





www.parkwayucc.org

April 30, 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 Greg Schmelig

Today's Flowers Peg Sant'Ambrogio in memory of her parents, Bernice Childress and Edward Frederick Steffen

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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

4/30 SCHRENKER, Rick & Cheryl (40)

5/2 STOHR, Sue & Paul (52)

Birthdays

5/1 WADDELL, Amber

5/2 CRAWFORD, Amanda

5/3 HAACK, Gail

5/3 SCHATZ, Will

4th Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 30, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation What makes a movement work are thousands of parts that come together and express itself in favor of a given destination or objective. You have to find men and women who are willing to play the role that each of these things demand. ~Harry Belafonte

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 *What Wondrous Love is This?*

Kathleen Tarr

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Sanctuary*

Jackie Eiffert ~ *It's peaceful, calming, focusing, beautiful melody, written by Randy Scruggs, one of the bluegrass/country great writers.*



Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
Lord, pre - pare me to be your lov - ing e - cho, kind and
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a
gen - tle, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a
liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.
liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

Scripture Psalm 23 (KJV – King James Version)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

***Call to Worship** *What A Wonderful World*

Dottie Dwyer

One: I see trees of green, red roses too.
I see them bloom for me and you.

Many: What a wonderful world.

One: I see skies of blue and clouds of white.
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night.

**Many: The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky.
Are also on the faces of people going by.**

One: I see friends shaking hands saying 'How do you do?'
They're really saying 'I love you.'

**Many: I hear babies crying. I watch them grow.
They'll learn much more than I'll never know.**

One: What a wonderful world.

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

***Song** *Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty*

Ellie Svenson

Sally Dodge ~ *A favorite from my childhood. Raising a joyful song in the early morning seems like a perfect way to praise.*

Joyce Ruiz ~ *We sang this hymn a lot when I was growing up in a Congregational Church.*

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Author: Reginald Heber

Reginald Heber was born in 1783 into a wealthy, educated family. He was a bright youth, translating a Latin classic into English verse by the time he was seven, entering Oxford at 17, and winning two awards for his poetry during his time there.

After his graduation he became rector of his father's church in the village of Hodnet near Shrewsbury in the west of England where he remained for 16 years. He was appointed Bishop of Calcutta in 1823 and worked tirelessly for three years until the weather and travel took its toll on his health and he died of a stroke.

Most of his 57 hymns, which include "Holy, Holy, Holy," are still in use today.

This was the opening hymn for Parkway United Church of Christ for many years across the street in the Historic Sanctuary.
It continues to connect us with our foremothers and forefathers in the faith.



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide Thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eye of sin - ful-ness Thy glo - ry may not see,
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 Per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

***Opening Prayer** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Bill Haack

Jackie Eiffert

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love. Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You, op'ning to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day! 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 God belong, They are weak but God is strong**

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

Reception of New Members

- One:** Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is with joy and gratitude that we welcome new members into our worship, work and witness today!
- Many:** *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.
- Many:** *Vision Statement*—We shall seek the way of God in today's world through *Joyful Worshipping · Inclusive Caring · Compassionate Serving*.
- Many:** *Mission Statement*—Parkway United Church of Christ seeks within the church universal to respond faithfully to the promises of God as witnessed in the Old Testament and New Testament. We seek to follow the way of the crucified and risen Christ. Therefore, we will worship God, educate and nurture persons for discipleship, build a caring Christian community, participate in God's mission to the world, be stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. May all that we are and do be to God's Glory.
- Many:** *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.

Question about Participation

Prayer

Welcome and Reception

One: Let us, the members of Parkway United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

Many: **We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, being witnesses of Jesus. Amen.**

Greeting of Christian Love

Sponsors: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Parkway United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the family of this local church.

