



*Let your heart
be filled with
loving-kindness.*



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

Sunday, February 12, 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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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: Cynthia Levin

Today's Flowers: Bill Owens in honor of Pat's birthday

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

2/13 SABLEMAN, Brian & Daphane(2)

Birthdays

02/14 RUZICKA, Donna

02/14 SIEBER, Peggy

02/15 BOWMAN, Ivey

02/16 TALLYN, Harrison

02/16 TALLYN, Sterling

02/18 CAMERON, Dexter

02/18 NOLTE, Bill

02/18 OWENS, Pat

6th Sunday *after* Epiphany

Sunday, February 12, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *Let go of all ill will. Seek to do no harm. Let your heart be filled with loving-kindness. Renounce every thought that diminishes yourself or others. Have universal and impartial compassion for all. Do only that which aids the liberation of all beings. Enter into the dynamic flow of life with openness and goodwill. This is a reliable way. ~Jim Palmer*

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 *Interlude in C Major—A. Kaim (1825-1887)*

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Holy Ground #2272*

We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground,
— and I know that there are an - gels all a -
round; let us praise
— Je - sus now; we are
stand - ing in his pres - ence on ho - ly ground.

Scripture Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Look here! Today I’ve set before you life and what’s good versus death and what’s wrong. If you obey the Lord your God’s commandments that I’m commanding you right now by loving the Lord your God, by walking in God’s ways, and by keeping the commandments, regulations, and case laws, then you will live and thrive, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen,

and so are misled, worshipping other gods and serving them, I'm telling you right now that you will definitely die. You will not prolong your life on the fertile land that you are crossing the Jordan River to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth as my witnesses against you right now: I have set life and death, blessing and curse before you. Now choose life—so that you and your descendants will live—by loving the Lord your God, by obeying God's voice, and by clinging to God. That's how you will survive and live long on the fertile land the Lord swore to give to your ancestors: to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Introit *In the Presence of Your People*

Words of Psalm 22:3, 22; 145:7/paraphrased by Brent Chambers, 1977/Music Celebration by Brent Chambers, 1977

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

In the presence of your people I will praise your name,
For alone you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel!
Let us celebrate your goodness and your steadfast love;
May your name be exalted here on earth and in heaven above.

***Call to Worship** Thom Shuman

Many:	We gather as the faithful of God, we come to listen to what God has to say to us.
One:	God has invited us to this place; may our faces reflect our hopes and our hearts.
Many:	We gather as the faithful of God, people of the new covenant of hope and promise.
One:	We boldly enter into the presence of God, hoping to be transformed into new people.
Many:	We gather as the faithful of God, our fears melting away in the heart of God.
One:	We come to share in the freedom of the Spirit, we come to belong.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

***Song** *Be Thou My Vision* #339

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
3 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.



*Opening Prayer

Holy One, move in our minds, bodies and spirits as we worship this morning. Help us to set aside the things that are cumbersome, the things that trip us up and hold us down. May a word, a phrase, a melody, a memory, a hope bring us just what we need to experience now. Amen.

*Response *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;

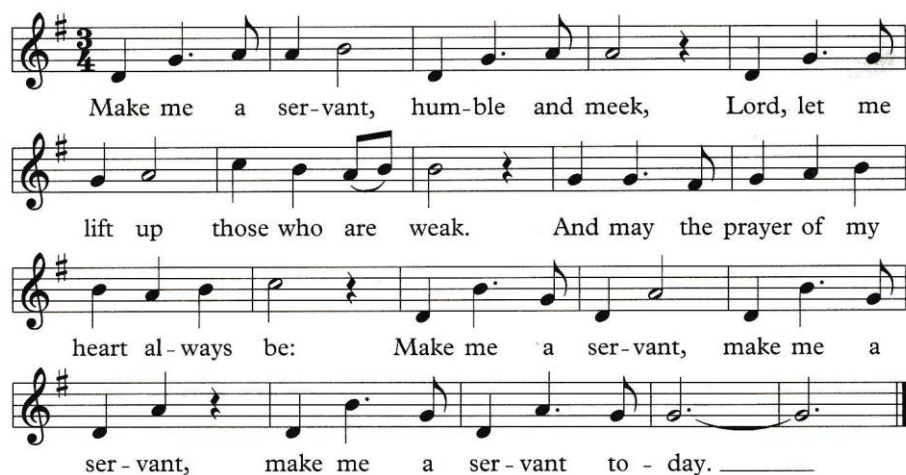
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

