



Third Sunday in LENT

March 12, 2023

JESUS

Met & Known



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org
Sunday, March 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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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 Mark Sableman

Today's Flowers Jean Mueller

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

3/13 MUCHNICK, Melanie & Todd (30)

Birthdays

03/15 MUELLER, Jean

03/16 DELANNAY, Avery

03/16 HAACK, Christopher

03/18 CLIFFORD, Patrick

3rd Sunday in Lent

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

Meditation *We will drink what we thirst for and eat what we hunger for if we allow ourselves to be used for what we were created for!*

~Israelmore Ayivo

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 *Prelude in C Major*—Ch. H. Rinck (1770-1846), arr. Carlo Rossini

Introit *Kyrie*

Kyrie Eleison...Kyrie Eleison

Christe Eleison...Christe Eleison

Kyrie Eleison...Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison - Greek, then early Latin, meaning “Lord have mercy.” Our use of “the Kyrie” translates as “Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.” The Kyrie is a very old, even pre-Christian, expression used in Greek and Roman civic gatherings or ceremonies. In that pre-Christian context, it was used widely as an acclamation of the magnificent (the emperor in Roman civic gatherings). It began use in the 2nd century in early Christian churches as an invocation of God/Christ into the gatherings of early Christians and their worship, and then later (4th or 5th century) as part of a penitential rite in both the Latin and the Greek (later Orthodox) mass. In the season of Lent, we at Parkway UCC use it as a reminder that God is with us and does, indeed, love us.

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Morning Has Broken* #469, v1



1. Morn-ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has
2. Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the



spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness Of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, Praise ev - ery



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!
gar - den, Sprung in com - plete - ness Where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

Scripture Exodus 17:1-7 (CEB – Common English Bible)

The whole Israelite community broke camp and set out from the Sin desert to continue their journey, as the Lord commanded. They set up their camp at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people argued with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses said to them, “Why are you arguing with me? Why are you testing the Lord?”

But the people were very thirsty for water there, and they complained to Moses, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?”

So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What should I do with this people? They are getting ready to stone me.”

The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of Israel’s elders with you. Take in your hand the shepherd’s rod that you used to strike the Nile River, and go. I’ll be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock. Water will come out of it, and the people will be able to drink.” Moses did so while Israel’s elders watched. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites argued with and tested the Lord, asking, “Is the Lord really with us or not?”

***Call to Worship** Based on Psalm 95

One: Come, let us sing for joy to God. Let us shout aloud to God the Rock. Let us come before God with thanksgiving and extol God with music and song.

Many: We are grateful and come to worship God.

One: For God is great and above all gods. In God’s hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to God. The sea is God’s, for God made it, and formed the dry land.

Many: We are in awe and come to worship God.

One: Come, let us honor and give thanks in worship, for God is our God and we are the people of God’s pasture, the flock under God’s care.

Many: God, our creator and sustainer. We are yours, we thank you and we worship you.

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

*Song *Praise to the Living God*



1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose
2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose
3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who
4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -



word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.



Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -
Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till
God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And
In these tu - mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May



vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
we bear wit - ness to the Way. O Source and Goal of life.

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 *Tawa Pano*

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 *Weave*
Weave, weave, weave us together
Weave us together in unity and love,
Weave, weave, weave us together
Weave us together, together in love.

Scripture John 4:5-42 (CEB – Common English Bible)

He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food.

The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.)

Jesus responded, "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!"

Jesus said to her, “Go, get your husband, and come back here.”

The woman replied, “I don’t have a husband.”

“You are right to say, ‘I don’t have a husband,’” Jesus answered. “You’ve had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn’t your husband. You’ve spoken the truth.”

The woman said, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem.”

Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship God neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You and your people worship what you don’t know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. God looks for those who worship this way. God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth.”

The woman said, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach everything to us.”

Jesus said to her, “I Am—the one who speaks with you.”

