





www.parkwayucc.org

April 23, 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 morning! If you are with us virtually, please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat.

Welcome Children We invite children to full participation in worship.

Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop work and join in prayer.

Scripture Reader Sally Dischinger

Today's Flowers Naomi Runtz un memory of Joe Runtz

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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

4/25 WAITE, Phil & Laura (14)

Birthdays

4/23 BIEST, Warren

4/28 DOWNING, Harper

4/26 ENGEL, Gayle

4/29 DOWNING, Meredith

4/26 SCHERRER, Richard

4/29 REED, Atticus

4/28 DELANNAY, Sylvie

4/29 WATSON, Julia

3rd Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 23, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation

Emmaus is nowhere. Emmaus is nowhere precisely because Emmaus is everywhere. Each and every one of us has at one time, or indeed for some of us, many times, traveled along the road to Emmaus. ~Marcus Borg

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 *Air*—Charles E. Gounod, arr. by Ellen Jane Lorenz (1933)

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Song *You Made Each Living Thing*

Tune: This is My Father's World | Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

You made each living thing to give and to receive.

As roots grow down into the ground, they twist and interweave.

A canopy of green restores and cools the air.

**Great branches shade the earth you made,
and dance as if in prayer.**

Scripture Luke 24:13-35 (MSG - The Message)

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast.

One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

“What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body.

They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther.

But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.”

Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

***Call to Worship**

One: O God, all-powerful, true and incomparable, present in all things, yet limited by none, untouched by place, unaged by time,

Many: Unhurried by the years, undeceived by words, not subject to birth nor in need of protection:

One: You are above all corruption, you are beyond all change, you are by nature immutable, living in the light that none can approach,

Many: Invisible, yet you make yourself known to me and you are found by all who seek you with their whole heart; you are the God of the ancient Hebrews and of all who hope in Christ.

One: You are our God.

Many: We adore you. We worship you.

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

***Song** *Every Morning is Easter Morning*—Richard Avery & Donald Marsh
From *Songs for the Easter People*

**Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on!
Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!**

**Daily news is so bad it seems the Good News seldom gets heard.
Get it straight from the Easter People:
God's in charge! Spread the word!**

Refrain

**Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on!
Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!
Ev'ry morning is Easter morning, Ev'ry morning is Easter morning,
Ev'ry morning is Easter morning *from now on!***

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***Opening Prayer**

Holy One, as today's gospel lesson still has us in that first Easter day, help us to realize that every morning is Easter morning. The promise was fulfilled - you do not ever leave us alone. Jesus was the ultimate expression of Your character. Help us to trust You more and live and love like Jesus did. Amen.

***Response** *Spirit of the Living God*

**Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.**

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 Me*

**Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong**

**Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

Scripture Luke 24:13-35 (CEB – Common English Bible)

On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. They were prevented from recognizing him.

He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" They stopped, their faces downcast.

The one named Cleopas replied, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?”

He said to them, “What things?”

They said to him, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. But there’s more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ and didn’t find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn’t see him.”

Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. Wasn’t it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening, and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?”

They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying to each other, “The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!” Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *Cares Chorus #2215*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a long horizontal line under the word 'you' indicating a sustained note. The second staff continues the melody with a triplet of eighth notes and ends with a quarter note. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

I cast all my cares up-on you, _____ I
lay all of my bur - dens down at your feet, and

an - y-time that I don't know what to do, I will
cast all my cares up - on you.

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.]

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 *Create in Me*—Art Gorman

From the Chicago Folk Service

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your Spirit free.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

***Response** *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* #372, v2

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
4. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In-a my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In-a my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In-a my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In-a my heart.

In - a my heart, In - a my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris - tian In - a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In - a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In - a my heart.

*Prayer of Dedication

Ever-present God, open our hearts and minds that we might feel your presence and go out and witness to the grace and hope that comes from knowing you. Amen.

*Song of Parting *Emmaus-Bound on Easter Day*

O WALY WALY 8.8.8.8 (Tune: *Though I May Speak*)

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

**Emmaus-bound on Easter Day,
 Two travelers walked along the way.
 They'd once had hope, but hope had died
 When you, O Lord, were crucified.**

**When you appeared beside the two,
 They could not see that it was you;
 But as they talked and shared their pain,
 You gave them hope and joy again.**

**For as you spoke to them God's word,
 Explaining all they'd seen and heard,
 They understood what God had done
 And that a new day had begun.**

**In scripture and in the world too
 O Risen Lord, may we know you.
 And may your presence give us grace
 To share God's love in every place**

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above, arr. Lloyd Larson

Based on the tune *Amsterdam* from Foundary Collection, 1742

Announcements

Please submit your announcement at www.parkwayucc.org/communications. We will broadcast across all applicable media. Bulletin and eNews deadline: noon Monday.