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 *Make Me A Servant #2176*



Scripture 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Brothers and sisters, I couldn't talk to you like spiritual people but like unspiritual people, like babies in Christ, I gave you milk to drink instead of solid food, because you weren't up to it yet. Now you are still not up to it because you are still unspiritual. When jealousy and fighting exist between you, aren't you unspiritual and living by human standards? When someone says, "I belong to Paul," and someone else says, "I belong to Apollos," aren't you acting like people without the Spirit? After all, what is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants who helped you to believe. Each one had a role given to them by the Lord: I planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow. Because of this, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but the only one who is anything is God who makes it grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together, but each one will receive their own reward for their own labor. We are God's coworkers, and you are God's field, God's building.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Invitation to Prayer *Change My Heart, O God #2152*

Change my heart, O God, _ make it ev-er true. _

_ Change my heart, O God, _

may I be like you. _ You are the

Pot - ter, I am the clay. _

Mold me and make me, this is what I

pray. Change my heart, O God, _

make it ev-er true. _ Change my heart, O God, _

_ may I be like you. _

Pastoral Prayer & 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.]

Denomination Moment Carol Cobb

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 *Sing to God*—James F. D. Martin

Copyright © 1996/Piano arr. Thomas Fosnacht, Copyright © 2009

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Refrain: Sing to God songs of praise, joyful adoration.

Sing to God songs of praise. Alleluia!

God has proclaimed Sabbath today. Let the friends of Jesus say; (refrain)

Christian, come in, open your soul; God's pure love can make us whole.
Neighbors and friends gather in pray'r, grace to know and faith to share.
(refrain)

Spirit of love, holy and free, fill our hearts as ever we... (refrain)

*Response

**Praise God for love we all may share,
Praise God for beauty everywhere,
Praise God for hope of good to be,
Praise God for truth that makes us free.**

*Prayer of Dedication Carol Penner

Ever-faithful God, we long to be faithful givers, modelling ourselves on you who have given everything to us. May your Spirit of abundance, which gives more than we ask or imagine, grace these gifts for your kingdom, Amen.

***Song of Parting** *We All Are One in Mission #435*



1. We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2. We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
3. Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var-ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min-is-tries are dif-ferent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem-ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
To touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur-pris-ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth-er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - ery folk and na-tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var-ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth**

Postlude in C Major—J. G. Albrechtsberger (1730-1809)

Announcements

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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue 02/14/2023

Join us for Potluck and book discussion on Tuesday, Feb 14 at 6pm. We start a new book *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate. Please read up to Chapter 11 for this session. The author brings to life the startling stories from actual "lost friends" advertisements that appeared in Southern newspapers after the Civil War, as newly freed slaves desperately tried to find loved ones who had been sold away. Helen Race: raceh@att.net | (314) 401-4382

NEXT SUNDAY: Parkway Speakers Series

***A Startup that is Now a Viable, Growing, Money Making Business* by Paris Wallace**

February 19 | 11:15am - 12:15pm | Heritage Room & Zoom

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 Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkw0EzV0VHV1IyQT09>
Meeting ID: 8469147 6997 | **Passcode:** 181565 | **Dial** (312) 626-6799

AARP free tax preparation AARP in conjunction with the IRS provides free tax preparation services by its group of certified volunteers for seniors and low income taxpayers. The local site is at Salem Methodist Church on Manchester Road. If you or anyone you know might benefit from this service, please contact Peter LaSalle (an 18 year veteran preparer) anytime after Feb 12th at 636 579 0970.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkw0EzV0VHV1IyQT09>
Meeting ID: 836 7061 7428 | **Passcode:** 480007 | **Dial** (312) 626-6799

Speaker Series: *Feeding the Hungry*

February 26 | 11:15am - 12:15pm | Heritage Room & Zoom

Presenter 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 multiple states, including representing twelve denominations in 100+ congregations.

As a friend of Parkway, McCann 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 feeding the hungry. This session will explore the biblical rationale for that ministry, touching on a texts from the Torah, the Prophets, the Psalms, and the New Testament.

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

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

PARKWAY UCC Inquirers' Gathering Dessert Night

Wednesday, March 1 | 6:30-7:45pm | Heritage Room & Zoom

Inquirer: *someone who wants to know more about Parkway UCC*

Our goals that evening include:

- getting to know one another a bit more
- discussing some key issues of faith
- describing Parkway's worship, outreach, education, leadership, fellowship
- taking a look at our denomination, the United Church of Christ
- sharing ideas about the exciting future of Parkway UCC
- soliciting your thoughts on how we can be a more welcoming and inviting community of faith
- answering any of your questions

You will find our time together meaningful and informative.

