



**Second Sunday in LENT**

March 5, 2023

# JESUS

Met & Known



**PARKWAY**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org  
Sunday, March 5, 2023

## Contents

- 3 Birthdays
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 10 Announcements
- 14 Prayer List

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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.

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## 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** Karen Nolte in memory of Ellie Larson (Bday 3/2)

**Subscribe to our email lists:** Sign up at [www.parkwayucc.org](http://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](http://www.crisistextline.org)  
Behavioral Health Network of Greater St Louis 314-449-6713

## Anniversaries

3/6 PILLAI, Janie & Anil (19)

## Birthdays

03/04 CARTER, Deborah

03/08 DOWNING, Jeff

03/06 WOODSON, Connor

03/08 KLEIN, William

03/07 SPERRY, Doug

03/11 TALLYN, Jameson

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 5, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

**Meditation** *If you hear a voice within you say “you cannot paint,” then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced. –Vincent Van Gogh*

**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 *They’ll Know We Are Christians (By Our Love)*

By Peter Scholtes, arr. Edward Broughton T

## Introit *Kyrie*

*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*

The image shows a musical score for the song "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" in 4/4 time. The score is written on four staves of music. The lyrics are: "I want Je - sus to walk with me: (Walk with me) I want Je - sus to be in me. All a - long this len - ten jour - ney, Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. (with me)". The music features a simple melody with some chords and rests, and the lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes.

## Scripture Genesis 12:1-4a (CEB – Common English Bible)

The Lord said to Abram, “Leave your land, your family, and your father’s household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, those who curse you I will curse; all the families of the earth will be blessed because of you.” Abram left just as the Lord told him.

## \*Song *The God of Abraham Praise* #488



1. The God of A-braham praise, Who reigns en-throned a - bove;  
2. Your spir - it still flows free, High surg - ing where it will;  
3. You have e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;



The an - cient of e - ter - nal days, The God of love!  
In proph-et's word You spoke of old And You speak still.  
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven con - fessed,  
Es - tab - lished is Your law, And change-less it shall stand,  
We praise You, liv - ing God! We praise Your ho - ly name;



We bow be - fore Your ho - ly name, For - ev - er blest.  
Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.  
The first, the last, be - yond all thought, And still the same!

## \*Call to Worship United Methodist Church

One: Father Abraham has many sons.

**Many:** Black ones and white ones; yellow, brown and red ones.

**All:** We all claim Father Abraham!

One: Mother Sarah has many daughters.

**Many:** Poor ones and rich ones; young ones, retired ones.

**All:** We all claim Mother Sarah!

One: I have a story, you have a story, and God has a story. Look for yourself in the beginning of the story of Father Abraham.

**Many:** And Mother Sarah... and all people of faith!

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

## **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** 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 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.**

## **Mission Moment** *2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Lent/Easter*

Heifer Project | Lydia's House | Unleashing Potential | Eden Seminary

## Offering Our Gifts to God

If you have an offering today, please place it in the offering plate up front or the one in the Gathering Space just outside the sanctuary. Thank you!

## Offertory Anthem *The Gathering*—Ken Medema, 1972

Offered by the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Choir.

Out of need and out of custom, we have gathered here again:  
To the gathering we are bringing love and laughter, grief and pain.  
Some believing, some rejoicing, some afraid, and some in doubt,  
Come we now our questions voicing, we would search these matters out.

Come we now our masks displaying, fearing that we shall be known,  
Foolish games forever playing, feeling meanwhile so alone.  
Let pretension's power be broken, to be human let us dare;  
Let the truth in love be spoken, let us now the questing share.

We have heard the glowing stories of the things which God has done,  
Of the power and of the glory, of the love in Christ, God's Son.  
God of human transformation, for your presence now we pray,  
Lead us ever on the journey as we gather here today.

## \*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

**Generous God, we hear and feel your call to share our gifts. So we take inventory of what we have and what we need. We assess what is too much and what we can release in a spirit of care and kindness. Guide us and be patient with us as we grow in love. Amen.**

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

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.”

Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it’s not possible to see God’s kingdom.”

Nicodemus asked, “How is it possible for an adult to be born? It’s impossible to enter the mother’s womb for a second time and be born, isn’t it?”

Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don’t be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ God’s Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. It’s the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said, “How are these things possible?”

# Moment of Silent Reflection

## Sermon

**Invitation to the Communion Table** We invite *all* to this **open table**. All accepted—no exceptions—as we commit ourselves to limitless love, courageous action and spirited inquiry.

## Communion Song *In the Singing #2255*



1. In the sing-ing, in the si-lence, in the hands ex-pec-tant,  
2. In the ques-tion, in the an-swer, in the mo-ment of ac -



o - pen, in the bless-ing, in the break-ing,  
cep - tance, in the heart's cry, in the heal-ing,



in the Pres-ence at this ta - ble —  
in the cir - cle of your peo - ple —

### *Refrain*



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace:



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

## Prayers and 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.]

## \*Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine/Juice

Please come forward in the center aisle to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers are available on the table. Grape juice is in the outer ring; wine is in the center. Please return by the side aisles.

