





www.parkwayucc.org
May 14, 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 Evelyn Buretta

Flowers donated by Polly Winkelmann in memory of her mother Eleanor Petri, PUCC member.

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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

- 5/18 WILLIAMS, Meera & Roy (33)
- 5/19 RUIZ, John & Joyce (39)
- 5/20 LIVENGOD, Ross & Kim (45)

Birthdays

- 5/14 MASTERSON, Scott
- 5/15 BRUEGGEMANN, Michelle
- 5/15 PATEL, Elin
- 5/15 WESSEL, Andrew
- 5/18 WAITE, Felix

6th Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 14, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *I definitely went back to church for all the wrong reasons. I really went because this is hard and this hurts, and in all the midlife unraveling books they say "go back to church, that's what everybody does." So I went back to church thinking that it would be like an epidural, like it would take the pain away, like I would just replace research with church, you know, the church would make the pain go away. And then I discovered that faith and church was not like an epidural at all; it was like a midwife who just stood next to me and said, "Push! It's supposed to hurt."*

~Brene Brown

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 *Be Unto Your Name*—Lynn DeShazo and Gary Sadler, arr. by John Cumberland

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Welcoming God* (Tune: Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine)

Children are welcome, Christ said one day,

When the disciples just urged them away.

Children are welcome at Jesus' knee:

God's own examples for ministry.

Welcoming God, you open the Way.

Even the smallest worship and pray,

Singing with faith and serving you well,

Your life to know and good news to tell.

Women are welcome, as are the men;

Through God's own Spirit, we're partners again.

Partners as prophets, ministers, too:

No more divided—made one in you.

Welcoming God, you open the way;

Those once divided join now to pray,

Serving at Table, preaching your Word,

So that your love for all will be heard.

Scripture Acts 17:22-28 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, "People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'To an unknown God.'"

What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you. God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth. God doesn't live in temples made with human hands. Nor is God served by human hands, as though God needed something, since God is the one who gives life, breath, and everything else. From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. God made the nations so they would seek God, perhaps even reach out and find God. In fact, God isn't far away from any of us. In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, 'We are the offspring.'

***Call to Worship** Bruce Sanguin

One: As we continue to move deeper into the Easter Season, it is good news indeed that there is no hiding from the Risen One.

Many: He comes as Destiny's servant, walking through walls of fear

One: breathing the fire of the Holy Spirit into our unbelieving hearts and offering us a peace which surpasses all understanding:

Many: the peace of renewed purpose, of a blessed unrest,

One: of realizing that the Easter story is about our own resurrection after all,

Many: and that there is work to be done:

One: proclaiming God's love, healing the brokenhearted,

Many: speaking out for creation, and above all,

One: opening to the evolving push and pull of Spirit's call.

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

***Song** *I Will Never Leave You Orphaned*

STUTTGART 8.7.8.7 (*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*)

"I will never leave you orphaned," Jesus, you once told your own. When we're overwhelmed and frightened, show us that we're not alone.

Thank you for the Holy Spirit who is present every day, giving love that we might share it, giving us the words to say.

In affliction, we find comfort through our Friend and Help and Guide.

When we're sad and cannot bear it, you are with us—by our side.

Then, in comfort, we find challenge As you call your church to be mercy-bearers, justice-seekers in your new community.

Christ, in comfort and in challenge, May the church hear what you say: "I will never leave you orphaned." May we trust your word today.

***Opening Prayer** Bruce Sanguin

O Risen One, breathe on us, inspire us then send us out, that we might rise from our graves of fear and go forth boldly as your Easter people always. 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 *Guide My Feet #354, v2*

Hold my hand, while I run this race

Hold my hand, while I run this race

Hold my hand, while I run this race

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Scripture John 14:15-21 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. I will ask and God will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can't receive because it neither sees nor recognizes it. You know this Spirit because it lives with you and will be with you.

"I won't leave you as orphans. I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. On that day you will know that I am in God, you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by God, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *As the Deer #2025*

As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af - ter
you. You a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I
long to wor - ship you. You a - lone are my
strength, my shield; to you a - lone may my spir - it
yield. You a - lone are my heart's de -
sire, and I long to wor - ship 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.]

Litany *A Wide Continuum of Mothering—based on messymiddle.com*

One: To those who gave birth this year to their first child or expanded their family...

