



www.parkwayucc.org June 4, 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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Linda Tossing, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org] Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

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Joyce Ruiz, *Alzheimer's Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador* [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com] Polly Rutherford, *Environmental Justice/Sustainability Seekers* [pollyrutherford@gmail.com]

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: Carol Cobb

Flowers: Keith & Kari Borgmann in celebration of their 42nd anniversary

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/videos 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: --

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

6/5 TALLYN, Kent & Diane (25)

Birthdays

6/5	BRUEGGEMANN, Paige	6/8	HOOD, Finn
6/5	DISCHINGER, Doug	6/8	HOOD, Oliver
6/7	DISCHINGER, Sally	6/9	LIVENGOOD, Ross
6/7	STOHR, Paul		

Trinity Sunday

Sunday, June 4, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Welcome to Chaplain Diane Yanczer! We are so grateful you're here today!

[As Diane is in the process of being approved for ordination, she is not yet authorized to serve communion. We will gather at our open communion table next Sunday, the day of our Annual Meeting.]

Meditation What's seen from here is different when seen from there.

~Chaim Guri

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Passing the Peace of Christ

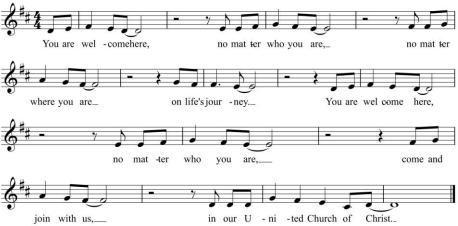
"May the peace of Christ be with you."
(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

Prelude

Early in the Morning, Our Song Shall Rise to Thee—arr. Douglas E. Wagner Based on the tune Nicaea (Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty) by John Bacchus Dykes, 1861

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song You Are Welcome Here



Scripture 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 (CEB – Common English Bible) Finally, brothers and sisters, good-bye. Put things in order, respond to my encouragement, be in harmony with each other, and live in peace—and the God of love and peace will be with you. Say hello to each other with a holy kiss. All of God's people say hello to you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*Call to Worship Ministry Matters/Worship Elements

One: God the Creator is in this place.

Many: The love of God is with us.

One: Jesus our Redeemer is in this place.

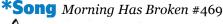
Many: The grace of our Lord is with us.

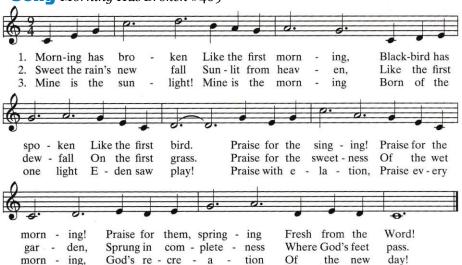
One: The Holy Spirit is in this place.

Many: The communion of the Spirit is in this place.

One: We welcome the fullness of God's presence.

All: God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with us now and forever. Amen.





***Opening Prayer**

God of infinite wisdom, you have been faithful to your people throughout time. Calm our minds. Open our ears and our hearts this morning that we might still hear of your faithfulness. 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 the Little Children

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world. Every child in every land, Jesus holds them by the hand. Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Scripture 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 (NRSV - New Revised Standard Version) Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer Cares Chorus #2215



Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer sung to the tune by Nate Stout

Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

[A variety of names for God are welcome here – including in the Lord's Prayer.]

Offering Our Gifts to God If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate on the communion table before the end of the closing hymn. There are also offering plates in the Gathering Space just outside the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity.

Offering Anthem Come, Maker, Savoir, Spirit—Larson/Beall

Based on Matt. 28:19. Sung by the 1st Sunday Choir.

Come, O God of the ages and make your mission known.

Come, O Christ of the people, our head and cornerstone,

Come, O Spirit, be present and tune us to your voice.

Come, Maker, Savior. Spirit and make your will our choice.

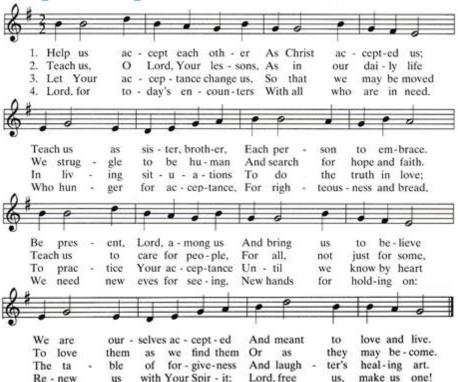
*Response

Praise God whose breath fills all the earth Whose love reveals our sacred worth Whose Spirit forms one family Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community, we dedicate these gifts to you, generous God. For the ways it will help us be witnesses to your love and compassion, we dedicate these gifts to you, gracious God. Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, give power to all we stand for as a community of faith. Amen.

