





www.parkwayucc.org

July 2, 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

Scripture Reader: Evelyn Buretta

Flowers: Mike & Polly Rutherford in honor of their 50th 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: <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

7/2 RUTHERFORD, Polly & Mike (50)

7/6 ENGEL, Gayle & Donna (55)

Birthdays

7/4 SIMS, Gladys

7/6 HENKE, Kai

7/7 SCHOWALTER, T.J.

7/7 WOLFF, Quin

7/8 COBB, Harold

7/8 HOUSER, Sue

7/8 MASON, Ian

7/8 SIEBER, Jack

7/9 BOWMAN, Jeremy

5th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, July 2, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation

Your children are not your children.

They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you.

And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you. ~ Kahlil Gibran

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 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*—Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

Based on the tune Materna/Finale: America – Arr.by John Carter. Original music Materna by Samuel A. Ward, 1882, words by Katherine Lee Bates, 1893

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Where Children Belong* #2233 (please sing twice)



This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-comed as part of the



wor - ship - ing throng. Wa - ter, God's Word, bread and



cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be - long.

Scripture Genesis 22:1-14 (Common English Bible)

After these events, God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!"

Abraham answered, "I'm here."

God said, "Take your son, your only son whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him up as an entirely burned offering there on one of the mountains that I will show you." Abraham got up early in the morning, harnessed his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, together with his son Isaac. He split the wood for the burned offering, set out, and went to the place God had described to him.

On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place at a distance. Abraham said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will walk up there, worship, and then come back to you.”

Abraham took the wood for the burned offering and laid it on his son Isaac. He took the fire and the knife in his hand, and the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father?”

Abraham said, “I’m here, my son.”

Isaac said, “Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burned offering?”

Abraham said, “The lamb for the burned offering? God will see to it, my son.” The two of them walked on together.

They arrived at the place God had described to him. Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. But the Lord’s messenger called out to Abraham from heaven, “Abraham? Abraham?”

Abraham said, “I’m here.”

The messenger said, “Don’t stretch out your hand against the young man, and don’t do anything to him. I now know that you revere God and didn’t hold back your son, your only son, from me.” Abraham looked up and saw a single ram caught by its horns in the dense underbrush. Abraham went over, took the ram, and offered it as a burned offering instead of his son.

Abraham named that place “the Lord sees.” That is the reason people today say, “On this mountain the Lord is seen.”

***Call to Worship** Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy

One: What does the Lord require of you?

Many: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

One: What does God command of us?

Many: To love God with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind, and all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

One: God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

Many: But to presence, abundance, and grace in our struggle.

One: God believes in us, trusts in us, and abides with us. Be sure of this each and every day.

Many: God will ask much of us, and will be beside us every step of the way.

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

*Song The God of Abraham Praise #488



1. The God of A-braham praise, Who reigns en-throned a - bove;
2. Your spir - it still flows free, High surg - ing where it will;
3. You have e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;



The an - cient of e - ter - nal days, The God of love!
In proph-et's word You spoke of old And You speak still.
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven con - fessed,
Es - tab - lished is Your law, And change-less it shall stand,
We praise You, liv - ing God! We praise Your ho - ly name;



We bow be - fore Your ho - ly name, For - ev - er blest.
Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.
The first, the last, be - yond all thought, And still the same!

*Opening Prayer

Holy One, we sometimes feel like we are in the know—we understand what is going on within us and around us and we are in synch with life. Other times we are confused, lost, unsteady. No matter where we find ourselves this day, you meet us where we are. You bring assurances, calm, patience, wisdom. Help us to receive these gifts and share them with others. 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.

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 *Toplady*—arr. Albert Beck

Based on the tune by Thomas Hastings, 1830, written for the hymn text Rock of Ages by Augustus M. Toplady, 1776

*Response *Make Me A Channel of Your Peace* #2171



1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. _____ Where
there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. _____ Where
is in par-don - ing that we are par - doned, _____ in



there is in - ju - ry, your par-don, Lord, _____ and
there is dark - ness, _____ on - ly light, _____ and
giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, _____ and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you. _____
where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy. _____
dy - ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life. _____

3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek _____ so
 much to be con-soled as to con-sole. _____ To be
 un-der-stood as to un-der-stand, _____ to be
 loved as to love with all my soul. _____ D.C.

*Prayer of Dedication Mustard Seed

Holy One, we make our offerings with the hope and confidence that all we do, all we offer, all we say, all we think, and all we hope will take root in this world and be the source of new expressions of God's love, of God's justice, of God's character, of God's mission, and of God's reign. May God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven through us, alongside us, despite us, and for us. Amen.

Scripture Matthew 10:40, 42 (Common English Bible)

Those who receive you are also receiving me, and those who receive me are receiving the one who sent me. I assure you that everybody who gives even a cup of cold water to these little ones because they are my disciples will certainly be rewarded.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Invitation to the Communion Table We invite *all* to this **open table**. All accepted—no exceptions—as we commit ourselves to limitless love, courageous action and spirited inquiry.

