



Fifth Sunday in LENT

March 26, 2023

JESUS

Met & Known



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org
Sunday, March 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 Brad Lyons

Today's Flowers Roger & Donna Fauss celebrating their anniversary

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

- 3/26 CARTER, Deborah & Greg (29)
- 3/29 FAUSS, Roger & Donna (55)

Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 3/26 BRUEGGEMANN, Brad | 3/29 OEHLER, Barbara |
| 3/27 BIEST, Julia | 3/30 MUCHNICK, Todd |
| 3/27 DETJEN, Doug | 3/31 WILLIAMS, Matthew |
| 3/28 GOLDSTEIN, Nathaniel | 3/31 WOLFF, Katy |
| 3/28 SHELTON, Ryan | 4/1 BOWMAN, Klover |
| 3/28 WOLFF, Grant | 4/1 LYONS, Liz |

5th Sunday in Lent

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

Welcome to guest worship leader Rev Dr Karen Georgia Thompson - bio on p11

Meditation *Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.* ~Arundhati Roy

Welcome Song *You Are Welcome Here*

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

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

Prelude *Oh Bless the Lord, My Soul*—arr. Albert Beck

Based on the hymn tune St. Thomas by Aaron Williams (1770)

Introit *Kyrie Eleison*

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

Scripture Ezekiel 37, selected verses (MSG – The Message)

The hand of the Lord was on me, and brought me out by the Spirit and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.

Then God said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!’ This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: ‘I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’”

So I prophesied as commanded. And there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone... tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Then God said to me, “Prophesy to the breath.”

So I prophesied as commanded, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet.

***Call to Worship** based on words of Steve Garnaas-Holmes

One: There are parts of us, each of us, great parts and small parts, that have withered and died.

Many: Maybe spiritual gifts that we have buried, a face of ourselves we have closeted, wounds ignored, hopes starved.

One: Some may have passed on, forever. But some, God may yet breathe life into. God may bring bone to bone and sinew to sinew.

Many: We may be aware of it - a daily ache. Or it may be unknown to us - a hidden mystery.

One: What part of you is God bringing back to life? Where is God’s breath blowing, the dry bones moving?

Many: We won’t try to direct the wind. We won’t even worry where it is. We will just prophesy to the dry bones.

One: Speak hope. Be open to the miracle. Let God breathe...and wait.

Many: We wait with Jesus - our model and friend.

One: We wait with the Spirit - our strength and tenderness.

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

*Song *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* #363

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)

Lenten Candles *Jesus Met and Known*

We lit seven candles as we embarked 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 *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.**

Scripture Ezekiel 37:1-14 (CEB – Common English Bible)

The Lord's power overcame me, and while I was in the Lord's spirit, God led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. God led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

God asked me, "Human one, can these bones live again?"

I said, "Lord God, only you know."

God said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the Lord's word! The Lord God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord.'"

I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them.

God said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, human one! Say to the breath, 'The Lord God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live.'"

I prophesied just as I was commanded. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company. God said to me, "Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.' So now, prophesy and say to them, The Lord God proclaims:

‘I’m opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel’s fertile land. You will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. I will put my breath in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the Lord. I’ve spoken, and I will do it. This is what the Lord says.’”

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon *Meeting Jesus in the Valley* Rev Dr Karen Georgia Thompson

Invitation to Prayer *You Are Mine*



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



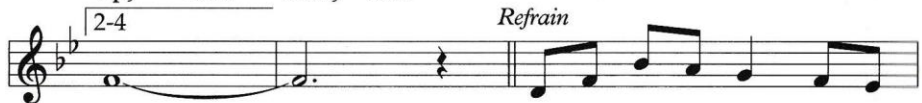
I will lift you from — all your fear. —
 I am eyes for all who long to see. In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame. —
 am the peace the world can - not give. —



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



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



me. —
 name. — Do not be a - afraid, I am
 live! —

with you. I have called you each by name.
 Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I
 love you and you are mine.

