



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

June 18, 2023

Contents

- 3 Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 10 Announcements
- 12 Prayer List

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

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

Linda Tossing, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org]

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

Barry Luedloff, *Music Director* [barry@parkwayucc.org]

Mona Smith Herberg, *Office Administrator* [mona@parkwayucc.org]

Kathy Ferrell, *Office Assistant* [kathy@parkwayucc.org]

John Dwyer, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]

Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [dawn@parkwayucc.org]

Julie Connors, *Nursery* [juliestl1992@yahoo.com]

Kim Livengood, *Church Historian* [historian@parkwayucc.org]

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: Ellie Svenson

Flowers: Weas Family in celebration of Ellie Svenson's birthday.

Subscribe to our email lists: Sign up at www.parkwayucc.org

All word and service music reprint permission covered under CCLI License #2464265; CLCLI Streaming License #21357331

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: <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

6/18 SCHOWALTER, Todd & Laura (30)

6/20 FAGERBERG, Roger & Virginia (64)

6/24 STOLZE, Mike & Cherie (23)

Birthdays

6/18 STIFEL, Perrin

6/19 DUKE, Ben

6/19 DUKE, Josie

6/19 SVENSON, Ellie

6/20 CAMERON, Tavis

6/21 SCHULENBURG, David

6/22 SEETHARAMAN, Jay

6/24 MASON, Lisa

6/24 SCHEFFEL, William

3rd Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, June 18, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *We don't follow the Bible. We read the Bible so we can follow Jesus.* ~Bruxy Cavey

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 *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*—Arr. Charity Book Putnam. Based on the song by Peter Scholtes.

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *In Christ There is No East or West* #439, v1-2



1. In Christ there is no east or west, In Him no south or north;
2. In Christ shall true hearts ev-ery-where Their high com-mu-nion find;
3. Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, What-e'er your race may be.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west, In Him meet south and north;



But one great fel-low-ship of love Through-out the whole wide earth.
His ser-vice is the gold-en cord Close-bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God Are sure-ly kin to me.
All Christ-ly souls are one in Him Through-out the whole wide earth.

Scripture Matthew 9:35-10:4 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Jesus traveled among all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, announcing the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The size of the harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for this harvest."

Jesus called the twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to throw them out and to heal every disease and every sickness. Here are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, who is called Peter; and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee; and John his brother; Philip; and Bartholomew; Thomas; and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus; and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean; and Judas, who betrayed Jesus.

***Call to Worship** Based on Genesis 18:1-15

One: We come to learn to offer hospitality from our loving God.

Many: We will look out for the stranger.

One: We come to be enabled to meet the basic needs of others.

Many: We will help the hungry find food. We will help the thirsty find drinkable water. We will help the homeless find a home. We will care passionately for the welfare of children.

One: We come to be skilled to meet the emotional needs of others.

Many: We will speak out for resources for mental health care. We will listen to the troubled. We will support the bereaved.

One: We come to be equipped to meet the spiritual needs of others.

All: We will be a welcoming fellowship of worship and prayer. We will be open to the writings and core values of other faith groups. Our Christian faith will show us who and when to serve.

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

***Song** *When Morning Gilds the Skies* #487



1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, My heart a - wak - ing cries:
 2. Does sad - ness fill my mind? A sol - ace here I find:
 3. Let earth's wide cir - cle round In joy - ful notes re - sound:
 4. Be this, while life is mine, My can - ti - cle di - vine:



May Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer
 May Je - sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth - ly bliss?
 May Je - sus Christ be praised! Let air and sea and sky
 May Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this the e - ter - nal song



To Je - sus I re - pair: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 My com - fort still is this: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 From depth to height re - ply: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 Through all the a - ges long: May Je - sus Christ be praised!

