





www.parkwayucc.org
Sunday, August 7, 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 scripture reader: Cynthia Changyit Levin

Today's flowers: Greg Schmelig in celebration of the 7th anniversary of his first date with Doug, his fiancé.

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

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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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

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

Anniversaries

8/10 MCKENZIE, Tom & Kris (37)

8/11 MOELLERING, Sue & Charles (55)

8/13 SCHATZ, Dave & Jill (34)

Birthdays

8/7 BOYD, Robert

8/8 PEACE, Ruth

8/9 CAMERON, Kevin

8/10 WEAS, Davis

8/11 LYONS, Blake

8/12 ENGEL, Donna

8/12 ROESLER, Alexander

8/13 BURKHARDT, Dan

8/13 SONTAG, David

8/13 WADDELL, Judy

8/13 WOLFF, Tate

8/13 YESS, Gregory

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 7, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *If you had slept in the same house or field with Jesus, awakened with him, eaten with him and helped him, what would you have observed? One thing we always think of is that Jesus gave himself almost entirely to what we would consider interruptions. Most of the teaching, healing and wonders we see in his life were responsive... seemingly unplanned. Jesus trusted that what God allowed to cross his path was exactly that... from God. Jesus always seemed willing for things to get messy.* ~Marcia Lebharr

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 *In the Garden*—arr. Jay Rouse

Based on the tune by C. Austin Miles

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Come, Now is the Time to Worship*

Come, now is the time to worship

Come, now is the time to give your heart

Come, just as you are to worship

Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

One day every tongue will confess,

One day every knee will bow

Still the greatest treasure remains for those

who gladly choose you now.

Come, now is the time to worship,

Come, now is the time to give your heart

Come, just as you are to worship

Come, just as you are before your God. Come. Come. Come.

Scripture Isaiah 1:1, 16-19 (CEB – Common English Bible)

The vision about Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah, Amoz's son, saw in the days of Judah's kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah...

Wash! Be clean! Remove your ugly deeds from my sight. Put an end to such evil; learn to do good. Seek justice: help the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow. Come now, and let's settle this, says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow. If they are red as crimson, they will become like wool. If you agree and obey, you will eat the best food of the land.

*Call to Worship

One: The love of God meets us here—a love that is unconditional.

Many: No matter what our yesterdays have been.

One: The peace of Christ rests on us—a peace that passes all understanding.

Many: No matter what we have been thinking about ourselves, one another or the world.

One: The reassurances of the Spirit come to us from all directions—a reassurance that can calm, equip and energize us all at once.

No matter where we have been, what we have done or

Many: left undone.

One: These gifts of love, peace and reassurance come to us because the Holy wants to share them with us.

Many: We are open and available to be blessed in this way.

One: And we promise to share these gifts with others.

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

*Song *Come, Share the Lord #2269*



1. We gath-er here in Je - sus' name, his love is
(3. He joins us) here, he breaks the bread, the Lord who
(5. We'll gath-er) soon where an - gels sing; we'll see the



burn-ing in our hearts like liv - ing flame; for through the
pours the cup is ris - en from the dead; the one we
glo - ry of our Lord and com-ing King; now we an -



lov - ing Son the Fa - ther makes us one: }
love the most is now our gra - cious host: } Come, take the
ti - ci - pate the feast for which we wait: }



bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

Fine



2. No one is a stran-ger here, — ev - ery - one be -
 4. We are now a fam - i - ly of which the Lord is
 longs; find - ing our for - give-ness here, we in
 head; though un - seen he meets us here in the
 turn for - give all wrongs. 3. He joins us
 break - ing of the bread. 5. We'll gath - er

*Opening Prayer *Gretta Vosper*

Holy One, I intend to be present to where I am throughout this day. I see the sky, streaked with the promise of now, and I am called to anticipate all that might be. The heat of the day will be heavy upon me, and I am challenged to acknowledge the responsibilities I hold. The shade of the afternoon will come, like grace, and soothe me, and I am offered a reflection of my own priceless gifts. The cool of the evening will bless me, set in the midst of a candlelit heaven, and I am awed by the fulfillment of another day. We open ourselves as those who seek the holy. 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 *This, This is Where Children Belong #2233*



This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-comed as part of the
 wor - ship - ing throng. Wa - ter, God's Word, bread and
 cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be - long.

