



www.parkwayucc.org

November 19, 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 or sending an email.

Welcome Children We invite children to full participation in worship. We also have activity bags for young children to use while they are here.

Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop their work and join in prayer.

Scripture Reader today is Greg Schmelig

Flowers today are given by Karen Nolte

Please consider signing up to donate flowers in 2024

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

Birthdays

11/19 REYNOLDS, Douglas

11/22 BIONDO, Lana

11/20 LIVENGOD, Kim

11/22 MUCHNICK, Alaina

11/21 PENICO, Ella

11/24 CRAWFORD, Sean

11/21 WILBOIS, Carol

Wedding Anniversaries

11/21 HERBERG, Mona & Dan

11/21 LITZINGER, Nancy & Jack

11/21 ROGERS, Mike & Gerry

11/24 STIFEL, Alice & Perrin

25th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, November 19, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *I am me, nothing more, nothing less, and that is enough.*
~Harpreet M. Dayal

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Passing the Peace of Christ

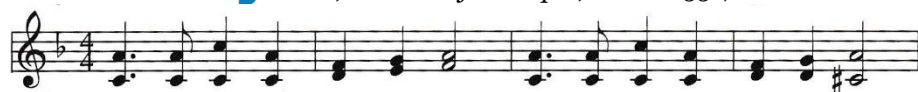
“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

Prelude *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying!* – arr. by Zack Unke (2016),
based on the tune *Wachet Auf* by Phillipp Nicolai

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* #551, v1-2



1. Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home;
2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to God's praise to yield;
3. For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take the har - vest home;
4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To Thy fi - nal har - vest home;



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown;
From each field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin;



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied:
First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear:
Give the an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast;
There for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy pres - ence to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.
But the fruit - ful ears to store In God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come, with all Thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

Scripture Deuteronomy 8:7-18 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper.

You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that you have been given.

Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep God’s commandments, ordinances, and statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions.

God made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.”

But remember the Lord your God, for it is God who gives you power to get wealth, so that God may confirm this covenant sworn to your ancestors, as God continues to do today.

***Call to Worship** based on the words by Howard Thurman

One:	We come with gratitude for so many of the things we too often take for granted—
Many:	Fresh air to breathe;
One:	Cool clean water to drink;
Many:	The taste and nurture of fabulous food;
One:	The protection of safe housing;
Many:	The warmth of our woven clothes;
One:	The comforts of our pampered and privileged lives;
Many:	The power of our words and actions;
One:	Freedom of religion, thought, travel and opinions.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

*Song *We Gather Together*



1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
 2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
 3. We all do ex - tol Thee, Thou lead - er tri - um - phant,
 He chas - tens and has - tens His will to make known;
 Or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing His king - dom di - vine;
 And pray that Thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.
 The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,
 So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
 Let Thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;
 Sing prais - es to His name; He for - gets not His own.
 Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glo - ry be Thine!
 Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

*Opening Prayer *A Thanksgiving Prayer A to Z*

Thanks for the aardvark the ant and all other creatures whose names begin with “A”. For the songs of birds, and honey from bees; for furry cats and swimming crayfish; for dingoes, and dolphins that swim in the sea; for elephants, and eagles who soar above the earth, let us say: we give you thanks, O God.

For frogs which keep us awake at night with their voices; for giraffes whose necks reach to the sky; for hamsters to pet and hogs who give us food; for insects who inhabit our world, let us say: we give you thanks, O God.

For jackrabbits racing across the desert; for kangaroos and katydid; for lions, lemmings, and lizards; for the mongoose, and monkeys who often remind us of ourselves, let the people say: we give you thanks, O God.

For nectarines which nourish us; for the octopus and oyster, gifts of the sea; for people, Lord, because we too are part of your creation, let us say: we give you thanks, O God.

For quartz which runs our watches; for rabbits, rats, and rainstorms; for snakes which slither in the grass; for trees that give us food and shelter; for the power of uranium, may we use it wisely and safely; let the people say: we give you thanks, O God.

For vipers and violets; for whales who swim the ocean and worms tunneling beneath the earth; for xerophytes; for yaks, and for yeast which leavens our bread; for the zebras, whose stripes are one place where black and white live peacefully together, we say: we give you thanks, O God.

Lord, all things in your creation are good. Bless all those parts of the earth which we have not mentioned. Make us faithful stewards of the gifts you have given. It is in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Response** *Now Thank We All Our God, v1-2*



1. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voice - es,
2. O may this boun - teous God Through all our life be near us,
3. All praise and thanks to God, Who reigns in high - est heav - en,



Who won-drous things hath done, In whom this world re - joice - es;
With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us;
To Fa - ther and to Son And Spir - it now be giv - en.