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer sung to the tune by Nate Stout

Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] **who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

[A variety of names for God are welcome here – including in the Lord's Prayer.]

Mission Moment 2nd Mile Lent/Easter—Kari Borgmann

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 *Sweet Hour of Prayer*—Bradbury/Walford

*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, we bring our gifts now and each day. Sometimes they are pure, gracious, without strings - but woven together with history and hope. Other gifts come begrudgingly, perhaps even with some apprehension and worry about our own livelihood. Be patient with us. Bless our efforts at being generous and other-focused. Amen.

*Song of Parting *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* #2158



1. I am weak, but thou art strong;
2. Through this world of toil and snares,
3. When my fee - ble life is o'er,



Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
time for me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly



long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.



Refrain
Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea,



dai - ly walk - ing close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth Postlude in C—J. Christian Heinrich Rinck

Arr. Martha Powell Setchell

Based on the hymn tune St. Thomas by Aaron Williams

Our Guest Speaker

We welcome Rev Dr Karen Georgia Thompson to worship this morning. She is the Associate General Minister and Vice President, Wider Church Ministries and Operations and Co-Executive for Global Ministries. She is an inspiring preacher and theologian, who shares her skills and gifts in a variety of settings nationally and internationally, often using her poetry as a part of her ministry.

As AGM for Wider Church Ministries and Operations, Rev. Dr. Thompson provides strategic visioning and leadership for the programmatic ministries of Global Ministries, Global H.O.P.E (formerly Humanitarian Aid and Development), Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, Events and Scholarships Management and Archives. In collaboration with the other two elected officers, John Dorhauer and Traci Blackmon, they work together to fulfill the mandates of the General Synod and the United Church of Christ Board.

Former roles in the National setting include two years as Minister for Racial Justice and 8 years as Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. She has effectively facilitated *Sacred Conversations on Race* workshops with congregations and Conferences. Her passion for racial justice moved her work into a global context to participate in efforts to reduce the marginalization experienced by African descendant communities.

As the Ecumenical Officer for the UCC she nurtured relationships with critical partners like the World Council of Churches and coordinated theological dialogues and ecumenical initiatives. She is a strong proponent of human rights and was instrumental in guiding the six-year process for the United Church of Christ/United Church of Canada full communion relationship. She is currently a member of the National Council of Churches Committee that planned and implemented A.C.T. Now to End Racism initiative and continues to lead the on-going efforts to dismantle racism.

Rev. Dr. Thompson provides leadership for the joint United Church of Canada and United Church of Christ committee working on the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) and was invited to address the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent about the challenges of racial injustice in North America.

Her ecumenical expertise is evident in her leadership roles within the World Council of Churches (WCC) on the Central Committee and as a Thursdays In Black Ambassador, the Joint Working Group with the Roman Catholic Church (JWG), and the Commission for Education and Ecumenical Formation as the Rapporteur for the work of the commission.

Other ecumenical elected leadership positions include: Secretary of the National Council of Churches, Secretary/Treasurer for the Caribbean and North American Area Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches and Treasurer for Churches Uniting in Christ.

Her ecumenical and interreligious commitments have overlapped with her interest and implementation of global consultations on multiple religious belonging. Her leadership in this area has created opportunities for dialogue in the church and created safe space for engaging the variety of expressions of religious multiplicity. Her doctoral dissertation was focused on research in

this area, looking specifically at the ways in which African Caribbean people continue to practice African derived religious and spiritual expressions along with other religions and often times with Christianity.

Before joining the National staff, Karen Georgia served in the Florida Conference United Church of Christ as a Pastor and on the Conference staff as the Minister for Disaster Response and Recovery. She also worked in the nonprofit sector for over 10 years in senior leadership positions.

She is a gifted writer and poet whose writings have been published in books, journals and on-line publications. Her book of poetry *Drums in Our Veins* will be published soon and is a compilation of poems that focus on the injustices facing people of African Descent and the fight and desire for racial justice globally. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, her poetry and writings reflect her Jamaican heritage and culture as well as the traditions and lore of her Ancestors.

