





www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, September 18, 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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parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

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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: Given by Pete and Karla Shelton in honor of the birth of their new granddaughter, Kennedy James Lawson, born Saturday, September 10, 2022 at 8:24 pm. They are also celebrating their 46th wedding anniversary today and Kennedy's big brother, Killian Lawson, will be celebrating his 4th birthday tomorrow, September 19.

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

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Cover photo: Mark Sableman

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

- 9/18 SHELTON, Peter & Karla (46)
- 9/18 WEAS, Dan & Kim (23)
- 9/20 POUNDS, Melissa & Louis (19)

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|--------------------|
| 9/19 | MCDUGALL, Ben | 9/21 | SCHATZ, Drew |
| 9/19 | SCHULENBURG, Suzy | 9/22 | TUPPER, Leslie |
| 9/19 | SHELTON, Killian | 9/23 | MATTINGLY, Shirley |
| 9/21 | KLEIN, Pat | 9/23 | STAPPENBECK, Thad |
| 9/21 | ROESLER, Lydia | 9/24 | HOOD, Henry |

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 18, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. ~Anne Frank*

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Passing the Peace of Christ

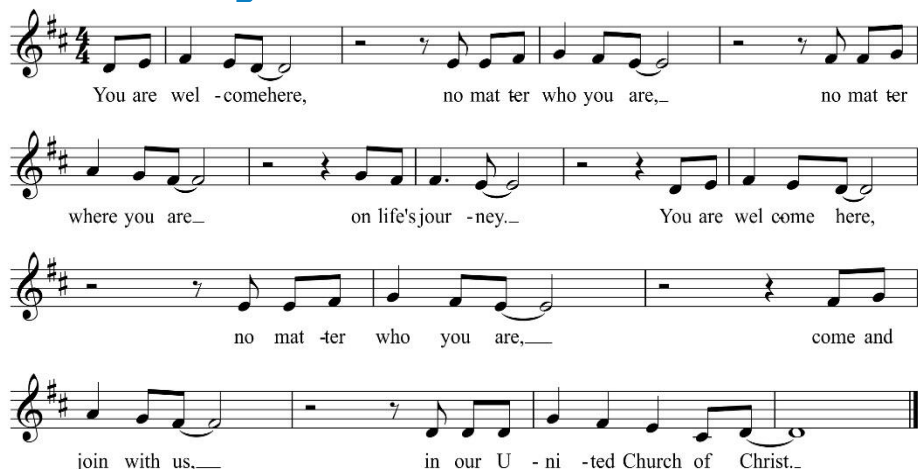
“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

(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 Psalm 65 (CEB – Common English Bible)

God of Zion, to you even silence is praise. Promises made to you are kept—you listen to prayer—and all living things come to you. When wrongdoings become too much for me, you forgive our sins. How happy is the one you choose to bring close, the one who lives in your courtyards! We are filled full by the goodness of your house, by the holiness of your temple.

In righteousness you answer us, by your awesome deeds, God of our salvation—you, who are the security of all the far edges of the earth, even the distant seas. You establish the mountains by your strength; you are dressed in raw power. You calm the roaring seas; calm the roaring waves, calm the noise of the nations. Those who dwell on the far edges stand in awe of your acts. You make the gateways of morning and evening sing for joy. You visit the earth and make it abundant, enriching it greatly by God's stream, full of water. You provide people with grain because that is what you've decided.

Drenching the earth's furrows, leveling its ridges, you soften it with rain showers; you bless its growth. You crown the year with your goodness; your paths overflow with rich food. Even the desert pastures drip with it, and the hills are dressed in pure joy. The meadowlands are covered with flocks, the valleys decked out in grain—they shout for joy; they break out in song!

*Call to Worship

One: Come. Pay attention to the Holy that is here now.

Many: It's not that this is the only place we can do this, but often the Holy seems close here.

One: God comes to us in the darkness and the light.

Many: God is with us in the calm and in the chaos.

One: Jesus's words and ways are for us in community and in solitude.

Many: Jesus speaks to us in ways we can understand - and guides us each day.

One: The Spirit calls from our past, from the future and now - at this very moment.

Many: We clear the clutter, quiet the unrest and focus on the whispers and shouts of the Spirit.

