





www.parkwayucc.org
Sunday, November 6, 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

Meditation Upon Entering the Historic Sanctuary

Peace be to all who visit this sacred house of God sanctified by years of prayer. Pause awhile...allow the past to speak words of comfort to your soul, then add your prayer to ours before you go forth from the calm of this shelter into the busy world.

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: Dana Delibovi

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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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

11/08 BRUEGGEMANN, Michelle & Brad (14)

Birthdays

11/06 BARNES, Andrea

11/11 BOWERMASTER, Ryan

11/10 SABLEMAN, Lynn

11/12 ADEJOH, Benji

All Saints' Sunday

Sunday, November 6, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation

The day you plant the seed is not the day you eat the fruit. ~unknown

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

Prelude in C Major—Albrecht Rosenstengel (1912-1995), arr.

Carolo Rossini

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song

You Are Welcome Here

Four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: You are wel - come here, no mat - ter who you are, no mat - ter where you are on life's jour - ney. You are wel come here, no mat - ter who you are, come and join with us, in our U - ni - ted Church of Christ.

Introit

Rejoice in God's Saints—music Mary Kay Beall/words Fred Pratt

Green, arr. John Carter

Sung by the First Sunday Choir

Scripture

Ephesians 1:11-23 (CEB – Common English Bible)

We have also received an inheritance in Christ. We were destined by the plan of God, who accomplishes everything according to design. We are called to be an honor to God's glory because we were the first to hope in Christ. You too heard the word of truth in Christ, which is the good news of your salvation. You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit because you believed in Christ. The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance, which is applied toward our redemption as God's own people, resulting in the honor of God's glory.

Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that I don't stop giving thanks to God for you

when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

***Call to Worship** Julia Seymour

One: On this All Saints Day, we remember the countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage through time.

Many: We remember the tender touch of loved ones, the example of heroes, the healing words of comforters, the remarkable acts of fearless ones.

One: We remember the gentle strength of grandparents, the loyalty of friends, the kindness of strangers, the joy of children, the selflessness of parents.

Many: We remember the incredible love of Jesus, the immeasurable blessings of the Spirit, the impact and import of Jesus' words, the sharing of his stories and teachings, the glory of his resurrection shown forth in the lives of his disciples, young and old, dead and living.

One: We remember the articulate and silent, strange and familiar, brilliant and ordinary.

Many: We remember in every time and place the saints of God who have shown us facets of God. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...

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

***Song** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.**

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

***Opening Prayer** *Echoing words from O God Our Help in Ages Past*
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come:

We have gathered in remembrance of days long gone, lives long
given up, telegrams long since read; to continue remembering
through the generations, confident that your faithfulness lasts.

Under the shadow of thy throne your saints have dwelt secure:
We come before you, this day, Lord: recognizing that guns have, in
the past, fallen silent; that agreements were reached and led to
peace; that your present Word to us is one of Life and peace.

Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure:
Help us to put our trust in you, God come among humankind that
we may see in all people your image, that we may follow Christ's
way of serving, that in your security we may risk much for peace.

From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same:
Enable us to discern your way to peaceful living, to strive against
violence to people and to planet, to struggle for justice for all on
this earth, and to combat all that works against your vision of
peace.

Lord, be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home:
Keep us from seeing in violence the answer to deeper ills, Embed
within us a vision of earth more like heaven and give us confidence
that your kingdom shall prevail through Christ, the Prince of
Peace. Amen!

***Response** *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
Spirit of the living God, make us one in love;
humble, caring, selfless, sharing—
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

Children's Time Children will be safely escorted across the street to
Room 12 (Lower Level) and Youth to Room 15 (Lower Level) following this
Children's Time. Meet your child/youth in the Gathering Space after class.

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.

Stewardship Moment Harold Cobb

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 Anthem *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*—Stan Pethel

Based on English folk melody *Forrest Green*

Sung by the First Sunday Choir

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with God's word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed where e'er I turn my eye;
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky?