*Song of Parting Help Us Accept Each Other #358



*Benediction Jan Richardson

Blessed are you who bear the light in unbearable times, who testify to its endurance amid the unendurable, who bear witness to its persistence when everything seems in shadow and grief.

Blessed are you in whom the light lives, in whom the brightness blazes—your heart a chapel, an altar where in the deepest night can be seen the fire that shines forth in you in unaccountable faith, in stubborn hope, in love that illumines every broken thing it finds.

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Postlude Joy in the Morning—Lani Smith © 2002 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Letter from our Church Council President

Good Morning:

As your Council President, I would like to make the following announcement.

To be in-compliance with our current Constitution, I am making the following announcement to amend the current Constitution and By-laws. The current Constitution requires that the Council approved any amendments and then make an announcement to the Congregation two Sundays prior to a vote on any amendment.

Therefore:

The Council is making a recommendation for the Congregation to approve an amendment to the CONSTITUTION adopted on November 3, 1996 at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 11, 2023.

Also:

The Council is making a recommendation for the Congregation to approve an amendment to THE BY-LAWS adopted on November 3, 1996 at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 11, 2023

The Council has another Question/Answer Session scheduled for Sunday, June 4 after the service and in the Heritage Room.

Also, there are copies of the proposed Articles of Incorporation and By-laws are available in the gathering space along with a link to the documents online.

Thank you!

Linda Tossing -- ltossing@att.net;314-495-3063

Proposed New Governance Structure: tinyurl.com/PUCC-proposed Constitution & Bylaws: tinyurl.com/PUCC-Constitution-Bylaws

Announcements

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

Virtual Program: Pride Month Book Picks

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 - 7:00p.m. to 8:00p.m..

https://www.slcl.org/content/virtual-program-pride-month-book-picks

In celebration of Pride Month, St Louis County Library staff will share their favorite LGBTQ+ books. Adult Registration required. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering.

Register here: https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=332069

6/4—The PUCC Council Question/Answer sessions about PUCC Articles & By-laws Revision

Sunday, June 4 | 11:15am-12:15pm

The PUCC Council will be conducting Question/Answer sessions regarding the PUCC Articles & By-laws Revision. This is in preparation for the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 11, 2023.

Contact Linda Tossing, Council President: ltossing@att.net | 314-495-3063

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLN mkwd0Ez V0VHV1IyQT09#success

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

6/6—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

TAD will be discussing a short local book June 6 and 20, *The Last Children of Mill Creek* by Vivian Gibson. The book is a memoir of growing up in the 1950s in a segregated St. Louis neighborhood, Mill Creek. This working-class neighborhood was razed to build a highway, "an act of racism disguised as urban renewal." Gibson describes her everyday life before the demolition took place, showing the readers the triumphs and struggles of her large family and about the friends, shop owners, church ladies, and teachers who made Mill Creek into a tight-knit African American community.

After this book TAD will take a short summer break and resume in August.

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

6/11—Parkway UCC Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 11 | 11:15am-12:15pm | Sanctuary & Zoom

One the key items on the agenda is the Council is requesting approval of the revised Articles & By-laws. A printed copy is available in the Gathering Space and electronically on our website. Contact Linda Tossing, Council President: ltossing@att.net | 314-495-3063

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLN mkwd0Ez V0VHV1IyQT09#success

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

Parkway Picnic Potluck Lunch

Sunday, June 11 | Following Annual Congregational Meeting | Fellowship Hall Let's celebrate after PUCC Annual Meeting on June 11, with a Potluck Lunch.

Our goal is to be trash-free, using cloth tablecloths, napkins, china plates, and glassware. Volunteers will be washing dishes, and others will wash tablecloths and napkins. Please bring potluck entrees, sides, and desserts in non-disposable containers. We will not be throwing anything away; you may take home your containers after lunch. We will collect food waste in a container and try to leave as little as possible. The poster for Pot Luck offerings is located in the Gathering Space.

Ministry sign-ups will be posted around the room for activities that interest members and visitors. Many of our projects are one-and-done tasks and take less time. Contact Carol Cobb: ccjcobb@aol.com | 314-965-4147.

Cloth Napkin Collection

We are collecting easy-care cloth napkins to promote Fellowship meals as environmentally smart. There are three ways to donate: 1) money, 2) gently used easy-care napkins, and 3) purchase new easy-care napkins. The sign-up poster is in the Gathering Space with a basket to place the donated napkins. Volunteers will be recruited to wash a batch from time to time. If you wish to donate money by check, write "napkins" on the memo line. Contact Carol Cobb: ccjcobb@aol.com | 314-965-4147.