Who, from our moth - ers' arms, Hath blessed us on our way
And keep us in God's grace, And guide us when per - plexed,
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom heav'n and earth a - dore,



With count-less gifts of love, And still is ours to - day.
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.
The God who was, and is, And shall be ev - er - more.

Children's Time For children under the age of 3, parents are invited to take them to Room 01 (upper level) where one of our teachers will meet them at the door. Children from age 3 to 5th grade can follow one of our teachers down to Room 12 (lower level), and youth from 6th to 12th grade can follow a teacher to Room 15 (also lower level). For children in Room 01, parents please pick them up after worship. Children and youth from age 3 thru high school can be met in the Gather Space just outside the Sanctuary after worship, as the teachers will bring them back upstairs after class.

Children's Choir *Give Thanks to Our God* (call and response)

by Barry K. Luedloff

Refrain:

Give thanks to our God! Give thanks to our God!
All people, give God thanks!
Give thanks to our God! Give thanks to our God!
All people, give God thanks!

For people all, both great and small
Come be part of the fun!
Just lend your voice; help us rejoice
Come join us every-one! (*Refrain*)

Blessing the Children *Give Thanks*

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

Scripture Matthew 25:14-30 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant’s ability. Then he left on his journey.

After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money.

Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained five more.’

His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

The second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’

His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you haven’t spread seed. So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what’s yours.’

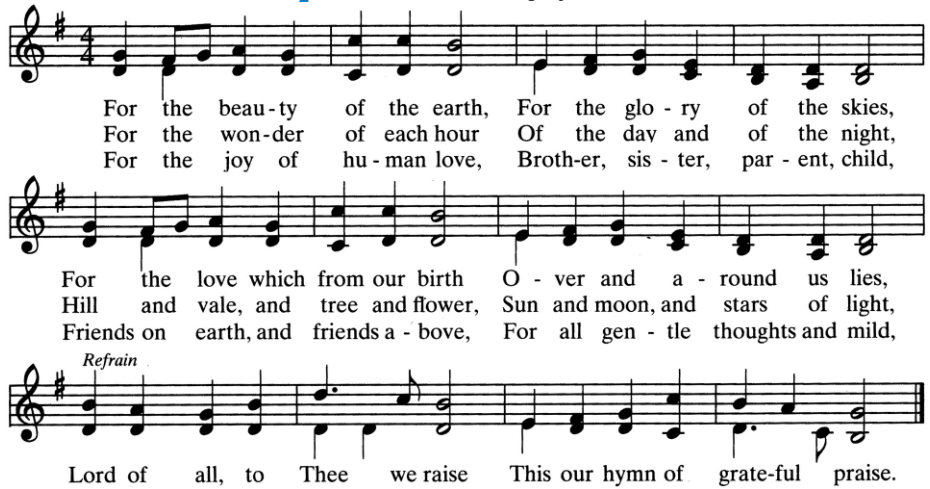
His master replied, ‘You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven’t sown and that I gather crops where I haven’t spread seed? In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don’t have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.’

People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.”

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Invitation to Prayer *For the Beauty of the Earth*



For the beau-ty of the earth, For the glo-ry of the skies,
For the won-der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
For the joy of hu-man love, Broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,

For the love which from our birth O-ver and a-round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, For all gen-tle thoughts and mild,

Refrain

Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

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 Interlude *For the Fruit of All Creation* – arr. by Zack Unke based on the traditional Welsh melody *Ar Hyd Nos* (anonymous, c. 1784)

*Response *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*



1. We plow the fields and scat - ter The good seed on the land,
2. You on - ly are the Mak - er Of all things near and far;
3. We thank You, then, Cre - a - tor, For all things bright and good,



But it is fed and wa - tered By God's al - might - y hand;
 You paint the way-side flow - er, You light the eve - ning star;
 The seed-time and the har - vest, Our life, our health, our food;



God sends the snow in win - ter, The warmth to swell the grain,
 The winds and waves o - bey You, By You the birds are fed;
 Ac - cept the gifts we of - fer, For all Your love im - parts,



The breez-es and the sun - shine, And soft, re - fresh-ing rain.
 Much more to us, Your chil - dren, You give our dai - ly bread.
 And what You most would wel - come, Our hum - ble, thank-ful hearts.

*Prayer of Dedication Naomi King

Holy One, we join our hands and hearts in gratitude this day.