## \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy One, as we digest this simple meal and it give us courage, confidence, compassion, send us out into the world we know – and the world we aren't familiar with yet. We want to be bold and gentle, steady and gracious. Help us to be more like Jesus. Amen.

## \*Song of Parting *Let All Things Now Living* #554

*Unison*



1. Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks - giv - ing  
2. By law God en - forc - es. The stars in their cours - es,



To God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;  
The sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



Who fashioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us,  
The hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains,



By guid - ing us on to the end of our days.  
The depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

*Harmony*



God's ban - ners are o'er us, Pure light goes be - fore us,  
We, too, should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing



A pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:  
With glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise:

*Unison*



Till shad - ows have van - ished, All fear - ful - ness ban - ished,  
Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks - giv - ing,



As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to Light.  
To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.

## \*Benediction *Postlude in C*—Henry Purcell, arr. Tom Birchwood

# Announcements

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

**TODAY! Chili Cook-off & Brownie Bake-off** fundraiser for Summer Mission Trip – today after worship. \$5 donation requested... and you may want to purchase \$1 ballots to vote for your favorite chili and/or brownie!

The family of Christopher Haack will be celebrating his very special 40th birthday during the Chili & Brownie Luncheon. There is a “birthday” table for him and a few guests.

If have a card for Christopher, you may place it on his birthday table or leave it in the Gathering Space when you arrive for worship.

Christopher has been a member for more than 20 years but struggles with health issues and has not attended worship since before Covid. For several years he was a very dedicated usher.

Questions? Talk with Carol Cobb [ccjacob@aol.com](mailto:ccjacob@aol.com) or Kevin Cameron [kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org)

## Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue thru Lent

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays | 2:00-3:00pm | Zoom only

"In *Have a Little Faith*, Mitch Albom offers a beautifully written story of a remarkable eight-year journey between two worlds - two men, two faiths, two communities, *Have a Little Faith* begins with an unusual request: an eighty-two-year-old rabbi from Albom's old hometown asks him to deliver his eulogy. Feeling unworthy, Albom insists on understanding the man better, which throws him back into a world of faith he'd left years ago. Meanwhile, Albom becomes involved with a Detroit pastor - a reformed drug dealer and convict - who preaches to the poor and homeless in a decaying church with a hole in its roof. *Have a Little Faith* is a book about a life's purpose; about losing belief and finding it again; about the divine spark inside us all." - Amazon Review

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkw0EzY0VHV1IyQTO9>  
**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  
The “Not Just for Men Group” is evolving into a different name: Parkway Adventurers Crew or Parkway Adventurers Club Krew “PACK or PAC” Any age can join the fun on daytime monthly outings visiting area museums, all kinds of attractions, followed by lunch at a “fine dining establishment.” Jackie Eiffert and Carol Cobb would like to invite interested folks to join us for a Dutch breakfast or brunch at Sunny Street. As we plan monthly trips, we hope different people will volunteer to sponsor one event. Come with ideas and enjoy the camaraderie and delicious food at Sunny Street Cafe. RSVP: Carol and Harold Cobb [ccjacob@aol.com](mailto:ccjacob@aol.com)

## Sign up for a beautiful fern for decorating our sanctuary on

**Easter morning.** The Sanctuary Team has ordered 20 large hanging baskets of annual ferns. They may be taken home immediately after Worship on Easter. Please sign up for a fern on the poster in the Gathering Space. Let's make Easter Service beautiful. Two donated lilies will be on the pedestals, also. Contact Carol Cobb: ccjacob@aol.com | (314) 640-8166.



# COMMUNITY EGG HUNT

**1** APRIL | RAIN OR SHINE,  
2023 | **9:30 am**

CRAFTS, SNACKS, PICTURES WITH THE  
BUNNY, EGG HUNT

2841 N. Ballas Rd., St. Louis 63131

For more information visit  
<http://www.parkwayucc.org>

Made with PosterMyWall.com

### Community Easter Egg Hunt

Lauren Schneider has agreed to coordinate our Community Egg Hunt this year. Please reach out to her if you can help with this event:  
laurenrene81@gmail.com or 314-960-3955

## **If I Get Dementia** Rachel Wonderlin

If I get dementia, I'd like my family to hang this wish list up on the wall where I live. I want them to remember these things.

If I get dementia, I want my friends and family to embrace my reality. If I think my spouse is still alive, or if I think we're visiting my parents for dinner, let me believe those things. I'll be much happier for it.

If I get dementia, don't argue with me about what is true for me versus what is true for you.

If I get dementia, and I am not sure who you are, do not take it personally. My timeline is confusing to me.

If I get dementia, and can no longer use utensils, do not start feeding me. Instead, switch me to a finger-food diet, and see if I can still feed myself.

If I get dementia, and I am sad or anxious, hold my hand and listen. Do not tell me that my feelings are unfounded.

