

Christmas

2022

This
Christmas
end a quarrel.

Seek out a forgotten
friend. Dismiss suspicion,
and replace it with trust.

Write a love letter. Share some
treasure. Give a soft answer. Keep
a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge.
Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you
were wrong. Try to understand. Examine your
demands on others. Think first of someone else.

Be kind; be gentle. Appreciate. Laugh a little. Laugh a
little more. Express your gratitude. Gladden the heart of a
child. Welcome a stranger. Take pleasure in the beauty and the
wonder of Earth.

Speak your love.

Speak it again.

Speak it yet

Once again.

lessonslearnedinlife.com



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, December 25, 2022 | Christmas Day

Contents

- 3 Birthdays
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 10 Announcements
- 11 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.

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

Scripture Reader: Kim and Ross Livengood

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

- 12/27 DARLAND, Nancy & Bill (67)
- 12/27 TUPPER, Tom & Leslie (42)
- 12/28 HAACK, Bill & Gail (44)
- 12/29 YESS, Gregory & Kari (33)

Birthdays

- 12/25 FAUSS, Roger
- 12/27 GRAYHECK, Karen
- 12/28 LYONS, Zoe
- 12/28 ZOLLER, Robert
- 12/30 ROGERS, Gerry

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others, to make music in the heart.* ~Howard Thurman

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Passing the Gift of Christ

“May the gift of Christ be with you.”

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

Prelude *Welcome to Our World*—Chris Rice, 1995

Sung by Barry Luedloff

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Lyrics rewritten by Lenora Rand and Gary Rand

O come, all you faithful, questioners and doubters

O come now, O come now to Bethlehem:

Come and behold him: peace that we’ve awaited!

Refrain: **O come for there is hope here.**

O come and know God’s peace here

O come and find the joy in Christ, child of Love

O come, all you weary, broken-hearted, brave ones

O come now, O come now to Bethlehem:

Come and behold him: justice we’ve awaited! (Refrain)

Scripture Psalm 96 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Sing to the Lord a new song because God has done wonderful things! God’s own strong hand and holy arm have won the victory! The Lord has made salvation widely known and has revealed righteousness in the eyes of all the nations. God has remembered this loyal love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; every corner of the earth has seen our God’s salvation.

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth! Be happy! Rejoice out loud! Sing your praises! Sing your praises to the Lord with the lyre—with the lyre and the sound of music. With trumpets and a horn blast, shout triumphantly before the Lord! Let the sea and everything in it roar; the world and all its inhabitants too. Let all the rivers clap their hands; let the mountains rejoice out loud altogether before the Lord who is coming to establish justice on the earth! God will establish justice in the world rightly. God will establish justice among all people fairly.

*Call to Worship at the Advent/Christmas Wreath

One: This is a day of great celebration!

Many: We strive to be people of empowering and possibility-laden hope.

One: Jesus, you bring hope.

Many: We commit to being people who speak, pray and act out peace.

One: Jesus, you bring peace.

Many: We rise to be people of bubbling, contagious, expanding Joy.

One: Jesus, you bring joy.

Many: We will be people of liberating and creative Love.

One: Jesus, you bring love.

Many: This is the Christ Candle.

Jesus will grow up and show us how to share our hope, peace, joy and love with others. Jesus will light our way.

We commit to being these gifts to others. The Spirit moves us toward one another.

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

*Song Joy to the World! #40



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the



ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,



And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
And heaven and na - ture sing,



sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

*Opening Prayer

Holy One, the waiting is over. You are with us now, Emmanuel, in ways we can sense and grasp. The angels spoke your truth and encouraged Mary, Joseph and the shepherds to say 'yes' and to be a part of this birthing of your love. Help us be more attentive to these angels and to all of the ways you call and send us out. Amen.

*Response *Angels We Have Heard on High, #23*



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.

Children's Time and Blessing the Children

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.

Scripture and Reflection Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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.

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 he 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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Call to Prayer *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* #50

Unison

1. There's a star in the East on Christ - mas morn,
2. If you take good heed to the an - gel's words,

Harmony *Unison*

Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low, It will lead to the place where the
Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low, You'll for - get your flocks, you'll for -

Harmony

Christ was born, Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.
get your herds, Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.

Refrain

Fol - low, fol - low, Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low,

Fol-low the Star of Beth-le - hem, Rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.

Prayers of the People & 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.]

Mission Moment ^{2nd} Mile Advent/Christmas

Circle of Concern | Emmaus Homes | The Christmas Fund

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Interlude *Joseph's Song*—Michael Card, 1982

Sung by Barry Luedloff

How could it be this baby in my arms sleeping now, so peacefully
The Son of God, the angel said. How could it be?

Lord, I know He's not my own, not of my flesh, not of my bone
Still O God let this baby be son of my love

O God show me where I fit into this plan of yours
How can a man be father to the Son of God
Lord for all my life, I've been a simple carpenter
How can I raise a king? How can I raise a king?

He looks so small, His face and hands so fair and when He cries the sun just seems
to disappear

But when He laughs it shines again. How could it be?

O God show me where I fit into this plan of yours
How can a man be father to the Son of God
Lord for all my life, I've been a simple carpenter
How can I raise a king? How can I raise a king?

How could it be this baby in my arms sleeping now, so peacefully
The Son of God, the angel said. How could it be?

*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 Church of Scotland

God with us, in whom there is neither Jew nor Gentile; in the land of Christ's birth—come to the hungry places, bringing hope, come to the dark places, bringing justice, come to the lonely places, bringing love. Come again in Bethlehem, come in us, and through us, and even despite us. That all may join the angels' song. Glory to God in the highest heaven. All hail, let there be joy. Amen.

*Song of Parting *Go Tell it On the Mountain #29*

Refrain



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!

Fine



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,



D.C.

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.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth

Ermuntre Dich (Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light)—Johann Schop,
1641, harm. J.S Bach, 1734

Announcements

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

TODAY! 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. Contact Music Director Barry: barry@parkwayucc.org

Videographers/Photographers Needed

We are looking for photos and videos of ALL PUCC events which are opportunities to record and share who we are and what we are about.

If you have any photos/videos of recent PUCC events, let us know. We have a shared drive for uploads (<https://tinyurl.com/PUCCmedia>) OR you can send us a link if you have posted on social media. Photos and videos will likely 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.

Prayer List

Celebrations

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

Brussee/Dario/Race Family – Skyler/Justin welcomed **Jace** home!

Concerns

Pinky Wilcoxon - at *The Quarters*; Covid quarantine 'til Christmas Eve ... she would love cards and/or phone calls ... see next column.

Doug and Val Detjen - his healing after 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.

Matt Albers - recent cancer diagnosis (Lori Connors' friend's son).

All impacted by Covid-19.

Families grieving at the holidays.

Continuing

Family & friends of Joan Biest - grieving and giving thanks for her. A Memorial Service will be here at PUCC on Saturday, January 7.

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 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 - *The Quarters*; 13230 Manchester Rd, #1223;
Des Peres, MO 63131; 314-984-5681 [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.