



PARKWAY  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, October 16, 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:** Dan Connors

**Today's flowers** celebrate Maya Cameron's 24<sup>th</sup> birthday today!

**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)

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**Cover photo:** Mona Smith Herberg, Pickle Springs Natural Area, Farmington, Missouri

## 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

10/16 LYONS, Brad & Richards, Courtney (1)

10/19 KLEINE, Kim & Steve (37)

## Birthdays

10/16 CAMERON, Maya

10/19 YANG, Jae

10/17 MOHL, Mike

10/20 OSBORNE, Brandi

10/18 STOLZE, Matthew

10/22 HASLER, Cathy

10/19 OSBORNE, John

# 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, October 16, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

**Meditation** *I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us - and we change things. ~Mother Teresa*

**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** *Andante*—Samuel P. Jackson, arr Carson Cooman, 2017

## Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

**Welcome Song** *Holy Ground* #2272



We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground,  
— and I know that there are an - gels all a -  
round; let us praise  
— Je - sus now; we are  
stand - ing in his pres - ence on ho - ly ground.

**Scripture** Psalm 119:97-104 (CEB – Common English Bible)

I love your instruction! I think about it constantly. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies because it is always with me. I have greater insight than all my teachers because I contemplate your laws. I have more understanding than the elders because I guard your precepts. I haven't set my feet on any evil path so I can make sure to keep your word. I haven't deviated from any of your rules because you are the one who has taught me. Your word is so pleasing to my taste buds—it's sweeter than honey in my mouth! I'm studying your precepts—that's why I hate every false path.

## \*Call to Worship

One: Come. Gather. Be yourself. Build community.

**Many: We come to worship as the people of God.**

One: Come. Listen. Pray. This time here can change you.

**Many: We come to hope, dream and share visions.**

One: Come, for all are welcome in this place.

**Many: No matter who I am, or where I am on life's journey,  
I am welcome here.**

One: While we have led different lives and walked varied paths to get here, we are in this together now.

**Many: We look to Jesus as a model and wait on the movements  
of the Holy Spirit.**

One: Come, gather. Come, listen. Come, you are welcome.

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

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



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, 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 heav'n 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** Richard Rohr

**Holy One, Lord of all creation, lover of life and of everything: help us to love in our very small way what You love infinitely and everywhere. We thank You that we can offer just this one prayer and that will be more than enough, because in reality every thing and every one is connected, and nothing stands alone. To pray for one part is really to pray for the whole, and so we do. Help us each day to stand for love, for healing, for good, for the diverse unity of the Body of Christ and all creation, because we know this is what You desire: as Jesus prayed, that all may be one. We offer our prayer together with all the holy names of God. We offer our prayer together with Christ and the Holy Spirit. 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 the Children's Anthem,

### **Children's Anthem**

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*—Ken Medema, 1973

Offered by the All-New Children's Choir and Joyful Noise! Kinderchimes

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children paying,  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

### **Blessing the Children** *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

**Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.  
Every child in every land, Jesus holds them by the hand.  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

### **Scripture** Luke 18:1-8 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Jesus was telling them a parable about their need to pray continuously and not to be discouraged. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him, asking, 'Give me justice in this case against my adversary.' For a while he refused but finally said to himself, "I don't fear God or respect

people, but I will give this widow justice because she keeps bothering me. Otherwise, there will be no end to her coming here and embarrassing me.” The Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. Won’t God provide justice to the chosen people who cry out day and night? Will God be slow to help them? I tell you, God will give them justice quickly. But when the Human One comes, will he find faithfulness on earth?”

## Moment of Silent Reflection

### Sermon

**A Time of Prayer** *Change My Heart, O God #2152*

**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.**

**Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**

**You are the Potter, I am the clay.**

**Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.**

**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.**

**Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**

## 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.]

## Stewardship Moment

### 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** *Ave Verum (Jesu, Word of God—Mozart)*

**\*Response** *Give Thanks with A Grateful Heart #2036*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a repeat sign with a first ending bracket. The lyrics "Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the" are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics "Ho - ly One, give thanks be - cause he's".

giv-en Je - sus Christ his Son. Give Son. And

now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the

poor say, "I am rich be-cause of what the Lord has

done for us." And us." Give

us." Give thanks!

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Carol Penner

Ever-faithful God, we long to be generous givers, modelling ourselves on you who have given everything to us. May your Spirit of abundance, which gives more than we ask or imagine, grace these gifts for your kindom in Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*Song of Parting** *Song of Hope #432* (v2 written by Evelyn Buretta)

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.



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** Postlude on *Shout On!*—David Lasky

Based on the American Folk Hymn *Shout On*

# Announcements

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

## **TED—Everything Happens for a Reason starting October 25**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays | 6:00pm Potluck | 7:00pm Discussion | Heritage Room  
Please join us for our next Tuesday Evening Dialogue in our first discussion of the book *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler. Please read up to Chapter 8 Restoration or page 126 for the evening's discussion.