Many: **We celebrate with you.**

One: To those who lost a child this year...

Many: **We mourn with you.**

One: To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains and are sometimes afraid they don't know what they are doing...

Many: **We see you and appreciate you.**

- One: To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, adoption or running away and may feel they have failed...
- Many: We ache with you.**
- One: To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment...
- Many: We walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it already is.**
- One: To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms...
- Many: We need you.**
- One: To those who have warm and close relationships with your children...
- Many: We give thanks with you.**
- One: To those who have disappointment, complications and distance or separation with your children...
- Many: We sit with you.**
- One: To those who lost their mothers this year and may feel lonely in their lives and in their mothering...
- Many: We grieve with you.**
- One: To those who experienced abuse at the hands of their own mother and therefore didn't have a healthy model for mothering...
- Many: We acknowledge your experience.**
- One: To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood...
- Many: We are better for having you in our midst.**
- One: To those who have aborted children or who became mothers against their will...
- Many: We pray for you this day and many days.**
- One: To those who are not mothers and do not want to be.
- Many: We respect and celebrate your decisions.**
- One: To those who are single or married and want to be parenting...
- Many: We sigh with you that life has not turned out the way you long for it to be.**
- One: To those who step-parent...
- Many: We walk with you on these complex paths.**
- One: To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that dream is not to be...
- Many: We come to grips with you.**
- One: To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year...
- Many: We grieve and rejoice with you.**
- One: To those who are pregnant with new life, expected and surprising...
- Many: We anticipate with you.**

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

*Response Give Thanks #2036

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: "Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One, give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ his Son. Give Son. And now let the weak say, 'I am strong'; let the poor say, 'I am rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for us.'" The score includes a repeat sign at the beginning, a first ending (1, 3) and second ending (2, 4) for the phrase "Give Son. And", and a final section marked "Last time to Coda" with a Coda symbol. The lyrics "us." and "Give thanks!" are written below the final staff, which ends with a Coda symbol.

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the
Ho - ly One, give thanks be - cause he's
giv-en Je - sus Christ his Son. Give Son. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the
poor say, "I am rich be-cause of what the Lord has
done for us." And us." Give
us." Give thanks!

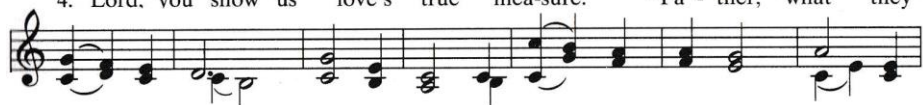
*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, we respect, honor and cherish one another, so we share what we have been given. We are givers and we are receivers too. Guide us into places where we can be ever more generous and graciously receptive. Amen.

*Song of Parting *Lord, You Give the Great Commission #429*



1. Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2. Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3. Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4. Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion, And the
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise, Life a -
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry, Dai - ly
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure All that



gos - pel go un - heard, Help us wit - ness to your pur - pose
 bun - dant meant for each, Give us all new fer - vor, draw us
 lift life heav - en - ward, Ask - ing that the world a - round us
 you so free - ly give. May your care and mer - cy lead us



With re - newed in - teg - ri - ty;
 Clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty; With the Spir - it's
 Share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty;
 To a just so - ci - e - ty;



gifts em - power us For the work of min - is - try.

5. Lord, you bless with words assuring:
 "I am with you to the end."
 Faith and hope and love restoring,
 May we serve as you intend,

And, amid the cares that claim us,
 Hold in mind eternity;
 With the Spirit's gifts empower us
 For the work of ministry.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth Two Postludes in A Minor -

#1 - by W. Wedemann (1805-1845)

#2 - by A.F. Hesse (1809-1863)

Announcements

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

Bread for the World Offering of Letters due May 21

Thank you to all who participated in our Bread for the World Offering of Letters on May 7 by writing letters to Congress about improvements we wish to see in the U.S. Farm Bill to better nourish food-insecure people. We've collected 50 letters already and we hope to collect over 100! Please deliver your letters with your address written on each one to the big basket in the gathering space at church by Sunday, May 21, so that we can bless them before Cindy Changyit Levin delivers them in-person to offices on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. If you'd like to see a sample letter or get more information about the Farm Bill, visit <https://www.bread.org/offering-letters/#Resources>. If wish to participate virtually by sending an email to Congress, visit tinyurl.com/2023Bread Click the box that says "Yes, this is an Offering of Letters" and type the name of our church "Parkway UCC" in the prompt that appears.