***Opening Prayer** from New Guinea

Gracious God, oil the hinges of our hearts' doors that they may swing gently and easily o welcome your coming over and over again. 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 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* #369, v1

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

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

Scripture Matthew 10:5-23 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Jesus sent the twelve out and commanded them, “Don’t go among the Gentiles or into a Samaritan city. Go instead to the lost sheep, the people of Israel. As you go, make this announcement: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with skin diseases, and throw out demons. You received without having to pay. Therefore, give without demanding payment. Workers deserve to be fed, so don’t gather gold or silver or copper coins for your money belts to take on your trips. Don’t take a backpack for the road or two shirts or sandals or a walking stick. Whatever city or village you go into, find somebody in it who is worthy and stay there until you go on your way. When you go into a house, say, ‘Peace!’ If the house is worthy, give it your blessing of peace. But if the house isn’t worthy, take back your blessing. If anyone refuses to welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet as you leave that house or city. I assure you that it will be more bearable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on Judgment Day than it will be for that city.

“Look, I’m sending you as sheep among wolves. Therefore, be wise as snakes and innocent as doves. Watch out for people—because they will hand you over to councils and they will beat you in their synagogues. They will haul you in front of governors and even kings because of me so that you may give your testimony to them and to the Gentiles. Whenever they hand you over, don’t worry about how to speak or what you will say, because what you can say will be given to you at that moment. You aren’t doing the talking, but the Spirit of God is doing the talking through you. Brothers and sisters will hand each other over to be executed. A parent will turn their child in. Children will defy their parents and have them executed. Everyone will hate you on account of my name. But whoever stands firm until the end will be saved. Whenever they harass you in one city, escape to the next, because I assure that you will not go through all the cities of Israel before the Human One comes.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Invitation to 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.

The musical score is written on six staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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.]

A Prayer for Father's Day Laura Kelly Fanucci

God of love, today we ask your blessing on all who give their lives with a father's love.

Bless new fathers and wise grandfathers.

Bless loving uncles and caring godfathers.

Bless fathers who await the birth of their child with joy.

Bless men who did not expect or want to become fathers.

Bless men who embrace fatherhood through adoption or foster parenting, step-parenting or single parenthood.

Bless men still waiting and hoping to become fathers.

Bless fathers whose work takes them away from their children.

Bless fathers whose work is with their children.

Bless fathers whose lives are shaped by war, poverty, or violence.

Bless fathers who work for peace, freedom, and justice.

Bless teachers and mentors who serve as father figures.

Bless neighbors and friends who listen like a loving parent.

Bless men who are separated from their children, by force or choice.

Bless families without fathers and all who love in abundance in their absence.

Bless fathers who have lost a child.

Bless children who have lost their father.

Bless all whose fathers were loving.

Bless all whose fathers failed to meet their needs for love.

Bless all who celebrate today.

Bless all who struggle today.

Amen.

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.

Offertory Anthem *Fairest Lord Jesus*—Silesian folk melody, in Schlesische Volkslieder 1842; arr. for choir by Barry Luedloff

***Response**

Praise God for love we all may share,

Praise God for beauty everywhere,

Praise God for hope of good to be,

Praise God for truth that makes us free.

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, you are very clear in your call to us—and the call comes at different times and in different forms. You tell us of our responsibilities and equip us with compassion and creativity to serve. Send your spirit to heighten our senses that we might be more aware of the opportunities to speak and act like Jesus. Amen.

*Song of Parting *Will You Come and Follow Me? #2130*



- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth *Grand Choeur—Craig A. Penfield*

© 2018 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Announcements

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

Parkway Speakers Series June 2023

The Law of Discrimination in the Workplace—Grant Doty, Esq.

June 18, 2023 | 11:15am - 12:15pm Heritage Room & Zoom

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=a](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkw0EzV0VHV1lyQT09#success)

EM2ZURYWURLNmkw0EzV0VHV1lyQT09#success

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

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is a federal agency that was established via the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to administer and enforce civil rights laws against workplace discrimination. The activity of this important federal agency involves itself in issues that impact most employers and employees.

Parkway church member and veteran lawyer, Grant Doty, worked for the EEOC for many years and will share his story of the work of the EEOC and provide a summary of what the law requires in order to demonstrate discrimination in the work force. An informed citizen of this nation should understand the work of the EEOC and the law of employment discrimination.