Some churches call this sort of gathering a *New Members Class*—**we do not**. While we know there are a number of visitors who have expressed interest in becoming members of the church, we do not assume that **Inquirers** are seeking membership. We just want to be hospitable, get to know you and have the chance to express gratitude for your presence among us.

Childcare is available that evening if requested ahead of time.

Please let us know if you are planning to be with us! kevin@parkwayucc.org

We are looking for someone to organize a team to coordinate the Community Easter Egg Hunt this spring. We have a number of people eager to help – we just need an overall coordinator. We are so looking forward to doing this again after the break due to the pandemic. Interested? Questions? kevin@parkwayucc.org

Intertwine Interfaith Coffee House Event: Coffee, Music, Poetry, Tea with our Jewish and Muslim Friends

Saturday, February 25 | 7:00-9:00pm | Gathering Space at Parkway UCC

Please join us. If you would like to share music, poetry, or another talent at the event, please indicate that when you RSVP via SignUp Genius.

All ages are welcome! Coffee and tea will be served. Please indicate in the sign up if you would like to bring halal/kosher baked goods to share.

Questions? See Lisa Mason - LMason624@sbcglobal.net; (217) 257-0525

Chili Cook-off & Brownie Bake-off fundraiser for Summer Mission Trip – Sunday, March 5 after worship. Get those recipes ready to go! Sign up in the Gathering Space. Thank you! Questions? See Amy Yakel

St. Patrick's Day Dinner - Habitat for Humanity

Join us for a delicious fundraiser on Saturday, March 4 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm with Samuel United Church of Christ and Kenrick's Meats! Your meal ticket includes freshly sliced corned beef, traditional St. Patrick's Day sides and of course, a homemade dessert bar. Help UCC raise money for their 2023 Habitat Saint Louis build and enjoy delicious food while supporting affordable housing. Tickets at the door or in advance by calling 314-727-9540.

Habitat for Humanity Newsletter

Here's what's Happening at Habitat Saint Louis

With the New Year underway, we're excited to begin a busy year of construction! Just recently, partners Alberici Contractors joined us at our Lookaway Summit build sites where they helped us pour concrete for six new homes. We want to give a big thank you to Alberici for helping us get our foundations ready to go; their efforts ensure we can begin our subfloor building process in the near future and welcome volunteer groups this spring.

Speaking of volunteers, we will be hosting our Volunteer Orientation in March! If you're an individual wanting to get involved with our mission, please contact Volunteer Services Manager, Ella Hungerford, at ella@habitatstl.org. If you're wanting to get your organization involved, please reach out to our Director of Resource Development, Harper Zielonko, at harper@habitatstl.org.

Habitat Saint Louis is also looking to expand our construction leadership program which trains volunteers to lead volunteer and partner groups in construction on Habitat worksites. Interested? Please contact Volunteer Services Manager, Ella Hungerford, at ella@habitatstl.org to request more information and learn about construction leadership responsibilities.

Meet our new Board President, Amy Berg

Amy Berg grew up working in the construction industry for her father. She attended the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in business administration. Berg worked for J. H. Findorff, a Madison, Wisconsin contracting firm before coming to St. Louis to manage the sales and marketing efforts for S. M. Wilson & Co., a St. Louis-based general contracting and construction management firm. In 2012, Berg was named President of the firm.

Our mailing address is: 3830 South Grand Blvd | St. Louis, MO 63118

CALLING ALL PUCC VOLUNTEERS: OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONVOCAION COMING SOON – LGBTQIA Inclusion Training

We are once again hosting Convocation 2023 on March 4, 2023. We need a team of volunteers: greeters, set up and take-down crews, kitchen assistants, technology assistants. See Carol Cobb: ccjacob@aol.com | (314) 640-8166
Gateway ONA website: <https://www.gatewayona.com>

Planning the Energy Future of Your Congregation: Webinar by Interfaith Power and Light and UCC

Tuesday, February 21 | 12:00pm

Join the Interfaith Power & Light, the United Church of Christ, and other faith partners in learning about benchmarking your facilities' energy use, so that your congregation can cut energy costs and care for creation. This is the first step in planning to take advantage of federal funding now available to faith communities. Presenters include: Jerry Lawson, National Manager of EPA's Energy Star for Small Businesses and Congregations; Sarah Paulos, Interfaith Power & Light's Cool Congregations Program Director and Tom Hackley from People's Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

More info: Polly Rutherford | (863) 636-8118 | Pollyrutherford@gmail.com
https://www.ucc.org/event/webinar-planning-the-energy-future-of-your-congregation/?inf_contact_key=48767c5c4994a56d0eefae4e2a750b041b0a3f0fd3ee5d9b43fb34c6613498d7

February 2023 Alzheimer's News

A recent U.S. study of nearly two million people 65 and older, split evenly between those who had received a flu vaccination at least once in their lifetime and those who had not, showed that those who had received the vaccination were 40% less likely to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's than those who had not been vaccinated. About 5.1% of flu- The study between vaccinated patients were found to have developed Alzheimer's disease at four-year follow-up appointments, according to researchers, compared with 8.5% of non-vaccinated patients.

