



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

July 23, 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: Sally Dischinger

Flowers: Lana & Joe Biondo in honor of Ella and Brynn's Birthdays

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/PUCmedia>

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

7/25 DISCHINGER, Doug & Sally (53)

Birthdays

7/23 BIEST, Kelly

7/25 SCHARF, Caitlin

7/25 SCHATZ, Jill

7/26 MIX, Coree

7/27 LOWENTHAL, Andrew

7/27 TALLYN, Diane

7/27 WILSON, Anna

7/27 WILSON, Emily

7/28 WADDELL, Chase

7/29 STOLZE, Sarah

8th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, July 23, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *We are always in the presence of God. There is never a non-sacred moment! God's presence never diminishes. Our awareness of God's presence may falter, but the reality of God's presence never changes.*

~Max Lucado

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 *Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways*—arr. Albert Beck

Based on *Evan*—Altdorf, 1653

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Surely the Presence of the Lord* #263-Chalice

Sure - ly the pres - ence of the Lord is in this place;

I can feel the might - y pow - er and this grace.

I can hear the brush of an - gels' wings,

I see glo - ry on each face; sure - ly the

pres - ence of the Lord is in this place.

Scripture Genesis 28:10-19a (CEB – Common English Bible)

Jacob left Beer-sheba and set out for Haran. He reached a certain place and spent the night there. When the sun had set, he took one of the stones at that place and put it near his head. Then he lay down there. He dreamed and saw a raised staircase, its foundation on earth and its top touching the sky, and God's messengers were ascending and descending on it. Suddenly the Lord was standing on it and saying, "I am the Lord, the God of your grandparents Abraham and Sarah and the God of your parents Isaac and Rebekah. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will become like the dust of the earth; you will spread out to the west, east, north, and south. Every family of earth will be blessed because of you and your descendants. I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done everything that I have promised you."

When Jacob woke from his sleep, he thought to himself, 'The Lord is definitely in this place, but I didn't know it.' He was terrified and thought, 'This sacred place is awesome. It's none other than God's house and the entrance to heaven.' After Jacob got up early in the morning, he took the stone that he had put near his head, set it up as a sacred pillar, and poured oil on the top of it. He named that sacred place Bethel, though Luz was the city's original name.

***Call to Worship** Nathan Decker

One: O God, where can I go, where can I run, where can I be that I am not within your love?

Many: **If I sail on the wings of the wind or make my bed in Sheol, still there you find me.**

One: If I change my appearance like trees through the seasons, still you see me and my roots.

Many: **No matter how dark I let my heart become,**

One: No matter what doubts and questions I wrestle with in the night,

Many: **Still there you are – still loving me.**

One: I beat at the air with my fists; I curse the rain as it falls on my tear-clenched eyes.

Many: **Still there you are – still loving me.**

One: And even when I don't know how, who, or why... You are still there.

Many: **You are still loving even me.**

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

***Song** *O Holy Spirit, Root of Life #2121*



1. O Ho - ly Spir - it, Root of life, Cre - at - or,
2. E - ter - nal Vig - or, sav - ing One, you free us
3. O ho - ly wis - dom, soar - ing power, en - com - pass



cleans - er of all things, a - noint our wounds, a -
by your liv - ing Word, be - com - ing flesh to
us with wings un - furled, and car - ry us, en -



wak - en us with lus - trous move - ment of your wings.
wear our pain, and all cre - a - tion is re - stored.
cir - cling all, a - bove, be - low, and through the world.

***Opening Prayer** based on Psalm 139

We've come to worship you, O God. You have known us and loved us long before we were aware of ourselves. You know us even better than we know ourselves. Your presence never leaves us. There is no place that we can go that is outside of you. Your love for us never ceases. Help us to feel these truths today as we worship. Help us to find ways to share this experience 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 Me*

**Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give, life and love to all who live.**

Yes, Jesus loves me...

Scripture Psalm 139:1-12 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Lord, you have examined me. You know me. You know when I sit down and when I stand up. Even from far away, you comprehend my plans. You study my traveling and resting. You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways. There isn't a word on my tongue, Lord, that you don't already know completely. You surround me—front and back. You put your hand on me. That kind of knowledge is too much for me; it's so high above me that I can't reach it. Where could I go to get away from your spirit? Where could I go to escape your presence? If I went up to heaven, you would be there. If I went down to the grave, you would be there too! If I could fly on the wings of dawn, stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—even there your hand would guide me; even there your strong hand would hold me tight! If I said, "The darkness will definitely hide me; the light will become night around me," even then the darkness isn't too dark for you! Nighttime would shine bright as day, because darkness is the same as light to you!

