

Easter

2023

Jesus Met and Known



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

April 9, 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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Welcome to Parkway

Thank you for joining us this Easter 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 John & Joyce Ruiz in honor of Joyce's birthday; lilies & ferns donated by a variety of members to celebrate/remember others.

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

4/12 HASLER, Rick & Cathy (26)

Birthdays

4/9 WAITE, Phil

4/11 WESSINGER, Nancy

4/14 COMENS, Mike

4/14 OSBORNE, Andrew

4/14 SCHERRER, Betty

4/15 HOCH, Richard

4/15 KRPAN, Paige

4/15 NOLTE, Karen

4/15 REED, Vivienne

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 9, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *We walk while singing, motley choir of traitors, lovers, meek and proud. Small sparks of apostolic fire light up the path, lighten the shroud. We walk in solidarity and sing of hope that never dies. We march to end disparity. Graves open as our spirits rise. We walk the way that has no end. Free to evolve, transform our creed. Hearts, torn like curtains, start to mend. Love rising now in word, in deed. ~Bronwyn Angela White*

Flowering the Cross Please place your flower in the cross anytime now or during the Prelude or Welcome Song.

Easter Proclamation

One: Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Many: Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

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 Fanfare on *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*—arr. by John A. Behnke
Based on *Easter Hymn*, from *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Introit *Dramatic Call to Worship*

Offered by our Intergenerational Handbell Ensemble and the Sanctuary Choir

On this, a holy day of days, to God your hearts and voices raise,
In laud and jubilee and praise. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Welcome Song #123—*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

Trumpet Introduction



1. Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. But the pains which He en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Un - to Christ, our heaven-ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise e - ter - nal as God's love; Al - le - lu - ia!

Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky He's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise our God, ye heav-en-ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Cre - a-tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Scripture Isaiah 25:6-9 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And God will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; God will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of the people will be taken away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited and waited so that God might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.

*Call to Worship

- One: Though my eyes were very blurry when they first opened this morning, I can see clearly now. The tomb is empty! Christ is risen!
- Many: **At first I couldn't hear it, but Jesus called me by name this morning. Alleluia!**
- One: I dropped everything I was holding in order to receive this miracle of God's deep abiding love.
- Many: **We proclaim our faith as we sing, pray and act today.**
- One: Our hearts are filled to overflow as we feel the depth and width of this great news.
- Many: **None of this makes any sense. But we trust in God's love and lean into our lack of understanding. Love is always a mystery.**
- One: I cannot keep this new reality to myself. I must run and tell like - Mary and the disciples did. We have good news to share!
- Many: **We commit to bringing Jesus' words and ways to the world with our whole selves.**
- All: **Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.**

*Song *The Day of Resurrection #118*



1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, That we may see a - right
3. Now let the heavens be joy - ful, Let earth the song be - gin,



The Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The Pass - o - ver of God.
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light;
Let the round world keep tri - umph, And all that is there - in;



From death to life e - ter - nal, From this world to the sky,
And, lis - tening to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen Their notes of glad - ness blend,



Our Christ hath brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.
His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.
For Christ the Lord is ris - en, Our joy that hath no end.

Lenten Candles *Jesus Met and Known*

We lit seven candles on Ash Wednesday as we began this Lenten journey. We wanted the light of the Holy to illumine our path as we sought to be the words and ways of Jesus.

We committed to being more infused by the Spirit as we traveled. Even as we knew this is good and important work, we recognized that it isn't easy—and we would come upon the shadow side of humanity and some of our own unique darkness.

We extinguished one candle each time we gathered for worship in Lent, acknowledging that this can be tough and exhausting work. As we approached the desertion and depletion of Good Friday, we also prepared ourselves for the dawn and love of this 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 *Jesu Tawa Pano*



Children's Time Children and Youth are invited to the Heritage Room following this Children's Time for a special Easter Sunday School. Afterwards, we will enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt. We ask parents to pick up their children in Fellowship Hall and go with them on the hunt. There will be appropriate eggs for toddlers in a separate area from the older children. We will wait to start the hunt until parents are with their children. Happy Easter everyone!

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.

