



*Darkness cannot drive out darkness:
only LIGHT can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate:
only LOVE can do that.*

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.,
A TESTAMENT OF HOPE: THE ESSENTIAL WRITINGS AND SPEECHES



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, January 15, 2023

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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.

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

Scripture Reader: Sally Dischinger

Today's Flowers: In memory of Barb Kuhlmann on her birthday from her sister Brenda.

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

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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.

Media uploads: <https://tinyurl.com/PUCCmedia>

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

Birthdays

1/19 MASTERSON, Max

1/20 PATEL, Cora Niraj

1/20 WOLFF, Vivienne

1/21 DARLAND, Nancy

1/21 LANGTON, Benjamin

1/21 SIMONSON, Hannah

2nd Sunday *after* Epiphany

Sunday, January 15, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *Life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?" ~MLK, Jr*

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 *One Thing's Needful*—arr. Albert Beck

Based on the tune by Friedrich Layrizz, 1849

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*



1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn-ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Scripture Mark 1:1-11 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

*Call to Worship

One:	We just celebrated Jesus’ birthday partly because of who he became when he grew up.
Many:	Jesus is our teacher, role model, friend.
One:	We wonder how he could be so compassionate, selfless, rooted and grounded in grace.
Many:	How can we be more like him and follow in his footsteps?
One:	Today we witness his baptism in the Jordan River.
Many:	The Spirit descends upon him as if a dove - and words of blessing are heard.
One:	We want and need the power and calm of the Spirit to wash over us.
Many:	We await the Holy’s reassurances, guidance and creativity as we seek to be more faithful and effective.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

*Opening Prayer

Holy One, as you anointed and blessed Jesus that day, we ask for a similar blessing and sending today. Come into our minds, bodies and spirits to enlighten and invigorate us for the mission and ministry we share with Jesus. Help us when we falter, fear, fail or feel like giving up. Amen.

***Response** *I Was There to Hear Your Born-ing Cry #2051*



1. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 3. When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was
 5. In the mid - dle ag - es of your life, not too
 7. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be



there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old, I re - joiced the day you



were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing Lord to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.



2. I was there when you were but a child with a
 4. If you find some-one to share your time and you
 6. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you



faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have



wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

D.C.

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.

Children's Anthem *Praise God!—Anon.*

Sung by the All New Children's Choir

Blessing the Children *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

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

Scripture *Mark 1:1-11 (CEB – Common English Bible)*

The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah: Look, I am sending my messenger before you. He will prepare your way, a voice shouting in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight."

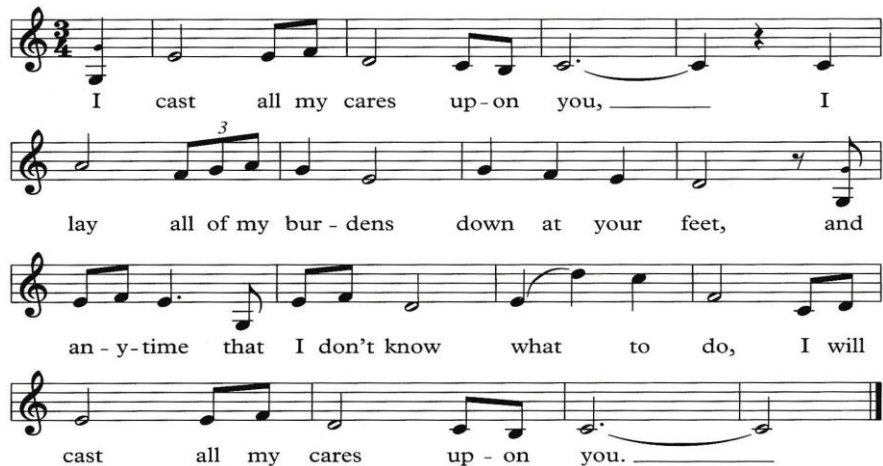
John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Invitation Prayer *Cares Chorus*



I cast all my cares up-on you, _____ I
lay all of my bur - dens down at your feet, and
an - y-time that I don't know what to do, I will
cast all my cares up - on you. _____

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer sung to the tune by Nate Stout

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

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

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 Interlude

I Need Thee Every Hour—arr. Benjamin David Knoedler

Based on the tune Need by Robert Lowry

*Response

Praise God the Source of life and birth.