There's not a plant or flow'r below, but makes your glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow by order from thy throne;
While all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
And ev'rywhere that we can be, you God are present there.

I sing the mighty pow'r of God!

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for all the ways we have been served and graced in the past. We realize how truly blessed we are. Guide us into places where we can be gifts to one another. Fine tune our eyes and ears so we can discern the places where our kindness and compassion are most needed today. Amen.

Scripture Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Israel, listen! Our God is the Lord! Only the Lord!

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength. These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds. Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house and when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are getting up. Tie them on your hand as a sign. They should be on your forehead as a symbol. Write them on your house's doorframes and on your city's gates.

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 *For All the Saints*

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O Blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to God, the Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy One, you nurture us from the past. You have fed us here today. You are already out ahead of us, preparing places of refreshment and empowerment. As we prepare to leave this place, help us to honor the past and forge an even more faithful path. Amen.

*Song of Parting *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

Please come forward during the hymn or after to retrieve the photo(s) of your loved one(s) from the communion table. We grieve and give thanks with you.



1. I sing a song of the saints of God, Pa - tient and
2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, And God's love
3. They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, There are hun - dreds of



brave and true, Who toiled and fought and lived and died
made them strong; And they fol - lowed the right, for Je - sus' sake,
thou - sands still; The world is bright with the joy - ous saints



For the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a
The whole of their good lives long. And one was a
Who love to do. Je - sus' will. You can meet them in



doc - tor, and one was a queen, And one was a shep - herd - ess
sol - dier, and one was a priest, And one was slain by a
school, or in lanes, or at sea, In church, or in trains, or in



on the green: They were all of them saints of
fierce wild beast: And there's not an - y rea - son,
shops, or at tea; For the saints of God are just



God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
no, not the least, Why I should - n't be one too.
folk like me, And I mean to be one too.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Postlude *Variations on Sine Nomine (For All the Saints)*

Based on the hymn tune by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906

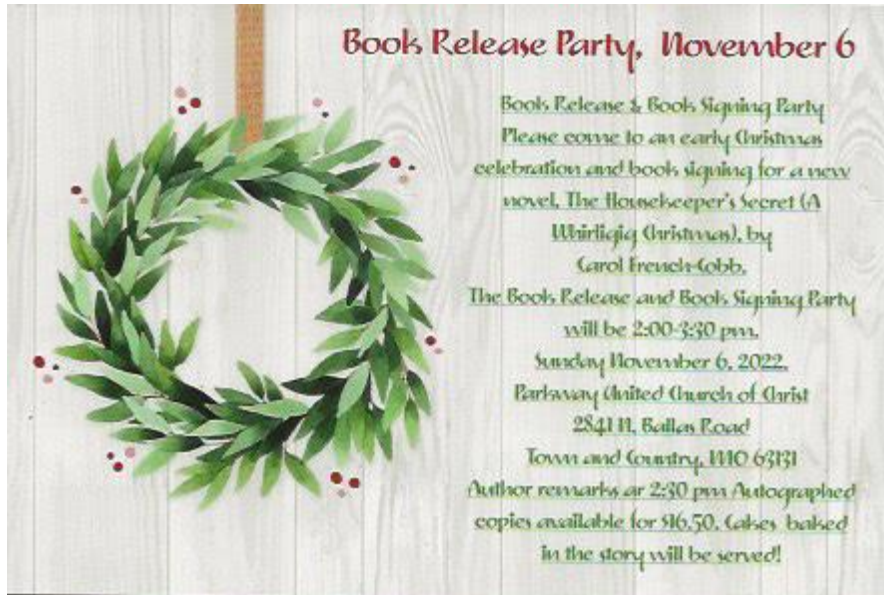
Announcements

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

TODAY! Speaker Series Nov 6—The History of Voting Rights

Select Sundays | 11:15am | Heritage Room & Zoom

Nancy Price, with The League of Women's Voters, is a frequent lecturer on elections and is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Missouri. The League's mission is empowering voters and defending democracy, critical goals in these times of election deniers following the 2020 presidential election. Be an informed voter and attend this timely, important presentation.