Offering Our Gifts to God

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

Offertory Anthem *He's Alive!*—Don Francisco

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir.

The gates and doors were barred and all the windows fastened down.
I spent the night in sleeplessness and rose at every sound,
Half in hopeless sorrow, and half in fear the day
Would find the soldiers breaking through to drag us all away.

And just before the sunrise I heard something at the wall,
The gates began to rattle, and a voice began to call.
I hurried to the window and looked down into the street . . .
Expecting swords and torches, and the sound of soldiers feet.

There was no one there but Mary, so I went down to let her in;
John stood there beside me as she told us where she'd been.
She said "They moved Him in the night, and none of us know where.
The stone's been rolled away, and now His body isn't there!"

We both ran toward the garden, then John ran on ahead.
We found the stone and the empty tomb just the way that Mary said;
But the winding sheet they'd wrapped Him in was just an empty shell . . .
And how or where they'd taken Him was more than I could tell.

Well, something strange had happened there but just what, I did not know.
John believed a miracle, but I just turned to go.
Circumstance and speculation couldn't lift me very high
'cause I'd seen them crucify Him . . . then I saw Him die.

Back inside the house again the guilt and anguish came:
Everything I'd promised Him just added to my shame.
When at last it came to choices I denied I knew His name;
And even if He was alive . . . it wouldn't be the same.

But suddenly, the air was filled with a strange and sweet perfume!
Light that came from everywhere drove shadows from the room!
Jesus stood before me with His arms held open wide,
And I fell down to my knees and just clung to Him and cried.

He raised me to my feet, and as I looked into His eyes,
Love was shining out from Him like sunlight from the skies!
Guilt, and my confusion, disappeared in sweet release . . .
And every fear I'd ever had just melted into peace.

HE'S ALIVE! HE'S ALIVE!

He's alive and I'm forgiven, heaven's gates are open wide!

***Response**

**Praise God for visions great and small,
Praise God who calls us one and all,
Praise God whose Spirit gives new sight,
Praise God who fills our lives with light. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

As we share these gifts, we commit ourselves to being more generous as Easter people. We will see others and their predicaments. We will listen to their stories and bless them. We will put down what we are holding—so that our hands are ready to relieve a burden for someone else. We will speak words of comfort and reassurance. We will put our prayers and compassion into action. We will think imaginatively. With contagious creativity we will enter into life with one another—even with strangers. We will go beyond boundaries and step across chasms to be in solidarity—like Jesus always did. Amen.

Scripture John 20:1-18 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him." Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was

folded up in its own place. Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means *Teacher*).

Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to God. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my God... to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.

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 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* #514



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex-press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

Refrain (first time p, second time f)



Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

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.]

Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine

Please come forward in the center aisle to receive the gifts of bread and cup. Gluten-free wafers are on the communion table. Grape juice is in the outer ring; wine is in the center. Please return by the side aisles. All are welcome at this *Open Table*.

*Litany after Communion

Drew Ludwig

One: Jesus was beloved by the poor and the outcast

Many: but he was a threat to people with power.

One: Jesus stood against some of the teachings of the Temple,

Many: so he was a threat to the Sadducees.

One: Jesus healed on the Sabbath and ate with sinners,

Many: so he was a threat to the Pharisees.

One: Jesus took the titles of “Lord,” “Son of God,” and “King.”

Many: Those were Caesar’s titles: so he was a threat to the government.

One: Jesus came without violence

Many: yet he disturbed the peace.

One: Jesus came proclaiming the Kingdom of God

Many: and the kingdoms of this world were frightened.

One: Lord, help us to love your kingdom more than the kingdoms of this world.

All: For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory -- forever. Amen.