Just then, Jesus’ disciples arrived and were shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who has told me everything I’ve done! Could this man be the Christ?” They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus.

In the meantime the disciples spoke to Jesus, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”

Jesus said to them, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.”

The disciples asked each other, “Has someone brought him food?”

Jesus said to them, “I am fed by doing the will of the one who sent me and by completing his work. Don’t you have a saying, ‘Four more months and then it’s time for harvest’? Look, I tell you: open your eyes and notice that the fields are already ripe for the harvest. Those who harvest are receiving their pay and gathering fruit for eternal life so that those who sow and those who harvest can celebrate together. This is a true saying, that one sows and another harvests. I have sent you to harvest what you didn’t work hard for; others worked hard, and you will share in their hard work.”

Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman’s word when she testified, “He told me everything I’ve ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. Many more believed because of his word, and they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world.”

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Song *Fill My Cup, Lord*

Isaiah Jones, Jr., 1969

Isaiah Jones, Jr., 1969

The musical score for "Fill My Cup, Lord" is written in 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff is a whole rest. The second staff is a whole rest. The third staff is a whole rest. The fourth staff is a whole rest. The fifth staff is a whole rest. The sixth staff is a whole rest. The seventh staff is a whole rest. The eighth staff is a whole rest. The ninth staff is a whole rest. The tenth staff is a whole rest. The eleventh staff is a whole rest. The twelfth staff is a whole rest. The thirteenth staff is a whole rest. The fourteenth staff is a whole rest. The fifteenth staff is a whole rest. The sixteenth staff is a whole rest. The seventeenth staff is a whole rest. The eighteenth staff is a whole rest. The nineteenth staff is a whole rest. The twentieth staff is a whole rest. The twenty-first staff is a whole rest. The twenty-second staff is a whole rest. The twenty-third staff is a whole rest. The twenty-fourth staff is a whole rest. The twenty-fifth staff is a whole rest. The twenty-sixth staff is a whole rest. The twenty-seventh staff is a whole rest. The twenty-eighth staff is a whole rest. The twenty-ninth staff is a whole rest. The thirtieth staff is a whole rest. The thirty-first staff is a whole rest. The thirty-second staff is a whole rest. The thirty-third staff is a whole rest. The thirty-fourth staff is a whole rest. The thirty-fifth staff is a whole rest. The thirty-sixth staff is a whole rest. The thirty-seventh staff is a whole rest. The thirty-eighth staff is a whole rest. The thirty-ninth staff is a whole rest. The fortieth staff is a whole rest. The forty-first staff is a whole rest. The forty-second staff is a whole rest. The forty-third staff is a whole rest. The forty-fourth staff is a whole rest. The forty-fifth staff is a whole rest. The forty-sixth staff is a whole rest. The forty-seventh staff is a whole rest. The forty-eighth staff is a whole rest. The forty-ninth staff is a whole rest. The fiftieth staff is a whole rest. The fifty-first staff is a whole rest. The fifty-second staff is a whole rest. The fifty-third staff is a whole rest. The fifty-fourth staff is a whole rest. The fifty-fifth staff is a whole rest. The fifty-sixth staff is a whole rest. The fifty-seventh staff is a whole rest. The fifty-eighth staff is a whole rest. The fifty-ninth staff is a whole rest. The sixtieth staff is a whole rest. The sixty-first staff is a whole rest. The sixty-second staff is a whole rest. The sixty-third staff is a whole rest. The sixty-fourth staff is a whole rest. The sixty-fifth staff is a whole rest. The sixty-sixth staff is a whole rest. The sixty-seventh staff is a whole rest. The sixty-eighth staff is a whole rest. The sixty-ninth staff is a whole rest. The seventieth staff is a whole rest. The seventy-first staff is a whole rest. The seventy-second staff is a whole rest. The seventy-third staff is a whole rest. The seventy-fourth staff is a whole rest. The seventy-fifth staff is a whole rest. The seventy-sixth staff is a whole rest. The seventy-seventh staff is a whole rest. The seventy-eighth staff is a whole rest. The seventy-ninth staff is a whole rest. The eightieth staff is a whole rest. The eighty-first staff is a whole rest. The eighty-second staff is a whole rest. The eighty-third staff is a whole rest. The eighty-fourth staff is a whole rest. The eighty-fifth staff is a whole rest. The eighty-sixth staff is a whole rest. The eighty-seventh staff is a whole rest. The eighty-eighth staff is a whole rest. The eighty-ninth staff is a whole rest. The ninetieth staff is a whole rest. The ninety-first staff is a whole rest. The ninety-second staff is a whole rest. The ninety-third staff is a whole rest. The ninety-fourth staff is a whole rest. The ninety-fifth staff is a whole rest. The ninety-sixth staff is a whole rest. The ninety-seventh staff is a whole rest. The ninety-eighth staff is a whole rest. The ninety-ninth staff is a whole rest. The hundredth staff is a whole rest.