Call to Prayer You Are Mine #2218

1. — I will come to you in the si-lence, —
 2. — I am hope for all who are hope-less, —
 3. — I am strength for all the de-spair-ing, —
 4. I am the Word that leads all to free-dom, I

I will lift you from all your fear.
I am eyes for all who long to see. In the
heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
am the peace the world can - not give.

You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be
shad-ows of the night, I will be your light,
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain, stand

1
still and know I am here.
come and rest in
all will know my
up, now walk, and

2-4 *Refrain*
me. _____
name. _____ Do not be a - afraid, I am
live! _____

with you. I have called you each by name.

Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I
love you and you are mine.

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.]

*Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine/Juice

Please come forward in the center aisle to receive the bread and wine.

Gluten-free wafers are available on the table. Grape juice is in the outer ring; wine is in the center. Please return by the side aisles.

*Communion Interlude *Schmücke Dich (Deck Yourself, My Soul, with Gladness)*—tune by Johann Crüger, 1649

*Prayer of Thanksgiving United Church of Canada

Thank you, Holy Nurturer, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by you. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions you have laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to: feed as we have been fed; grace as we have been graced; love as we have been loved. We are grateful people. Amen.

*Song of Parting *This is My Song, O God of All the Nations*



1. This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,
2. My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3. This is my prayer, O Rul - er of all na-tions:



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine;
let thy reign come; on earth thy will be done.



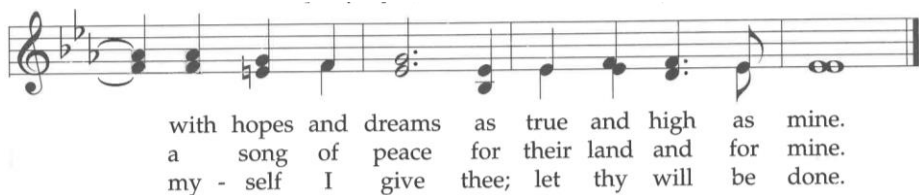
This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
but oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
In peace may all earth's peo - ple draw to - geth - er,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
O hear my song, thou God of all the na-tions,
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the na-tions;



***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth**

National Hymn (God of the Ages)—George William Warren, 1892

Announcements

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

7/4 Join us for the Fourth of July Celebration

As we approach one of the most exciting times of the year, the Intertwine Interfaith group would like to extend a warm invitation to join the Fourth of July celebration at Schroeder Park in Manchester. [Weather permitting.]

We will meet at 7:30pm and bring Halal desserts to share. Fireworks begin at 9pm. Please park near Olympia Gymnastics Training Center - 79 National Way Shopping Center, Manchester, MO 63011

Please RSVP by June 30: <https://forms.gle/xxmsVjgar5VDREER9>

We'll have a shuttle for our group. More details to follow. Contact Lisa Mason: (314) 395-4444 | lmason624@sbcglobal.net

7/6 Adventurous Men Out Early—AMOE: Meets this THURSDAY

Thursday, July 6 | 9:15am | Heritage Room₂

Men of Parkway, are you envious of AWOL? Are you in search of a cup of coffee, a donut, lively conversation, and access to rumor and gossip? Consider attending this week's AMOE gathering.

Relax; this is not complicated. No need to RSVP. All are welcome.

7/9 Parkway Speakers Series: *A Road Trip in Palestine/Israel: Things Travel Brochures Don't Tell You* by Lea Koesterer

July 9, 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

Lea Koesterer has been committed to advocating for the poor and oppressed for years. After starting Second Sunday Sandwiches to feed the hungry, she decided to focus on Palestinian liberation issues. “The vast majority of Americans have no idea of the true nature of the Palestine occupation nor the genesis of the conditions,” she observes.

Because of this, she founded St. Louis Friends of Bethlehem. Their goal is to enlighten people about the beauty and value of the culture of Palestine, and the reality of the deprivation inflicted by military occupation. Lea also produces documentary films to depict the plight of the people who live in the Holy Land under a military occupation; a new and provocative perspective, which in some respects is consistent with the 2021 UCC General Synod Resolution decrying the oppression of the Palestinian people as a matter of faith.

In response, the American Jewish Committee panned the UCC resolution, saying it “demonizes Israel, fails to offer a credible path to Israeli-Palestinian peace and undermines advances in Christian-Jewish relations.” Won't you come to this Speakers Series program and make up your own mind.

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!

7/11 Tuesday Evening Dialogue New Book

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 6:00pm potluck | 7:00pm Discussion | Heritage Room

Please join us for our second and final discussion of the book *Proof of Heaven* by Dr Eben Alexander. This book is about his Near Death Experience during his time in a coma. Unlike other accounts of NDEs, the author, a neurosurgeon, is able to explain why his damaged brain was unable to fabricate his journey into the afterlife. Are you a believer or skeptic? Come share your thoughts on this interesting book with us! Contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net | (314) 401-4382

7/27 Parkway Adventurers Outing: Missouri Botanical Garden

Thursday, July 27 | 9:00am carpool or 9:30 at MoBot entrance | Lunch after Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63110

Join the Parkway Adventurers (PALS) as we enjoy *Chihuly in the Garden* at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Stroll through the Garden, or sit and enjoy the scenery. At the Garden, we can grab lunch at the Sassafras Cafe or enjoy a more leisurely meal at the Sassafras Restaurant. Please RSVP to Jackie Eiffert, jeiffert2@gmail.com or 661-378-6781.