Moment of Silent Reflection

Reflections on God's Presence

A Time of Prayer *Holy Ground* #2272

We are stand - ing _____ on ho - ly ground, _____
_____ and I know that there are an - gels all a -
round; _____ let us praise _____
_____ Je - sus now; _____ we are
stand - ing in his pres - ence on ho - ly ground. _____

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

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

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

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

Oh, How Great Is Thy Compassion—arr. Albert Beck

Based on *Hirtenlieder*—William H. Havergal, 1846

*Response *Thank God*

**Thank God, thank God,
thanks in the morning, thanks in the noontime
Thank God, thank God,
thanks when the sun goes down.**

*Prayer of Dedication *Carol Penner*

Giver of all good things, let your grace flow through us - a generous stream, unstoppable, refreshing, abundant. We release these gifts into your river of love, flowing out to all the world. Amen.

*Song of Parting *On Eagles Wings*

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in this shadow for life
Say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"**

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of God's hand**

last time:

...And hold...you...hold you in the palm...of God's hand.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth *Llanfair*—arr. Jason D. Payne

Based on the tune by Robert Williams 1817, harm by David Evans, 1927

God's Presence

Pat Owens

As I am aging, I feel the presence of God in my life. I cannot explain it but I know it is there. It is a very comforting feeling that I did not feel in my very busy younger life. I can now look back and see how the presence of God existed and how blessed I have been.

In 1945 I was eight years old and had appendicitis and peritonitis. Penicillin was not available except to the military. Fortunately, my doctor was able to get some. I spent about a month in the hospital. My Mom and Dad gave me a silver dollar every day I was there. I sure wish I had saved them.

In 1990 Bill was at a meeting at the Hilton on Connecticut in D.C. I was visiting Pam in Virginia. We were returning from a shopping trip on a rural road. Crash. A 17 year-old drunk driver hit us head on. Almost instantly a car with two nurses came driving down the road. They took over and got helicopters to get us to a hospital. Bill meanwhile was called to the desk at the Hilton and told he was needed at the hospital. He got there in time to hear the helicopter but there was no Pam. Shortly he heard screams and knew it was Pam. We survived with many broken bones. We will always remember all the support we got from Parkway and will take this time to thank Richard Scherrer for all his legal support.

We never know what life has in store for us but with a strong faith we can be here for each other.

Announcements

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

TODAY! Parkway Speaker Series: *The Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with a Single Step* by Savannah Gagnon

Sunday, July 23 | 11:15am - 12:15pm | Heritage Rm & Zoom

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkw0EzV0VHV1lyQT09#success>

EM2ZURYWURLNmkw0EzV0VHV1lyQT09#success

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

Pythagoras, the Greek philosopher, advised us to “Leave the roads; take the trails.” Our speaker, Savannah Gagonon, took that counsel. She has hiked the Appalachian Trail, (2,200 miles) and the Pacific Crest Trail (3,028 miles). Those two trails, along with the Continental Divide Trail (3,028 miles), informally constitute the Triple Crown of Hiking in this country. Currently, she is preparing to tackle the third leg.

These trails traverse America’s remote wilds through deserts, deep forests, and over mountains, exposing the hikers to a variety of weather. It doesn’t take much imagination to envision that Savannah has many stories to recount her adventures.

7/27 Parkway Adventurers Outing: Missouri Botanical Garden

Thursday, July 27 | 9:00am carpool or 9:30 at Garden 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/>

Let's Get Acquainted—A New Parkway UCC Church Directory Coming Soon

A Directory Team is preparing to update our church directory—this year, without family photos but with lots of updated information. See the update questionnaires on the round table in the Gathering Space. If your current information is correct, WRITE YOUR NAME, and please check the circle at the top of the form and place it in the basket on the round table. If there are changes in your information, please PRINT CLEARLY your information, ESPECIALLY THE EMAIL ADDRESSES. We thank you for responding.

More info: Carol Cobb | ccj Cobb@aol.com | (314) 640-8166



PROGRAM ON VIEWS OF GOD

**Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis
is pleased to invite you to another**

Zoom Webinar - Tuesday, July 25, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Three panelists will discuss their views of God.

- * Sister Carla Mae Streeter of Catholic Christianity
- * Rabbi Elizabeth Hersh of Reform Judaism
- * Swami Nishpapananda of the Hindu Vedanta Society

This program is free, but donations to Interfaith Partnership are always appreciated and can be made at interfaithstl.org or by check to 9450 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63124.

Please join us!