One: Come. Make room for the Holy that is here now.

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

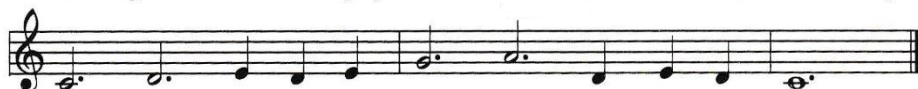
*Song *Morning Has Broken* #469



1. Morn-ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has
2. Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the



spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness Of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, Praise ev - ery



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!
gar - den, Sprung in com - plete - ness Where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

***Opening Prayer** Seasons of the Spirit

Renewing Spirit, as open windows let fresh air in, so prayer is like an opening into our soul—through which you can flow. Blow through each one of us and through this community. Stir our stale places. Ruffle our status quo. Be like a breeze gently unsettling our religious certainties. May we be wholly shaped by you. 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 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* #369 , v1

I'm gonna live so God can use me, Anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me, Anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Scripture Luke 16:1-13 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Jesus also said to the disciples, “A certain rich man heard that his household manager was wasting his estate. He called the manager in and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give me a report of your administration because you can no longer serve as my manager.’

“The household manager said to himself, ‘What will I do now that my master is firing me as his manager? I’m not strong enough to dig and too proud to beg. I know what I’ll do so that, when I am removed from my management position, people will welcome me into their houses.’

“One by one, the manager sent for each person who owed his master money. He said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He said, ‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil.’ The manager said to him, ‘Take your contract, sit down quickly, and write four hundred fifty gallons.’ Then the manager said to another, ‘How much do you owe?’ He said, ‘One thousand bushels of wheat.’ He said, ‘Take your contract and write eight hundred.’

“The master commended the dishonest manager because he acted cleverly. People who belong to this world are more clever in dealing with their peers than are people who belong to the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves so that when it’s gone, you will be welcomed into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful with little is also faithful with much, and the one who is dishonest with little is also dishonest with much. If you haven’t been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? If you haven’t been faithful with someone else’s property, who will give you your own? No household servant can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

Sermon

Call to Prayer *I Love You, Lord*

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice
To worship you, O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my Lord, in what you hear,
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer *sung to the tune by Nate Stout*

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

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

Offering Our Gifts to God

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

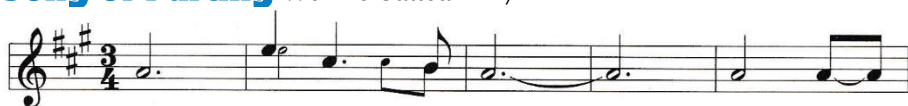


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Christ, all peo - ple
here be - low; Praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
Praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

*Prayer of Dedication *Seasons of the Spirit*

Holy One, we pray for political leaders around the world: illumine paths of greater justice and peace. We pray for those who lead the way in compassion: sustain them in their work. We pray for leaders who hold the welfare of those who are most vulnerable in their hands: keep their hearts pure. We pray for the leaders of our church: ennoble their efforts. For all who lead with their words and actions: we give thanks, O God. Amen.

*Song of Parting *We Are Called #2172*



1. Come! Live in the light! _____ Shine with the
 2. Come! O - pen your heart! _____ Show your
 3. Sing! Sing a new song! _____ Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called _____ to be
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called _____ to be
 great day when all will be one! God will reign, _____ and we'll



light for the king-dom, to live in the free-dom of the
 hope for the hope-less so all ha-tred and blind-ness will
 walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and broth-ers u -

Refrain



cit-y of God! _____
 be no more! _____ We are called to act with
 nit-ed in love! _____



jus-tice, _____ we are called to love ten-der - ly, _____



_____ we are called to serve one an - oth-er, _____ to



walk hum-bly with God! _____

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth

Announcements

Please use the form at www.parkwayucc.org/communications for all announcements for all our media. Bulletin and eNews deadline: noon Monday.

TODAY! September 18 Speaker Series: *City on a Hill*

Select Sundays | 11:30am – later than usual start | Heritage Room

Abram Van Engen has published widely, including his recent book, *City on the Hill, a History of American Exceptionalism*. The title of his book comes from Puritan John Winthrop's lecture, *A Model of Christian Charity* delivered on March 21, 1630 in Southampton before his first group of Massachusetts Bay colonists embarked on the ship Arbella to settle Boston.