*Song of Parting

Now the Green Blade Rises



1	Now	the	green	blade	ris	-	es	from	the	bur	-	ied	grain;
2	In	the	grave	they	laid	their	Love	whom	hate	had	slain,		
3	Christ	came	forth	at	Eas	-	ter,	like	the	ris	-	en	grain,
4	When	our	hearts	are	win	-	try,	griev	-	ing,	or	in	pain,



Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,



Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:



Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Postlude** *Toccata in F Major—Dieterich Buxtehude, 1637-1707*

Psalm 19: Heavens Declare the Glory of God—Benedetto Marcello (1636-1739)

To Ponder on Easter

The new song never describes the world as it is now. The new song imagines how the world will be in God's good time to come. The new song is a refusal to accept the present world as it is, a refusal to believe this is right or that the present will last. The church is at its most daring and risking and dangerous and free when it sings a new song. Because then it sings that the power of the gospel will not let the world finally stay as it is. – Walter Brueggemann

The Easter egg symbolizes our ability to break out of the hardened, protective shell we've surrounded ourselves with. – Siobhan Shaw

The jasmine behind my house has been completely ruined by the rains and storms of the last few days. . . . But somewhere inside me the jasmine continues to blossom undisturbed, just as profusely and delicately as ever it did. And it spreads its scent round the House in which You dwell, oh God. You can see, I look after You, I bring you not only my tears and my forebodings on this stormy, grey Sunday morning, I even bring you scented jasmine.
~Etty Hillesum

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

Next Week Speaker Series: *Adventures in Cuba; Lifting the Veil; What We Saw and Learned.*

Sunday, April 16 | 11:15am – 12:15pm | Heritage Room & Zoom

SPECIAL SPEAKERS Gerry and Mike Rogers, Sue Moellering, Pam Manning, and Judy Connolley.

Cuba is home to over 11 million people and is the most populous island nation in the Caribbean. Its culture, and customs draw from diverse sources, such as the aboriginal, Taíno and Oboney peoples, the period of Spanish colonialism, the introduction of African slaves, and its proximity to the United States.

Online research and other resources will tell you that every American can now travel Cuba and enjoy cultural, artistic, and educational activities – just like touring any other country. But how accurate is that? Find out first-hand from several Parkway and Peace church members and their entourage that traveled to Cuba, including Gerry and Mike Rogers, Sue Moellering, Pam Manning, and Judy Connolley.

It's more than a travel log.

Zoom Meeting Information:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmKwd0EzV0VHV1IyQTO9#success>

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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue (TED)

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

Please join us as we continue our book entitled *Disability Visibility*, edited by Alice Wong. Please read Part Two for April 11. Helen Race: raceh@att.net | 314-401-4382

Food Packing with *Feed the Need*

Saturday, April 15 | 9:30-11:45am | Queeny Park: 550 Weidman Rd, Ballwin

Help round out our team of ten as we pack some food for hungry kids very far from here.

This requires standing for two hours.

Many PUCers have done this event in the past.

Why not come again -- or try it for the first time?

Let kevin@parkwayucc.org know you are interested.

We will meet there at Queeny just prior to our shift so we can sit together for the training and work together packing.

If this date and time doesn't work for you, please consider signing up for a shift that does fit in your calendar -- <https://feedtheneedstl.org/>

Questions? Contact Kevin Cameron: kevin@parkwayucc.org | (314) 872-9330

Faith Climate Action Week April 14—23

SAVE THE DATE! Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) will host a webinar conversation with the filmmaker, Roger Sorkin, on April 17 at 1:00pm. Webinar registration opens April 4: <https://tinyurl.com/current-revolution>

These films illustrate this year's Faith Climate Action Week theme: *Living the Golden Rule: Just Transition to a Clean Energy Economy*. The theme examines our responsibility to transition to energy sources that are sustainable and healthy for our communities and our sacred Earth.

As a member of Interfaith Power and Light, PUCC has been able to register to watch this new film series. This is a series of 3 short documentaries:

Current Revolution—a Film Series for the Energy Transition

EPISODE 1—*The Transformation Cannot Be Stopped*

EPISODE 2—*Nation in Transition*

EPISODE 3—*Workforce Rising*

Watch the film's trailers and read a description at Current Revolution: American Resilience Project— <https://tinyurl.com/current-revolution-homewatch>

The full documentary can be watched during the week of April 14 - 23.

Please take advantage of our opportunity to watch these educational environmental documentaries.

More info? Contact Polly Rutherford: pollyrutherford@gmail.com

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! Contact Brad Lyons at brad@bradlyons.net.

