



www.parkwayucc.org May 7, 2023

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open—minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God's grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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John Nourse, Pastor Emeritus

Welcome to Parkway

Thank you for joining us this morning! If you are with us virtually, please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat.

Welcome Children We invite children to full participation in worship.

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

Scripture Reader Lara Reed

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

5/12 RAUSCHER, Kevin & Steffanie (30)

Birthdays

5/7	RUTHERFORD, Polly	5/10	PENICO, Paige
5/7	SCHOWALTER, Blake	5/11	MEYER, Lydia
5/7	TOOMBS, Judy	5/11	SPERRY, Sam
5/9	CLIFFORD, Scott	5/12	DOWNING, Angie
5/10	HAGGARD, Gale	5/12	STAPPENBECK, William

5th Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 7, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation I like bread. I like the creating, the providing, and the nourishment that is in the process of making bread. It feeds more than my body. I think it is the transformation, the growth and rise of the dough that, moments before entering the oven, rests gently and placidly, only to exuberantly and willfully spring up; this process seems to mirror some of our own transformations in its microcosm of flour, water, and natural yeasts. ~Nathan from Simple Bread

Welcome Let us know you are here!

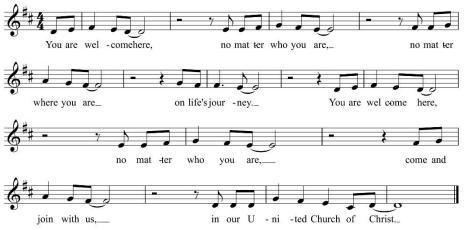
Passing the Peace of Christ

"May the peace of Christ be with you."
(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

Prelude The Peace of God—David Paxton, Lorenz Publishing Co.

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song You Are Welcome Here



Scriptures (CEB – Common English Bible)

Micah 6:8

God has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

Proverbs 31:8-9

Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable. Speak out in order to judge with righteousness and to defend the needy and the poor.

Proverbs 3:27-28

Don't withhold good from someone who deserves it, when it is in your power to do so. Don't say to your neighbor, "Go and come back; I'll give it to you tomorrow," when you have it.

Matthew 25:40

Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'

*Call to Worship

One: We come to learn more about the Holy and humanity and to grow in our faithfulness.

Many: We want to be about justice, love and humility.

One: We come to focus on living for ourselves and for others.

Many: We raise our voices so that more people will have their basic human needs met.

One: We see and hear our neighbors' hungers and thirsts. We will not turn away, but will problem solve together.

Many: We don't want to hold anything back. We want to share what we have been given.

One: We understand that there is need today and we must respond today—so that it is not too late.

Many: We know that one way to love God is to care for all people near and far, for they are a part of God.

One: We are kin one to another. We belong to one another. We are woven together.

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





***Opening Prayer** Steve Best

Great Love, you are the root and sap of our evolving fullness. Nudge us forward in our creative potential so we may flourish for the common good. In each mindful moment, help us recognize that we free ourselves from the ghosts of our past in the release we grant those who have harmed us. Keep us focused on what is right. Make us thirsty for what is just. For it is love that knows the way, shows the way, becomes the way, to the fulfillment of our eternal call. 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 Weave

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

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

Jesu, *Jesu*—Ghana folk song, arr. Dorothy Christopherson Sung by the Parkway 1st Sunday Choir.

Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, Master who pours out himself for them. (refrain)

Neighbors are rich and poor; neighbors are black and white. Neighbors are near and far away. (refrain)

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love. All are neighbors to us and you. (refrain)

Kneels at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet. This is the way we should live with you. (refrain)

*Response

Praise God whose many names abound; Our Peace, our Rock, Our Holy Ground, Our Home, our All, Earth's Majesty, Love, Spirit, Light and Mystery. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication based on words from Desmond Tutu

Holy One, we share these gifts knowing that you always encourage us to move beyond ourselves - to be there with and for one another. Help us to recognize our common humanity, that we do belong

together, that our destinies are bound up in one another's, that we can be free only together, that we can survive only together, that we can be human only together, then a glorious world would come into being where all of us live harmoniously together as members of one family, the human family. Amen.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 25: 31-47 (CEB – Common English Bible) Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who will receive good things. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. I was hungry and you didn't give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn't give me anything to drink. ⁴³ I was a stranger and you didn't welcome me. I was naked and you didn't give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't do anything to help you?' Then he will answer, 'I assure you that when you haven't done it for one of the least of these, you haven't done it for me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment. But the righteous ones will go into eternal life."

Moment of Silent Reflection

Message Bread for the World

Cindy Changyit Levin, Jackie Eiffert, Sue Moellering, Kevin Cameron

Communion Song O God, You Give Us Grapes and Grain



- 1. O God, you give us grapes and grain; you give us salt and oil.
- 2. You sent us Christ, who walked the fields and saw your love a bound;
- 3. One day at ta ble, Je-sus prayed, and blessed the bread and wine.
- 4. Your Spi rit moves a cross the earth—the earth that you made good.



You bless us with re - fresh-ing rain and sum—and rich, dark soil. he spoke of trees and crops and yields, and growth be - neath the ground. These things of earth that you had made be - came your gift, your sign: May we see your cre - a - tion's worth and love it as we should.



And so your care for all these things means we can be well-fed. He spoke of or - di - na - ry things like sheep and mus-tard seeds, You love the world! You sent your Son! And now, through wine and bread, As we now share the bread and wine, as Christ is here a - new,



Cre - a - tion prai-ses you and sings—as you give wine and bread. and chicks be - neath their mo-thers' wings; Christ taught your love through these. our Lord is pres-ent once a - gain and so your church is fed. God, give us strength to go and care for all the earth with you.

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.

