



Love



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Contents

- 3 Birthdays
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 10 Announcements
- 14 Prayer List

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

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

Linda Tossing, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org]

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

Barry Luedloff, *Music Director* [barry@parkwayucc.org]

Mona Smith Herberg, *Office Administrator* [mona@parkwayucc.org]

Kathy Ferrell, *Office Assistant* [kathy@parkwayucc.org]

John Dwyer, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]

Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [dawn@parkwayucc.org]

Julie Connors, *Nursery* [juliestl1992@yahoo.com]

Kim Livengood, *Church Historian* [historian@parkwayucc.org]

Joyce Ruiz, *Alzheimer’s Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador* [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com]

Polly Rutherford, *Environmental Justice/Sustainability Seekers* [pollyrutherford@gmail.com]

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: Pam Owens & Grant Doty at their anniversary.

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

Subscribe to our email lists: Text your email address to 22828 or sign up at www.parkwayucc.org

All word and service music reprint permission covered under CLLI License #2464265; CLLI Streaming License #21357331

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

- 12/22 OWENS, Pamela & Grant Doty (33)
12/23 CAMERON, Kevin & Carmen Bumgarner (27)

Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 12/18 JONES, Daniel | 12/20 YAKEL, Alison |
| 12/18 JONES, Mikey | 12/21 DAVIDSON, Lisa |
| 12/18 TALLYN, Evelyn | 12/21 DETJEN, Val |
| 12/18 WILLIAMS, Anthony | 12/21 FAUSS, Donna |
| 12/19 BOWMAN, Cale | 12/21 WAITE, Laura |
| 12/19 SIMONSON, Julie | 12/22 RACE, Richard |
| 12/19 YESS, Kirstin | 12/22 WADDELL, Cole |
| 12/20 MOHL, Peggy | 12/24 SCHARF, Ingrid |
| 12/20 STOLZE, Cherie | |

4th Sunday of Advent: Love

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

Meditation *O Mother, you are light and your light is everywhere. It is by you and through you that all things moving and motionless shine. It is by your light, O Mother, that all things come to be. ~Hindu prayer*

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Passing the Love of Christ

"May the love of Christ be with you."

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

Prelude

Frosty the Snowman, Henry Waite

Silent Night, Kinder Bells

Lighting the Candles & Ringing the Bell

Gathering at the Advent Wreath: Love

One: Matthew 1:18-21

Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Joseph planned to dismiss her quietly, but just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus."

Many: This is the Candle of Love.

One: May we become people of liberating and creative Love.

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

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

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

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

Scripture

Isaiah 60: 1-2, John 8: 12

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth and the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you. Jesus spoke to them, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

*Opening Prayer

Zen Buddhist Prayer

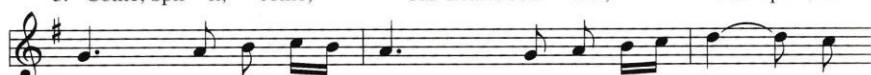
Peace is every step. The shining red sun is my heart. Each flower smiles with me. How green, how fresh all that grows. How cool the wind blows. Peace is every step. It turns the endless path to joy.

*Response

Though I May Speak #335, v3



- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Though I may speak | with brav - est fire, | And have the |
| 2. Though I may give | all I pos - sess, | And striv - ing |
| 3. Come, Spir - it, come, | our hearts con - trol, | Our spir - its |



gift to all in - spire,	And have not love, my
so my love pro - fess,	But not be given by
long to be made whole.	Let in - ward love guide



words are vain;	As sound - ing brass,	and hope - less gain.
love with - in,	The prof - it soon	turns strange - ly thin.
ev - ery deed;	By this we wor -	ship and are freed.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

a prayer shared by Christians around the world

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.]

Mission Moment

2nd Mile Advent

Circle of Concern, Emmaus Homes, **The Christmas Fund**

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

O Christmas Tree, Avery Delannay

Response

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace
Praise God for gifts of joy and love
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth for us-Emmanuel. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Jewish Prayer for the Earth

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, God of the universe,
Who has made thy world lacking in nought.
But has produced therein goodly creatures and plants,
Wherewith to give delight unto the children of the Lord. Amen.

Festival Lights Around the World

Diwali—*Procession of Diya Lamps*

Hanukkah—*Dreidel Song*

Tree of Lights and Bodhi Day—*Chinese Bells, The Parkway Chimers*

Las Posadas—*Feliz Navidad*

Kwanzaa—*Siyahamba*

Children and youth will sing Siyahamba one time through then we invite the congregation to sing *We Are Marching in the Light of God*.

**We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching oo-oo,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching oo-oo,
we are marching in the light of God.**

Christmas—*O Tannenbaum*, soloists: Avery Delannay, Josie Duke

Jesus, the Light to the World

Sharing the beloved nativity stories from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke

Congregation Songs

O Come All Ye Faithful, #41

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him...O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him...Christ the Lord.

Yea Lord we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee all glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! (refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (refrain)

O Little Town of Bethlehem, #44 verses 1-2

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**

**O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all should be enrolled. And Joseph went up from Galilee to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

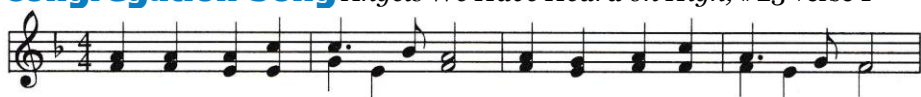
Congregation Song *Away in the Manger, #25 verses 1 and 2*

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

And in that region there were shepherds in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were filled with fear. The angel said to them, "Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which is born this day in the city of David. A Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 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 heavenly hosts praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom God favors." When the angels went away into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened". And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in the manger.