Celebrate Ramadan with our Muslim & Jewish Friends

Sat, Apr 15 | 7:00pm | Congregation Shaare Emeth - 11645 Ladue Road

Join our Muslim (TASOM - Turkish American Society of Missouri) and Jewish (Congregation Shaare Emeth) friends as we break the Ramadan fast together.

As we were planning this event, our hearts were heavy because of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Therefore, we decided to make this a fundraiser for specific families still in Turkey and we decided to cook the meal using their recipes so they can have a break.

Please consider helping with the cooking—

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foa49aeac2ea4f49-iftar#/>

Please RSVP for the dinner and brief program offered by all three faith traditions—<https://sestl.co/iftar23>

Contact Lisa Mason: lmason624@sbcglobal.net | (314) 395-4444

Special Olympics Annual Track and Field Event—Be a Buddy

Saturday, April 29 | 8:30pm-3:00pm

Westminster Christian Academy -- 800 Maryville Centre Dr, Chesterfield, MO

Being an “Athlete Buddy” at the Special Olympics Track and Field Day is the most rewarding volunteer job of all time! You will be paired directly with 1-2 athletes. You are required to spend the entire day together, accompanying them to each of their events to ensure they are on time and cheer for them as they compete, eat lunch together and visit Victory Village. Note: Due to the nature of this job you MUST be over the age of 16 (or directly accompanied by someone who is) and MUST be able to commit to this job for the entire day or until your athlete leaves after their competition.

PUCC has committed to sending 10 Athlete Buddies.

(PUCC kids/youth under 16 can do with this their parent or other adult)

Questions? Want to talk with someone who has done this previously? Ready to sign up? kevin@parkwayucc.org | 314-872-9330

You will want to bring a hat, sunblock and water. You will receive a volunteer t-shirt to wear all day. Bagged lunches will be pre-prepared for all volunteers and athletes.

This Faith Family is Growing—New Member Sunday

Sunday, April 30 | During Worship

We will be welcoming new members into the mission and ministry of this church on Sunday, April 30 during worship. If this is something you might be interested in or would like more information, please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org | 314-872-9330

April Alzheimer’s News

Researchers have developed a new omega-3 fatty acid that could potentially stave off visual declines in Alzheimer’s patients, according to a new study recently published, though there is still no cure for the debilitating disease, which affects nearly 6 million Americans. Researchers at the University of Illinois, Chicago, developed an omega-3 fatty acid called docosahexaenoic acid, which they say can cross into the retina of an eye to reduce visual declines among people with Alzheimer’s, the most common type of dementia that slowly reduces cognitive abilities and memory.

In lab tests using mice, researchers found the intake of the fatty acid increased the presence of the acid in the mice’s retinas and reduced visual impairments similar to those in human Alzheimer’s patients. The acid, also called DHA, is different from a similar omega-3 acid found in the daily supplement fish oil, which researchers say cannot travel to the retina from the bloodstream.

Alzheimer’s Disease, a neurodegenerative condition that primarily affects older adults, often includes visual impairment, including peripheral vision

loss, through a failure in the brain to process visual information, even when the person's eyes still work, according to the Mississippi State University researcher Kendra Farrow. Visual impairments often include changes to depth perception, trouble reading and problems with deciphering contrasting colors, according to the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

You can learn more by going to www.alz.org/help-support/resources or the Alzheimer's Helpline which is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master's level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision making, and disease information. You can find virtual dementia caregiver resources online at alz.org/covid19help. Tools and support are also available in Spanish. Want to learn more about the Alzheimer's Association and what they do here in St. Louis? Visit alz.org and/or contact PUCC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at joyceruiz7@gmail.com

Easter Word Scramble

epcdiilss

nsote

nseir

ejuss

bmot

ceralim

cchhru

ifhat

rnseius

crtnreersoia

viela

voel

ylli

ianbeeclrto

auydns

mopseir

cgaer

rapyre

lbbei

ynhm

ricpruste

veebil

snwseit

gntpmreiis

rvofeer

cmtgeenuoarn

luaaiell

bleamrcs

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Celebrations

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

Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim family/friends – incl TASOM.

Holy Week Journey.

Spring beauty.

