



Joy



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, December 11, 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 flowers: Val Detjen in memory of Paula

Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer. A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop work and join in prayer.

Cover art Mona Herberg

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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

12/12 OWENS, William & Pat (58)

Birthdays

12/11 FAGERBERG, Roger

12/14 WAITE, Henry

12/12 OWENS, William

12/15 ROGERS, Mike

12/13 YAKEL, Amy

12/17 SABLEMAN, Brian

3rd Sunday of Advent: *Joy*

Sunday, December 11, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation

Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy. ~Thich Nhat Hanh

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Passing the Joy of Christ

“May the joy of Christ be with you.”

(We are intentional about bringing more joy into the world.)

Prelude *Savior of the Nations, Come*—Setting Albert Beck

Based on the plainsong melody Eyn Enchiridon, (Erfurt, 1524)

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Choral Introit *Gathered Here*

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir

Gathered here, in the mystery of the hour. Gathered here in one strong body.

Gathered here in the struggle and the power. Spirit, draw near.

Gathering at the Advent Wreath: Joy

One: Luke 1:46b–53

Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God our Savior! Holy mercy is for those who honor God from generation to generation! God has shown strength and has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.”

Many: This is the Candle of Joy.

One: May we become people of bubbling, contagious, expanding Joy.

All: Come, Jesus, with your light of joy.

*Response *Light One Candle*—Yiddish Folk Song/arr. James L Wold



1. Light one can-dle to wait for our Je sus; let the joy ban-ish dark-ness.



Lift your heads and o - pen the ga-te way. Let your light be shin - ing.

Children's Time Children are invited to Room 12 (Lower Level) and Youth to Room 15 (Lower Level) following this Children's Time. Please meet your child/youth in the Gathering Space just outside the Sanctuary after worship - as the teachers will bring them there after class.

Blessing the Children *Be Near Me, Lord Jesus*

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And teach us, dear Jesus, to laugh and to share.**

Softly Shout for Joy! George Stuart

When beauty casts its glow, When children play in snow
I softly shout for joy!
When students get to know, When trees, unnoticed, grow
I softly shout for joy!

If rich folk wish to share, If people show they care
I softly shout for joy!
If discipline is fair; If hope grows from despair
I softly shout for joy!

When nations can agree, Or use diplomacy
I softly shout for joy!
When governments can see That people should be free
I softly shout for joy!

If stubborn tyrants bend, If different races blend,
I softly shout for joy!
If outcasts find a friend If broken friendships mend
I softly shout for joy.

When God is clearly found In everything around
I softly shout for joy!
Together we are bound In love that's quite profound
And so I shout for joy!

Carol *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* —arr. Lloyd Larson

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir & Hand Chimes

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until...the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Arrangement based on the 12th Century Latin hymn Veni Emmanuel

1st Lesson Genesis 3:8-15 | Alice Stifel

In the Garden of Eden, God tells Adam that the serpent will be punished.

They heard the sound of the God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the couple hid themselves from the presence of God among the trees of the garden. But God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was

afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” Then God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Carol *God Walked in Eden’s Garden Fair*

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir & Hand Chimes

God walked in Eden’s Garden fair, such beauty there none could compare
It soon became a place of shame; there Adam’s sin disowned God’s name.

A world of peace was swept away when Adam chose to disobey.

Like Adam, here we sometimes fall when we refuse to hear God’s call.

The tale of Adam is our own. Like him we see God’s love made known;

Yet when we fail and go our way, the Holy One hears when we pray.

original material by Hal H. Hopson, based on Conditor Alme Siderium

2nd Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7 | Rick Lindner

The prophet Isaiah foretells the birth of Christ.

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

Carol *Advent Verse—arr. Deborah Governor*

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir

Alleluia, Alleluia!