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.

Offertory Anthem *We Gather at Your Table*—Words by Dale Wood

Music by Walter Ehret, based on the Irish tune *St. Columbia*

Presented by the 1st Sunday Choir

We gather at your table, God. Grant peace and unity.
In keeping with your will and word, may we one body be.

Now let us take the sacred bread. Our souls and bodies feed.
In heart and soul we shall be fed, your holy will to heed.

Now let us take the wine of heav'n. Through Christ, we all are fed.
That here we meet, and are forgiven And by God's grace are led.

To you, O God, we sing our song. May we be one in love.
For we, by faith, to you belong - one with your church above!

*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 Carol Penner

God of grace, financially, we are sometimes in the dark. We don't always know how much money we have, or how secure our resources are, or even what expenses we will have in the future. We choose to give our gifts to the church with light hearts, gifting boldly and cheerfully, knowing that our security lies in your grace, and not in our bank accounts. Accept these gifts from our hands, for the work of your church here and out in the world. Amen.

Scripture Luke 12:32-40 (CEB—Common English Bible)

Jesus said, "Don't be afraid, little flock, because God delights in giving you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to those in need. Make for yourselves wallets that don't wear out—a treasure in heaven that never runs out. No thief comes near there, and no moth destroys. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too. Be dressed for service and keep your lamps lit. Be like people waiting for their master to come home from a wedding celebration, who can immediately open the door for them when they arrive and knock on the door. Happy are those servants whom the master finds waiting up when they arrive. I assure you that, when they arrive, they will dress themselves to serve, seat them at the table as honored guests, and wait on them. Happy are those whom they find alert, even if they come at midnight or just before dawn. But know this, if the homeowner had known what time the thief was coming, they wouldn't have allowed their home to be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Human One is coming at a time when you don't expect him."

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Invitation to the Communion Table We invite *all* to this **open table**. All accepted—no exceptions—as we commit ourselves to limitless love, courageous action and spirited inquiry.

Communion Song *One Bread, One Body* #393-Chalice

Refrain (Unison)

D7 G

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all,
one cup of bless-ing which we bless. And
we, though man-y through-out the earth,
we are one bod-y in this one Lord. Fine
1. Gen-tile or Jew, ser-vant or free,
2. Man-y the gifts, man-y the works,
3. Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,
wom-an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all. One
gath-ered to one, for all.

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.]

*Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine/Juice

Remember—arr. Larry Shackley

Based on the music by Laura Story

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Nurturing One, we are grateful for this simple and significant meal. While it finds its way into our body, mind, spirit and relationships, we know its impact can be immeasurable. Guide us into places where we can be your voice, heart and hands. Amen.

*Song of Parting *I Come with Joy #507, v2, 3, 5*



1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, For - giv - en, loved, and
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near To find, as all are
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, Each proud di - vi - sion
4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His pres - ence, al - ways
5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, We'll go our dif - ferent



free, In awe and won - der to re - call His
fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love In
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, And
near, Is in such friend - ship bet - ter known: We
ways, And as His peo - ple in the world, We'll



life laid down for me, His life laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, In Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
stran - gers now are friends, And stran - gers now are friends.
see and praise Him here, We see and praise Him here.
live and speak His praise, We'll live and speak His praise.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth *Cantabile*—Nicolas Jacques Lemmens

Announcements

TODAY: 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 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

TED Resumes 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 Resumes August 16. Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue will resume on Zoom on Tuesday, August 16th, 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 16.