Congregation Song *Angels We Have Heard on High, #23 verse 1*



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.



Glo - ri - a



in ex-cel-sis De-o; Glo -



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

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him." And lo, the star went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. Going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They fell down and worshiped him. Then opening their treasure, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They departed to their own countries to spread the good news.

Song *Go Tell it On the Mountain, #29*

Children and youth will sing the refrain and first verse, then congregation join in on the remainder of the song.



Go, tell it on the moun-tain O-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;



Go, tell it on the moun-tain That Je-sus Christ is born!



1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si-lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a-bove the earth,
3. Down in a low-ly man-ger The hum-ble Christ was born,



Be - hold through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Time for Pictures

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth

Prayers are from *One Earth, One Spirit*, a child's book of prayers from many faiths and cultures.

Narrators—Ben Duke, Josey Duke, Zoe Lyons

Lay Reader—Kacey Brueggemann

Mary—Zoe Lyons

Joseph—Dexter Cameron

Donkey—Felix Waite

Shepherds—Killian Shelton, Henry Waite, Oscar Waite

Lambs—Nate Jones-Goldstein, Harrison Tallyn, Sterling Tallyn, Wyatt Tallyn, Linus Waite, Clara Zander

Angels—Paige Brueggemann, Avery Delannay, Hope Evans, Camellia Glennon, Evelyn Tallyn

Wise Ones—Kacey Brueggemann, Atticus Reed, Ryan Ruzicka

Assistants—Benji Adejoh, Dexter Cameron, Vivienne Reed, Caitlin Scharf, Henry Waite

Teachers—Carmen Bumgarner, Julie Connors, Sylvie Delannay, Blake Lyons, Liz Lyons, Karen Nolte, Becca Palmgren, Marsha Peek, Ingrid Scharf, Amy Yakel

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

Presented by Lisa Mason and Paige Penico

Sunday, December 18 | 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=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwD0EzV0VHVH1lYQT09>

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 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... Today is a great opportunity for photos and videos.

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.

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.

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.

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!**

Little Wishes granted by Parkway Angels—ECH Christmas Gift Collection a Grand Success

Thanks to all participating in the third annual Parkway ECH Christmas Gift Project! Over 25 Parkway members contributed gifts or money for the two foster families we adopted this year. We delivered the gifts recently, and the program's creators were delighted. Many thanks to Laura Waite for setting up SignUp Genius. We have made Christmas Day a wonderful time for these families. ~Carol Cobb

PUCC Year-End Contributions

See correction in 3rd paragraph below.

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. **[applies for Individual Retirement Accounts only]**

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

Wait

There are different kinds
of waiting.

There's ants-in-the-pants waiting,
where our hearts race,
our feet won't stay still,
and our minds crane
to see around impossible curves
in the road ahead.

There's bats-in-the-belfry waiting,
where our bodies may possess
the ability to be still,
but thoughts and words
are ricocheting off
the walls of our minds
like an eternally fueled
bottle rocket.

Neither of these first two
are exclusive.

Then there's Advent waiting,
where we surrender knowing,
in exchange for wonder,
where anxiety has been traded-in
for anticipation,
and hope has subdued and calmed
fidgeting of all sorts.

 This kind of waiting
is not self-generated.
 It is a gift,
born of love
 and held in trust.

It is not wrapped
and laid beneath a tree.
It is poured into our cups
every day,
to overflowing.

© 2022 Todd Jenkins

Prayer List

as of December 14, 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

Pinky Wilcoxon - unable to be transferred to rehab from Mercy Hospital because she just tested positive for Covid; would love calls and cards.

Doug and Val Detjen - recuperating from hip surgery on December 16.

Family of Phil and Jena - grieving/giving thanks for Phil (Rogers).

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.

All impacted by Covid-19.

Families grieving at the holidays.

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

Week ending December 25 - **Calvary UCC**, St Louis;

<https://www.facebook.com/calvary.ucc.hartland/>

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]

Other

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.

4th Sunday of Advent: *Love*

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Matthew 1:18-25

God with Us

According to the dictionary, the term incarnation means “a person who embodies in the flesh a deity, spirit, or abstract quality.” In Jesus, the Holy came to earth to live like us, to laugh like us, to mourn like us, and to love like us. In the simplest terms, the incarnation is the Divine coming to earth as a child, the infant Jesus, for the purpose of embodying concretely the abstract quality of love for one another.

Although only Jesus is the Incarnation with a capital I, Christ’s followers can continue to embody in the flesh and make real the abstract quality of love. It is one thing for us to say that they love one another. Demonstrating that love through acts of service and compassion truly incarnates the love that Christ came to demonstrate.

One way we as the United Church of Christ incarnate Christ’s love at this time of year is by contributing to the Christmas Fund (formerly called the Veterans of the Cross).

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

This testimonial from a Christmas Fund recipient was shared last year, a reminder that the fruits of loving incarnation will always be gratitude, joy, and connection. “The grant is enough to allow me a little breathing room at the end of each month. Thank you for that gift. But equally important to me personally is this grant symbolizes a wonderful connection to the church I love. I have been blessed in so many ways.”

For more information visit: <https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/christmas-fund/>