The author of the study, Dr. Avram S. Bukhbinder, said that flu vaccination in older adults reduces the risk of developing Alzheimer's Disease for several years. The strength of this protective effect increased with the number of years that a person received an annual flu vaccine. The study from UT Health Houston was published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease.

You can learn more by going to www.alz.org/help-support/resources or the Alzheimer's Helpline which is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master's level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision making, and disease information. You can find virtual dementia caregiver resources online at alz.org/covid19help. Tools and support are also available in Spanish.

Want to learn more about the Alzheimer's Association and what they do here in St. Louis? Visit alz.org and/or contact PUCC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at joyceruiz7@gmail.com

Prayer List

as of February 8, 2023

Celebrations

Nolte-Edwards-Larson Family celebrating arrival of Charles Alexander Edwards on Feb 1 to Kristin & Brandon, Karen & Bill, Skip.

Wedding of Bethany Eiffert and Enrique Dávila on March 4.

Black History Month.

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

Concerns

The Impastato Family - as they grieve/give thanks for Andy's Dad.

Gail Haack - healing from recent sinus cyst surgery.

Peter LaSalle - hospitalized while he and Sally are on a trip to Arizona.

Joseph Miller - moved out of ICU to *acute care* (son of Deb Carter).

Rutherford Family - as they grieve/give thanks for sis-in-law Nancy.

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

He is making strides: moving steadily toward 5lbs

Cassie Rosenberger's mother Martha - awaiting medical news.

Lyon Family/Friends - grieving/giving thanks for David (McKenzie).

Aftermath of the multiple deadly gun violence events in California and the killing of Tyre Nichols by police in Memphis.

All impacted by Covid-19.

The devastating earthquake in Turkey & Syria (see prayer below).

When we asked our Muslim friends from TASOM (Turkish American Society of Missouri) about relief agencies -- <https://embracerelief.org>

The continuing war in Ukraine.

Continuing

Marion Pleis - home at Cape Albeon after hip surgery, rehab, COVID.

Barb Kuhlmann's Dad - hospice care at home with daughter Brenda.

Edwin & Maria - as he is in the midst of treatment for cancer (Runtz).

Angie - living with Hodgkin's Lymphoma (Rosenberger).

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

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

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).

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.

6th Sunday *after* Epiphany

Sunday, February 12, 2023

Matthew 5:21-37

From the Heart

Racial Justice Sunday/Science and Technology Sunday

First Congregational Church UCC of Poughkeepsie, NY knows that most people find new churches through webpages, and they want to assure that all who visit understand their stand on the importance of science as a companion to faith. Their website has a whole page dedicated to explaining their stance on the value of science.

“For too long, science and faith have had a combustible relationship...Some people like to describe science as being true whether you believe in it or not because it is based in conducting repeatable experiments, collecting measurable data and arriving at conclusions that match the data. Many consider faith, if not contrary to science, at least completely separate from it because they regard faith as believing in what cannot be proven.

But in the United Church of Christ, we don't regard science and faith as mutually exclusive, or as occupying completely separate realms. Instead, we want them to be engaged in conversation because we think they each have something to offer to the other. For we trust that God is still speaking, and we listen for God's voice not just in places of quiet contemplation or majestic beauty, but also in labs and lecture halls, through the lenses of microscopes and telescopes, in moments of discovery and through efforts to understand the world around us. We value intellectual curiosity and the way that science can uncover new information that expands our perspective. Because we are committed to service, social and economic justice, and careful stewardship of creation, we also are interested in the ways scientific discoveries can support or undermine these commitments.

So it is not surprising that since 2008, our congregation has chosen to recognize in worship the mutually valuable insights that can be gained when science and faith are in open and honest dialogue with one another. Indeed we desire a faith that is “scientifically sophisticated, technologically advanced, morally just, ecologically sustainable, and spiritually alive.” (from the UCC's Pastoral Letter on Faith Engaging Science and Technology).

We want to make clear the UCC's belief that science and religion are not mutually exclusive, and we extend our unequivocal welcome to persons who devote their lives to scientific inquiry, no matter the discipline.

We are a thoughtful, thinking church.”

“Faith and Science.” www.opentogod.org/science.