Rev. Dr. Thompson earned a BA from Brooklyn College in New York; a Master of Public Administration from North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC; and a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York. She also studied Public Policy at Duke University and earned her Doctorate in Ministry at Seattle University.

She is the mother of two sons – Everette and Patrick and has three grandchildren – Giovan, Elijah and Sara who are affectionately named by her as Peanut, Pumpkin and Pepper.

**** Rev Dr Thompson is the candidate for the next General Minister and President of our United Church of Christ.**

<https://www.ucc.org/board-affirms-karen-georgia-thompson-will-be-first-woman-to-lead-ucc-if-elected-by-synod/>

Read the full article at this link. Here is an excerpt:

The United Church of Christ is poised to make a historic choice.

After a year-long process, the UCC Board voted March 4 to nominate Associate General Minister, the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, for General Minister and President.

“We couldn’t have more faith in Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson,” said the Rev. Cameron Barr, UCCB chair. “She has articulated our shared values on a global stage as Ecumenical Officer and Associate General Minister, and now, provided that she is elected by General Synod, she will be our spiritual leader.”

“We sought a leader who will champion the UCC’s mission and values both within the church and externally; embody an adaptive, resilient leader who can guide the UCC through rapidly changing times; and provide a foundation for the church’s future stability and growth,” said the Rev. Emma Brewer-Wallin, chair of the Search Committee that recommended Thompson.

Thompson’s vision for the future of the UCC embodies the values at the heart of her work: religious multiplicity and diversity, justice for marginalized communities world-wide and broader affirmation of spiritual practices beyond mainline Christianity.

2nd Mile Lent & Easter 2023

Go the 2nd Mile with us!

We are pleased to announce that Parkway is again supporting four worthy organizations with its Second Mile Giving for Lent and Easter. We believe this blend of support will help Parkway create a local, national and international impact with its gifts. Please remember that Second Mile Giving is over and beyond the Operational Budget and donations will be divided evenly among the organizations listed below. Please be generous as these organizations need on our gifts in order to be more faithful and effective.

Lydia's House

Lydia's House works in faith to end domestic violence in St Louis by being a place of healing and a voice of hope for abused women and their children. The agency provides safe, confidentially-located furnished apartments for up to two years, assists women in creating and implementing goal plans that will help them live independently, and increases community awareness of domestic violence. For more information, please visit lydiashouse.org

UP—Unleashing Potential (formerly Neighborhood Houses)

For more than 110 years, Neighborhood Houses has loved children in St Louis.

Currently, there are four main facets to their mission:

Early Childhood Education: Caroline Mission is a licensed and accredited Early Childhood facility operated by UP. Their Mission is to provide quality affordable childcare for children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age. Caroline Mission is a “home away from home.”

Youth Development: The approach relies on positive, mutually beneficial relationships between youth and their families, peers, schools, workplaces and communities that allow youth to enhance their knowledge, interests, skills and abilities. Through our coaching and guidance, they are able to build the competencies, skills and abilities needed to have a productive life and contribute to their community.

While our support changes to meet the evolving interests and needs of youth, our efforts have included:

- employment opportunities
- scholarships for participants or their siblings
- safe spaces for meeting
- after school and weekend programs and camps
- mentoring programs
- college visits
- community outreach events
- referral services

After School Programs: Neighborhood Houses is the #1 provider of after school programming with the St Louis Public Schools ... fun & creative activities, homework assistance, character education, cultural awareness, health & fitness focus, arts & crafts, supervised recreation, and much more!

Enrichment Camps: UP camps provide school-age girls and boys an opportunity for unleashing their potential through educational and recreational programs. UP camps are held at churches and other locations throughout the St. Louis region.