Praise God the Word, who came to earth.

Praise God the Spirit, holy flame.

All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication Inspired by the words of MLK Jr

Holy One, we are committed to the common good. We work for love and laws that establish justice for all. Hearts must change for the Beloved Community to flourish, for your kingdom to come. We open our hearts to an ever-expanding vision of community. We trust your Spirit to guide and move us between the present and the anticipated Realm of Justice. We work for a world where lives are enriched by difference; where people of different genders, races and sexual orientations work together in Shalom for the good of the whole. We work for a nation and world where persons focus on the content of their characters. For you, O God, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all. Give ear, O God, to the prayers of your people. Amen.

*Song of Parting Called as Partners in Christ's Service #343



1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, Called to min-is-tries of grace,
2. Christ's ex-ample, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, In a small or glob-al sense,
4. So God grant us for to-mor-row Ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-spond with deep com-mit-ment Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, Rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, Break-ing down each wall or fence.
That sur-round each per-son's sor-row With a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, Side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, All God's peo-ple, young and old,
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, Words of chal-lenge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, Our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E - qual part - ners in our car - ing To ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
Blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er Gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
Bring new power and strength for ac - tion, Make us col - leagues, free and fair.
Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv - ing Hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth** Postlude on *Shout On*—arr. by David Lasky Based on an American folk hymn tune

Announcements

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

Winter Sunday School

This winter our children will be learning about some of the people who met Jesus. Most of these stories are found in the Gospel of John: Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, the first disciples, a blind man, the little boy with fish and bread, and many more.

Youth will be using a new curriculum called “Feasting on the Word”. This curriculum is lectionary based with activities and discussions around topics of interest to youth as they relate to scripture.

Contact Marsha Peek: marshapeek31@gmail.com | (314) 413-1440

TODAY, Jan 15—Speaker Series: *The Honey Bee, a Wonder of Creation* by Eugene Makovec

Select Sundays | 11:15am-12:15pm | Heritage Room & Zoom

The keeping of bees dates back to 9,000 years ago, and has been traditionally for honey. Since the 20th century that has become less true. In the modern era, it is more often used for crop pollination. Our speaker has been a beekeeper for 27 years. His presentation will be an overview of beekeeping, covering some of the biology and history of bees, what beekeepers do and what is entailed with getting started. At the conclusion of this program, you will essentially have enough insight and information to decide whether this is something you might wish to pursue.

Our speakers will appear live in the Heritage Room and, for those joining remotely, zoom conferencing will be available.

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwD0EzV0VHV1IyQT09>

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

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue New Book Starting Jan 17-Mar 7

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 2:00-3:00pm | Zoom only

TAD's next book will be *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict. starts January 17th and continues on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays until March 7th. Historical fiction, it's the remarkable story of J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, Bella da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation. This author has written other historical fiction books, with strong emphasis on the individual histories of remarkable women.

Contact Jackie Eiffert: jeiffert2@gmail.com | (661) 378-6781

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwD0EzV0VHV1IyQT09>

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

Support Sustainability—Heating Costs Are Rising: Tips to Lower Your Bill and Carbon Footprint

This winter, Americans are projected to pay the highest price in a decade to heat their homes.

A recent study by The National Energy Assistance Directors Association estimates that the **average U.S. household will pay 17.2% more for heating costs** — \$177 more on average — compared to last year, which already saw record-breaking prices.

A combination of factors has led to price increases. **Record-breaking heat waves** during the summer of 2022 forced utilities to draw on their reserves of fracked gas when electricity demand spiked as affected Americans tried to cool their homes. The Russian invasion of Ukraine last year has also put a strain on global energy supplies; in the UK, residents are anticipating an **80% increase in energy bills** this month.

To avoid a colossal heating bill this winter, try a few of these tactics for cutting back on heat while still staying warm.

Shut Doors to Unused Rooms

If there are vents or radiators present in the room, closing the door will keep the temperature stable inside and the system won't have to keep pumping out heat. If you don't plan on going in there all day, you can even close the vent so that heat is redistributed to other rooms in the house that you *will* use.

Closing doors is especially effective for rooms that don't have a heater or a vent. That way, all heat will stay in the area of the house you're occupying.