If I get dementia, I don't want to be treated like a child. Talk to me like the adult that I am.

If I get dementia, I still want to enjoy the things that I've always enjoyed. Help me find a way to exercise, read, and visit with friends.

If I get dementia, ask me to tell you a story from my past.

If I get dementia, and I become agitated, take the time to figure out what is bothering me.

If I get dementia, treat me the way that you would want to be treated.

If I get dementia, make sure that there are plenty of snacks for me in the house. Even now if I don't eat I get angry, and if I have dementia, I may have trouble explaining what I need.

If I get dementia, don't talk about me as if I'm not in the room.

If I get dementia, don't feel guilty if you cannot care for me 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's not your fault, and you've done your best. Find someone who can help you, or choose a great new place for me to live.

If I get dementia, and I live in a dementia care community, please visit me often.

If I get dementia, don't act frustrated if I mix up names, events, or places. Take a deep breath. It's not my fault.

If I get dementia, make sure I always have my favorite music playing within earshot.

If I get dementia, and I like to pick up items and carry them around, help me return those items to their original places.

If I get dementia, don't exclude me from parties and family gatherings.

If I get dementia, know that I still like receiving hugs or handshakes.

If I get dementia, remember that I am still the person you know and love.

## **The Alzheimer's Association**

The Alzheimer's Association Greater Missouri Chapter serves 86 counties in Missouri and 10 in Illinois, helping all those facing Alzheimer's disease and other dementias by providing support groups and educational resources, while advancing crucial research and public policy initiatives.

The Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline serves people with memory loss, caregivers, health care professionals and the public, providing reliable information and support to all those who need assistance. Call toll-free anytime day or night at 800-272-3900.

Care Consultations and Caregiver Relief Program:

The Greater Missouri Chapter's free *Dementia Care Planning Sessions* (also called Care Consultations) provide you with a comprehensive needs assessment and can help to develop an individualized action plan to address unmet needs and link caregivers to chapter services and community resources.

We recommend scheduling a Dementia Care Planning Session any time through the dementia journey. As the disease progresses, you may choose to schedule follow-up consultations to address new concerns.

The Alzheimer's Association can provide a Planning Session over the phone or in-person at one of our offices in St. Louis or Springfield, MO. In these free sessions, you will meet with one of our dementia experts to answer questions about dementia, caregiving, and care planning. We can help you create a plan and connect you to resources that will help support you through this dementia journey. For more information on other programs we provide, call 800.272.3900.

Joyce Ruiz, PUCC member, is our faith outreach ambassador to our local Alzheimer's Association. Please contact her if you have any questions or are in need of support from Alzheimer's Association and/or PUCC.  
JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com

# Prayer List

as of Wednesday, March 1, 2023

## Celebrations

**Marv Herpel** - celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday 3-3-33!

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

**ONA Conference** - worship and workshops here this Saturday.

**Black History Month** - the final day.

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

**Lenten Journey.**

## Concerns

**Kuhlmann Family** - Barb's father's memorial service will be on Thursday, March 9 at 3pm at Chesterfield Presbyterian.

**Peter LaSalle** - in the hospital here in St Louis after illness while away.

**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

**Cassie Rosenberger's mother Martha** - prep for aggressive chemo.

**Cassie Rosenberger** - healing at home after yesterday's surgery.

**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]

**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 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.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 5, 2023

**John 3:1-17**

**Bold Blessing**

***UCC Women's Week, March 5-11***

Today we meet Nicodemus, a leader and teacher of the law. As a leader and teacher, Nicodemus is the one who other people come to for answers. If a conundrum is too complicated for the average person to unravel, Nicodemus knows what to think.

But although he is the teacher, Nicodemus knows he is not done learning yet. Whatever discomfort or even danger compels him to visit Jesus in the dead of night, his questions are even stronger than his fear. Because of his practice of learning and teaching in the temple, Nicodemus knows that the very best way to learn is in communities of other learners. He does not try to answer the unanswerable questions by himself. He is an example and a model of what it means to be a lifelong learner.

Like Nicodemus, participants in the United Church of Christ's Nollau Leadership Institute are life-long learners, ready to take the risks associated with seeking community to answer life's biggest questions. According to their website, the institute "is designed to cultivate today's leaders who are committed to creating a just, caring, and compassionate world. It is a program that acknowledges the many ways this hoped-for world is alive in each one of us, and how it comes into fuller expression when we journey together...Through in-person retreats, online interactions, and peer mentoring, Nollau provides leadership formation through a variety of learning modalities and within a community of practice. Small group work, journaling, art, embodiment, and spiritual practices are all part of the program alongside the interactive didactic sessions. The program culminates with a capstone project and consecration as a Diakonal Minister at the CHHSM Annual Gathering.

If you are interested in examining what it means to be a leader by exploring what it means to be human, to be in relationship, and to be part of something larger than yourself, CHHSM welcomes you to apply to this transformative year-long program: <https://www.chhsm.org/leadership/nollau/>.