In quoting Matthew's Gospel (5:14) in which Jesus warns, "a city on a hill cannot be hid," Winthrop warned his fellow Puritans that their new community would be "as a city upon a hill, the eyes of all people are upon us", meaning, if the Puritans failed to uphold their covenant with God, then their sins and errors would be exposed for all the world to see: "So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken and so cause him to withdraw his present help from us, we shall be made a story and a byword through the world".

Winthrop's lecture was forgotten for nearly two hundred years until the Massachusetts Historical Society published it in 1838. It remained an obscure reference for more than another century, when various scholars like Professor Van Engen corrected the record, explaining that there was no grand sense of destiny among the first Puritans to settle Boston. In truth, America's sense of destiny came generations later.

The Speakers Series staff thanks John Russell for introducing us to Professor Van Engen and arranging this appearance.

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

Next Week 9/25 Speaker Series 11:15am | Heritage Room

The Blues Stanley Cup Season by Mark Sophir

Mark Sophir, a lifelong St. Louis resident and a Blues hockey fan from the beginning, was so overjoyed by the Stanley Cup win in 2019, that he wrote a book. "300-1" tells the magical story of the St. Louis Blues 2018-2019 season – the highly improbable ascendancy from last place half-way through the season to capturing their first Stanley Cup (a 300-1 proposition that the author bet on). The book also takes a comprehensive dive into the 52-year history of the team to give context to this extraordinary accomplishment. With input from insiders, and entertaining stories that are not widely known, it explores the many achievements, disappointments, and often bad "puck luck" of the past five decades, and brings to life the great players, coaches and other colorful characters that comprise the rich history of this hockey franchise.

AWOL - Adventurous Women Out Late

AWOL update for September 18th:

Send me your order for CHICKEN SALAD CHICK by 10am on September 18th and then meet in the Music/Choir Room on Sunday, September 18th at 12:30pm for lunch and fellowship! For beverages, I'll have water available, and there's always the soda machine! (Still 50¢!)

(I'd like to discuss whether we'd like to try and re-start a post-COVID fiction book group too!)

Here's the menu- if there is nothing here you'd like and you want to bring your own food, that's great too!

https://www.chickensaladchick.com/documents/restaurant-menus/Winters_Menu.pdf

I'll collect money on the 18th- don't worry about sending it beforehand!

Looking forward to yummy chicken salad and catching up!

Please send orders to my email: cfbum@charter.net -Carmen Bumgarner

Fall Speaker Series: *Because you have a story to tell.*

October 2 & 9: *Learning to Hate, Choosing to Love* by Rev. Janice Springer (a two-part series).

November 6: *Keeping our Elections Honest* by Nancy Price, League of Women Voters.

November 13: *Return to Vietnam* by John Russell and Roger Fauss.

November 20: *Making Sense of Recent Supreme Court Decisions, and in Particular, Religious Freedom Cases* by Mark Sableman.

December 4: *Current Challenges of the Army in Recruiting and my Career as a Green Beret* by LTC Kirk Duncan.

December 18: *Parkway's Efforts to Help one Afghan Family* by Lisa Mason and Paige Penico.

Tuesday Evening Dialogue September 27

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 6:00pm Potluck | 7:00pm Book discussion | Heritage Room
The second discussion of our selected book, *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison.

Contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net | 314-401-4382

Tower Grove Pride

September 24 & 25 | Tower Grove Park | STL, MO | www.towergrovepride.com
A community-powered independent Pride festival. We are LGBTQ+ centered with a broad mission to support and promote social justice for every disadvantaged, oppressed, or undervalued community. \

Featuring many local artists, crafters, small businesses, nonprofits and music. Sponsors, booths and performers signup:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044aabad2ba46-tower>

CROP Walk 2022

Sunday, October 2 | 4:30pm Check-in | 5:00pm Walk
Eden Seminary, 475 Lockwood Ave, in Webster Groves, Missouri
7:00pm Crop Concert | Wehrli Chapel

The 2022 CROP HUNGER WALK will be a hybrid event: You may walk in person or register for the walk and choose to walk wherever and whenever you want, individually or in small groups. For details and to register, raise fund and/or donate: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/saintlouismo>
Type in Parkway UCC where you may join the team or make a donation.
Sue Moellering and Pam Manning, Crop Walk Team

The Flower Team and Sanctuary Team would like to thank members who donated flowers for our worship service. The Flower Team arranges them after the service for shut-ins and members recovering from surgery. We need medium size vases for these smaller bouquets. Just place them in the closet by the Gathering Space. Many thanks.