Refrain
Harmony

Fill my cup, let it o-ver-flow;

Fill my cup, let it o-ver-flow;

Fill my cup, let it

o-ver-flow; let it o - ver-flow with love. love.

Unison

1. Lord, let me be Your in - stru - ment, Spread-ing
2. It's my de - sire to live for You, And to

sun - shine in the land; Let peo - ple see Your
al - ways walk up - right; Give me the strength to D.S.

works in me; Help me live the best I can.
face each day; Stay with me through each dark night.

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.]

Mission Moment 2nd 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 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 *Anthem of Fellowship—Jay Althouse*

Offered by the Sanctuary Choir.

To God above our voices raise; to God alone give thanks and praise.
Where'er we seek you, there you're found. Let anthems now resound!
Here in our waiting hearts proclaim the blessings of your holy name.
We pray that our beloved Lord may ever be adored.

We share your love and compassion. We sing together still.
In fellowship we stand as one to praise your heav'nly will.
All praise to God who reigns above, who joins us with both grace and love,
And in God's service may we be throughout eternity.

In Christ there is no East or West, in Him no South or North;
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

To God above our voices raise; to God alone give thanks and praise.
Where'er we seek you, there you're found. Let anthems now resound!
Here in our waiting hearts proclaim the blessings of your holy name.
We pray that our beloved Lord may ever be adored.

***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**

**Holy One, open our ears that we may hear the voices in our
communities that are seeking justice, seeking to be heard and
recognized. May we honor their hungers, thirsts and search for a
new life. Amen.**

***Song of Parting** *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*



- 1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
- 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
- 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth** *Postlude in C –Bottazzo, arr. Rossini*

Announcements

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

AWOL – Adventurous Women Out Late

Agatha Christie's MOUSETRAP – TODAY... one ticket remains!

Sunday, March 12 | 2:00pm | Robert Reid Theatre in Kirkwood

\$25/ticket "After a local woman is murdered, the guests and staff at Monkswell Manor find themselves stranded. It soon becomes clear that the killer is among them, and the seven strangers grow increasingly suspicious of one another." Mousetrap is the longest continuously running play—for over 60 years! Questions? Contact Carmen cfbum@charter.net

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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue (TED) Concludes Discussion 3/14

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 6:00pm potluck | 7:00-8:00pm Discussion | Heritage Room
Please join us for as we finish up *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate.
Newcomers are always welcome!