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and call his name Emmanuel.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Allelu! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Based on Veni Emmanuel

3rd Lesson Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9 Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7 | Jeff Downing

Isaiah speaks of the peace that Christ will bring to the world.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the

leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Song #2171—*Make Me A Channel of Your Peace* (blue songbook)



1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
 2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
 4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. _____ Where
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. _____ Where
 is in par-don - ing that we are par - doned, _____ in



there is in - ju - ry, your par-don, Lord, _____ and
 there is dark - ness, _____ on - ly light, _____ and
 giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, _____ and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you. _____
 where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy. _____
 dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life. _____

3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek _____ so
 much to be con-soled as to con-sole. _____ To be
 un-der-stood as to un-der-stand, _____ to be
 loved as to love with all my soul. _____ D.C.

4th Lesson Luke 1:26-38 | Angie Downing

The Angel Gabriel appears to the Virgin Mary.

On the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn #16—*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* (red hymnal)

1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
2. "For know a bless - ed moth - er you shall be, All
3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, "To
4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born In

wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
 gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly, Your
 me be as it pleas - es God," she said, "My
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And
 hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,"
 Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told." Most
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:
 high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!

Carol *The Nativity (according to Luke 2: 1-14)* —by J.H.F. Hoelter

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir

5th Lesson Luke 2:1, 3-7 | Kevin Cameron

The birth of Jesus is described by Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol *Only a Baby Came*—by Natalie Sleeth

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir

They waited for a king with crown of gold, to save the world as was foretold,
 A Sov'reign wise, a ruler bold, But only a baby came.

They waited for a prince to gain the throne, a Savior sent by God alone,
 The one with kingdom yet unknown, But only a baby came.

'Twas but a babe who came that night, the wonder to proclaim;
 With brightest star to shed it's light and set the world a-flame!

They waited for a word of truth divine, a heav'nly dove, a sacred sign,
 A living branch from Jesse's line, But only a baby came.

Only a babe to bear the shame. Only a babe with Love his name,
 Only a lowly, Holy baby came.

6th Lesson Luke 2:8-16 | Evelyn Buretta

The shepherds journey to the manger.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Choral Reading/Hymn Introduction *In the Judean Hills—*

Music by Joseph M. Martin, narration by Pamela Martin

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir

The birth of Jesus is replete with contrasts. The Christ Child, sent from the riches of heaven, is born into the household of a poor carpenter. Though He possesses the universe, no one grants Him shelter, and He laid in a manger.

The Bread of Life...laid to sleep in a feeding trough.

And although He was long-awaited, His birth would go unnoticed were it not for a chorus of angels rousing shepherds from their slumber. Terrified at first, the shepherds are awe-struck by the sight and sound of the heavenly beings.

Against a backdrop of dazzling light, their unearthly singing is a call to joy, their wings stirring up an infectious rhythm. Captivated by the song, the shepherds are led in a jubilant rush towards the stable.

Unexpectedly, these tenders of sheep dance into the very presence of God’s own Lamb.

Hymn #23— *Angels We Have Heard on High* (red hymnal)



1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3. Come to Beth-le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun-tains in re - ply Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav - en - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - ri - a
ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

7th Lesson Matthew 2:1-11 | Molly Grisham

Three wise men follow the star and are led to Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Mission Moment 2nd Mile Advent Lana Biondo

Circle of Concern, Emmaus Homes, The Christmas Fund

Offering Our Gifts to God

Carol *Hosanna*—by Allen Pote

Based on Isaiah 40:21, 28, 31

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told to you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

They that wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.
They shall mount up with wings like eagles.
They shall run, and not be weary.
They shall walk, and not faint.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

*Response

**Praise God whose many names abound;
Our Joy, our Rock, Our Holy Ground,
Our Home, our All, Earth's Majesty,
Love, Spirit, Light and Mystery. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One here—and not yet here—we are grateful for the gift of Your love, which is beyond our understanding. Thank You for the glimpses of You and the ability to share You with others. May these gifts be expressions of our gratitude. Let them link us with You, with each other, and with the world you hold in Your peace embrace. May these gifts be messages of hope and beacons of light against the darkness in our world. May they even bring joy! Amen.