Contact Helen Race for more info: [raceh@att.net](mailto:raceh@att.net) | (314) 401-4382

## **Month of Grace + Prayer: A Retreat in Everyday Life**

Pray on your own 20 minutes each day and meet one-on-one with a spiritual companion one hour each week for four consecutive weeks. Starts October 16. Hosted in person at St. John United Church of Christ in St. Charles with a completely virtual option (Zoom or phone if you prefer). In person weekly meetings on Tuesdays (mornings, afternoons or evenings), while virtual meetings on any day and time that is convenient for you. This is an individually directed retreat tailored to your own deep desires. Committed couples also have the option to participate as a couple. All adults are welcome regardless of denomination or affiliation. For more information, visit [www.momentsofgraceandprayer.org](http://www.momentsofgraceandprayer.org) and to register contact Clarence Heller at [clarenceheller@gmail.com](mailto:clarenceheller@gmail.com).

## **Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays | 2:00—3:00pm

Join us October 18, and November 1 as we read *Travel As a Political Act: How to Leave Your Baggage Behind* by Rick Steves. In this illuminating collection of stories and lessons from the road, acclaimed travel writer Rick Steves shares a powerful message that resonates now more than ever. Royalties from the sale of the book are donated to support the work of Bread for the World, a non-partisan organization working to end hunger at home and abroad. Contact Jackie Eiffert: [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto:jeiffert2@gmail.com) | 661-378-6781

**Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMlU4ay9oNndTWw4yZUYwUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 836 7061 7428 | **Passcode:** 480007 | **Dial:** (312) 626-6799

## **We Voted...So Now What? RESULTS Outreach Meeting**

Thu | Nov 17 | 7:00-8:30pm | Heritage Room

Whether your candidates win or lose, you can use your voice to influence members of Congress to fight poverty even after Election Day! Join non-partisan RESULTS volunteers in advocating for improved health, education, and better opportunity in the U.S. and around the world.

Questions/RSVP: [cynthia@Changyit.com](mailto:cynthia@Changyit.com)



## Advent/Christmas thru Mid-January Worship Prep

Sunday, October 23 | 11:15am | Heritage Room  
and Zoom

Gather with us for some worship planning for  
Advent/Christmas thru mid-January. Ponder  
these scripture readings and themes prior to

October 23. Think about hymns, songs, object lessons and whatever else  
comes into your mind and spirit so you are ready for our brainstorming.

**November 27**—Advent One: *Hope*...Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Matthew  
24:36-44; Romans 13:11-14.

**December 4**—Advent Two: *Peace*...Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 27:1-7, 18-19.

**December 11**—Advent Three: *Joy*...8 readings telling the Jesus story  
Hebrew Bible to Gospels - Lessons & Carols.

**December 18**—Advent Four: *Love*...Children/Youth Pageant - Festival  
Lights Around the World (interfaith).

**Saturday, December 24** at 4:30pm and 7:30pm.

**Sunday, December 25**...Luke 2:1-20; Isaiah 9:2-7.

**Sunday, January 1**—*The 12 Days of Christmas*...New Year's Day...Dec 31:  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46;

January 1: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 21:13-23.

**January 8**—*Epiphany* (January 6)...Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43;  
Matthew 3:13-17.

**January 15**—*Baptism of Christ Sunday* ...MLK Bday Weekend...  
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42.

**The WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S** is scheduled for Saturday Oct. 29.

Registration opens at 8:00am | Opening and Promise Garden Ceremony at  
9:30 | Walk to follow in Central Park. Everything is outside. Let's meet at the  
Veteran's Honor Park (by the flags) at 9:00 so we can do this together. Parkway  
Team donations can be made online at the following address.

<https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2022/MO->

[GreaterMissouri?team\\_id=727007&pg=team&fr\\_id=15696](https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2022/MO-GreaterMissouri?team_id=727007&pg=team&fr_id=15696). If you would  
rather, you can give them to Joyce Ruiz and she will send them in. Please  
make checks payable to: Alzheimer's Association.

You can learn more by going to [www.alz.org/help-support/resources](http://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](http://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](http://alz.org) and/or contact PUC's Faith Outreach Ambassador  
with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at [joyceruiz7@gmail.com](mailto:joyceruiz7@gmail.com)



## Jesus has Left the Building 2022 Coming to Parkway!

Sunday, October 30 | 10:00am—12:30pm  
(after a short service) | PUCC

Since October 30, 2022, falls on a fifth Sunday, JHLTB team organizers felt it would be timely to sponsor a Jesus has Left the Building. Some projects are in the church,

going out to support community members. Some are outside the church as you feel comfortable joining. After a brief worship service, we will disperse in the building and in places in the community to do Jesus' work.