Parkway Speakers Series Programming for March A Family of Firefighters... the Current Generation

by Justin Nienhaus

Sunday, March 19 | After Worship | Heritage Room

St. Louis City firefighter Justin Nienhaus is a third generation first responder. Come and hear his story, and, honor his call to duty. Parents - bring your children.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwD0EzV0VHV1lyQT09>

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

Return to Vietnam

*Two Parkway Church Veterans Recount Their Experiences
During the War and Decades later, when they Returned*

by John Russell and Roger Fauss

Sunday, March 26 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

People who opposed American involvement in the Vietnam War tended to blame American troops for the tragic situation in Vietnam, instead of blaming the government leaders who had sent them there. By the 1980s, however, many Americans began to change their views of Vietnam veterans. They began to see that even if the war was wrong, most of the men who fought it were just ordinary men and women doing their jobs. Soldiers who had served in Vietnam finally began receiving recognition. In 1985, Newsweek reported that "America's Vietnam veterans, once viewed with a mixture of indifference and outright hostility by their countrymen, are now widely regarded as national heroes."

And then, thousands of former servicemembers journeyed to Vietnam, including John Russell. Aided by vivid and compelling photographic images of their experiences, Roger and John each have a remarkable tale to share. Honor their legacy by not missing this riveting and historic Speakers Series presentation.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwD0EzV0VHV1lyQT09>

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

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue thru Lent 3/21

1st & 3rd 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=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkw0EzV0VHV1IyQT09>
Meeting ID: 836 7061 7428 | **Passcode:** 480007 | **Dial** (312) 626-6799

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.



To help with the Egg Hunt, contact Lauren Schneider:
laurenrene81@gmail.com or 314-960-3955

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Celebrations

Marv Herpel - celebrated his 90th birthday on Friday 3-3-23!

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

Barb Harris - moving within the area on March 13.

Women's History Month.

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

Lenten Journey.

Concerns

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

Peter LaSalle - home after hospitalizations in AZ and MO.

Joseph Miller - home after hospitalization & rehab (son of Deb Carter).

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

He's making strides: moving steadily toward 8lbs; breathing on his own.

Cassie Rosenberger's mother Martha - aggressive chemo has begun

Cassie Rosenberger - healing at home after last week's surgery.

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

Cherie & Mike Stolze - her health; her father's kidney disease.

Bill Darland - ongoing health issues.

Gail, Bill and Christopher Haack - chronic health challenges.

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

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

Matt Albers - chemotherapy treatments (Lori Connors' friend's son).

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

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).

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 – 90 this week!]
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.

3rd Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 12, 2023

John 4:5-42

Thirsty Voices

Amistad Sunday

In today's story, Jesus meets a woman at a well and the two have a long and wide-ranging conversation, although by their society's standards they should never have spoken at all. They are Samaritan and Jew. Man and woman. Traveler and townswoman. So much seems to separate them. But by the end of the story, the unnamed woman and her entire community have been transformed.

This story is often understood as a story of individual piety, about one woman's change of heart. But what if the woman's actions could help to strengthen and inspire entire communities? Could your whole congregation become "women-at-the-well"?

Think of it like this. In the story today, the woman is open hearted in three ways that allow her to receive from and be transformed by the living Christ.

1. She is *curious*. The first question is from Jesus, who asks for a cup of water, but then the woman counters with another question, trying to find out more information. She continued to reach out to Jesus, her questions building a bridge across the gap that separates them.
2. She is *authentic*. She could have easily told a lie, but when Jesus asks her the reality of her life, she tells Jesus the truth. She does not try to cover up the messiness of reality with some more beautiful lie.
3. She is *ready*. She is confident in her faith, so when it comes time to articulate it she can do so. The woman declares she is waiting for the Messiah. She has a specific hope for the future, and she expresses it with confidence.

Is your congregation open-hearted like the woman at the well? Are you ready to see and receive Jesus however he may appear?

1. Are you, as a congregation, *curious*? Are you ready to ask questions and get to know even those who you have been told that you have no business talking to?
2. Are you, as a congregation, *authentic*? Are you willing to tell the truth about yourself, even when the truth is painful?
3. Are you, as a congregation, *ready* and able to articulate your faith? Do you have a specific hope for the future that you have language for?

The woman at the well did not know when the Living Christ would appear, but by maintaining her curiosity, authenticity, and hopefulness, she was ready to receive him when he arrived. May it be so for your congregation, too.