For more information, please visit upstl.org

Heifer International

Heifer International does so much more than put food in the mouths of hungry people. Heifer helps people to feed themselves. The goal of every Heifer project is sustainability—project partners achieving self-reliance. And year after year, as partner families “pass on the gift” of knowledge and one or more of their animals’ offspring to others in need, they become links in a network of hope, dignity and self-reliance that helps hundreds of others care for themselves. For more information, please visit heifer.org

Eden Seminary

Eden Theological Seminary is a graduate school preparing women and men for ordained Christian ministry. One of the six seminaries of the United Church of Christ, Eden is a community that seeks God’s justice and peace in the world. Eden is welcoming, inclusive and ecumenically diverse.

Eden was established in 1850 at Marthasville, Missouri. It was established because a European education was not adequate to prepare pastors for Evangelical churches on the North American frontier. From its beginning, Eden has embodied an ecumenical spirit. Its first graduating class included six Evangelicals as well as a Methodist and a Mennonite.

Eden admitted its first African American student in 1933. In 1965, the late Joseph Cardinal Ritter of the Saint Louis Archdiocese became the first Roman Catholic Cardinal to address a graduating class in a Protestant seminary.

Today, students from many different denominations are engaged in theological education here. Eden remains committed to educating faithful and effective leaders for church and society. The seminary counts among its distinguished graduates Reinhold and H. Richard Niebuhr and Walter Brueggemann.

Eden Theological Seminary is committed to the study of theology in the context of the ecumenical Christian community and the contemporary interfaith world. For more information, please visit eden.edu.

Please be sure to clearly mark your 2nd Mile gifts throughout the season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Announcements

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

TODAY— Return to Vietnam

Speaker Series Presentation 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 service members 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 Evening Dialogue (TED) New Book Starting Mar 28

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 6:00pm potluck | 7:00-8:00pm Discussion | Heritage Room

Please join us as we start our new book entitled *Disability Visibility*, edited by Alice Wong. One in five people in the US live with a disability. Some are visible and others are less apparent. In this book, activist Alice Wong brings together a galvanizing collection of contemporary essays by disabled people. This anthology gives a glimpse into the rich complexity of the disabled experience, highlighting the passions, talents and everyday lives of this community. Please read Part One Being for March 28. Contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net | 314-401-4382

1st Sunday Choir Next Sunday (4/2)—Extra Singers Needed!

Next Sunday—April 2— is both the 1st Sunday and Palm Sunday! 1st Sunday Choir is singing, and we **need** extra singers to help. No extra rehearsals, just be in the church Sanctuary next Sunday morning at 9:00am to learn 2 (easy) songs, and then stay to sing during our Palm Sunday service at 10:00am. No reservations required, AND you get reserved box seating for the service (in the choir loft)! Come join the fun singing on Palm Sunday, next Sunday starting at 9:00am...see **you** then!



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
parkwayucc.org

Made with PosterMyWall.com

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

Remember to take and submit photos and videos!

Media uploads: <https://tinyurl.com/PUCCmedia>

Candy for Community Egg Hunt and Easter Morning at PUC

Donate individually wrapped Easter candy for the Community Easter Egg Hunt and the Easter Morning Egg Hunt. Please drop in marked Easter Pail in the Gathering Space. Thank you! kevin@parkwayucc.org | 314-872-9330

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue thru Lent

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* is a book about a life's purpose; 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

Help beautify our sanctuary on Easter morning. Purchase a fern (for you to take home after Easter worship) by signing up in the Gathering Space. Let's make Easter Service beautiful. Two donated lilies will be on the pedestals, also. Contact Carol Cobb: cjccobb@aol.com | (314) 640-8166.

Easter Prayer Vigil April 7-9

Our Annual Easter Prayer Vigil begins Good Friday Night and continues through our Easter Sunrise Service. Please sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4CA4AC23AB9-annual1>
to be in prayer for at least one of the 36 hours at your home - not at church. Please let us know if you would like some suggestions about what to do during your hour. We have a booklet that you can use. Thank you for participating: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/g1lkknobqajbjux/36%20Hour%20Prayer%20Vigil%20Booklet%20-%20Holy%20Week%202023.docx?dl=0>

Holy Week at Parkway

7:00pm *Maundy Thursday* (April 6) in the Gathering Space.