Speaker Series *Part Two of a 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 via Zoom conferencing:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwD0EzOVhV1lYQ TO 9#success>

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

5/16—Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue (TAD)

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

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/stlouiscardsmhan/>

Blessing of the Pets – Next Sunday at 9am out back!

Join us out back by the Memorial Garden (to the left of the playground) for a brief worship experience with your pet. We will sing, pray, bark, meow, tweet and run around a little bit... maybe even play fetch. Please use leashes, carrying cases, etc. If you'd prefer to bring a photo or have a photo on your phone, please do so. We will be done before 9:30am so people can bring their pet home and get back for worship at 10am. Please RSVP
kevin@parkwayucc.org

5/23—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 continue 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.
Contact: Helen Race | raceh@att.net | 314-401-4382

5/31—Parkway Adventurers Tour White Haven

Wed, May 31 | 9:30am carpool from church

Join the Parkway Adventures on a visit to the beautiful estate White Haven, National Historic Site, General Ulysses S. Grant's St. Louis home on Monday, May 22nd. Meet at PUCC's parking lot at 9:30 am for carpooling or 10 am at White Haven, 7400 Grant Road (opposite Grant's Farm). Grant was a Civil War General credited with saving the Union, and the 18th President of the United States. We'll explore the grounds and museum from 10-11, and take a reserved tour of the White Haven estate at 11. Admission and tour are free. After White Haven, you are invited to join us for lunch at Fitz's SoCo, 5244 S. Lindbergh.

White Haven was built between 1812 and 1816, one of the oldest homes in St. Louis County today. It was built by the Dent family, and Julia Dent eventually became Grant's wife. The Grants lived at White Haven before and after the Civil War, and visited the estate during Grant's presidency. For the tour, the house has an accessible entrance and all but one room on the main floor is completely accessible. The winter kitchen in the basement is accessible only by stairs but there is photo information available.

<https://www.nps.gov/ulsg/index.htm> Please RSVP to Donna Fauss, donnafauss@gmail.com or text/call (314)650-2607 so that we can have a head count for the guided tour. The more the merrier.

Contact Jackie Eiffert: jeiffert2@gmail.com | (661) 378-6781

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.

Gateway ONA Needs You!

Hello Parkway Family! For those who don't know I am deeply involved with the Gateway Open Affirming Coalition and am the current treasurer. We are in fairly dire need for additional support from within our supporting bodies of churches. As an FYI - Meetings are normally held on the fourth Thursday of each month, by Zoom, beginning at 7:00 PM with a brief social time before the meeting beginning at 6:45 PM.

Our needs include:

1. GONA needs a person skilled in knowledge to support our website, Facebook page, and to assist with virtual connections for the Annual Convocation on the first Saturday in March and the Fall Fund Raising event held in October.

2. GONA needs a person who could become the Assistant Treasurer. Work with the current treasurer, to make deposits, write checks, keep minimal records showing what has come in, what has gone out and what our balance is in the checking account.

This person needs computer skills or accounting skills. If you or someone you know might be interested, please mail me or our convener, Lorin Cope, at buckeyeohio@hotmail.com, or call his office at St. Paul UCC: 314-772-4772 or my cell: 330-903-7711. Thank you.

Finally, participating in St. Louis Pridefest has been a hallmark of GONA. Unfortunately, I will not be able to participate in this years' celebration as myself and my partner, Doug, will be in Toronto helping my employer with our first in-person Pride celebration. If you could please help us with some of your time during the PrideFest celebration we would greatly appreciate it!

3. GONA need help staffing the booth/tent at PrideFest on June 24 and 25 in downtown St. Louis. We also hope to always have on each shift at least one authorized pastor who would be available to those who come into the tent if there is a need for spiritual care or a conversation with a pastor. Here is the link to volunteer:

https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.signupgenius.com%2Fgo%2F409044AABAD2BA46-stlpride%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR15xdnRx6ZPbpJoXjJvmm-N2mVXQfHVkjs8Nz6UowkafwRhTYHg-s_2Oik&h=ATonDmVbJAx2Vy4bm7Ya9GKMdMnWqSX6-Po8-esE8RFbgmqTATqPPJIgrDIpjKpmnQULm1EvbeZwkspfek-NnpIc4soBYzRS3pD59w5msVPF7CxUlu8D_8S5IcRf3z6nSWqBmpySKpdVp h6mxA.

