

When it hatches,
when the nest is no more,
watch the wind pick up hope
and lay it softly into the welcome
of upraised palms.



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org
Sunday, January 29, 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: Andy Lowenthal

Flowers: Please consider signing up on the chart in Gathering Space.

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

Anniversaries

1/31 MCDUGALL, Ben & Marilyn (53)

Birthdays

1/29 DIESTELHORST, Vickey

2/1 STAPPENBECK, Andrew

1/31 GRISHAM, Molly

2/2 ZOLLER, Michael

1/31 HERBERG, Mona

2/3 MUCHNICK, Natalie

2/1 BECK, Randy

2/4 WADDELL, Alexa

4th Sunday *after* Epiphany

Sunday, January 29, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *Hope*—Jennifer Pratt-Walter

See how the winds
have shaped her hands to
hold hope?
So tenuous, it trembles
like a hummingbird's heart.

She gently carries hope
to a nest in the midst
of the maelstrom and tilts it
into the bowl of tiny feathers and
mosses.

Hope is so hard to cup.
She might need your help
when it seeps through the cracks
of her fingers. Place your hands
like this around hers. Together
it can be done.

When it hatches, when the nest
is no more, watch the wind pick up
hope
and lay it softly into the welcome
of upraised palms.

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 *Andante for Organ 7*—Samuel P. Jackson, arr. Carson Cooman

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *You Are Welcome Here*

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

Hebrew Bible Lesson Micah 6:1-8 (New Revised Standard Version)

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth;

for the Lord has a controversy with the people, and will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Gospel Lesson Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV—New Revised Standard Version)
When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

- “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

***Call to Worship** Peregrine Morkal-Williams

One:	Here I am, God, here I am. Here I am with the dishes in the sink, the dust on the shelves, the skin on my hands which is drying out and starting to crack.
Many:	My appetite has gone, without any other bodies to remind my body of itself.
One:	I can pray for salvation but my bones know this is all there is.

Many:	This is the day God has given us to live in.
One:	There is no heaven, child, no heaven apart from the dishes and the dust and the skin on your hands.
Many:	If you want heaven, this is what you have to work with, you who are a child of the Creator.
One:	God has given you all she can.
Many:	Pay attention.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

***Song** *Wonderful Words of Life*



1 Sing them o - ver a - gain to me, won - der - ful words of life;
 2 Christ, the bless - ed one, gives to all won - der - ful words of life;
 3 Sweet - ly ech - o the gos - pel call, won - der - ful words of life;



let me more of their beau - ty see, won - der - ful words of life;
 sin - ner, wake to the lov - ing call, won - der - ful words of life;
 of - fer par - don and peace to all, won - der - ful words of life;



Words of life and beau - ty teach me faith and du - ty.
 All so free - ly giv - en, our sure hope of heav - en.
 Je - sus, on - ly Sav - ior, keep me with you for - ev - er.

Refrain



Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.



Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.

***Opening Prayer** *A Prayer Among Friends—John Daniel*

**Among other wonders of our lives, we are alive
 with one another, we live here
 in the light of this unlikely world
 that isn't ours for long.**

**May we spend generously
 the time we are given.**

**May we enact our responsibilities
 as thoroughly as we enjoy our pleasures.**

**May we see with clarity,
may we seek a vision
that serves all beings, may we honor
the mystery surpassing our sight,
and may we hold in our hands
the gift of good work
and bear it forth whole, as we
were borne forth by a power we praise
to this one Earth, this homeland of all we love. Amen.**

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

**Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.**

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 *Jesus Loves Me*

**Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong, They are weak but he is strong**

**Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give, life and love to all who live**

Yes, Jesus loves me...

