



First **Sunday**
in **LENT**

February 26, 2023



www.parkwayucc.org
Sunday, February 26, 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

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 Greg Schmelig

Today's Flowers Judy McLachlin in memory of her husband Bob

Subscribe to our email lists: 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

3/3 YAKEL, Doug & Amy (33)

Birthdays

2/26 MUCHNICK, Katie

3/1 CHOSTNER, Angela

2/27 MATTEUCCI, Tommy

3/1 HAACK, Bill

2/27 NOURI, Cynthia

3/3 CLIFFORD, Carol

2/27 ROESLER, Paul

3/3 HERPEL, Marv

2/28 WADDELL, Alek

3/3 POUNDS, Melissa

1st Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 26, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *The moments that I've allowed – or forced – myself to stop, to rest, to breathe, to connect. That's where life is, I'm finding. That's where grace is. That's where delight is.* ~Shauna Niequist

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 *Prayer*—Kreutzer, arr. Alexander Schreiner c. 1937

Introit *Kyrie* Please sing this, following the Cantor's directions.

Kyrie Eleison...Kyrie Eleison

Christe Eleison...Christe Eleison

Kyrie Eleison...Kyrie Eleison

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* #363, v1

The image shows a musical score for the song 'I Want Jesus to Walk with Me'. It consists of four staves of music in a 4/4 time signature, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to one flat. The lyrics are: 'I want Je - sus to walk with me: (Walk with me)'. The second staff continues the melody: 'I want Je - sus to be in me.'. The third staff continues: 'All a - long this len - ten jour - ney.'. The fourth staff concludes the phrase: 'Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. (with me)'. The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, along with rests and ties.

Scripture Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (CEB – Common English Bible)

The Lord God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. The Lord God commanded the human, “Eat your fill from all of the garden’s trees; but don’t eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!”

The snake was the most intelligent of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say that you shouldn’t eat from any tree in the garden?”

The woman said to the snake, “We may eat the fruit of the garden’s trees but not the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, ‘Don’t eat from it, and don’t touch it, or you will die.’”

The snake said to the woman, “You won’t die! God knows that on the day you eat from it, you will see clearly and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” The woman saw that the tree was beautiful with delicious food and that the tree would provide wisdom, so she took some of its fruit and ate it, and also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then they both saw clearly and knew that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made garments for themselves.

***Call to Worship**

One:	We come again to this season of Lent.
Many:	We have more than forty days and nights to self-examine and focus our energies.
One:	We want to become more faithful and effective.
Many:	We listen to one another as we travel through Lent alone and together.
One:	We honor each other by looking into one another’s eyes and listening to each other’s stories.
Many:	The people we have met and known impact us – in positive and negative ways.
One:	Jesus’ words and ways also have an effect on us. They challenge us, shape us, console us, grace us.
Many:	So we walk this way with Jesus and learn from him all along the way.
One:	We rely on the Spirit to teach us, guide us, correct us and love us every step of the way.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

*Song *O God of Truth and Glory*

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D *The Church's One Foundation*

**O God of truth and glory, in listening to your Word,
We sometimes miss the story of voices seldom heard.
Forgive our poor attention to women who were there —
To those we hardly mention in scripture, hymn or prayer.**

**For Eve was Adam's partner, and Noah had a wife.
And Sarah laughed in wonder at how you changed her life.
Rebekah, strong and forceful, knew just what she would do.
And Rachel was resourceful, and Dinah mattered, too.**

**Young Miriam saved her brother; she found the boy a home.
And so the Pharaoh's daughter raised Moses as her own.
You called on countless women to work and serve and pray.
Lord, may we, too, be listening when you call us today.**

Lenten Candles *Jesus Met and Known*

We light seven candles as we embark on this Lenten journey. We want the light of the Holy to illumine our path as we seek to be the words and ways of Jesus. We commit to being more infused by the Spirit as we travel. Even as we know this is good and important work, we recognize that it isn't easy—and we will come upon the shadow side of humanity and some of our own unique darkness.

We extinguish one candle each time we gather for worship this season, acknowledging that this can be tough and exhausting work. As we approach the desertion and depletion of Good Friday, we also prepare ourselves for the dawn and love of Easter morning...the light that never goes out.