Seal Up Leaks

A well-sealed house stays warmer. Small cracks and holes letting in outside air can really have an impact on indoor temperature; the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that residents can **save up to 20% on heating bills by sealing up holes** that let in cold air.

Check the walls and ceilings for holes, as well as the spaces around windows, doors, light fixtures, and even outlets and switches. Replace broken caulking and weather stripping that's falling apart to close those gaps. Make sure fireplace dampers close properly, too.

To determine whether there's still a draft, try the flame test: hold a lit candle up to a window or door frame, and if the flame flickers, there's still some air getting in.

Use Curtains to Your Advantage

Ten percent of heat in the home is lost through windows, but proper use of **curtains, shades, or other window covers** can regulate indoor temperatures. Passively heat your home by opening the shades and letting the sun in during the day and closing them back up again at night when it's cold and dark. Insulated cellular shades are usually the best. Their honeycomb cross sections act as insulators, keeping the temperature outside from coming in, and can reduce heating loss by 40% or more (and they have the added benefit of

keeping cool air in during the summer when the air conditioning is on). But, other kinds of blinds, curtains, and drapes work well, too.

Dial It Down

Be mindful of your thermostat setting. Do you really need the whole home at 72° all day long? [Dropping the thermostat by 7-10 degrees](#) over an 8-hour period could save you 10% a year. Dial it down when you don't need the heat — like when you're away at work, school, or out of town for a long weekend — and overnight when you can get cozy under warm blankets.

If your home is heated by a forced air system, make sure to change the filter regularly. With a clean filter, the system won't have to work as hard to pump out heat, thereby using less fuel. The lifespan of a filter varies with the type of system, but some need to be replaced as often as once a month.

Programmable and smart thermostats can do this for you automatically, so you don't have to remember on your own. If you don't like coming home to a cold house, you can program it to turn on shortly before you get back.

Layer Up

Rather than cranking that thermostat up when it gets cold, throw on a few extra layers. A sweater and some warm socks won't hurt! Keep blankets around the house — on couches, comfy chairs, and by your desk — so you're not tempted to jack up the heat. Especially at night when it gets cold, make sure to bundle up.

Turn On the Fans

It might sound counterintuitive but turning on ceiling fans can actually warm up a room — but only when done right. Configure the fan to move clockwise instead of counterclockwise, which is the setting they're normally set to for cooling. Because warm air rises, heat collects by the ceiling, and the fan will push that heat downwards when it rotates in the right direction. Some fans will have a switch right on them to change the rotation; otherwise, consult a manual. Make sure to keep the fan at the lowest setting — you don't need to be creating too much of a breeze.

Keep Vent Fans Off

Unlike ceiling fans, kitchen and bathroom vents can zap the heat from a room. Use them when needed to disperse unwanted smells or smoke, but don't leave them on indefinitely.

Use Space Heaters

Instead of heating the whole house, warm up a room you're occupying with a space heater. If you work from home during the day, use one in your office and keep the thermostat temperature low for the rest of the house.

Space heaters do use a good amount of electricity — typically around [1,500 Watts](#) — but given the high price of fracked gas and the savings from keeping the rest of the house cool, running a small heater is likely still cheaper.

Wrap Up Vent Ducts

Heat can be lost into attics through ductwork but insulating the ducts will keep that heat from escaping. Wrap ducts with foil-faced fiberglass insulation. If there are real leaks, you might need to call a professional to patch them up.

Keep the Door Closed

An open door to the outside lets in a whole lot of cold air. When bringing in groceries or bags from the car, take them all to the front step first, then move them into the house all at one time. That way, you'll only open the door once, so drafts aren't coming in and out.

Turn Down Your Water Heater

Along with the thermostat, turn down the hot water heater, too. They're usually set at 140 degrees, but it doesn't need to be that high; 120 will still give you a nice hot shower. Some homeowners also choose to insulate their hot water heaters (if they're hot to the touch, they're losing heat) or hot water pipes to cut down on lost heat.

Cook or Bake

Use the heat generated from cooking and baking to your advantage. After cooking pasta or steaming dumplings, leave the boiled water in the pot on the stove; it'll heat up the kitchen while you eat dinner. After baking, keep the oven door propped open to let the excess heat out into the room — it's already been generated, so there's no sense wasting it! Plus, the scent of whatever yummy treat you've baked will waft out with it.