Response *The Church's One Foundation*

Sally Dodge ~ *As a child, I was struck by the feminine pronoun for the church. It was the beginning of my processing that God had many possible characteristics.*

**The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

Scripture Acts 2:42-47 (CEB – Common English Bible)

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

Message

Call to Prayer *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

Carmen Bumgarner ~ *I did not grow up going to church and heard this song sung by Mahalia Jackson on tv one day. I told a friend about this 'great church song' and she was horrified that I didn't know this song by heart. I went home and listened to all versions of it - Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley and Patsy Cline. I made myself learn it by heart so I wouldn't appear 'unchurched'. It is still one of my favorites, though I never hear it anymore.*



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.



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.

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

I Wish I Knew How it Would Feel to be Free

Andrea Barnes ~ *I so cherish this song. It hits close to my heart. It reminds me of being a little girl in an extremely toxic misogynistic family. There is a spiritual element for me in this song. It helps me not feel alone in feeling chained and labeled as defective by society and at times family and friends.*

I wish I knew how it would feel to be free. I wish I could break all the chains holding me. I wish I could say all the things that I should say... Say 'em loud say 'em clear for the whole round world to hear. Amen.

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 Interlude *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

Alice and Perrin Stifel

***Response** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me!*

Cindy Changyit Levin ~ *This one comes to mind because it's kind of one of those old-timey hymns my mom's Oklahoma Southern Baptist side of the family favors as opposed to the "high worship" of my dad's Episcopal side. I grew up in the Episcopal church, but those catchy, hand-clappy hymns from my mom would sneak in anyway. I've been thinking about that side of the family a lot lately even though I hardly see them and it makes me smile to think that this one particular song was probably very influential in how I chose to live out my faith as an adult. My husband has recently discovered spiritual teachings new to him that suggest that we remain open and present, so we can be ready and able to do the spiritually right thing when the moment presents itself. It didn't take a lot of books to tell me that. This song imbedded the teaching long ago that we should live, pray, work, and sing in a way that God can use us any day and any time.*

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

***Prayer of Dedication** *There Shall Be Showers of Blessing*

Gerry Rogers ~ *a hymn that brings back great memories of my childhood church*

There shall be showers of blessing. This is the promise of love.

There shall be seasons refreshing sent from the Savior above.

Showers of blessing, showers of blessing we need: mercy-drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead.

There shall be showers of blessing, precious reviving again; over the hills and the valleys, sound of abundance of rain.

There shall be showers of blessing: send them upon us, O Lord Grant to us now a refreshing, come and now honor Thy Word.

Amen.

*Song of Parting *Here I Am, Lord*

Sandra Swan

Florence Simonson ~ *I Identify with it. How many times did I lay in bed at night with decisions to be made about family, the church we were a part of and while I was pretty involved in the St Louis Association.....here I am, lead me.*



- | | | | | |
|----|-------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. | I, the Lord | of sea and sky, | I have heard | My peo - ple cry. |
| 2. | I, the Lord | of snow and rain, | I have borne | My peo - ple's pain. |
| 3. | I, the Lord | of wind and flame, | I will tend | the poor and lame. |



All who dwell in deep - est sin	My hand will save.
I have wept for love of them,	They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them,	My hand will save.



I who made the stars of night,	I will make their dark - ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone,	Give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin - est bread I will pro - vide	Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear My light to them?	Whom shall I send?
I will speak My word to them.	Whom shall I send?
I will give My life to them.	Whom shall I send?

*Refrain
Unison*



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have



heard You call - ing in the night I will



go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your



peo - ple in my heart.

***Benediction** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Bill Haack

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make their face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of their countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth** *God of All the Nations ~ Finlandia*

Evelyn Buretta

Bill Haack ~ *the most beautiful music I have ever heard*

Announcements

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

AMOE (Adventurous Men Out Early) has its monthly gathering this Thursday, May 4th at 9:15 AM in the Heritage Room. No agenda, other than witty banter and pithy insights. No need to RSVP. All welcome! Questions or comments? Contact Richard Scherrer 90fivetpr@gmail.com 314-591-6803

Speaker Series Two Part Series on Russia

“Predicting the Future, the Russo-Ukraine War and Russia's Future in the World,” by Prof. James Wertsch and Dr. Charles Allen.