8th Lesson John 1:1-5, 10-12, 14 | Kathleen Tarr

John unfolds the mystery of Christ's birth.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, and the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of God's only son, full of grace and truth.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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

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

Hymn *Go Now in Peace* (sung in rounds: watch for directions)



Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of



God sur-round you ev-ery-where, ev-ery- where you may go.

Postlude

Improvisations on *Bereden Väg För Herran* (Prepare the Way, O Zion)

Original melody published 1697

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: *Ways to look at the Supreme Court—guidance to help lay people understand Supreme Court decisions and trends by Mark Sableman*

Sunday, December 11 | 11:15am | Heritage Room & Zoom

PUCCEr Mark Sableman will discuss these issues: Why we really can't expect the Court to be a "balls and strikes" umpire. Is it all about views of presidential power? What are originalism and literalism theories? What is the progressive alternative to originalism and literalism?

In addition, Mark will analyze First Amendment trends in which we have increasingly seen the court turn away from precedents, which gave speech rights to protect minorities and dissidents, to new doctrines that grant free speech rights to the wealthy, even allowing them to be used to beat down minorities and dissidents. There is a similar trend in freedom of religion, away from interpretations of the establishment clause, which protect minorities, to interpretations of the free exercise clause, which exempts adherents to majority religions from basic social rules like non-discrimination.

Finally, who is Samuel Alito and can he and others of his persuasion be neutralized by "court packing?"

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwD0EzV0VHV1lyQT09>

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

Videographers/Photographers Needed

Do you have a phone or a camera? If so, you are exactly who we need. We are looking for more photos and videos of PUCC events and this Christmas season is a great opportunity to record and share who we are and what we are about: Volunteering at the food bank, caroling, the Christmas children's musical, Christmas Eve services, Twelfth Night, creche display, AWOL, Youth events... Currently, we are especially interested in the children's musical, *Festival of Lights Around the World*, which will be held during our Dec 18 morning worship service.

Landscape photos and videos preferred, but we are happy to accept any dimensions. Please selectively edit the amount of photos you send (e.g. 3 images as opposed to 25 images). Very short video clips also preferred (less than a minute). Again, if you are unable to edit or clip your video, please share anyway. If you have any photos/videos of recent PUCC events, let us know. We will have a shared drive for uploads OR you can send us a link if you have posted on social media. Photos and videos will be shared on social media and our website. Questions? mona@parkwayucc.org

Photos/Videos: Please be aware that our worship services are video recorded, streamed live on Facebook Live, and made available for later viewing through that service.

Photos should generally not be taken of children in church except as part of organized activities and programs, and any requests of children or their parents or guardians should be respected. Please be respectful of privacy and mindful that this is a safe and sacred space for all who enter.

Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24 In-person and Facebook Live 4:30pm Family Friendly Worship—A lively and spirited service with Nativity scriptures, carols and contemporary reflections. We will sing *Silent Night* by candlelight as we prepare to go out into this holy night.

7:30pm Candlelight & Communion—This traditional service includes the Christmas Gospel, choir and carols as we ponder what this love story means for us today. We will share Communion at our open table and sing *Silent Night* by candlelight.

Volunteering at St Louis Area Food Bank

Monday, December 12 | 11:15am – 2:45pm

[St Louis Area Food Bank](#) | 70 Corporate Woods Dr, Bridgeton MO 63044

The St. Louis Area Foodbank is looking for more volunteers this season.

Consider being one of five people to accompany Kevin for the 12-2pm shift.

We will be sorting and packaging food in their Repackaging Center. This is an indoor event. This can include building food boxes for senior citizens, sorting food drive donations, packaging produce into individual family size portions, etc. Please note that volunteers will be on their feet for the majority of their shift. Please wear closed toe shoes and dress comfortably.

Let kevin@parkwayucc.org know that you would like to come so we can get you officially signed up with the Food Bank.