Psalter Lesson Psalm 8 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Epistle Lesson 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 (New Revised Standard Version)

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *You Are Mine*



1. — I will come to you in the si - lence, —
2. — I am hope for all who are hope-less, —
3. — I am strength for all the de - spair-ing, —
4. I am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from — all your fear. —
 I am eyes for all who long to see. In the —
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame. —
 am the peace the world can - not give. —



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be
 shad-ows of the night, I will be your light,
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain, stand



still and know I am here. —
 come and rest in
 all will know my
 up, now walk, and

2-4 *Refrain*

me. _____
 name. _____
 live! _____

Do not be a-fraid, I am
 with you. I have called you each by name.
 Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I
 love you and you are mine. _____

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 Anthem *Blest Are They*—David Haas and Michael Joncas

Blest are they, the poor in spirit; Theirs is the kingdom of God,
 Blest are they, full of sorrow; They shall be consoled.
 Blest are they, the lowly ones; They shall inherit the earth.
 Blest are they who hunger and thirst; They shall have their fill.
 Refrain: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you.
 Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they who show mercy; Mercy shall be theirs.
 Blest are they, the pure of heart; They shall see God!
 Blest are they who seek peace; They are the children of God.
 Blest are they who suffer in faith; The glory of God is theirs. (refrain)

Blest are you who suffer hate, All because of me.
 Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the kingdom:
 Shine for all to see. (refrain)

*Response

Praise God who gives us hearts to care.
Praise God who gives us gifts to share.
Praise God for helping us to give.
So others in the world might live. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication *I Am Thankful For*—Nancy J Carmody

I am thankful for

...the mess to clean up after a party

because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

...the taxes that I pay

because it means that I'm employed.

...the clothes that fit a little too snug

because it means I have enough to eat.

...my shadow who watches me work

because it means I am out in the sunshine.

...the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot

because it means I am capable of walking.

...all the complaining I hear about our Government

because it means we have freedom of speech.

...that lady behind me in church who sings offkey

because it means that I can hear.

...lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters
that need fixing

because it means I have a home.

...my huge heating bill

because it means that I am warm.

...weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day

because it means that I have been productive.

...the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours

because it means that I am alive.

*Song of Parting *This is My Song*



1. This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,
2. My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o-cean,
3. This is my prayer, O Rul-er of all na-tions:



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine;
let thy reign come; on earth thy will be done.



***Benediction** *Beyond Borders*—Rick Hoyt

Go forth, because we are always going forth from somewhere

Going from our homes, our childhoods

Going from our cities and countries

Going from innocence to experience to enlightenment

Going into mystery and questions

Going into the desert, getting to the other side.

Go forth, leave behind the comfort and community of one place

Head into the anxiety and loneliness of another.

Carry with you the love and laughter of this place

and let it light your way

Carry with you the wisdom you learned

and the good memories

May they give you strength for your journey

And when you have been away long enough, far enough,

Done what you'd set off to do

Been there so long, that place too, starts to feel like home

Come back, Come back to the one, universal

Everywhere and every when and everyone inclusive home,

This beloved community of all creation

That you can never really leave.

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth**

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty—Ron Loree

Based on Lobe Den Herren from "Stralsund Gesangbuch"

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 are 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 are 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

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue thru March 7

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

TAD's current book is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict continues on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays until March 7. 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. Contact Jackie Eiffert: jeiffert2@gmail.com | (661) 378-6781

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkw0EzV0VHV1IyQT09>

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

The Little Rock Nine Wednesday, February 1, 2023 - 11:00a.m. to 12:00pm
Presented by the National Park Service. Park Rangers at Central Little Rock High School National Historic Site share the story of the Little Rock Nine, a group of high school students who persevered for their right to an integrated education after the 1954 Supreme Court ruling Brown vs. Board of Education. In honor of Black History Month.

All ages. Registration required. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering.

Register asap as space is limited -

<https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=309945>

If it's full, make a note to yourself to find the recording -- available on the SLCL YouTube page within three business days.

Adventurous Men Out Early meet Thursday, February 2nd, 2023 in the Heritage Room at 9:15 AM for Coffee and Conversation. All are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Budget Meeting after worship on Sunday, February 5.