Sign up in the Gathering Space or contact the person listed. See you then!

**Sharing our Blessings at Thanksgiving: Circle of Concern's Thanksgiving Boxes** We have already started collecting the items for COC Thanksgiving boxes. We will organize and pack the boxes on October 30, 2022 during JLTB Sunday. The items needed include:

can of pumpkin, jellied cranberry, canned fruit, chicken or vegetable broth (32oz), boxed stuffing mix, boxed mashed potatoes, turkey or chicken gravy (12-18 oz), cornbread muffin mix.

Please drop your items off at church anytime before October 30.

Our 620 client families thank you!

Contact Lana Biondo: [ljbiondo@yahoo.com](mailto:ljbiondo@yahoo.com) | (314) 712-8335



**Trunk or Treat** Sunday, October 30 | 5:00—6:00pm | Parking Lot

It's time for Trunk or Treat! This year we will feature games, hotdogs, popcorn and of course, a costume parade with lots of trunks and treats! If you would like to help, or have questions or suggestions, please contact Gerry Rogers at 314-434-7122 or [gcr123055@gmail.com](mailto:gcr123055@gmail.com) Thank you!

# ONLY place these items in the recycling container



Flattened Cardboard



Paper



Metal Cans



Plastic Bottles & Jugs



Cartons



Glass

## How to prepare your recyclables



**Empty. Clean. Dry.™**  
Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid



**Keep it loose**  
Never put recyclables in containers or bags



## **NEVER place these items in the recycling container**

Plastic Bags & Wrappers  
Soiled Paper  
Styrofoam

Clothing & Shoes  
Greasy Pizza Boxes

Tools  
Food  
Toys

Electronics & Batteries  
Construction Waste

Medical  
Yard Waste  
Diapers  
Scrap Metal

Learn more at  
[RecyclingSimplified.com](http://RecyclingSimplified.com)

Recycling *Simplified*



We'll handle it from here.™

# Prayer List

as of Wednesday, October 12

## Celebrations

**Steele Gustav Posey** - new great-grandbaby for John/Joyce Ruiz.  
**All the acts of kindness, justice and equity near and far.**

## Concerns

**Gail Haack** - home after several days in the hospital after a fall.  
**Family and friends of Bart Coleman** - grieving and giving thanks... plans are being made for a memorial service here in November.  
**Bill Haack** - healing after hospitalization from stones.  
**Janet** - cancer has metastasized to her brain; hospice care (Litzinger).  
**All impacted by Covid-19.**  
**Mary Kay McKenzie** - receiving hospice care (Tom's sister).  
**Ann** - receiving hospice care (aunt of Kris Impastato).  
**Daniel** - rare cancer; additional tests (cousin of Dana Delibovi).  
**Brooke** - that she would find love and start a family of her own.  
**Tragic flooding in Pakistan.**  
**The mistreatment of women in Iran.**  
**All those dealing with aftermath of Hurricanes Ian and Fiona.**  
Those mourning deaths of **soccer fans in Indonesia** two weeks ago.  
**Recent gun violence in Thailand** that took many lives.

## Continuing

**Polly, family/friends of Jim Winkelmann** - grieving/giving thanks; <https://www.kutisfuneralhomes.com/winkelmann-james-allen/>  
**Polly Rutherford** - healing of broken humerus and shoulder.  
**Patty and mom Estelle** - as Patty receives hospice care (Pleis/Eiffert).  
**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.  
**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 October 16 - **Emmaus Homes**; emmaushomes.org

Week ending October 23 - **St Paul's UCC**, Oakville; spu4u.org

## Home-Centered/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.

# 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, October 16, 2022

Luke 18:1-8

**Ask Boldly; Live Justly**

*Children's Sabbath/Laity Sunday*

Holy One,

Today we open our mouths and these words travel from our hearts all the way to Your ear. As we pledge to be a voice for all who are voiceless, we pray also that our words may impel us to action. *Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.*

We pray today for those children who lack safe water to drink. We know that water is life, but for too many, water is poison. We know that water is abundant, but for too many, water must be carried or painfully rationed. *Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.*

We pray today for those children in need of access to medical care. As you healed all whom you touched, make us healers in your name - not only of individuals but of sick health care systems. Use us to ensure that medicines and healthcare are available to all. *Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.*

Today we pray for children in captivity. For those caught up in the swirling storm that is modern-day slavery, for those separated at the border from the parents who only sought a better life for them, for those incarcerated unjustly, we vow to break down walls and fling open doors. *Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.*

We pray for those children who have no home, or whose home is a place of violence. We especially today remember your beloved LGBTQ children, made in Your beautiful image and yet too often cast out of their families and faith traditions in Your name. Open our arms wide, that we might embrace all of your children as we welcome all of them home. *Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.*