Carol Cobb | ccjcobb@aol.com | ccjcobb@aol.com | (314) 640-8166

September 2022 Alzheimer's News

Dementia Conversations

When someone is showing signs of dementia, it's time to talk. Conversations with family about changing behaviors can be challenging and uncomfortable. This free program is presented in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association and features St. Luke's physician Dr. Byron Baptist. This event will be available in-person at St. Luke's Institute for Health Education auditorium or online, using the link emailed to you after you register.

Thursday, September 29 | 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Register now: <https://tinyurl.com/dementia-con>

You can learn more by going to www.alz.org/help-support/resources or the Alzheimer's Helpline which is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master's level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision making, and disease information. You can find virtual dementia caregiver resources online at alz.org/covid19help. Tools and support are also available in Spanish. Want to learn more about the Alzheimer's Association and what they do here in St. Louis? Visit alz.org and/or contact PUCC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at joyceruiz7@gmail.com



Harvest Moon Trivia Night

When

Friday, September 23, 2022 from
6:00 PM to 10:00 PM CDT
[Add to Calendar](#)

Where

Andre's West Banquet Facility
211 S Old Hwy 141
Fenton, MO 63026
[Driving Directions](#)

Dear Kevin,

Please come play with us on **September 23!**

As leaves and temperatures begin to fall, the chance for fun rises at the return of Circle's popular **Harvest Moon Trivia Night** at Andre's West in Fenton.

Besides 10 rounds of challenging trivia, this event features a full Open Bar, plus all the games, raffles and stellar silent auction items you've come to expect from Circle. Fun for all, and all for a good cause - supporting Circle's food pantry and other programs!

WE LISTENED TO YOU! We've limited registration to not be too crowded, but there are still a few tables left. Play for you and your 9 cleverest friends is \$300, or register as an individual for \$30 (did we mention the Open Bar?). Whether you bring a whole team or meet teammates at your table when you arrive, you'll have a fun night (don't forget your favorite carry-in trivia food!) ... with enough softball questions and real brain teasers to keep your whole table happy!

Register today, and we'll see you September 23!

Register Today!

We hope to see you again on September 23!

Nancy Bauer
Circle of Concern
nancy@circleofconcern.org
636-861-2623 x113

Register:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ejdpv7ua27e39f97&oseq=&c=56857d80-2ad0-11e3-aa21-d4ae529a7b12&ch=568ad4b0-2ad0-11e3-aa21-d4ae529a7b12>

**3RD ANNUAL
DRAG
QUEEN
BINGO**

**OCTOBER
15, 2022**

6:30 - 8:30 PM CST

To Benefit the Open & Affirming Ministries of the United Church of Christ & The Christian Church Disciples of Christ

\$25 Registration Fee
Includes 5 Bingo cards
Separate emails needed for each player
<http://www.gatewayona.com/bingo-fundraiser-2022.html>
Register by Wednesday,
October 12, 2022

Hybrid Event:
Zoom or at
Parkway United Church of Christ
2841 N Ballas Rd,
St. Louis, MO 63131

**FEATURING
DESIRE'
DECAYNE**

For addition Information:
Melissa: mhattman@att.net
Shawn: shawnredfern92@gmail.com

<http://www.gatewayona.com/bingo-fundraiser-2022.html>

‘All Are Welcome’ isn’t enough

LGBTQ+* people of faith often experience emotional and spiritual injury in churches that condemn their capacity to love and seek love. Because they’ve learned that “All Are Welcome” usually doesn’t apply to them, they can’t assume that any church will be safe for them and their families.

A public welcome by an Open and Affirming (ONA) church sends a clear message to LGBTQ+ seekers that they have a home in the UCC.