We remember all who do not have enough,

who are afraid,

who are lonely,

and who suffer.

We wish for the abundance of this world to be shared,

for fear to become love,

for the lonely to feel welcomed,

and for the suffering to know rest and joy.

**For the labors, the love, the care that gave us the delights of this
 and every day, we offer our *thanks!***

For the nourishment of our spirit,

the challenges that strengthen us,

and the friends we have on the journey,

we sing *thanks!*

For all that is our lives,

for these good gifts,

we whisper, *thanks.*

Overflowing with gratitude,

let us shout, thanks!

Amen.

*Song of Parting *For the Fruit of All Creation*



1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.
2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, Thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, For the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, Thanks be to God.
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
Most of all that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth *Improvisations on Nun Danket Alle Gott* based on the melody by Johann Crüger (1648)

Announcements

TAD ~ Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue... Zoom with us!

TAD will meet November 21 and December 5 to continue to discuss *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michelle Richardson.

Related to current issues of book accessibility in libraries, this book is historical fiction but based on true stories about the women librarians in Kentucky back in the 1930's who rode on horseback into the mountains to deliver books and newspapers. The main character has a genetic condition causing her to be shunned by her community. This adds an important component to the story about how isolation impacts the human spirit and how education and acceptance can overcome ignorance to allow understanding and kindness. Come 15 minutes early if you want to chat and build community before we start the book discussion...

Zoom...<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMlU4ay9oNndTWw4yZUYwUT09>

(312) 626-6799; Meeting ID: 836 7061 7428; Passcode: 480007

Questions? Contact Jackie Eiffert, jeiffert2@gmail.com; (661) 378-6781

Honoring Tyler Wessel – Raising Mental Health Awareness

Parkway Central High and CHADS Mental Health Coalition invite you to a varsity basketball game on Tuesday, November 28 at 6:30pm at Parkway Central High School ~ 369 N Woods Mill Rd, Chesterfield 63017 -- just north of Ladue Rd at 141.

Cheer on Tyler Wessel's old basketball team at Parkway Central High School and help raise money for mental health programs.

Tyler loved sports and was an accomplished athlete. He was kind, good humored and brought people together. He grew up here at PUCC - attended our PUNS Preschool, Bellerive Elementary, Central Junior and Central High. He was a student at Indiana University at the time of his death by suicide in August 2021. <https://www.schrader.com/obituary/tyler-wessel>

His basketball team has hosted a fundraiser for mental health in 2021 and 2022 and is doing so again this year. 'Talk for Tyler' is the theme that reminds all of us that we need to speak about mental health regularly and make sure that the people around us know that we are willing to listen to them and love them in the midst of any challenge or struggle.

Join us as we remember Tyler, rally around his parents Cindy and Ralf and enjoy some good basketball.

To learn more about CHADS, visit <https://www.chadscoalition.org/>

For more information, please contact kevin@parkwayucc.org;

314-872-9330

Join us for a Special Worship Experience on December 3

Sunday, December 3 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

Come One, Come All to a Special Worship Experience on December 3 at 10am. We will begin with Worship in the Sanctuary and then... A Journey to Bethlehem in Fellowship Hall. Children will be given a Passport to visit Mary and Joseph, Angels, and spend time in the stable with a photo opportunity. Travel further on to the Bethlehem Market and taste some of the foods of the era, visit some farm animals, and make a final visit with The Wisemen. Bring children of all ages, and invite grandkids to join us. There will be tables in the middle with more activities: God's Eyes, Festive Paper Chains, Ornaments, and Writing Poetry. Join us on the first Sunday of Advent!

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

Parkway Adventurers ~ open to all!

Thursday, December 7 | 9:15am | *Magic Chef Mansion*

Join us for a tour of the mansion --- it will last an hour and fifteen minutes.

Please wear only flat-sole shoes as no small-tipped heels are permitted. We'll meet at church by 9:15am to carpool or meet at the mansion before 10am. There is a \$20 per person fee (15 person minimum) for the tour with the money to be paid the day of the tour.

RSVP to Kent Tallyn (314-303-5606; bsee74-pucc@yahoo.com) or Diane Tallyn (314-910-2032) no later than Thursday, November 30. Lunch to be determined.

The Magic Chef Mansion was built for Charles Stockstrom (1852-1935), the founder of the *Quick Meal Stove Company*, later renamed *Magic Chef*.

The largest stove maker in the world at one time, the St. Louis plant alone sprawled over 600,000 square feet and employed 2,000 people.