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 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. Doll exhibits will be featured noon – 4 p.m. August 14 and 28. Reservations are requested for Dorinda's talk; email TappmeyerHomestead@gmail.com. And learn more about Tappmeyer at TappmeyerHomestead.org

Organ Vespers

Barbara Raedeke (former PUCC Music Director) will be the guest organist for a vespers service on Sunday, August 14 at 5 p.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 110 N. Warson Road. The service celebrates the 20th anniversary of their organ and includes organ and choral music of Bach, Clérambault, Nivers, and Bruhns. All are warmly invited!

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 PUCCers 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/

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

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

New Member Sunday August 28

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is with joy and gratitude that we plan to welcome new members into our worship, work and witness at Parkway UCC on Sunday, August 28 during our 10am worship service.

If this is something you might be interested in, please let us know...

kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330



**3,800 Volunteers
Needed To Pack
1 Million Meals**
2,750 Kids fed for a year

Sept. 8-11, 2022
Kennedy Rec Center
6050 Wells Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63128

Adults and kids (age 5 and up)
work together to
hand-pack FMSC
MannaPack meals



Packing Shifts are just 2 hours
and there is no cost to pack!

Every day 10,000 children die
from hunger related causes

**Our Mission:
Until ALL Are Fed**

**To register or for
more information go to
FeedTheNeedSTL.org**

Feed The Need STL



We CAN do this St. Louis!

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, August 3, 2022

Celebrations

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

Concerns

Jim Winkelmann - at Delmar Gardens W after another hospital stay.

Peter Shelton - healing at home after last week's surgery.

Joan Biest - radiation treatments wrapped up last week.

Cassie Rosenberger - healing after recent surgery.

Family/friends of Barb Kuhlmann - memorial service was Saturday.

Amy Yakel - preparing for knee replacement surgery on August 9.

Bart Coleman - some good progress as he preps for heart procedure.

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.

Women's Justice issues.

Everyone dealing with aftermath of flooding in StL and elsewhere.

Continuing

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

Jean Gist - healing and strength (Kari Borgmann's 98 year old mother).

Kathy Ferrell - healing for her broken wrist.

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

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

Sharon - variety of health challenges (Rogers).

Sue Linson - recently diagnosed with leukemia (McKenzie).

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 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.

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 August 7 - **St. John UCC**, Manchester; stjohmanchester.org

Week ending August 14 - **St. Johns Evangelical UCC**, Mehlville; stjucc.org

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 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.

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.

9th Sunday after Pentecost

August 7, 2022

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 *Living into the Promise*

Rev. Ann Kansfield, UCC pastor, FDNY chaplain and author of *Be the Brave One: Living Your Spiritual Values Out Loud and Other Life Lessons* shares the courage that led her to write a book about her experiences.

“My wife Jennifer and I serve part-time as co-pastors of the Greenpoint Reformed Church, (a joint UCC and Reformed congregation in Brooklyn, NY). We do our best to love God and neighbor, even though we aren't always sure how to do that.

My other ministry setting is as a chaplain for the fire department of the City of New York. I am one of seven chaplains who serve the department as a whole. I never know what might happen on any given day, but I pray that God can use me in a way to be of service to others. Also, the uniforms are pretty great.”

Although friends encouraged her to share her stories and reflections, Kansfield shied away from the idea of writing a book. “One of the things that really changed the trajectory of the book was connecting with Marty St. George, my co-author...He is really the one who helped take a bunch of stories and thoughts and turn them into a book. I think it's actually a really great story in itself because it shows that sometimes we can do big things when we have friends and fellow travelers who walk alongside us and help us. Sometimes we minister to others and other times they minister to us. Life is really best lived when it's done in mutual ministry with others around us.

For me, bravery is doing things which make us uncomfortable, things which we would rather not do or avoid. And being brave is what allows us to be authentic and vulnerable and have important conversations which we would otherwise want to avoid. Bravery is not just about apologizing for our mistakes but asking ‘how did my mistake impact you?’ and then being quiet and listening.

We can all use some extra bravery these days. It's not always easy to be our most authentic selves. It's certainly difficult to be vulnerable and to share our deepest hopes and fears and listen to the hopes and fears of others. That stuff can be terrifying! But that's the space where God often leads us - to authenticity, vulnerability and bravery.”