Tuesday Evening Dialogue December 13

Please join us on Tuesday Dec 13 for our last TED session before Christmas. No pre-reading required for this unique evening as we talk about the origins of Christmas in the Christian faith and compare the Christmas story from the four Gospels in the Bible. We will also be choosing our next book to read. Potluck starts at 6pm followed by discussion at 7pm. Newcomers are always welcome to come! Contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net | (314) 401-4382

Christmas Caroling Sat, Dec 17 | 1:00-4:00pm

Spread the Christmas Spirit with us! Christmas Caroling to church members and friends—Meet at church to warm up, grab some jingle bells and head out on our adventure. We will be going to homes and care centers. Please bring a mask. This is one of the most important things a church does each year—a tangible expression of love and commitment. Please join us! Questions? kevin@parkwayucc.org

Church School Theme: Festival of Lights around the World

This year's program takes us on a journey around the world to explore the many ways people celebrate during these holiday months. We'll learn about the traditions of Diwali, Bodhi Day, Tree of Lights, Las Posadas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, the Advent Wreath, the Christmas Tree, and the Creche. The children and youth are spending Church School time designing scenery, learning songs, practicing speaking parts and choosing costumes. We hope your child/children will be able to participate in this wonderful program!

Events and Dates to Remember

Dress Rehearsal on December 17, 9:30-11:00am—all children and youth
Program on December 18, during worship—all children and youth
Christmas Eve services (see separate announcement)
No Church School Class on Christmas Day or New Year's Day
Regular classes resume January 8, 2023

Dec 18 Speaker Series: *Lending a Hand and Making a Difference; Parkway's Efforts to Help One Afghan Family*

Presented by Lisa Mason and Paige Penico

Sunday, December 11 | 11:15am | Heritage Room & Zoom

Large-scale evacuations of vulnerable Afghan citizens took place amid the withdrawal of US and NATO forces during the final days of the war in Afghanistan in 2021. The evacuation operations were one of the largest airlifts in history. Between 14 and 25 August, the US evacuated about 82,300 people from Hamid Karzai International Airport. Many made their way to St. Louis, creating an extraordinary need and opportunity for Parkway and others to help settle these refugees. Leading our effort have been Lisa Mason and Paige Penico, who will update us on their efforts and the stories behind those efforts. We are grateful for their amazing and committed service.

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURyWURLNmkw0EzV0VHV1IyQT09>

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

Creches on Display

Share a nativity scene with the congregation anytime after worship on Sunday, December 18 through Monday morning. Tables are set up around the sanctuary for you to display any number of creches. No one will touch them as they enjoy them with their eyes and spirits! There are note cards and tape for you to affix to the table in front of your nativity set with your name and anything else you might want to share about that particular creche. Please retrieve your creche(s) anytime after noon on Friday, December 23. Questions? Speak with kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-330-0629

Jazz Noel: The Light Returns

Sunday, December 18, 2022 @3:00pm | First Congregational Church of Webster Groves | 10 West Lockwood Avenue | Webster Groves, MO

Jazz Noel at First Church Jazz Noel is back! After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, our annual Jazz Noel concert will be held once again with the theme, *The Return of the Light*. This will be most appropriate commemorating the birth of the Light of the world, the hope of the winter solstice, and the return of our beloved jazz event led by the Oikos Ensemble. *The Return of the Light* will feature Christmas carols with a jazz twist, dance artistry, and creative interpretation by the Logos Readers. If you would like to help support this year's Jazz Noel production, please contact Rev Cliff Aerie (cliff.aerie@gmail.com) for further information about being a donor. Jazz Noel is a Christmas gift to the community and the offering received is used for local mission. Jazz Noel is a program for all ages. A wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season.