After his death, Stockstrom's daughter Adda Ohmeyer resided in the mansion until her death. Shortly thereafter, all of the original furnishings and some of the fixtures were sold at a week-long public auction prior to the house's sale in the fall of 1990 to the current owner. The new family moved in four months later and began restoration. Over the next twenty years, some of the original items were tracked down, repurchased and returned to the house. The mansion has been painstakingly restored to its turn-of-the-century elegance, including original lighting fixtures and period furnishings. We will see uncovered original murals in the parlor, an original and operating *Magic Chef* oven in the kitchen, and a bowling alley in the basement. Hopefully, it will be decorated for Christmas.

<http://magicchefmansion.com/>

* Past *Parkway Adventurers* events have included the Chihuly Exhibit at the amazing Missouri Botanical Garden and the intense and informative Holocaust Museum in Creve Coeur.

For more info on this group, please contact either Jackie Eiffert jeiffert2@gmail.com, 661-378-6781 or Carol Cobb ccjcobb@aol.com, (314) 640-8166

Inquirers' Gathering - for those who want to know more about PUCC and who want to be known

Monday, January 8, 2024 | 6:30-7:45pm | Dessert | Heritage Room

Our goals that evening include:

- getting to know one another a bit more
- describing Parkway's worship, outreach, education, leadership, fellowship
- taking a look at our denomination, the United Church of Christ
- sharing ideas about the exciting future of Parkway UCC
- soliciting your thoughts on how we can be a more welcoming and inviting community of faith
- discussing some key issues of faith
- answering any of your questions

You will find our time together meaningful and informative.

Some churches call this sort of gathering a New Members Class—we do not.

While we do know that there are a number of visitors who have expressed interest in becoming members of the church, we do not assume that Inquirers are seeking membership. We just want to be hospitable, get to know you and have the chance to express gratitude for your presence among us.

Kevin Cameron: kevin@parkwayucc.org | 314-872-9330

Childcare is available that evening if requested ahead of time.

Youth Lock-In... Get this on your calendar now!

Friday, February 9, 2024 | 5pm-8am | the church building upstairs/downstairs
Get ready! PUCC is bringing back lock-ins! For youth between 6th-12th grade, we'll be having loads of fun things to do during the event, from gamenite to a scavenger hunt, a movie, and even Valentine decorating! It'll run from 5pm on Friday to 8am on Saturday. Dinner and breakfast will be provided --- and also snacks of course! Questions? Gabriel@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330

Habitat for Humanity St Louis Thanks You!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent auction to benefit Habitat for Humanity St. Louis. Your support helps provide decent affordable housing for those in need. Your donations and volunteer efforts reduce the weight of a mortgage for those who buy the homes.

St Louis Metro Area Crop Walk Results

The results from the St Louis Area Metro Area Crop Walk have been tabulated. The St. Louis Walk raised almost \$10,000.00. Our Parkway team raised \$2900.00 of that total. Thanks to all the donors, volunteers, walkers and supporters. We could not help eliminate hunger one step at a time without your efforts...Thanks so much to the Parkway Community.

~Pam Manning and Sue Moellering, Parkway's Crop Walk Team Organizers

Thanksgiving Word Scramble

icunropca
etrshva
mevrnoeb
iligpmr
kuteyr
bcynerrra
yraomefwl
tmolpyuh
ayhliod
qhauss
gwnmpaaao
ipnpkum
togophphsra
rvagy
loblatfo
shdies
lyfmai
mmreis
toapto
ddhiessi
sgmea
mmseroi
vnrnoectasoi
uutnma
eetssdr
sigbslen
lpees
dugtiaert
reghta
svrftleoe
frieg
nunoire
crepei
aechchamost

Pray for our UCC's CAIM

The Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) is the voice for American Indian people in the UCC. CAIM provides Christian ministry and witness to American Indians and to the wider church. Justice issues that affect American Indian life are communicated to the whole UCC by CAIM.

Historically, the forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. CAIM supports these local churches and their pastors. In addition, CAIM strives to be a resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations and to strengthen their participation in the life of the church.

Navajo Mountain *Norla Chee, Navajo and Oneida poet*

If you close your eyes and take a deep breath
you can hear the green sage sing

The gray stones beneath you
feel young again
The breeze watches
it all with her Mona Lisa smile

Naatsis'áán takes it all in

The thunder of a hundred hooves,
whoops and hollers of the crowd,
the intensity of the riders
as in the day of wild warriors on the warpath.

There are chicken pulls, children's foot races,
Navajo cake, kneel-down bread, drum songs

K'é shakes the roots of the mountain,
which gives the people her blessing
as does Sun God with gentle warm breath.