Thank you!

Greg Schmelig ~ greg_schmelig@hotmail.com; 314-308-1868

May 2023 Alzheimer's News

Myra Garcia was diagnosed with younger-onset Alzheimer's in 2020 at age 62. Her diagnosis forced her into early retirement from a job she loved, but has also provided new opportunities. She volunteers at a senior memory care center, sings in three choirs, and remains physically and socially active by practicing yoga, biking, golfing, and taking a French class with friends. She also enrolled in a clinical trial that is evaluating the safety and efficacy of a potential Alzheimer's treatment, donanemab, for individuals living with pre-symptomatic Alzheimer's Disease. She also discovered the Early-Stage Advisory Group (ESAG) which has helped bring the voices of individuals living with dementia to the national forefront. Myra hopes that by sharing her story she will encourage others to advocate for themselves in seeking and receiving an accurate diagnosis.

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

Mother's Day Jokes

A mother said to her son, "Look at that kid over there; he's not misbehaving." The son replied, "Maybe he has good parents then!"

Mum, what's it like to have the greatest daughter in the world?
I don't know dear, you'd have to ask Grandma.

Bought my Mum a mug which says, "Happy Mother's Day from the World's Worst Son". I forgot to mail it but I think she knows.

Two children ordered their mother to stay in bed one Mother's Day morning. As she lay there looking forward to breakfast in bed, the smell of bacon floated up from the kitchen. But after a good long wait she finally went downstairs to investigate. She found them both sitting at the table eating bacon and eggs. "As a surprise for Mother's Day," one explained, "We decided to cook our own breakfast."

A mother is trying to get her son to eat carrots. "Carrots are good for your eyes," she says.

"How do you know?" the son asks.

The mother replies, "Have you ever seen a rabbit wearing glasses?"

If your kids are giving you a headache, follow the directions on the aspirin bottle, especially the part that says 'keep away from children'.

A little girl asked her mum, "How did the human race appear?"

Mum answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children, and so was all mankind made ..."

Two days later the girl asked her Dad the same question.

Dad answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved."

The confused girl returned to her mum and said, "Mum, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said they developed from monkeys?"

The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his!"

If evolution really works, how come Mothers only have two hands?

Sweater, n.: garment worn by child when its mother is feeling chilly.

People who say they sleep like a baby don't have one."

Why is a computer so smart? It listens to its motherboard.

What did the mother rope say to her child? "Don't be knotty."

What did the digital clock say to its mother? "Look, Ma! No hands!

What do you call a mom who can't draw? Tracy.

Why did the mother's day gift arrive after Mother's Day? It was chocoLATE.

Why did the mom cat want to bowl on Mother's Day? She was an alley cat.

Why did the baby strawberry cry? Because his mom was in a jam!

What did the mother broom say to the baby broom? It's time to go to sweep!

What do you call a small mother? A Minimum.

What did the Egyptian kid say when it got lost? I want my mummy.

How did the Panda open her Mother's Day card? With her bear hands.

What did the momma say to the foal? It is pasture your bedtime.

How do you get the kids to be quiet on Mother's Day? Say mums the word.

Who do flowers celebrate on Mother's Day? Their chrysanthemoms.

Every Day, Earth Day Maren Tirabassi

Benediction

May God bless and keep in the ground –
the roots of old forests,
the bulbs of next year's flowers,
and fossil fuels --
hallowed resting places
of trees that clapped their hands
and creatures of the sea
that sported in the morning
of the shining face of God.
And may God lift up the light
of a loving countenance upon you
who care for this earth --
for this time forth
and the children's forevermore.

Prayer -- Honey in the Rock

God you have put honey in every rock –
coal, the grandmother of diamonds,
oil, meant as a symbol of unity,
not a source of violence,
shale and sandstone, limestone and dolomites.
God you have put honey in the rocks of ages.
Withhold our hands from fracture and poison
and teach us to find you, the Living Stone,
beneath our feet. Amen
(scriptures used Psalms 81:16; Psalm 133; 1 Peter 2:4-6)

Prayer -- Cleft in the Rock

God, in the cleft of the rocks
we see the back of your glory,
the abundance of your goodness,
the creation we celebrate, sustain and leave as a blessing
for seven generations of our children.
Cover us with your hand, O God,
that our greed for glory
does not steal the hope of the earth. Amen.