4/23 Speaker Series: *Current Challenges of the Army in Recruiting Able Soldiers* by LTC Kirk Duncan.
POSTPONED. To be rescheduled at a later date.

4/25—Tuesday Evening Dialogue (TED)

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 6:00pm potluck | 7:00-8:00pm Discussion | Heritage Room
Please join us on Tuesday April 25 for our wrap up session on Disability Visibility by Alice Wong. The evening's discussion will cover the chapter entitled Six Ways of Looking at Crip Time to the end of the book. This book is a collection of personal essays written by people living with a disability and highlights the passions, talents and everyday lives of this community. It is an eye-opening read and invites readers to question their own understandings and perception. Since this is our final session with this book we will also be looking at choices for our next book selection on this evening. Helen Race: raceh@att.net | 314-401-4382

Until 5/16 Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue (TAD) New Book: *This is How it Always Is*

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 2:00-3:00pm | Online Book Discussion
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMlU4ay9oNndTWw4yZUYwUT09>
(312) 626-6799 | **Meeting ID:** 836 7061 7428 | **Passcode:** 480007

Join with TAD as we read and discuss *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel. Frankel spins a tale of a typical modern family who learns to navigate life with a transgender child. Although fiction, it brings awareness to some of the issues that families face. This wise and often funny novel is a compassionate lesson in discovering and welcoming what makes each person unique. Contact Jackie Eiffert: jeiffert2@gmail.com | (661) 378-6781

Youth trip to Elephant Rocks POSTPONED

Due to the busy schedules of our youth and their families, the youth trip to Elephant Rocks will be rescheduled for later this spring once school and sports activities have calmed down. Thanks for your patience.

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

If there is anyone who would like to split the day, please let us know that. 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

Hymn Sing During Worship on April 30

Please consider submitting a hymn or two as we pull together our 5th Sunday Worship Service for April 30.

Let us know why this hymn is significant to you and if you have a favorite verse.

If your song is not one that we have sung around here, please let us know where we might find it. If you have trouble locating it, let us know some of the lyrics that will guide us in any searching we might need to do.

Thank you for sending your suggestions to kevin@parkwayucc.org

Depending on how many we receive, we may need to drop some hymns in on Sundays in the next few months.

Grateful for your participation!

5/7—Bread for the World Offering of Letters: Writing letters to Congress

Sunday, May 7 | 10:45-11:45am | Gathering Space

Each year, Bread's Offering of Letters campaign engages churches in writing personalized letters to Congress on issues related to hunger in the U.S. and around the world. Join us after worship Sunday, May 7 to write short, handwritten letters asking our U.S. senators and representatives to include policies in this year's Farm Bill reauthorization that will bring nutrition access to those that need it most in America.

We will collect these letters and present them as an offering to God before delivering them to Congress. Hundreds of Offerings of Letters are held each year, resulting in tens of thousands of letters. Over the years, these letters and emails have helped inspire our leaders in Washington, D.C., to pass legislative victories that have impacted millions of people!

5/13—Camp MoVal Workday Sat, May 13 | 8:00am-4:00pm

Meet at Parkway at 8:00 a.m., arrive at Camp MoVal at 9:00 a.m.. We will stay through lunch (provided by the camp) and leave MoVal at 3:00 to return to Parkway at 4:00. If individuals would prefer to drive themselves, that is fine as well. Please let Doug or Amy Yakel know (da_yakel@att.net | (314) 275-8039), so that the camp can plan accordingly.



TRIVIA NIGHT

For the benefit of
the St. Louis Association -
Missouri Mid-South Conference
United Church of Christ

Friday April 28th doors open @ 6:15 TRIVIA @ 7	Hosted at ST. JOHN'S UCC - CHESTERFIELD 15370 Olive Blvd. just north/east of 40/64
	\$20 per person tables of 8 = \$160

Register at StLAUCC@hotmail.com
or **314-772-4772**

THIS IS AN ADULT EVENT. BYOB ALLOWED.
Water, soda, popcorn provided.