The story I heard
was that the people
returned from Hwéeldi
and found strangers in their home.

Ashiih Litso just a boy, risked everything
on one horse race
and was blessed by the Holy People.

Another story goes that the mountain protected the people,
keeping soldiers away and they never had to make the Long Walk.

Whichever story you live by,
the mountain remembers.
Ehaniah celebrates her,
head of the earth.

Prayer List

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Celebrations

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

Seasonal beauty.

Families and individuals making wonderful plans for Thanksgiving.

Concerns

Grieving/struggling families or individuals as the holidays approach.

Bill Hilgeman - several injuries after accident; home after hospitalization.

Coree Mix and family as they grieve and give thanks for great-grandma.

Lucia and John Bieg - as they mourn the sudden death of his cousin.

Karen Grayheck - healing after recent back surgery.

Gram Ruth Hughes - Lymphoma; receiving hospice care (Schneider).

The Yakels - as Amy's mother transitions to new care center this month

Annette Harrison - recovering from injuries (Stifel).

Trudy - living with cancer; healing after a fall (Scharf).

Clare Chapman - diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer (Svenson)

Iceland - thousands of earthquakes; concerns about volcanoes erupting.

The people of Nepal after the earthquake earlier this month.

The continuing war in Ukraine.

War in the Mideast - Israel and Hamas....Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Yemen

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 - *NHC Cool Springs*; 211 Cool Springs Blvd #1610;

Franklin, TN 37067; 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]

Continuing

Becca Palmgren - medical tests and discerning treatment options.

Kathleen Tarr - some success with her mental health program.

Cassie Rosenberger's mother Martha - ongoing cancer treatments.

Seger Ruiz - paralyzed from car accident in September.

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

Nelson Spencer - medical concerns (Ellie Svenson).

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 a new home with great roommates.

Chris - hospice care after brain cancer surgery (Doug's sister-in-law).

Renee and family - very aggressive onset of dementia (McKenzie).

Carol - healing after recent vascular surgery (Mary Akers).

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

Theresa - surgery/treatment/recovery - aggressive cancer (Schwarz).

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

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

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.

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Our Church is a Firearm-free Zone

Some questions have recently arisen about firearms and our church premises. Under Missouri law, the concealed carry right does NOT extend to church premises. Missouri law provides by default that concealed firearms are not permitted in churches, unless specifically authorized by the church. No such authorization has been made at Parkway. Missouri law also bars fire-ready firearms in churches (with certain law enforcement exceptions) where people are assembled for worship.

The Church Council has decided to make these rules clear for all by having No-Firearms-Allowed signs posted on church entry doors. This does not represent a change in policy, since that has been the effect of existing Missouri law, but Council believes the clear notice will best serve everyone.

25th Sunday *after* Pentecost

November 19, 2023

Matthew 25:14-30

Extravagant Opportunity

Thanksgiving Sunday

What if Jesus were telling this story now? Might it sound a little like this?

So, the reign of God is like a businesswoman, preparing to leave for the airport on a business trip, who called three of her employees into the conference office. The employees sat somewhat nervously around the conference table, not sure what to expect. The businesswoman arrived in a hurry and took her customary place at the head of the table. Only then did they notice the large box that sat in front of her on the table.

Then, one by one, she pulled three items out of the box. To the first employee, she gave a small but powerful video camera. That employee immediately left the conference room and began conducting interviews with her coworkers, asking them what had brought them to work at that company. She was amazed about what she learned about people she worked with every day. This employee uploaded the videos onto social media and a couple of them even went viral.

To the second employee, the boss gave a compact typewriter in a carrying case. The next day, during lunch, he offered to type a poem about any subject his coworkers might choose. One by one, his coworkers told him stories about the people they loved, the animals that made them laugh, the mountains that inspired them. And this second employee wrote poems for them all. They shared the poems with each other, delighted to get to know each other in this new way.

To the third employee, the businesswoman gave a pencil. But the third employee didn't know what to do. She stayed in her office alone many nights, just looking at that pencil and wondering what the boss could have meant by giving her such a small and worthless gift.

When the boss came back, she praised the social media campaign of the first employee and thanked the second employee for the increase in morale and sense of comradeship in the office. But with the third employee, who, with a sheepish expression, tried to give her back the pencil, the boss was visibly disappointed. "There are so many ways you could have used this tool, but you chose to do nothing. This is a place for people to take risks and express their creativity, but you have twiddled your thumbs. Next time, the gift will go to someone else altogether."