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

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

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.

JHLTB—Jesus Has Left the Building

If you'd like to be a part of the team, let us know: kevin@parkwayucc.org
Please put July 30 on your calendar. Many more details to come!

6/20—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

TAD discusses 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

6/27 Scandinavian Duo Lynx Lynx Tue, June 27 | 5:30-7:30pm

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. 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 two 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=MG9nV3kzZmdtbVphNmFQTWlCWlIEUT09> | Meeting ID: 825 8721 5760; Passcode: 835458

Questions? Reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org

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. 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

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Celebrations

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

Seasonal beauty.

Successful PUCC Annual Meeting and Luncheon yesterday.

Ongoing Search for Christian Education and Youth Directors – we have begun interviewing promising candidates.

Juneteenth next Monday, June 19 - oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of US slavery – www.juneteenth.com

LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

Concerns

Val & Doug Detjen - as she works hard at Mercy Rehab, 14561 N.Outer Forty Rd, Room G40, Chesterfield 63017.

Peter LaSalle - healing and strengthening... hospitalized again now.

Cassie Rosenberger's sister Christa – recovering from surgery.

Benji Adejoh - home in Nigeria after studying abroad here for the year.

The memory of Barb Kuhlmann that continues to bless us one year after her death (June 16).

The ongoing power struggles and violence in Sudan, elsewhere

The continuing war in Ukraine.

Continuing

Cassie Rosenberger's mother Martha - ongoing cancer treatments.

Joseph Miller - long road to healing (son of Deb Carter).

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

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!

Jan - experiencing dementia (great-grandma of Coree Mix).

Angie - living with Hodgkin's Lymphoma (Rosenberger).

Matt Albers - finished chemo and radiation; surgery next (Connors).

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 Winkelman'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.

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, recently wrote:

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.

Father's Day Word Scramble

DIRECTIONS: Unscramble the letters to form the names of ten different words to describe Dad. Then unscramble the shaded letters to answer the riddle.

RFUELAC

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

OSDAEHNM

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ONRGTS

--	--	--	--	--	--

YALLO

--	--	--	--	--

LUEHPFL

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

DINK

--	--	--	--

REECV

--	--	--	--	--	--

EEVDTOD

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

NLILTARIB

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

WIES

--	--	--	--



What do you call a monkey who is just like his father?

								!

3rd Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, June 18, 2023

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

Sarah Laughed

Father's Day

It is not an official church holiday, but many churches today will celebrate Father's Day. In today's scripture story, Sarah is surprised into laughter to find out that she will be a parent. On this Father's Day, recognizing that family is sometimes a source of pain and rejection as well as a haven of joy and acceptance, we give thanks for the many kinds of families that God has blessed. As you say each line of this prayer, silently or aloud, give yourself plenty of time for reflection.

How are these thanksgivings true for you?

How have they or have they not been realized?

What kind of family has God called you into? Consider this question as broadly as possible.

Dear God,

We thank you for our birth family, the family we are linked to by blood. Some of us are very close to our birth family. Perhaps this family is always on our hearts, or even sitting together this very day in this very place. Some of us are far, far away from our birth family, separated by distance or misunderstanding or time or even violence. Whatever our proximity, today we remember that it is our blood family that brought us forth, and we give thanks that we are here.

We thank you for our faith family, for the generations that stretch back further than we can see, even when we stand on tiptoe, peering into the past. We thank you especially for our parents Abraham and Sarah. We thank you that their curiosity, their faith in You, their willingness to follow Your call and their capacity for joy in moments of surprise.

We thank you for the families we have chosen. Those families we have made through law and covenant, families of lovers and friends, families of children and companions. And at the same time, we thank you for the families who have chosen us, drawn us into circles of sweet understanding and easy companionship, taught us to love and to live.

We give thanks for all the families that bring us to laughter, and all the families that we have called home.

In Your holy name we pray, Amen.