A congregation’s affirmation and support through an ONA covenant can be a life-changing and life-saving experience—especially for LGBTQ+ youth and LGBTQ+ seniors.

A public welcome to LGBTQ+ seekers helps churches grow. When ONA congregations attract new members, many of them are young straight couples starting new families: they identify with the values ONA represents, and want their children to learn the faith in a welcoming church.

By adopting an ONA covenant, a congregation is taking seriously St. Paul’s admonition to “accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” (Romans 15:7, NIV)

* LGBTQ+ is for “lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer.” The word “queer” has often been adopted by people who don’t want to be constrained by the identities of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, especially young people whose gender identity is “nonbinary.” The plus symbol reflects the diversity of sexual and gender identities in the human family.

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, September 14

Celebrations

Kennedy James Lawson - born to **Kelly Shelton & Will Lawson**... big brother Killian and grandparents Karla and Peter.

Matthew Stolze - inducted into the Order of the Arrow (Boy Scouts).

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

Concerns

Polly Rutherford - healing of broken humerus and shoulder after a fall at home...surgery 9/9 - arm immobilized for 3 wks; therapy after 6 wks.

Bart Coleman - healing after successful heart surgery; to rehab soon.

Polly, family/friends of Jim Winkelmann - grieving/giving thanks;

<https://www.kutisfuneralhomes.com/winkelmann-james-allen/>

Steve & Andrea Barnes - interred Steve's brother's ashes this wkend.

Shelton/Lawson family - mourning the sudden death of Will's father.

Kris McKenzie, Linda Tossing, Amy Yakel, Cassie Rosenberger,

Gail Haack's brother and friend - healing after recent surgeries.

All impacted by Covid-19.

Tragic flooding in Pakistan.

Continuing

Ella - healing from major back surgery (teen granddaughter of Biondos).

Patty and mom Estelle - as Patty receives hospice care (Pleis/Eiffert).

Mary Kay McKenzie - unable to communicate (sister of Tom's sister).

Frank Vogel - starting hospice care due to long term kidney disease.

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

Josh - receiving chemo; needs a bone marrow transplant (Tarr)

Sharon - variety of health challenges (Rogers).

Sue Linson - recently diagnosed with leukemia (McKenzie).

Mary Beth Anderson - health challenges; apt break-in (Brueggemann)

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

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

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

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.

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.

St Louis Association UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending September 11 - **St. Luke's UCC**, Imperial;
stlukesuccimperial.org

Week ending September 18 - **St. Mark UCC**, Arnold; stmarkucc.org

Week ending September 25 - **St Louis Association**;
missourimidsouth.org/st-louis-association

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, #166;
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

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.

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 18, 2022

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Prayerful Living

Just Peace Sunday

Michael Neuroth has served for more than a dozen years as the International Policy Advocate at the national United Church of Christ office in Washington, DC. Michael, and his colleagues on this small but mighty staff, are the UCC ear and voice in the nation's capital.

Their work is multiplied by relationships fostered in the Washington Interreligious Staff Community (WISC), an ecumenical group from across a variety of faith traditions. WISC is made up of at least twelve working groups, which find ways to collaborate and let leadership emerge where there is expertise. They follow public policy and give voice in DC to various issues. Michael's leadership on the Peace and Security Working Group and the International Affairs Working Group have been especially valuable.

As we acknowledge the 30th anniversary of the Just Peace resolution this year, everyone in the United Church of Christ can celebrate that identity whether or not they declare the local church a Just Peace church. Just Peace is part of our connection and identity as UCC, since the United Church of Christ was the first denomination to so designate.

On this Just Peace Sunday, local congregations are invited and encouraged to publicly witness and articulate locally what Just Peace means to them as they pray about and act on issues they feel called to in church communities and the world. By celebrating and upholding Just Peace Sunday, you can raise your local profile and also lift up the hard work of our national UCC staff. Just Peace Sunday creates synergy between what we say we are at the national level and who we are at the local level.

According to Michael Neuroth, the work of Just Peace is the work of avoiding conflict and war in the first place. As we look for ways to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, the ecumenism and cooperation that is lived out daily by our staff in the DC office and their colleagues in WISC is one beautiful model for a path forward.