Scripture: Exodus 33:17-23. The “7th generation” principle common to many indigenous Nations and codified in the Iroquois Great Law of Peace suggests every decision be judged by how it will affect descendants seven generations into the future. The use of 7th generation has also been used in a negative sense to define the 7 generations of energy entitlement and the profligate burning of fossil fuel resources.

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Celebrations

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

Spring beauty.

Elliot Rene Gaillardetz - first grandchild of Andrea & Steve Barnes 5/10.

All students, teachers and families as school year ends now/soon.

Sara Tallyn Endejan graduated from SIUE with a Bachelor of Science in Biology; heading for grad school at the University of Minnesota.

Coree Mix - settling into new home by DePaul Hospital... 11777 Minot Drive, Bridgeton 63044; 314-412-0150. They'd love a call and/or visit!

Andrea & Steve Barnes - about to become first-time grandparents.

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.

Dawn Jones-Goldstein - preparing for tonsil surgery this Friday.

Pleis/Eiffert/Harms family - grieving and giving thanks for Patty.

The deadly acts of violence in Texas over the weekend.

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, Sarah & Family - his outpt rehab after stroke (Mason nephew).

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).

Jackie - special needs adult battling Parkinson's, cancer, dementia.

Sharon - variety of health challenges (Rogers).

Brooke - that she would find love and start a family of her own.

Val - strength and patience (Jim Winkelmann's 102 year-old mother).

Lizzie - awaiting liver transplant (niece of Barb Kuhlmann).

Anthony - multiple challenges as he lives his post-incarceration life.

Gary - risky behaviors; seeking balance and stability.

Home-Centered/Care Facility/Rehab Center

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Park, MO 63088 [birthdate: October 26]

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

meadletter222@gmail.com [birthdate: August 8]

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

naomiruntz@sbcglobal.net [birthdate: August 30]

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

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

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

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

(Father of Deb Carter).

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

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

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

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

Other

JoJo & Derek and Natty Kersting as they await a baby this summer.

Pres Biden, VP Harris, Congress, all local, national, world leaders.

The “me too” Movement - shining a light on sexual abuse.

All people who live with mental illness & those dealing with meds.

Caregivers of all shapes and sizes.

PUCC Family struggling with employment; healthcare costs and limits.

Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC

Gun violence and other violence across the US and other lands.

Conversations about the Death Penalty in the United States.

Victims of Natural and Created Disasters around the world.

Healing of relationships between the public and the police.

Peace and Justice near and far.

US Military around the globe.

6th Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 14, 2023

John 14:15-21

Witness of Love

Mother's Day

Rural Life Sunday

A recent *Thursdays for the Soul* video focused on the special joys and challenges for rural churches. Rev. Barbara Howlett of Dille Parish, PA says that her joy is that everyone in her small rural congregation participates with their whole heart, mind, and soul. For her, the joy happens when her church models itself after the early church described in Acts, where all the believers were together and held everything in common. She says this is the best description of rural communities. In other congregations Howlett has served, getting to know each other is the biggest challenge. But in a rural community, the church is very visible and personal. There's a sense of familiarity that can't be bought or packaged, it's innate in the character of the rural community. Howlett says she appreciates the stability of a community where people are deeply rooted, not moving in and out. Because of that stability, she believes that ministry in a rural area is more aligned with the ministry of Jesus, who was able to deeply know and understand those he ministered with. "We may be small," Howlett adds with her infectious laugh, "but we serve a BIG GOD!"

In South Dakota, Becky Leonard is the office administrator at First Congregational UCC in Redfield, a small community of just about 2,000 residents. In spite of being a small congregation of 45 or so worshippers, this small community is able to serve the community in a number of ways. Together with another UCC church 10 miles away, the congregation runs a nonprofit apartment building that provides housing for the elderly and disabled of the community. They also have a food bank, which is important as their rural community is considered a food desert. They also support local schools with a backpack program.

Thursdays for the Soul is a webinar series to care for the whole church. Topics are wide-ranging and are focused on the spirituality and care of people. One recent Thursday for the Soul considered the special joys and challenges for rural congregations. Find more at this link or by searching the United Church of Christ YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FTa1-69DVA&t=598s>