Set Up an Energy Audit

If you're curious about energy efficiency in your home, some utility companies will conduct an energy audit for a small fee, or even for free. They can recommend ways to cut down on energy usage and optimize your efficiency.

Make Some Upgrades

After an audit — or a personal evaluation of your home — you might recognize that it's time for some upgrades. According to the Department of Energy, installing **new energy-efficient heating or cooling equipment** can reduce energy use by 20%, and combining a new system with better insulation, proper sealing of the home, and better thermostat settings can **reduce it by 50%**.

Especially in older homes, inadequate insulation can be a source of heat loss; attics should have a minimum of **10-14 inches of insulation** (depending on the type) to prevent heat loss from the top of the house. An energy-efficient furnace, while a big initial expense, could easily save you money in the long term and eventually offset the initial price.

Liturgical Composers Concert: *Where Your Treasure Is*

Thursday, January 26, 7:00-8:30 at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center, 2039 N. Geyer Road, Frontenac, MO. \$25 general admission; \$50 preferred seating. Info and ticket purchase at: www.mercycenterstl.org

Come and enjoy an evening of music and song. Sing with the composers who wrote some of your favorite songs for the Mass.

Prayer List

as of January 11, 2023

Celebrations

Kristin Nolte & Brandon Edwards - preparing to welcome 1st baby!
All the acts of kindness, justice and equity near and far.

Concerns

Family & friends of Joan Biest - grieving and giving thanks for her.

Marion Pleis - back at Cape Albeon after hip surgery & rehab... also grieving two deaths this week -- two sisters-in-law of Marion.

Joe Biondo, Pinky Wilcoxon, Davis Weas, Doug Detjen - all coming along in their healing.

Lisa Davidson & Family - grieving and giving thanks for her cousin.

Keith Borgmann & Family - grieving and giving thanks for his cousin and his sister's mother-in-law.

Schulenburgs - Kaylyn & David's Milo William born 11-30 is in NICU. breathing with cpap, no more PICC line, weighing 2 lbs, 12.7 oz... lots of skin to skin with parents and cared for by incredible doctors and nurses.

Barb Kuhlmann's Dad - undergoing medical tests; marking her bday.

Theresa - surgery/treatment/recovery - aggressive cancer (Schwarz).

Josh - healing after recent bone marrow transplant (Tarr).

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

All impacted by Covid-19.

The continuing war in Ukraine.

Aftermath of the bus collision in Senegal that killed 40, injured 90.

Continuing

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 - doing ok in hospice care; grieving mother's death (Pleis/Eiffert).

Jackie - special needs adult battling Parkinson's, cancer, dementia.

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.

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]

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 Wilcoxen - 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 & those dealing with meds.

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.

2nd Sunday *after* Epiphany

Sunday, January 15, 2023

John 1:29-42

All That We Are

Each week, the UCC Witness and Worship Artists' Group makes available a wealth of resources to enrich your worship service - prayers, psalms, liturgy, scripture studies, sermon starters and more are available by searching the internet for Worship Ways at the United Church of Christ. Here is the Invocation for the worship liturgy created by Rev. Trayce Potter for Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday.

Invocation

*God of our weary years and God of our silent tears,
thou who has brought us thus far on the way,*

we invite your presence into our midst as we pay tribute to all who have labored for justice, equality and love.

We pray that in this moment you would strengthen us to continue to fight for the fulfillment of the dream that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. so eloquently laid out on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Help us to labor so that every valley is exalted, every hill and mountain made low, the rough places are plain, and the crooked places made straight so that the glory of the Lord is revealed, and all flesh see it together.

Let your love guide us to see one another as fully human with diverse hues, colors, ethnicities and cultures, and respect the content of their character.

Let your spirit strengthen us for the fight of today and tomorrow until all God's children can say with full conviction, "Free at last. Free at last. Thank God All-Mighty, I'm free at last." Amen.

https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/martin_luther_king_weekend_service_january_

*This service quotes from **Our God is Marching On**, and **Letter from Birmingham Jail**, by Martin Luther King, Jr. Lines in italics quote from **We Shall Overcome** #570 in **The New Century Hymnal**, and **Lift Every Voice and Sing** #593 in **The New Century Hymnal**