Erin Frick & Rob Zander, big sister Clara waiting for new baby!

Concerns

Christopher Pickett and Family as they grieve and give thanks for his mother; memorial service will take place here on Saturday, April 22.

John Mueller - for healing as doctors figure out his illness (Jean's son).

Cassie Rosenberger's mother Martha - cancer treatment stalled.

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

Tom - healing after surgery due to car accident (Kathleen Tarr nephew).

Walker family - grieving and giving thanks for Betty (McKenzie).

Barb - complications with cancer tx and at odds with insurance co (Tarr)

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

The devastating earthquakes in Turkey & Syria

The continuing war in Ukraine.

The grief in the school and wider community in Nashville last week.

The deadly fire at the immigration detention site in Mexico.

The aftermath of the deadly tornadoes across the US.

Continuing

Peter LaSalle - healing and strengthening.

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.

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

Home-Centered/Care Facility/Rehab Center

Marv Herpel - *Brookdale West County*; 785 Henry Ave, #217;

Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-227-5838 [birthdate: March 3]

Sue Houser - *Bethany Ctr for Rehab & Healing*; 421 Ocala Dr - #209B;

Nashville, TN 37211; 615-577-2049. [birthdate: July 8]

Pat Klein - *Anthology Senior Living of Wildwood*; 251 Plaza Dr,

#325; Wildwood, MO 63040 [birthdate: September 21]

Bill Klein - *Anthology Senior Living of Wildwood*; 251 Plaza Dr,

#104; Wildwood, MO 63040 [birthdate: March 8]

John Nourse *The Village at Cape Albeon*; 3300 Lake Bend Dr, #166; Valley

Park, MO 63088 [birthdate: October 26]

Ruth Peace - 10379-D Forest Brooke Ln; StL MO 63146; 314-983-0253;

meadletter222@gmail.com [birthdate: August 8]

Naomi Runtz - 272 N Lindbergh Blvd; StL MO 63141; 34-993-0469

naomiruntz@sbcglobal.net [birthdate: August 30]

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

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

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

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

(Father of Deb Carter).

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

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

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

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

Other

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.

The earth laughs in flowers. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

God has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime. – Marting Luther

Easter says to us that despite everything to the contrary, love will prevail over hate, justice over injustice and oppression, peace over exploitation and bitterness. – Desmond Tutu

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 9, 2023

Easter

John 20:1-18

Today we celebrate Resurrection Day! The women that first Easter Sunday did not know it was resurrection day, though, when they arose in the dark and made their way tentatively to the tomb where they had laid their friend and teacher. Still, although they did not know what they would find, they moved forward into the pre-dawn darkness, ready to perform what they believe would be a last act of love and service for their friend.

“Perhaps it is no wonder,” Dorothy Sayers wrote in the essay *Are Women Human?*, published nearly 100 years ago, “that the women were first at the Cradle and last at the Cross. They had never known a man like this Man - there never has been such another. A prophet and teacher who never nagged at them, never flattered or coaxed or patronized; who never made arch jokes about them, never treated them either as “The women, God help us!” or “The ladies, God bless them!”; who rebuked without querulousness and praised without condescension; who took their questions and arguments seriously; who never mapped out their sphere for them, never urged them to be feminine or jeered at them for being female; who had no axe to grind and no uneasy male dignity to defend; who took them as he found them and was completely unself-conscious. There is no act, no sermon, no parable in the whole Gospel that borrows its pungency from female perversity; nobody could possibly guess from the words and deeds of Jesus that there was anything “funny” about woman's nature.”

Centuries of church dogma and male leadership, including many periods in which systems of power explicitly sought to oppress and silence women, has not suppressed the power and wonder of this resurrection reality. In his life, Jesus loved and respected women just as they were, and after his death, they were the ones who cared for him and spoke the first words about him. Jesus needed the women in his circle as much as they needed him.

On this Resurrection Day, we rejoice that Christ came to bring new life to all people. And we specifically celebrate the women who waited at the cross, who went to the tomb and who told the first stories about our Risen Savior.

Quotation from Sayers, Dorothy L., *Are Women Human?*, William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2005.