Rogers Christmas Open House

Sunday, Dec 25 | 2:00-5:00pm | 12465 Dawn Hill Drive, Maryland Hts, MO

If you are free on Christmas afternoon, stop by our home anytime between 2 and 5pm for fellowship and food! No need to bring anything, just yourselves! RSVP nice but not necessary. ~Gerry & Mike Rogers: gcr123055@gmail.com 314 434 7122

Twelfth Night Feast & Choral Festival

Thursday evening January 5th, 2023 – 6:30pm-8:30pm here at Parkway UCC

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! Mark your calendars now to attend this wrap-up of the Christmas Season. Multiple choirs, food and FUN! Loosely modeled after the ancient English tradition, we did it very successfully just before the Covid lock-down; after 3 years we're re-starting the tradition! The "Festival" music starts at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary featuring several choirs and musicians, with the "Feast" starting at 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. **FREE ADMISSION, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**, so bring your friends and family. We just ask that everyone bring one plate of "heavy hors-d'oeuvres" (about 12 portions) to share for the Feasting Table. Drinks (including non-alcoholic "wassail" punch) provided. Any questions, contact Music Director Barry: barry@parkwayucc.org **COME ONE, COME ALL to help wind up this Christmas Season!**

Thank You, Parkway: St Louis Metro Area Crop Walk 2022

The totals for the St Louis Metro Area Crop Walk on October 2, 2022 have been tabulated. A total of \$13,000.00 was raised by local St Louis participants. Parkway and its committed team raised \$1755.00. Thank you, Parkway, for your generosity and support of efforts to end hunger, provide education, and lend support for causes both in the USA and abroad...One step at a time. ~Sue Moellering and Pam Manning, Parkway's team leaders

2023 Pledge Campaign

Did you lose your pledge card? Did you forget your pledge card? Or did the dog chew it up? No problem. We have more, and there's still time. Extra pledge cards are in the Gathering Space, or you can pledge online—<https://parkwayucc.org/giving/pledge/> Thank you for your support. Questions? Contact Harold Cobb: cjccobb@aol.com | (314) 965-4147 ~The Stewardship Commission.

PUCG Year-End Contributions

Council and the Stewardship Commission thank everyone in the congregation for their strong financial support for the church. As we near the end of the calendar year (which is the church's fiscal year), we ask members and supporters to remember to catch up on pledges, and to consider any further year-end contributions.

In addition to our annual needs, Council has recently learned that significant roof repairs must be made to Fellowship Hall, a major non-budgeted expenditure. Council is currently looking at funding plans and sources, but we can assure everyone that any year-end gifts will be put to good use. You can designate special year-end gifts for a special purpose, or allow them to be used where needed most.

For those of you who are taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from an Individual Retirement Account or other tax-deferred account, please consider a direct gift to the church from your retirement account; such gifts will count toward your annual RMD obligation, but will not count as taxable income.

Finally, as we announced in October, we encourage everyone to consider helping Parkway in the longer term, through planned giving. Our long-time and much-beloved member Ruth Murray set the example for this, by leaving us a gift in her will. That gift became the seed money for our new audio-visual system.

The year end is sometimes a time for long-term thinking, and as you think ahead, we hope you will consider following Ruth's example. Bequests in wills, gifts of appreciated stock, and gifts from Individual Retirement Accounts can all greatly benefit the church and its mission, while providing tax or other benefits to the donors. Even giving a small percentage of your estate, such as 5 or 10 percent, will help ensure that Parkway's mission will continue to aid many people in the future, while still allowing you to provide fully for your heirs.

Thank you! ~Mark Sableman | 314 602-6103 | msableman@outlook.com

December 2022 Alzheimer's News

As a follow-up from our October 2022 Alzheimer's News, this past week researchers gathered in San Francisco. Data from the Phase 3 global clinical trial of lecanemab confirmed this treatment changes the course of the disease in a meaningful way for people in the earliest stages of Alzheimer's Disease.

The Alzheimer's Association has called for the Food and Drug administration's (FDA) accelerated approval of lecanemab and for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to revise its coverage policy with the utmost urgency.