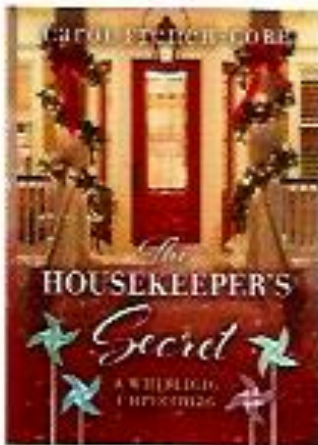


Book Release Party, November 6

Book Release & Book Signing Party
Please come to an early Christmas celebration and book signing for a new novel, The Housekeeper's Secret (A Whirligig Christmas), by Carol French Cobb.

The Book Release and Book Signing Party will be 2:00-3:30 pm, Sunday November 6, 2022.
Parkway United Church of Christ
2841 N. Bolles Road
Town and Country, MO 63131

Author remarks at 2:30 pm. Autographed copies available for \$16.50. Cakes baked in the story will be served!



The Housekeeper's Secret is a love letter to the people of the Midwest who show compassion and kindness to strangers. The story is for those readers who love to curl up in a comfy chair with a warm drink and read! The book is also available on Amazon.com.

Circle of Concern Thanksgiving Boxes

During JLTB we packed 101 Thanksgiving boxes for Circle of Concern clients. By November 11, we need 49 more! Thanks to all who have contributed items thus far. If parishioners can donate a few more items, we can reach our goal! Our needed items include: carton of chicken broth, box of stuffing, box of mashed potatoes, can of pumpkin, can of jellied cranberries, jar of gravy, corn muffin mix, and can of fruit. Thank you friends! The 650 clients at Circle will be so grateful! ~Lana Biondo

Thank You for a Successful Trunk or Treat

We would like to thank everyone who participated in Trunk or Treat. From the beautifully decorated trunks and other festive decorations and signs, to the creative games, crafts, and facepainting, to the yummy treats, it was a rousing success! Of course, what made the event so successful was You. Each and every one of you who participated did so with a smile, willingness to do anything to help, and tons of energy! What a great group! We are indeed a Community Outreach Church! Thanks again!

God Bless, Gerry and Mike Rogers

TED—Everything Happens for a Reason - November 8

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

Please join us for our next Tuesday Evening Dialogue in our concluding discussion of the book *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler. We will also be choosing our next book selection. Newcomers are always welcome! Contact Helen Race for more info:

raceh@att.net | (314) 401-4382

TAD Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue – November 15

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 2:00—3:00pm

Please join us as we read *Litany of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life* by Tish Harrison Warren. "In the overlooked moments and routines of our day, we can become aware of God's presence in surprising ways. How do we embrace the sacred in the ordinary and the ordinary in the sacred? Each chapter looks at something—making the bed, brushing her teeth, losing her keys—that the author does every day. Come and discover the holiness of your every day." Contact Jackie Eiffert: 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

ATOMIC HOMEFRONT Coldwater Creek, Bridgeton, MO

Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE) sponsored documentary
Presented by Citizens of Coldwater Creek

Thursday, November 10 | 6:30pm | Westport Playhouse

You're invited to our upcoming screening of *Atomic Homefront*, which documents the citizens of Coldwater Creek in Bridgeton, Missouri who want answers about the radioactive waste dumped in neighborhood landfills. The screening will take place at Westport Playhouse. Doors open at 6:30PM, screening begins at 7PM. Carpool is in the works. Ask us about it.