12:00pm *Good Friday* (April 7) in the Historic Sanctuary across the street.

7:00pm *Good Friday Evening* in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service (April 9) at 6:15am in Elm Lawn Cemetery.

Easter Sunday 10:00am Worship service in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday following worship: *Easter Egg Hunt*

PUCC Youth Road Trip to Elephant Rocks

One of Missouri's most interactive state parks, Elephant Rocks is a giant pile of pink granite boulders just begging to be climbed on. The youth will be heading to the park, near Middle Brook, Missouri, about 90 minutes south of the church, in April or May. Take a moment to vote in this Doodle poll — <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/boZN8Nba> — to indicate which Saturday or Sunday works best for the youth(s) in your house. We'll pick a main date and a rain date based on when the most youth can attend.

Departure times will be 10:00am on Saturday or 11:15am (immediately after church) on Sunday. Pack a sack lunch, your climbing shoes, and plenty of water. We'll return 6-7 hours after departure.

Are you a parent interested in driving or tagging along? Join in the poll yourself!

Need more information? Contact Brad Lyons at brad@bradlyons.net.

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, March 26, 2023

Celebrations

Schulenburgs - Kaylyn & David's Milo William is home!!! after being in the NICU since his birth on November 30.

Barb Harris - settling in after relocating to a new home in the area.

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

Women's History Month.

Ramadan Mubarak!

Lenten Journey.

Concerns

Marv Herpel - home after COVID quarantine at St Luke's Hospital.

Jo Grove - hospitalized for several days - strengthening now at home.

Cassie Rosenberger's mother Martha - aggressive chemo has begun

Cassie Rosenberger - healing at home after recent surgery.

Tito - nephew of Mike & Lisa Mason in rehab after paralyzing stroke.

The Linsons - grieving and giving thanks for Bill and Sue (McKenzie).

The Shankers - grieving and giving thanks for Stan's mother.

6 month-old **Baby Woodson** - healing after heart transplant (Yakel).

All impacted by Covid-19.

People who have been sexually assaulted.

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

Peter LaSalle - healing after hospitalizations in AZ and MO.

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

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 - 3rd round chemotherapy soon (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]

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.

A Couple of Quotes for Women’s History Month

The most difficult thing is the decision to act; the rest is merely tenacity. —

Amelia Earhart

You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it. — Maya Angelou

5th Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 26, 2023

John 9:1-41

Restored

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

For many churches, generations of givers have placed their tithe to the church in a basket or plate that is passed during worship. Usually taking place toward the end of the worship service, the receiving of the offering in this way was both practical and also symbolic of the gifts that each congregation member has to offer. In the past couple of years, spurred by pandemic changes, many congregations have made a shift from receiving the offering in person to receiving it online or virtually. This shift in giving is the tip of the iceberg, a symbol of all the changes that have visited all churches in these unprecedented times.

In today's story, Jesus' healing of a man blind from birth is met with skepticism and uncertainty by those who have known the man. They are not prepared for this change and may feel ill equipped to handle it. Like the townspeople, you may feel unready for change. And yet, you have been living with and adapting through change as it happens both without and within.

In your lifetime, there has been nearly unfathomable change in the world. Borders have opened and closed, names of countries have changed, allies have banded together to make war on other nations, and then turned on one another, and the English language has added hundreds of new words to the dictionary. (Before 2020, had you ever heard or used the word "superspreader" before?)

And that doesn't even count the individual changes that you have adapted to in your lifetime. You have weathered and even thrived through changes in self-understanding, knowledge, relationships, emotional landscape, climate, education, fortune, health, travels, travails, employment status, living arrangements, and multiple television remotes with their array of mysterious black on black buttons.

You may push back against change or wish it would not come so fast, but in fact your whole life has been preparing you for the changes we are experiencing now. Whether your giving is the "old" way in a passed plate, or a "new" way through a computer terminal, you have everything you need to weather the changes around you.

One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. <https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>