Prayer at the Candles

Holy One, Jesus met a variety of people on his journey - and he knew even more Biblical characters because of being raised in the faith. As we meet these same people and personalities in the scriptures, they mingle with us and our unique stories. We also meet Jesus and he meets us this season... and we know him and we are known by him. As we live further into our individual and communal Christian identities, help us to be more intentional and authentic about our faithfulness and effectiveness. Amen.

Response *Jesus Tawa Pano—Jesus We Are Here*

Je - su ta - wa pa - no; Je - su ta - wa pa - no;
Je - sus, we are here; Je - sus, we are here;

Je - su ta - wa pa - no, ta - wa pa - no, mu zi - ta re - nyu.
Je - sus, we are here; we are here for you.

Children's Time *Book Sunday* Liz Lyons

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.

Scripture Matthew 4:1-11 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving. The tempter came to him and said, "Since you are God's Son, command these stones to become bread."

Jesus replied, "It's written, *People won't live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God.*"

After that the devil brought him into the holy city and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, "Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down; for it is written, *I will command my angels concerning you, and they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a stone.*"

Jesus replied, "Again it's written, *Don't test the Lord your God.*"

Then the devil brought him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. He said, "I'll give you all these if you bow down and worship me."

Jesus responded, "Go away, Satan, because it's written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only God.*" The devil left him, and angels came and took care of him.

Response *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley #80, v1-2*

Jesus walked this lonesome valley;

He had to walk it by himself.

Oh, nobody else could walk it for him;

He had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley;

We have to walk it by ourselves.

Oh, nobody else can walk it for us;

We have to walk it by ourselves.

Sermon

Invitation to Prayer *Amazing Grace #280*

Through many dangers, toils, and snares

I have already come

This grace that brought me safe thus far

And grace will lead me home

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.]

Offering Our Gifts to God

If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate on the communion table before the end of the closing hymn. There are also offering plates in the Gathering Space just outside the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Anthem *Balm in Gilead*—arr. Mark Shepperd

Offered by the Sanctuary Choir

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. Refrain

If you can't preach like Peter, if you can't pray like Paul,
Just tell the love of Jesus and say "He loves us all!" 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

**We give our offering hopefully, hoping that you can use these gifts
hoping that these gifts can further your kingdom hoping that your
kingdom will come. Your kingdom, your will be done, on earth as it is
in heaven. Amen.**

*Song of Parting *Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult*



- 1 Je-sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest-less sea;
- 2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,
- 3 Je-sus calls us from the wor-ship of the trea - sures we a - dore,
- 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of toil and hours of ease,
- 5 Je-sus calls us! By your mer - cies, Sav-ior, may we hear your call,



Day by day that voice still calls us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, fol - low me."
Turned from home and toil and kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
From each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."
Je - sus calls, in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."
Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Postlude *Hymn of Faith*—C. W. Gluck, arr. Alexander Schreiner c.1937

Announcements

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

TODAY: 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=QEM2ZURyWURLNmkwZD0EzV0VHVH1lYQTO9>

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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue Feb 28

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 6:00pm potluck | 7:00pm discussion | Heritage Room

Please join us for our continued discussion of *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate. This historical fiction novel brings to life the stories from actual *Lost Friends* advertisements that appeared in the Southern newspapers after the Civil War as newly freed slaves tried to find their loved ones who had been sold away. Newcomers are always welcome.

Contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net | (314) 401-4382

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

AMOE (Adventurous Men Out Early)

Thursday, March 2 | 9:15am | Heritage Room

Timely, lively conversation (and gossip), featuring Dana Brown's Safari coffee. All are welcome. You don't even need to RSVP. Questions? Richard Scherrer: 90fivetpr@gmail.com

St. Patrick's Day Dinner - Habitat for Humanity March 4

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.