Ice Skating at Queeny Park in Ballwin Sunday, February 5 from 3-4:30pm

Chili Cook-off & Brownie Bake-off for Summer Mission Trip – Sunday, March 5 after worship

We are looking for someone to organize a team to coordinate the Community Easter Egg Hunt this spring. Interested? Questions? kevin@parkwayucc.org

February Parkway Speakers Series

Yes, I Did it! A Startup that is Now a Viable, Growing, Money Making Business by Paris Wallace

February 19, 2023 from 11:15am - 12:15pm

A startup is an enterprise undertaken by an entrepreneur to develop a new business with the intent to grow large beyond the founders. Someone once observed, “Startups are pressure cookers. Don’t let the casual dress and playful office environment fool you. New companies operate under do-or-die conditions. If you do not roll out a useable product or service in a timely fashion, the company will fail. Bye-bye paycheck, hello eviction.”

Mr. Wallace has an MBA from Harvard University and co-founded and lead a successful startup. Hear his story, the “secret sauce” of his business, the uncertainties, the insanity, the “high 5” moments, and what’s next for him.

Mr. Wallace will appear live via remote from his home in Florida. Attendees will gather in the Heritage Room and may also attend via the usual zoom access process.

***Feeding the Hungry, Because the Bible Tells Me So* by Eden Prof Clint McCann**

February 26, 2023 11:15am - 12:15pm

Clint McCann is the Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Eden Theological Seminary. He has taught, preached, or led workshops for church and academic gatherings in twenty-seven states, including over one hundred congregations representing twelve denominations.

He is a friend of Parkway and notes that Parkway has been very active in CROP/Church World and its world-encompassing ministry to address issues of poverty, disaster, and displacement, which means (among other things) feeding the hungry. This session will explore the biblical rationale for that ministry, touching on a variety of texts from the Torah, the Prophets, the Psalms, and the New Testament.

Professor McCann will appear live in the Heritage Room and via zoom.

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwZ0EzV0VHV1lyQT09>

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

Prayer List

as of January 25, 2023

Celebrations

Kristin Nolte & Brandon Edwards - preparing to welcome 1st baby!

Lillie Jane Olive Sableman born to Paul & Shantel on 01/05/23!

Remembering/Grieving/Giving Thanks for **Tyler Wessel** on 21st Bday.

Lunar New Year!

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

Concerns

Karla Shelton - healing after last week's surgery.

Gail Haack - scheduling biopsy for sinus cyst... then surgery.

Marion Pleis - back at Cape Albeon after hip surgery & rehab.

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

He is making strides: up to 3.5lbs

Barb Kuhlmann's Dad - medical tests; marking Barb's recent Bday.

Aftermath of the multiple deadly gun violence events in California

All impacted by Covid-19.

The continuing war in Ukraine.

Continuing

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

Angie - recent diagnosis of stage 2 Hodgkin's Lymphoma (Rosenberger).

Matt Albers - chemo 2nd round has begun (Lori Connors' friend's son).

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

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

Anne Kloeckener - healing after recent heart surgery (Connors).

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.

PUCC 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 *after* Epiphany

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Matthew 5:1-12

The Vision Beautiful

Health and Human Service Sunday

Blessed are the poor in spirit. Blessed are those with illnesses of the mind and heart, the diseases and dis-eases of these troubled days, and blessed are those who facilitate the slow work of healing.

Blessed are those who mourn. Blessed are those who wail with the grief of loss, and blessed are those who abide with the ones who weep.

Blessed are the meek. Blessed are the children who have been abandoned to circumstance, and bless those who fill the absences in those precious lives with warmth and commitment.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Blessed are those at the mercy of mean and chilly streets, and blessed are those who offer a warm meal, a dry bed and the promise of a transformed society where all have plenty. Amen.

Today, we gather together with the whole United Church of Christ in observing Health and Human Service Sunday. We bear witness to the faithful heritage the UCC has in co-creating spaces of wholeness with communities across this country and around the world. The UCC and its predecessor denominations courageously founded schools, hospitals, and orphanages during times of pandemic, war, and social upheaval. Now, there are more than 400 UCC affiliated health care centers, hospitals, affordable housing and retirement communities, transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness or domestic violence, and service centers for children, youth, families, and those with developmental disabilities. These ministries continue to show up in the most challenging circumstances—and do so with the fervor of healing and justice. It is thus a day to celebrate that the life of the church is vibrant beyond our church walls and outreach ministries.

“Health and Human Service Sunday.” <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/health-and-human-service-sunday/>