7/29—Habitat for Humanity Workday: Parkway's Chance to Shine Again | 7:45am start time

Parkway's annual build date with Habitat for Humanity St. Louis is Saturday July 29, 2023. There are spaces for 5 volunteers, and the minimum age is 16. The spaces fill quickly, so don't hesitate to sign up. Questions? Contact Tom McKenzie at mckenzie1947@att.net or 314-567-0429. No need to bring tools other than your heart and your hands.

Strengthening Neighborhoods - Seeking Justice - Transforming Lives

Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, is a Community Mission of the United Church of Christ. Some of us from Parkway have spent time and talents at the Mission in the past; a rewarding experience. We recently received a call from Back Bay Mission inviting us to donate to their 100 Year Anniversary Capital Campaign. I felt compelled to share the opportunity with all at Parkway UCC. The campaign ends May 4. For more information on Back Bay Mission and to receive a pledge form go to www.thebackbaymission.org or call 222-432-0301.

A Prayer for Global Restoration **by Michelle Balek**

Good and Gracious God,
Source of the evolving Universe,
Source of all Life,
All creation is charged with your
Divine Energy.

Ignite your Spark within us,
That we may know ourselves
As truly human and holy,
Irrevocably part of the Web of Life.

All creation

- each star and every flower,
- each drop of water and every person,
- each and every atom, down to its very electrons, explodes with the revelation of your sacred mystery.

Our minds alone cannot fathom
such splendor,
Our hearts can only respond in
awe, praise and gratitude.

- Forgive us, we pray, our ignorance and insecurities which
- blind us to your Thumbprint writ large,

- deafen us to the sacred space
- between two heartbeats,
- prompt us in arrogance to demand and dominate,
- numb us to the destruction we've caused,
- hold us hostage to "either-or" thinking and living.

May we always walk gently upon
this earth,

- in right relationship,
- nurtured by your Love,
- taking only what we need,
- giving back to the earth in gratitude,
- honoring all with reverence,
- reconciling and healing,
- mindful of those who will come after,
- recognizing our proper place as part of, not apart from, your creation.

Grant us the strength and courage,
we pray,
For such radical transformation
into your Kin-dom.

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, April 19 2023

Celebrations

Easter Season!

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

Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim fam/friends - incl TASOM.

Spring beauty.

Erin Frick & Rob Zander and big sister Clara welcomed baby 4/9!

Concerns

Chris Pickett and Family as they grieve & give thanks for his mother; memorial service will take place here on Saturday, April 22 at 3:30pm

Kansas City unpacking the shooting of **Ralph Yarl**, an unarmed black teen shot by the homeowner after going to wrong house to pick up sibs.

People in the US impacted by storms this spring.

The grief in Louisville after gun deaths last week.

The ongoing power struggles and violence in Sudan.

The continuing war in Ukraine.

Continuing

Peter LaSalle - healing and strengthening.

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

Cassie Rosenberger's mother Martha - cancer treatments restarted.

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

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

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

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.

PUCF 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 of Easter

Luke 24:13-35

Breaking Bread

Break the Silence Sunday

A conversation about Break the Silence Sunday.

One: Today we Break the Silence about sexual abuse and violence, because breaking the silence can bring about healing and reparation.

Two: Usually we don't break something in order to heal it. How does breaking the silence lead to repair?

One: The silence must be broken, because the silence in this case is one of the tools that makes violence seem acceptable, or shameful to the victims rather than the perpetrators.

Two: I see. It's like the silence is another act of violence!

One: Yes, exactly.

Two: So the healing comes from talking about it.

One: For some people it does, if they want to talk and when they are ready to do so.

Two: Do you know that talking helped lead to healing in today's scripture story?

One: What do you mean?

Two: The disciples thought Jesus was dead and gone forever. It might have been tempting to just keep quiet about their feelings, and the events that had occurred. They might have thought that keeping it inside would make the feelings about that time go away. But they knew better. Starting with the women who told the story, they kept talking about it. And eventually, that led to all of them seeing the Living Christ.

One: That's right! Breaking the silence has been a path for healing since the beginning! Break the Silence Sunday is a day set aside each year for United Church of Christ churches to speak up about the epidemic of sexual abuse and violence.

Learn more about Break the Silence Sunday at <https://www.ucc.org/break-the-silence-sunday/>.