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: cejcobb@aol.com | (314) 640-8166 Gateway ONA website: <https://www.gatewayona.com>

Chili Cook-off & Brownie Bake-off fundraiser for Summer Mission Trip – Sunday, March 5 after worship. Get those recipes ready! Sign up in the Gathering Space. Questions? Amy Yakel: da_yakel@att.net | (314) 275-8039

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

Brunch to Plan Parkway Adventures

Mon, Mar 13 | 9:00-11:00am | Sunny Street Cafe | Des Peres 11692 Manchester Rd
Would you like to join Parkway Adventurers? The "Not Just for Men Group" is evolving into a different name: Parkway Adventurers Crew or Parkway Adventurers Club Krew "PACK or PAC" Parkway UCC folks love acronyms for groups, and this seems to fit as any age can join the fun visiting area museums, all kinds of attractions, and lunch. Jackie Eiffert and Carol Cobb would like to invite interested folks to join us for a Dutch breakfast or brunch at Sunny Street. We will discuss interesting places to visit and have then have lunch together at a fine dining establishment following the outing We will plan monthly trips and hope different people will volunteer to sponsor one event. Come with ideas and enjoy the camaraderie and delicious food at Sunny Street. RSVP: Carol and Harold Cobb cejcobb@aol.com

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

Caring for Creation in Action

We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly.

~Anne-Marie Bonneau

Zero Waste 101: Everything You Need to Know

Quick Key Facts

- Zero waste dates back to the 1970s when the term was coined by chemist Paul Palmer.
- Today, zero waste includes the 5 Rs: refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle and rot.
- A zero-waste approach can reduce waste management emissions by 84%.
- About 146 million tons of waste end up in landfills in the U.S. each year.
- Food is the largest component of landfilled waste, about 24%.
- The U.S. food system requires 10.11 quadrillion British thermal units (Btu) of energy.
- Clothing production requires 79 billion cubic meters of water per year.
- Global [e-waste](#) reached 53.6 million metric tons from 2010 to 2019.
- Recycling produces about nine times more jobs than landfill disposal.
- Composting produces about double the amount of jobs that landfill disposal requires.

What is Zero Waste?

You've likely heard the old adage, "reduce, reuse, recycle." While this has been a cornerstone of sustainability, with many kids hearing this golden rule over the years and repeating these steps well into adulthood, there's a more updated framework that can help consumers [strive for zero-waste](#) lifestyles.

Zero-waste refers to principles of minimizing waste production as much as possible. Béa Johnson of Zero Waste Home calls the framework for zero-waste the 5 Rs: **refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, and rot.**

In reality, before the rise of plastic production in the mid-20th century, many people naturally followed a zero-waste approach to waste management. But human dependence on plastic, a material that doesn't easily or quickly break down, has left us with landfills and oceans full of trash.

The idea of zero-waste is to produce as little waste as possible, to begin with. Then, with any waste that is generated, compost, reuse, or recycle whatever is left.

How the Zero Waste Movement Started

Throughout history, zero-waste living was the norm. Re-wearing your clothing, preserving food or eating all of the food you purchased, hunted, gathered, or grew, repairing tools and furniture, and reusing items as much as possible were typical for many people.

But as plastic use increased in the 1960s, humans began quickly generating massive amounts of trash. A rise of “throwaway” culture took hold, where people found convenience in tossing out plastic dining ware or food packaging.

This approach has extended to many types of products. Phone breaks? Toss it and buy the latest model. Favorite T-shirt rips down the side? Toss it out and buy a replica. **Food waste** on your plate? Dump it in the trash, rather than fussing with a smelly compost pile.

But all of this waste and consumption has major impacts on the environment and **climate change**. Waste ends up in landfills, polluting cities, and ecosystems, or floating in **garbage patches in the oceans**. More resources are required and more emissions are emitted as humans source materials and make more and more goods for people to buy.

Repairing and reusing your items, recycling, composting and refusing excess items you don’t need, all have many benefits. These actions can save individuals money and even generate more jobs for local economies compared to conventional disposal, while also saving Earth’s resources, minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving relationships within communities.

Reduce and Refuse

Rather than trying to correct overconsumption through recycling and composting, we should start by focusing on consuming less. Reducing the amounts of goods we consume, and waste, is a critical step in zero waste. When it comes to refusing, you can practice saying “no” to any unnecessary items, like plastic utensils with your take-out food or free plastic pens from the bank.