May 7 and May 14, 2023 11:15am - 12:15pm,

There are predictions aplenty that Russia's war on Ukraine will persist. But it could also end soon. Kremlin regime change, a Russian army collapse, or a Ukrainian win are possible. Despite generous Western support and Ukraine's plucky military gains, pessimists are legion. Some foresee a frozen conflict. Some worry that Putin will dig in his heels, viewing the fight as existential and denying Ukraine's identity. Some say he plans a long war or predict no one will win.

Why guess? Instead inform yourself and join our experts for two speakers series sessions in May. On May 7th, we will hear from James Wertsch, Professor of Sociocultural Anthropology at Washington University, who lectures on national narratives and memory, especially in Russia and the Ukraine. Then the week after, May 14th our speaker will be Charles Allen, President of the leading private organization in the world dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about the former Soviet Union.

All speakers will appear in person in the Heritage Room following worship. Anyone wishing to participate via Zoom conferencing:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwdoEzVoVHV1IyQTo9#success> Meeting ID: 8469147 6997 | Passcode: 181565 | Dial (312) 626-6799

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue (TAD): *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

21 Day Racial Equity & Social Justice Challenge

May 1 – 21... A Virtual Program thru the YWCA St Louis

Accept this challenge to expand your understanding of equity and social justice. This challenge asks participants to make daily time and space for 21 days to foster understanding and identify ways to dismantle racism and end discrimination.

View the full schedule and registration here –

<https://www.slcl.org/content/virtual-program-21-day-racial-equity-social-justice-challenge>

Registrants will receive a daily list of tasks and an opportunity to participate in a facilitated discussion of the week's activities on Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

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

Saturday, May 13 | 8:00am-4:00pm

Meet at Parkway at 8:00 a.m., arrive at Camp MoVal at 9:00am. 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 if you can be with us that day da_yakel@att.net | (314) 275-8039, so that the camp can plan accordingly.

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.

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Celebrations

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

Spring beauty.

Coree Mix - preparing for a move on May 1 -- near DePaul Hospital.

Concerns

Chris Pickett and Family as they grieve & give thanks for his mother.

Val & Doug Detjen - her upcoming heart surgery & road to recovery.

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.

The ongoing power struggles and violence in Sudan and 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 - chemo complete; now radiation (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.

4th Sunday of Easter

Powerful Witness

You are invited to pray deliberately through the 23rd Psalm, perhaps taking one line per day. How is new meaning revealed to you as you make your way slowly through this familiar psalm?

God is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Consider what it would be like to not “want.” Pray for all those who are lacking.

God makes me lie down in green pastures,

Touch a piece of earth with your feet, hands, or entire body. How does being in literal touch with creation help you feel closer to the Divine?

and leads me beside still waters;

Remember times that God has brought you through rough waters. Give thanks.

God restores my soul, and leads me in right paths

Pray by walking. With each step, rejoice in God’s renewing presence.

for the sake of God's name.

Pray using all the names of the Divine you can think of. Are there names that make you uncomfortable? Why? Which names are most meaningful to you?

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

Pray for all those who have no one to pray for them. Ask God to help your prayers become acts of mercy and justice.

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

Remember times when you have felt afraid. What gave you courage?

your rod and your staff--they comfort me.

What are the tools you use in work or hobbies? Notice their shape and ask God to bless them and their use.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

As you eat, give special thanks for the land and the hands that produced your meals.

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Anoint yourself. Place a small amount of lotion or oil on your head or hand, giving thanks to God for the gift of your body.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

Give thanks for those who have shown you God’s goodness and mercy.

and I shall dwell in the house of God my whole life long.

Imagine the house of God. Can you draw it, or describe it in writing?