Here's the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87860256823?pwd=UTEySDVldW1hWG5lTTQ1WE4yYndYdz09>

Passcode: 176867

Or Telephone:

1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Webinar ID: 878 6025 6823

Passcode: 176867

Habitat For Humanity Parkway UCC Workday Opening

Saturday, July 29 | 7:45am-3:30pm | 711 Lookaway Ct 63137

Bring your hands and heart and help build affordable housing for someone who needs it. These houses are purchased by the residents. This is not a giveaway. Participate in the continuation Parkway UCC / Habitat for Humanity legacy. Construction skills nice but not necessary. Habitat supplies all tools. Satisfaction a guaranty. One slot has opened up for Saturday July 29.

Contact Tom McKenzie : mckenzie1947@att.net | 314-567-0429



JHLTB—Jesus Has Left the Building July 30

Sign up to help in the Gathering Space go to

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c4daeea28a46-jesus#/>

We will be doing various activities to serve the community.

We welcome photos and short video clips from this event. How about someone from each activity volunteer to take photos and videos and upload here: <https://tinyurl.com/PUCCmedia>

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.

Prayer List as of Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Celebrations

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

Seasonal beauty.

Noah - born early to JoJo and Derek Kersting and big sister Nattie.

Beckett Lawson Hogarty - new grandson for Rosanna and Kevin.

The search for Christian Education and Youth Director - our team has put forth a great candidate to the Church Council for approval!

Concerns

Family & friends of Dick Witte as they grieve & give thanks for him.

Rick & Cathy Hasler and family - giving thanks for his mother.

Skip Larson - healing post rafting snafu -pins, rods in back; broken ribs

Peter LaSalle & Sally Dodge - his palliative care; their move in STL.

Kris Impastato & family - remembering & grieving Uncle Larry.

Pleis/Harms/Eiffert/Schmelig – grief & gratitude for Uncle Alan.

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

Virant family - canoeing accident resulting in a death (Svenson).

The ongoing power struggles and violence in Sudan, elsewhere

The continuing war in Ukraine.

Continuing

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

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 - doing well after navigating a variety of 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 Wilcoxon - 10379-D Forest Brooke Ln; StL MO 63146; 314-983-

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

Other

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.

Home is more than a house. It is a sacred location, a place of aspirations and dreams, of learning and habit, of relationships and heart. Home is the geography of our souls.

~Diana Butler Bass

Last Sunday's Gospel Lesson was Matthew 13:1-8 where Jesus said, "A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn't put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams."

As we continue to ponder and pray about the seeds and our children we talked about last Sunday... *think on this from our United Church of Christ partners:*

The imagery of dandelions is in the forefront of my mind. A weed that most are familiar with, that children and bees delight in, and many who want a manicured monoculture of grass abhor.

There is a contemporary movement *No Mow May* that asks people in the northern hemisphere to forgo mowing so as to let the dandelions bloom and feed the bees who are waking from their slumber and are in need of nectar to sustain themselves until other blossoms are available. This is causing some conflict in some neighborhoods and with HOAs, as people who like perfectly manicured monocultural lawns are irritated by unkempt yards of grass with dandelions raising their sunshine yellow heads as maturation to seed sweeps across the suburban landscape. Many people turn to poison to keep these interlopers that feed the bees and aerate the soil out of the vision of their perfect lawn.

I liken this to the many ways we poison our communities whenever anyone or anything does not meet the vision that has been laid out by individuals, committees, or entire neighborhoods.

Is there room for the dandelions to grow among the grasses?

Is there room for different colors of homes, different customs of peoples, different visions of what makes community among God's people?

The parable of the weeds as explained by Jesus would indicate that there are not, yet we know that a healthy ecosystem is made of many different organisms together, finding a balance in which most can get at least some of their needs met. The bees do not starve, the dandelion does not perish as a species, the dirt does not compact into such hardpan as to sustain nothing, but only if we allow for there to be some weeds that mature to perpetuate their kind. I challenge us all to look beyond the green lawn with nary a blade of crabgrass or gray-headed puff of a dandelion orb to consider the great breadth of plant life or bug life and see if our vision has room for weeds to grow among the grass, as the landowner-farmer understood weeds to grow among the wheat.

This does not mean we much tolerate or fertilize evil among our crops, but rather allow some time to let nature take its course and provide a growing medium for all that need it. Weeds are often referred to as plants in the wrong place. Perhaps evil among humans is another characteristic or behavior misplaced. Perhaps welcoming the weeds will provide a more robust ecosystem and a less monocultural body of Christ.

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.