Avoid Buying Single-Use Items

Single-use items are designed for convenience, but they also amount to a lot of waste. Unless you need single-use items, avoid buying or using them as much as possible. That might look like bringing a reusable travel mug to your favorite coffee shop or packing reusable utensils in your bag.

Recycle

Many people are familiar with recycling, and if you don’t already, you should start. Set up a small bin or multiple bins in your home to organize and hold recycling, then drop it off in your property’s blue bin or to a place in your community that collects recycling.

While recycling is an important component to zero-waste living, the focus should first be on reducing consumption, reusing items you already own, and repairing broken items first. Recycling is a second-to-last resort before sending anything to a landfill.

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Celebrations

Wedding of Bethany & Enrique March 4 (Jackie Eiffert's daughter); Ricky will be a Professor of Latin American Studies at SLU.

Black History Month.

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

Concerns

Kuhlmann Family - Barb's father died over the weekend; memorial service on Thursday, March 9 at 3pm at Chesterfield Presbyterian.

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

Peter LaSalle - home after hospitalization during a trip to Arizona.

Joseph Miller - making progress in a rehab center (son of Deb Carter).

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

He is making strides: moving steadily toward 5lbs

Julie - awaiting test results in Manchester, England (Shelton cousin).

Cassie Rosenberger's mother Martha - aggressive chemo soon.

Jan - experiencing dementia (great-grandma of Coree Mix).

All impacted by Covid-19.

The devastating earthquakes in Turkey & Syria

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

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

Matt Albers - chemotherapy treatments (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 102 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]

Glady Sims - *Friendship Village - 15200 Village View Dr, #2418*;

Chesterfield, MO 63017; 636-898-8873 [birthdate: July 4]

David Smith - *Anthology of Town & Country*; 1020 Woods Mill Rd;

#310; St Louis, MO 63017; 636-200-5076 [birthdate: July 24]

(Father of Deb Carter).

Pinky Wilcoxon - 10379-D Forest Brooke Ln; StL MO 63146; 314-983-

0253; meadletter222@gmail.com [birthdate: April 7]

Dick Witte - *Meramec Bluffs Assisted Living*; 40 Meramec Trails Dr; Apt

#104; Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-368-7324 [birthdate: March 25]

Other

JoJo & Derek and Natty Kersting as they await a baby this summer.

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.

1st Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 26, 2023

Matthew 4:1-11

Abundant Grace

Seminary Sunday/Church Vocations Sunday

UCC General Minister and President Rev. John Dorhauer produces and presents a weekly podcast called *Into the Mystic*, a reminder that the art of spiritual reflection should be made a priority, taken seriously and practiced regularly.

On this Seminary Sunday and Church Vocations Sunday, his emphasis on spiritual reflection is especially timely for those on the path to theological education and church work.

On a recent episode of the podcast called “Watch Over Your Heart’s Integrity,” he begins with a favorite quotation from the ancient and wise desert fathers, “In your exploration of God, whatever path you find your soul longs after in your quest for the Sacred, do that, and always watch over your heart’s integrity.”

Rev. Dorhauer goes on to say that he was surprised to learn as a student that there were so many different theologies and that so many of them were incompatible with each other. The more he studied, the more in awe he became of all the ways there are to access God and determine what Her primary characteristics might be. Was God removed and heavenly, or accessible and willing to sit with us, or present in sanctuaries and available to priests alone, or over seeing judge. He learned as a student that the answer to all these is a resounding YES. Dorhauer was further in awe that those who put together the texts seemed to accept, even to celebrate, these dichotomies.

How do you find God? In a soaring cathedral? In nature, being on a mountain? In a quiet and rustic chapel in silence? In the smile of a child or a hug from a loved one? In a beautiful and artistic turn of phrase? Any of these things and many more can call to mind the goodness of God.

“There are as many pathways to God as there are people walking the earth,” Dorhauer concludes. Whatever path you might find yourself on, follow the words and wisdom of the desert fathers. “In your exploration of God, whatever path you find your soul longs after in your quest for the Sacred, do that, and always watch over your heart’s integrity.”