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

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/Juice

*Prayer of Thanksgiving Bread for the World

God, you created the world, giving of yourself abundantly, providing all that we need to sustain life. You set a table for us and invited us all to gather round. But we in our rebellion set our own tables—and invited our friends to join, excluding others. You invited us to join you at the table of abundance again. We continued to choose tables of scarcity. Whenever we were slaves to scarcity, you offered to free us from that bondage. You sent prophets to call us back, reminding us that you long to share a

table with us. You sent your son Jesus to walk among us—the one who healed those who were sick, who fed those who were hungry, and restored people to wholeness in community. Yet Jesus was rejected and his vision for shalom was tossed aside. But love is more powerful than death. Jesus rose from the dead and invites us to join your table now—to share in abundance, to share gifts with one another. Amen.

*Song of Parting Dream God's Dream





*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth

Honor, Glory and Praise!—Anthony Giamanco (2016)

Announcements

Please submit your announcement at **www.parkwayucc.org/communications**. Bulletin and eNews deadline: noon Monday.

5/7—Bread for the World Offering of Letters

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 today 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!

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 & 14 | 11:15am - 12:15pm | Heritage Room & Zoom

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 7, 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 14, 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.

Speakers will appear in person in the Heritage Room following worship. Anyone wishing to participate <u>via</u> Zoom conferencing:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwd0EzV0VHV1IyQT09#success

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

5/9—Tuesday *Evening* Dialogue

The Sun Does Shine by Anthony Ray Hinton

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 6:00pm Potluck | 7:00pm Discussion | Heritage Room Please join us as we start our TED book on May 9 entitled The Sun Does Shine by Anthony Ray Hinton. This is a powerful, revealing story of hope, love, justice, and the power of reading by a man who spent thirty years on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Destined to be a classic memoir of wrongful imprisonment and freedom won, Hinton's memoir tells his dramatic thirty-year journey and shows how you can take away a man's freedom, but you can't take away his imagination, humor, or joy. Please read the first 100 pages for our first discussion session.

Contact: Helen Race | raceh@att.net | 314-401-4382

5/16—Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue (TAD)

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 2:00-3:00pm | Online Book Discussion https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMIU4ay9oNndTWW4yZUYwUT09 (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

May 1-21: 21 Day Racal Equity & Social Justice Challenge 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.

Full schedule/registration—https://www.ywca-ens.org/21-day-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.

5/13— 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.

5/16—Mental Health Awareness Night at Busch Stadium

Tuesday, May 16 | 6:30-10:00pm | Busch Stadium

Join NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) as the St. Louis Cardinals host their second annual mental health awareness night, as a part of their special theme night promotions for the 2023 season.

The Cards play host to their division rivals, the Milwaukee Brewers. Seats for tickets purchased through the NAMI St. Louis website will be located in the left-field porch. This is a covered, semi-private porch area. Each ticket purchased includes a mental health awareness Cardinals hat*, and a FREE hotdog and soda voucher.**

Contact Dan Connors: connorsd@aol.com | (314) 651-0279

*Please note: The mental health awareness caps are available ONLY with the purchase of a special Theme Ticket. All Theme Ticket purchases will come with a game ticket that indicates the item and/or size of Theme item included. Theme Tickets no longer feature a separate voucher. The ticket should be redeemed at the pre-game distribution for the Theme item. Only fans that present their Theme Ticket at the distribution will be eligible to receive the item. Exchanges will not be available at distribution. You may pick up your item at the Budweiser Terrace Theme Tickets kiosk, across from Section 431, from 5:15-7:30 p.m.

**The FREE hotdog and soda voucher will be separate from your entry ticket into Busch Stadium. You will need BOTH your entry ticket AND voucher to get into the game and to redeem your FREE hotdog and soda that evening. The voucher for your hotdog and soda is only good for Tuesday, May 16, 2023. If interested in carpooling contact Dan Connors at connorsd@aol.com Buy tickets online through NAMI at https://www.namistl.org/get-involved/stlouiscardinalsmhan/

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

There are spaces for 5 volunteers for this Habitat build, 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.

Prayer List as of Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Celebrations

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

Coree Mix - in the process of moving... near DePaul Hospital.

Collegians as they wrap up their semester.

New Members - Kathy and Stan Burcham; Peg Sant'Ambrogio; Sally Dodge and Peter LaSalle.

Concerns

Val & Doug Detjen - her heart surgery went well...complicated healing. 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 - ongoing cancer treatments.

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)

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]

Glady 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.

5th Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 7, 2023

John 14:1-14

Enduring Witness

A communion liturgy based on John 14, NRSV.

Leader: Jesus said, "Believe in God, believe also in me."

People: And the people said, "How can we know The Way?"

Leader: And Jesus said, "I am the Way. And the truth. And the light."

People: And the people said, "Show us, and we will be satisfied."

Leader: And Jesus said, "If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. And so since you have asked, today I will show you one of the ways that I will always be here with you."

People: And so Jesus took the bread, and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "I am the Way and the truth and the life."

Leader: If you know me, you will know my Abba God also. And I will show you, so you remember. Take this bread. This bread is just like my body, whenever you eat it and remember all that unites you, I am with you."

People: And after supper, Jesus took the cup and poured it out sharing it with them. And again he told them. "I am the Way and the truth and the life."

Leader: Then he said "In my Abba's house there are many rooms. And I will show you, so you remember. This is the cup of forgiveness, which is as vast as my Abba's house in heaven. This cup is grace, poured out abundantly on all and for all."

People: Then Jesus said, "I go and prepare a place for you, so that where I am, there you will be also."

Leader: This is Christ's table and all are welcome here. Come from the East and the West, from the North and the South to gather at this feast for forgiveness and unity.