Contact Polly Rutherford | pollyrutherford@gmail.com | (636) 532-8118

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

Christmas Gifts for Children—Every Child's Hope

Parkway UCC Adopting two families for Christmas

Parkway UCC has again volunteered to adopt two families; this year, two Foster families. The ECH Parkway Team will have the children's wishes on SignUpGenius soon, and you can choose a child or more to support. The gifts can be brought to church any Sunday before Dec. 4, earlier if possible. This is such a good time to spread a little cheer. Carol Cobb and Laura Waite: cjcobb@aol.com | (314) 640-8166

A Grief Ritual ~unknown

I'd like to ask you to do something sacred with me now - close your eyes and welcome them. Picture a sweet moment with someone you've loved and lost. Try to picture them beside you. Look into their eyes. Let time stop. Just schmooze with them. See what they're wearing. Can you see their smile?

Take their hand and just sit in silence. Breathe in. See if you can remember their smell.

Just share a moment in eternity with them.

Remember a lesson they taught you.

When you're ready ask for your blessing. And now offer them your blessing.

Tell them what they meant to you, what you're grateful for. What they taught you. What you will always carry with you.

I offer you a memorial prayer that I wrote. It is a conversation you can have with someone you've loved and lost. Bless them and may their blessings shine upon you always.

I haven't forgotten you, even though it's been some time now since I've seen your face, touched your hand, heard your voice. You are with me all the time.

I used to think you left me. I know better now. You come to me. Sometimes in fleeting moments I feel your presence close by. But I still miss you. And nothing --- no power, no person, no joy, no accomplishment, no distraction, not even God -- can fill the gaping hole your absence has left in my life.

But mixed together with all my sadness, there is great joy for having known you. I want to thank you for the time we shared, for the love you gave, for the wisdom you spread.

Thank you for the magnificent moments and for the ordinary ones too. There was beauty in our simplicity. Holiness in our unspectacular days. And I will carry the lessons you taught me always.

Your life has ended, but your light can never be extinguished. It continues to shine upon me even on the darkest nights and illuminates my way.

I light this candle in your honor and in your memory.

Grief

It is perfectly okay to admit you're not okay. – Unknown

The pain of grief is just as much a part of life as the joy of love; it is, perhaps, the price we pay for love, the cost of commitment. – Colin Murray Parkes

We bereaved are not alone. We belong to the largest company in all the world – the company of those who have known suffering. – Helen Keller

Stop punishing yourself for being someone with a heart. You cannot protect yourself from suffering. To live is to grieve. You are not protecting yourself by shutting yourself off from the world. You are limiting yourself. – Leigh Bardugo

Everyone grieves in different ways. For some, it could take longer or shorter. I do know it never disappears. An ember still smolders inside me. Most days, I don't notice it, but, out of the blue, it'll flare to life. – Maria V. Snyder

The reality is that you will grieve forever. You will not 'get over' the loss of a loved one; you will learn to live with it. You will heal and you will rebuild yourself around the loss you have suffered. You will be whole again but you will never be the same. Nor should you be the same nor would you want to" – Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

You will lose someone you can't live without, and your heart will be badly broken, and the bad news is that you never completely get over the loss of your beloved. But this is also the good news. They live forever in your broken heart that doesn't seal back up. And you come through. It's like having a broken leg that never heals perfectly – that still hurts when the weather gets cold, but you learn to dance with the limp. – Anne Lamott

Grief is a most peculiar thing; we're so helpless in the face of it. It's like a window that will simply open of its own accord. The room grows cold, and we can do nothing but shiver. But it opens a little less each time, and a little less; and one day we wonder what has become of it. – Arthur Golden

Your memory feels like home to me. So whenever my mind wanders, it always finds its way back to you. – Ranata Suzuki

No one is immune to grief. There are those amongst us today who have grieved deeply in the past, and there are those who are grieving deeply now and sadly. All of us will grieve at some time in the future. – Lorraine Kember

Where you used to be, there is a hole in the world, which I find myself constantly walking around in the daytime, and falling in at night. I miss you like hell. – Edna St. Vincent Millay

The whole world can become the enemy when you lose what you love. – Kristina McMorris

"You'll get over it." It's the clichés that cause the trouble. To lose someone you love is to alter your life forever. You don't get over it because "it" is the person you loved. The pain stops, there are new people, but the gap never closes. How could it? This hole in my heart is in the shape of you and no-one else can fit it. Why would I want them to? – Jeanette Winterson

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Celebrations

Daniel - cancer free; home again and doing ok (Delibovi).