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>

Caring for the Welfare of Children: Support for Isaiah 58 School Supplies Ministries

The following items are requested:

1. Underwear, including socks, undershirts, all sizes, adults too, but especially for children, considering that older high school students need larger sizes;
2. 200 composition books, college-ruled (narrow lines), one-subject, spiral-bound. Watch for sales when shopping and take advantage of late July and August Back-to-School sales.
3. Hosts to sponsor activity tables on the Isaiah 58 Back-to-School Fair on Saturday, 22 July, 8:00 to 1:00 PM. Let me know if anyone is interested in this portion of the school fair day.

Underwear, all sizes, and composition books can be collected through Aug 31.

Evelyn Buretta: burettaevelyn@gmail.com | (636) 220-1280

UCC Habitat for Humanity Auction ~ Fall Fundraiser

Our UCC Build is gearing up for an online auction this fall. We are looking for a volunteer from PUCC to seek items and publicize the auction in our 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 our 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

Habitat helps build strength and stability ~ at Habitat for Humanity, we build. We build because we believe that everyone, everywhere should have a healthy, affordable place to call home. When a family helps build or improve a place they can call home, they are also building a better community as they build a better life for themselves.

Living in Christian Community

Our conduct toward one another at Parkway UCC is governed by the *Living in Christian Community* standards adopted by the Church Council in 2019. Unfortunately, we have had a situation where a member has been found in violation of those standards for repeated inappropriate boundary-crossing behavior. We expect that person will not participate in church activities as requested, and we hope they find personal healing, which may ultimately permit resumption of church involvement. We ask all members and friends to be sensitive and respect confidentiality in this difficult situation.

<https://parkwayucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Living-in-Christian-Community-adopted-January-2019.pdf>

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Celebrations

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

Seasonal beauty.

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

LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

Concerns

Kevin and Rosanna Hogarty - as he recuperates from a heart attack.

Val & Doug Detjen - as she continues to recuperate *at home*.

Peter LaSalle & Sally Dodge - as they spend quality time with family.

Donna - recent cancer diagnosis (sister of Dottie Dwyer).

The ongoing power struggles and violence in Sudan, elsewhere

The continuing war in Ukraine.

Continuing

Cassie Rosenberger's sister Christa - healing after recent surgery.

Avery (20 months old) and parents Kyle & Laura - as she has been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy (Kari/Keith Borgmann's granddaughter).

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).

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 Wilcoxen - 10379-D Forest Brooke Ln; StL MO 63146; 314-983-0253; meadletter222@gmail.com [birthdate: April 7]

Dick Witte - *Meramec Bluffs Assisted Living*; 40 Meramec Trails Dr; Apt #104; Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-368-7324 [birthdate: March 25]

Other

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

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

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

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

Caregivers of all shapes and sizes.

PUCC Family struggling with employment; healthcare costs and limits.

Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC

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

Conversations about the Death Penalty in the United States.

Victims of Natural and Created Disasters around the world.

Healing of relationships between the public and the police.

Peace and Justice near and far.

US Military around the globe.

5th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, July 2, 2023

Matthew 10:40-42

Holy Welcome

[Jesus said:] "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

These are the very last words in the stirring and challenging set of instructions that Jesus gives to the disciples before he sends them forth to heal and to drive out evil. Their task is daunting, to go from town to town, carrying nothing with them. As they go, they are to speak to anyone who will listen, of Christ's healing and saving power. Jesus warns them this task will be difficult and at times even feel divisive. If anyone does not listen to the disciples, they are to shake the dust of that place from their feet and move on, preaching and teaching to new people. Jesus ends his instructions by reminding his followers that those who welcome them welcome Christ among them, and those who welcome Christ among them will find their way to God.

These words continue to ring out for our denomination as delegates gather in person this weekend for the 34th United Church of Christ General Synod in Indianapolis, Indiana, under the theme, **Making All Things New**. During this time, attendees and delegates have the opportunity to fully live Jesus' welcoming vision. Like the disciples, they are encouraged to speak the truth of Christ's healing and life-giving presence. Like those who encountered the first disciples, sometimes that truth can feel challenging or even divisive. But Christ calls General Synod attendees to both speak and listen anyway.

This speaking and listening happens at General Synod this week over committees with clear agendas, in less formal conversations in hallways and parking lots, in worship and workshops, over vendor tables and, of course, in the main assembly, where all delegates gather to pray, deliberate, listen and speak. We do all this because Christ continues to assure us that where our words are welcomed, God is present. And when we can discern God's presence, we can better sense what God is calling us towards.

As the 34th General Synod draws to a close soon, we thank God for the opportunity to follow these old instructions as we Create A New Thing!