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 PUC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at joyceruiz7@gmail.com

Prayer List as of December 7, 2022

Celebrations

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

Advent! Try these brief daily Taize services with our UCC family

<https://www.youtube.com/@theopenandaffirmingcoalition/streams>

Register here for these free meditation times:

https://openandaffirming.networkforgood.com/events/40218-taiz-morning-prayer-with-the-ona-family-on-zoom?utm_campaign=dms_email_blast_2215266

Concerns

Schulenburgs as Kaylyn & David's *Milo William* born 11-30 is in NICU.

Brussee/Dario/Race Family as Skyler & Justin welcomed **Jace** 11/2; strengthening in NICU - no longer on oxygen; oral feedings going well.

Doug and Val Detjen - preparing for his hip surgery on December 16.

All impacted by Covid-19.

Families grieving at the holidays.

Talk4Tyler - Mental Health Awareness Night at Parkway Central High.

Continuing

Joan Biest - after a season of better health and wonderful family time at two grandchildren's weddings, she has several health concerns again.

Alice - healing after recent surgery (sister of Ellie Svenson).

Edwin & Maria - his cancer returned; thought he was cured (Runtz).
Angie - recent diagnosis of stage 2 Hodgkin's Lymphoma (Rosenberger).
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)
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 December 4 - **St Martin UCC**, Dittmer;
smartinucc-hr.com

Week ending December 11 - **Ivy Chapel UCC**, Chesterfield; ivychapel.org

Week ending December 18 - **Mt Tabor UCC**, St Louis – closed in October 2021... we pray the members are at home in new faith families.

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]

Glady Sims - *Friendship Village - 15200 Village View Dr, #2418*;
Chesterfield, MO 63017; 636-898-8873 [birthdate: July 4]

David Smith - *Anthology of Town & Country*; 1020 Woods Mill Rd;
#310; St Louis, MO 63017; 636-200-5076 [birthdate: July 24]
(Father of Deb Carter).

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]

3rd Sunday of Advent: *Joy*

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Luke 1:46b-55

Heartbeat of Justice

On this third Sunday of Advent, we hear the stirring words known as the Magnificat spoken by the mother of Jesus, Mary. Through her words, Mary paves the way for the ministry of Jesus. His life is a reflection of her teaching and vision as found in the song she sings today. Although Mary is such an important person in our faith story, there is but one United Church of Christ community that carries the name of Mary, St. Mary's United Church of Christ in Westminster, Maryland. The origins of the name are lost to time, but the legacy of the name is a long one.

The area around Silver Run was settled predominantly by Germans who made their way across the Atlantic Ocean to Philadelphia and then south to the rich fertile land of this vicinity....There are still families in this congregation whose roots go back to these early residents of the Silver Run area in the mid 1700's.

A union agreement between a Reformed and Lutheran congregation dated 31 May 1762 is the earliest contemporary record of the congregation. That document states clearly that a church was already standing, and that it was named Saint Mary's. Even the German documents from the eighteenth century are unanimous in calling the church Saint Mary's, and not *St. Maria* or *die Marienkirche*, German forms by which both Protestant and Catholic churches dedicated to the mother of Jesus are known.

The first church building in place by May of 1762 was most likely a log structure covered with clapboard siding and hardly to be distinguished on the outside from the modest first-generation residences of the area. Nearly sixty years later the cornerstone was placed on a new structure. Among Pennsylvania Germans a church was usually not consecrated until it was both finished and paid for. It was on this occasion that a name was given to the building. One pastor usually was given the honor of selecting the name and of announcing it as a surprise during the consecration ceremonies. Names thus selected did not always "take", however, and local nicknames could prevail instead. In the case of St. Mary's church, the name of the circa 1762 building was automatically applied to the new one.

Three hundred years later, the name still sticks.

Information adapted from:

<https://www.germanmarylanders.org/churches/st-marys-united-church-of-christ-silver-run>