6/11—AWOL to MO Botanical Garden for Chihuly Exhibition

Sunday, June 11 | Approximately 2:00pm carpool from church

Join Adventurous Women Out Late (AWOL). Chihuly returns to the Missouri Botanical Garden for the first time since 2006, with a stunning exhibition uniting art and nature. Featuring 18 large-scale installations presented throughout the Garden's grounds, the beauty and drama of *Chihuly in the Garden 2023* is an inspiring experience whether viewed in the natural light of day or under a blanket of stars during *Chihuly Nights*.

6/13 Tuesday *Evening* Dialogue

The Sun Does Shine by Anthony Ray Hinton

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 6:00pm Potluck | 7:00pm Discussion | Heritage Room Please continue to read *The Sun Does Shine* from Chapter 16 to the end of the book or our next TED session on June 13. We will be choosing our next selection so please share any ideas you have for our next reading adventure.

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

6/14 Parkway Adventurers Tour Tappmeyer House

Wednesday, June 14 | 9:30am meet in PUCC parking lot | 10:00am tour Tappmeyer House in Millennium Park, 2 Barnes West Drive, behind Barnes Jewish West Hospital on Olive

Join Parkway PALS as we tour the beautiful Tappmeyer Homestead. The exhibit on display at the house in June is a celebration of the 20th anniversary of moving the house from its original location at Olive and Ross. The home was built in the 1880s when the area was an agrarian community with rolling

hills and fertile land. Olive Street Road was a direct route between the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.

Laura Dierberg Ayers and PUCCer Nancy Litzinger will be our guides through the house and will share the fascinating history of the home and the Creve Coeur area with us. Laura'a mother Judy, who was of the 4th (and last) generation of Tappmeyers to live in the home, will likely also be on hand to talk with us. For more information, please see www.tappmeyerhomestead.org Admission to the home is free, but donations are welcomed. Please join the group for lunch in Creve Coeur afterward. Please RSVP to Nancy Litzinger at 314-954-2526 or nancywlitzinger@gmail.com.

Parkway Speakers Series June 2023

23 Missions over Germany—WWII Vet Paul "Bud" Haedike

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLN mkwd0Ez V0VHV1IyQT09#success

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

Bud Haedike served in World War II in the nose of a B-17 (nicknamed the "Flying Fortress") as a bombardier in the United States 8th Air Force. The 8th Air Force had one of the highest casualty rates of any unit in the war. Bud wound up flying 23 combat missions over Germany, making bombing runs over Berlin, Dresden, Munich and Hamburg. Now almost 100 years of age, Bud is always ready to speak about his extraordinary experiences, remembering each of the bombing missions he carried out.

Behind the Scenes at "Justice,"—Jeff Demerath, Esq.

June 25, 2023 | 11:15am - 12:15pm Heritage Room & Zoom

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLN mkwd0Ez V0VHV1IyQT09#success

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

The Justice Department is tasked with the enforcement of federal law and the administration of justice in the United States.

Our speaker, Jeff Demerath started as a DOJ attorney in DC and then returned home to St. Louis as a private practice attorney representing clients in cases against Justice, including criminal cases.

6/27 Scandinavian Duo Lynx Lynx

Tuesday, June 27 | 5:30-7:30pm | Sanctuary

Do you like World Music? This evening, *Lynx Lynx*, the Scandinavian Duo, performs MidSummer traditional music featuring Hardanger Fiddle and tunes recreating the experience of fresh chill air and mountain streams. Parkway United Church of Christ extends its welcome to All. Refreshments: waffles and fruit a good snack for hungry children and everyone to enjoy. The seating accommodates 300 so bring your friends. Call Lynn Sableman at (314) 609-6918 to reserve a seat, or ask questions. The program is partially sponsored by Norwegian Society of StLouis (NSSL) the cost is \$15, children 10 and under are free. Check them out: vidarskrede.com/

Colors of Hope: A discussion for Pride Month

When we recently hosted the Open and Affirming (ONA) Convocation, one of the vendors gifted us with a dozen copies of Colors of Hope: A Devotional Journey from LGBTQ+ Christians. We give thanks for the LGBTQ+ people of faith who have been vulnerable and hopeful as they shared some of their life experiences for all of us to learn from.

Colors of Hope draws upon the iconic Pride flag and raises a call to embody our beliefs. Using Gilbert Baker's original flag and its eight colors and themes —life, healing, sunlight, nature, art and magic, harmony and serenity, sexuality and spirit—readers are invited to reflect, engage, and apply discoveries. The devotions present a range of views, all full of hope, paired with thematic journal prompts and calls to action.

Join us for a discussion on Zoom from 10-11:15am or in person in Kevin's Office from 6:45-8pm on Thursday, June 29. Feel free to answer the journal questions ahead of time or just read the short chapters and come ready for conversation. Complimentary copies of the book are available on the round table in the Gathering Space now.

The book includes an invocation, introduction, weekly reading, daily reflections, benediction, and list of resources. *Colors of Hope* is an expansive resource for personal growth and collective change. It brings the joy, beauty, and power of the rainbow to life.

