting their moves for a one-of-a-kind experience that will leave your guests in awe.

**Pearl Harbor Experience Shared** Sunday, August 14 | 2:00-3:00pm

Tappmeyer Homestead, 2 Barnes West Drive, Millennium Park in Creve Coeur  
Dorinda Makanaonalani Nicholson was 6 years old and living in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. She and her parents fled to nearby sugar cane fields and witnessed the bombing. When the American Girl doll Nanea was created, Dorinda served as a consultant in her development. Her personal experiences have been the basis for her books about the history and culture of Hawaii and how the attack affected civilians. Dorinda has since settled in Missouri and will share her thoughts at the Tappmeyer Homestead, 2 Barnes West Drive in Creve Coeur's Millennium Park at 2 p.m. August 14. August 14. Doll exhibits will be featured noon – 4 p.m. August 14 and 28. Reservations are requested for Dorinda's talk; email [TappmeyerHomestead@gmail.com](mailto:TappmeyerHomestead@gmail.com). And learn more about Tappmeyer at [TappmeyerHomestead.org](http://TappmeyerHomestead.org)

**Grizzlies Baseball Game** Sunday, August 21 | Gametime is 5:45pm

Take me out to the ballgame! Cheer on our Gateway Grizzlies with a dozen or more PUCers as they face the Windy City ThunderBolts!

The Gateway Grizzlies are a professional baseball team based in the St. Louis suburb of Sauget, Illinois, in the United States. The Grizzlies are a member of the West Division of the Frontier League, which is a partner league of Major League Baseball.

This is a much more manageable excursion than going to a Cardinals game... so if you enjoy baseball and/or want an 'easier' adventure, this is the opportunity for you.

Please reserve your ticket(s) by contacting PUCCEr Blake Lyons via phone/text 314-681-0620.

Tickets are \$16 each. Please make checks to PUCC with Grizzlies in memo. We can also work out carpooling a few days ahead.

**Festival of Nations** Sat & Sun August 27-28 | [festivalofnationsstl.org/](http://festivalofnationsstl.org/)

We are a diverse, inclusive and thriving community in St Louis!

An inclusive community is a cultural experience. An immersion to diverse cultures that will enrich our lives. It is achieved when we bridge cultures and inspire action. It is not accidental, it is deliberate, in words and deeds.

An inclusive society is a festival! The FESTIVAL OF NATIONS! It is a time to enjoy amazing foods, toe tap to a musical spectacle, listen deeply to a story told, and support the thriving entrepreneurial spirit of this diverse community.

This is one of the best annual events in St Louis. We will let you know when the full schedule of events is available so we might arrange carpools.

Festival of Nations is again brought to you by the International Institute of St. Louis. For more than 100 years, IISTL has been building a more connected and productive society to benefit immigrants, their families, and the wider community. Our vision is for a diverse, inclusive and thriving community.

Today, IISTL provides a whole host of services annually to more than 5,000 immigrants and refugees, including English classes, citizenship preparation, job services, counselling, and small business development. We are also working to help immigrants and the wider community to build connections by promoting cross-cultural understanding. Join us at [www.iistl.org](http://www.iistl.org)

**THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST ANNUAL EVENTS IN ST LOUIS!**

**YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!**

You can also help make it a huge success by volunteering. This isn't possible without lots of volunteers like you...

**Volunteer Opportunities:** [iistl.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=63243](http://iistl.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=63243)

# Prayer List

as of Wednesday, July 27, 2022

## Celebrations

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

**PUCC Youth Mission Trip** this week - *Urban Mission Experience StL*

## Concerns

**Everyone dealing with aftermath of flooding in St Louis.**

**Jim Winkelmann** - at DePaul Rehab Hospital after a recent stroke.

**Kathleen Tarr** - heart problems; had a procedure on Monday.

**Peter Shelton** - surgery July 29... due to gallbladder surgery in 2021.

**Joan Biest** - radiation treatments wrap up this week.

**Grieving/giving thanks for Barb Kuhlmann** - Memorial Service 3pm on Sat, July 30. <https://www.boppchapel.com/obituaries/Barbara--Kuhlmann-?obId=25220626#/obituaryInfo>

**Bill and Pat Owens** - as Bill seeks healing after recent back surgery.

**Bill Coleman** - some progress as he preps for heart procedure.

**Kari Borgmann's 98 year old mother** - healing and strength.

**Jennifer** (John Nourse's daughter) - doing well as she finds healing.

**Josh** - starting chemo; will need a bone marrow transplant (Tarr).

**Sharon** - variety of health challenges (Rogers).

**Sue Linson** - just diagnosed with leukemia (McKenzie).

**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 war in Ukraine.**

**Women's Justice issues.**

## Continuing

**Kathy Ferrell** - healing for her broken wrist.

**Jackie** - special needs adult battling Parkinson's, cancer, and dementia.

**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.

**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 July 24 - **Samuel UCC**, Clayton; samuelucc.org

Week ending July 31 - **Second Congregational UCC**, Memphis

## Home/Care Facility/Rehab Center

**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]

**Naomi Runtz** - 272 N Lindbergh Blvd; StL MO 63141; 34-993-0469

naomiruntz@sbcglobal.net [birthdate: August 30]

**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.

**Brussee/Dario/Race Family** as Skyler and Justin prep to be parents.

**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.



# 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

July 31, 2022

Luke 12:13-21

## ***Soul Investment***

*Then (Jesus) told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So, it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."*

Luke 12:16-21 NRSV

This parable reminds us that it is human nature to plan and build newer and larger structures in abundant times. This parable ends with the advice to give to God rather than to the glory and false security for the self. How do we give to God? Many other places in scripture act as reminders that the surest way to give to God is to give to those who have need here and now.

For some congregations, their structures enhance and support their giving to others. For others, the building itself - its care and maintenance - has become their ministry. Prayerful discernment about the role of the building in congregational life can be energizing and lead to new vision and purpose.

During the first half of 2022, the national staff of the United Church of Christ moved from the space that had been home for more than thirty years into new office space. Over the years, the national staff has continued to be reduced. With COVID on the scene, many of the staff began to work from home. The combination of a smaller staff and a greater percentage of those working from home meant that that large space of the old offices was no longer needed. After a period of discernment, it was decided that that building was no longer serving its purpose - to serve the mission and ministry of the church. So, the staff moved their official offices a mile away. The new space at 1300 E. 9th Street in Cleveland, is smaller and more flexible, with an open floor plan that encourages collaboration and innovation.

It will not be the right decision for every church to sell its building and move to smaller quarters. However, every church with a physical plant can ask whether the congregation is serving the building and grounds more than the building and grounds are serving God and neighbor.