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

Connie & Dan Burkhardt - received The Lewis Green Environmental Service Award in appreciation of their role as founders of the Katy Land Trust & Co-Founders of Magnificent Missouri and for their exceptional Leadership to Preserve the Last 100 Miles of the Missouri River Valley.

Concerns

Ross Livengood - healing after last week's hip surgery.

Dusty & Lin - baby born with heart defect... major surgery soon (Yakel).

Edwin & Maria - his cancer returned; thought he was cured (Runtz).

Jackie Kramme as her 100 year old parents deal with Covid and more.

David Smith - health concerns; resident at *Anthology Senior Living*, Town & Country (father of Deb Carter).

Miltenberger Family as they celebrate Sharon's life next wk in Florida.

Russan Family - grieving after car accident death (Davidson).

CVPA and STL Community in aftermath of deadly school shooting.

The tragic deaths of 150+ people in party crowd in S. Korea.

All impacted by Covid-19.

Continuing

Family and friends of Bart Coleman - grieving and giving thanks...

visitation & memorial service here on Monday morning, November 21.

<https://www.schrader.com/obituary/bart-coleman-jr>

Doris McCarter - healing after recent hip surgery.

Gail, Bill and Christopher Haack - chronic health challenges.

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)

Mary Kay McKenzie - receiving hospice care (Tom's sister).

Daniel - rare cancer; additional tests (cousin of Dana Delibovi).

Brooke - that she would find love and start a family of her own.

Val - strength and patience (Jim Winkelmann's 101 year-old mother).

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 November 6 - **St. Philip's UCC**, St. Louis; stphilipsucc.com

Week ending November 13 - **St Thomas UCC**, Chesterfield; stthomasucc.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.

PUCF 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.

22nd Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, November 6, 2022

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Hold on to Faith

It's been almost a week since we celebrated Halloween. You might know Halloween as a day for trick-or-treating, costumes and kids' parties. But did you know that it started as a holy day? In fact, the root word of Halloween (hallow) means holy. The ending of the word, "een" is short for "evening." Halloween is the eve of the Christian holiday of All Saints Day.

Traditionally, Halloween was the day to defy death, to shout to evil, "Our God is greater and we are not afraid of you!" Centuries ago, Celtic people gathered on this day around bonfires, wore costumes and enacted battles between forces of good and evil. Some of the rituals we still follow today, like scary costumes and jack-o-lanterns, continue that tradition.

All Saints Day, officially on November 1 but often celebrated in United Church of Christ congregations on the first Sunday in November, is a day to remember and honor saintly people in the past. On this day, we might recall those people in our congregation, family or wider church community who have had an impact on the world in God's name. The following day, November 2, is officially All Souls Day. On this day, we honor everyone who has passed away, especially those who lived ordinary lives which did not garner recognition like the Saints. Many churches combine All Saints and All Souls celebrations as a reminder that God welcomes all into the tender arms of love and mercy in the life that is to come.

However you celebrated this week, or continued in your worship today, this week is a powerful one that can in many ways mirror the entire Christian journey. Beginning with the ancient rituals of Halloween, you have had the chance to look death in the face and proclaim that you are not afraid, because you know that the eternal life God promises is stronger than death. Then, on All Saints Day, you recognize the power of those whose connection to God is especially visible. Finally, on All Souls Day, you celebrate a God whose love encompasses all, now and into eternity. Thanks be to God!