Reminder: Zoom in the morning; in-person in the evening...

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82587215760?pwd=MG9nV3kzZmdtbVphNmFQTWICWXIE

UT09 | Meeting ID: 825 8721 5760; Passcode: 835458 Ouestions? Reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org

JHLTB—Jesus Has Left the Building

Our next Fifth Sunday - July 30, 2023

If you'd like to be a part of the team, please let us know:

kevin@parkwayucc.org

Please put July 30 on your calendar. Many more details to come!

UCC / Habitat Auction Fall Fundraiser

JOINT FUND Raising Project Our UCC Build is gearing up for an online auction this fall. We are looking for a volunteer or two from each congregation to seek items and publicize the auction in your congregation and beyond. So far, we have volunteers from First Congregational in Webster, Hope, Kirkwood and Samuel. Over the summer, we hope that we'll discover great items for others to buy: Cardinals tickets, Dinner at a favorite place, Service from a company A pie a month The items are only limited by your imagination. Already, someone has donated a truck load of firewood, an HVAC Check, a gift certificate to a restaurant...More info? Contact Tom McKenzie: mckenzie1947@att.net or Keith Karau keith.karau@gmail.com

Recycle Love

Mike Piazza, UCC pastor in Florida

A major motive for moving from New York City to Jacksonville, Florida was my 90-year-old parents live just north of here in South Georgia. My every-other-week visit is painful, though. Beyond seeing my heretofore robust and active folks so frail and isolated, I'm completely baffled how to help care for them. I've been paying someone to come into their home five days a week, and I have two brothers who pitch in the other two days. Still, it is not enough. They are at the stage where they need 24-hour care. Of course, the solution is assisted living, but my father won't hear of it.

It can be exhausting, frustrating, and expensive to care for them, but I try to remember how exhausting, frustrating, and expensive parenting was for them. A friend and colleague, Josh Lee, wrote last week:

It's amazing how love recycles itself! Gram doesn't get out much anymore—so I took her shopping yesterday. As she ruffled through the racks, I was immediately dumbfounded how much the dynamics of our relationship have changed as she's aged. When I was a kid she would always take me school shopping for new clothes and now here I am taking her. She would usher me around town before I could drive and treat me to Boston Market and now I drive the car because she can't and I pay for lunch because I can. She plastered her living room wall with letters and numbers when I was a kid learning how to count and now I complete all her tax information because she can't. It's amazing how life recycles love. She poured love into me for years and now it's my chance to pour love back into her.

Josh is right. It is an amazing gift to be able to recycle love.

Prayer List Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Celebrations

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

Students, grads, teachers, families as the school year ends.

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!

Concerns

Kevin Cameron, Carmen Bumgarner and kids – as he recuperates from heart attack.

Val & Doug Detjen - figuring out next steps for her healing!

Peter LaSalle - healing and strengthening.

Jan Shippee and family as they grieve/give thanks for her mother.

Norma Shafermeyer - healing after pacemaker surgery (Ferrel).

The ongoing power struggles and violence in Sudan.

The continuing war in Ukraine.

Continuing

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)

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).

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.

Trinity Sunday

Sunday, June 4, 2023

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

This Is Good

Today's scripture reading begins with the words, "In the beginning when God created..." Following each act of creation, God blesses and calls "good" what God has made. One amazing and joyful aspect of our faith is that our story begins with the creativity of God. With creativity comes change. The creativity of the Holy One did not end with the first act of creation, the creativity continued and continues today.

Once a year, we pull the word *triune* out of the cupboard, dust it off and remember that our God is both three and one. On Holy Trinity Sunday we remember that God is both one and three. God is One and also in relationship with God's very self.

According to the United Church of Christ website, in the UCC, **We believe in the triune God: Creator, resurrected Christ, the sole Head of the church, and the Holy Spirit, who guides and brings about the creative and redemptive work of God in the world.** On this day, we remember how those three parts work together in harmony, unity, and joy to be continually creating, redeeming, and guiding the world.

This week, as you go about your daily life, notice the triune (that dusty old and still shiny new word) Divine One, and give thanks. You might try this prayer at the beginning or end of each day.

oly One, Blessed Three - I'm grateful for all that you have created in my life,			
my church community and in the world. Today, I'm especially grateful for			
ne creation of I'm grateful for the salvation that comes in			
our name, for your willingness to save us all from that which burdens us.			
oday, I'm especially grateful to be saved from I'm grateful, too,			
for all the ways you nurture and guide me. Today, I'm especially grateful to be			
uided in the direction of			

After you speak, listen. Do you hear the blessing? Do you hear how God has called all that is created "good?" Ask yourself how the three parts of the trinity speak to you and each other.