

All Saints Sunday

Historic Sanctuary



All Saints
Vasily Kandinsky



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

www.parkwayucc.org

November 5, 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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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: Greg Schmelig

Flowers are given by Carol and Harold Cobb in remembrance of those whom we honor today.

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

- 11/5 ROSENBERGER, Cassie
- 11/6 BARNES, Andrea
- 11/10 SABLEMAN, Lynn
- 11/10 YESS, Tyler
- 11/11 BOWERMASTER, Ryan

Wedding Anniversaries

- 11/8 BRUEGGEMANN, Michelle & Brad (15)

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 5, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation

What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace.

~John Wesley

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 My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer—arr. Marc Jordan (2008)

Based on the tune *Stuttgart*, from Witt's *Psalmody Sacre*, 1715

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song

Holy Ground (please sing twice)



The musical score for 'Holy Ground' is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.' The music features a mix of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some measures containing rests.

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.

Introit

Rejoice in God's Saints—music Mary Kay Beall/Fred Pratt Green,

arr. John Carter

Rejoice in God's saints today and all days,
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
In loving, in living, they prove it is true,
The way of self-giving, God, leads us to you.

Scripture 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 (CEB – Common English Bible)

You remember, sisters and brothers, our efforts and hard work. We preached God's good news to you, while we worked night and day so we wouldn't be a burden on any of you. You and God are witnesses of how holy, just, and blameless we were toward you believers. Likewise, you know how we treated each of you like a parent treats their own children. We appealed to you, encouraged you, and pleaded with you to live lives worthy of the God who is calling you into kingdom and glory.

We also thank God constantly for this: when you accepted God's word that you heard from us, you welcomed it for what it truly is. Instead of accepting it as a human message, you accepted it as God's message, and it continues to work in you who are believers.

*Call to Worship Julia Seymour

One: On this *All Saints Day*, we remember the countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage through time.

Many: **We remember the tender touch of loved ones, the example of heroes, the healing words of comforters, the remarkable acts of fearless ones.**

One: We remember the gentle strength of grandparents, the loyalty of friends, the kindness of strangers, the joy of children, the selflessness of parents.

Many: **We remember the incredible love of Jesus, the immeasurable blessings of the Spirit, the impact and import of Jesus' words, the sharing of his stories and teachings, the glory of his resurrection shown forth in the lives of his disciples, young and old, dead and living.**

One: We remember the articulate and silent, strange and familiar, brilliant and ordinary.

Many: **We remember in every time and place the saints of God who have shown us facets of God. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...**

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

*Song Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!	Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!	all the saints a - dore Thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!	though the dark-ness hide Thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!	Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eye of sin - ful - ness Thy glo - ry may not see,
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 Per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

***Opening Prayer** Echoing words from *O God Our Help in Ages Past*

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come:

We have gathered in remembrance of days long gone, lives long given up, telegrams long since read; to continue remembering through the generations, confident that your faithfulness lasts.

Under the shadow of thy throne your saints have dwelt secure:

We come before you, this day, Lord: recognizing that guns have, in the past, fallen silent; that agreements were reached and led to peace; that your present Word to us is one of life and peace.

Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure:

Help us to put our trust in you, God. Come among humankind that we may see in all people your image, that we may follow Christ's way of serving, that in your security we may risk much for peace.

From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same:

Enable us to discern your way to peaceful living, to strive against violence to people and to planet, to struggle for justice for all on this earth, and to combat all that works against your vision of peace.

Lord, be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home:

Keep us from seeing in violence the answer to deeper ills. Embed within us a vision of earth more like heaven and give us confidence that your kingdom shall prevail through Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen!

***Response** *Spirit of the Living God*

**Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
Spirit of the living God, make us one in love;
humble, caring, selfless, sharing—
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!**

Children's Time Children and youth will be safely escorted across the street for Sunday School. Please meet them in the Gathering Space 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.**

Stewardship Moment *Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives*

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Anthem *Come Build a Church*

Based on the song by Ken Medema, 1993

God of creation, maker of all things, We gather in this place to pray.
We do invite you, come now among us; Come and build your church today.

Come build a church with soul and spirit,
Come build a church of flesh and bone.

We need no tower rising skyward; No house of wood, or glass, or stone.

Come build a church with human frailty.

Come build a church of flesh and blood.

Jesus will be its sure foundation.

It shall be built by the hand of God. It shall be built by the hand of God.

***Response**

**Praise God whose many names abound;
Our Peace, our Rock, Our Holy Ground,
Our Home, our All, Earth's Majesty,
Love, Spirit, Light and Mystery. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication** *Laurel Amabile*

**Holy One, we dedicate these gifts, freely given and gratefully
received, to the work of this congregation:
Building honest, caring relationships across all lines of difference;
Growing in spirit and searching for meaning, together and apart;
Promoting religious freedom, practicing compassion, and working
for justice.**

**May these gifts, and the work of our hands and hearts,
give power to all we stand for as a community of faith. Amen.**

Scripture Matthew 5:1-12 (KJV – King James Version)

And seeing the multitudes, Jesus went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when others shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

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.

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**

***Interlude** *The Church's One Foundation*—arr. Albert Beck
Based on the tune *Aurelia*, by Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Holy One, you nurture us from the past. You have fed us here today. You are already out ahead of us, preparing places of refreshment and empowerment. As we prepare to leave this place, help us to honor the past and forge an even more faithful path. Amen.

*Song of Parting *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

Please come forward during the closing hymn or after to retrieve the mementos/photos of your loved ones. We grieve, remember and give thanks with you.



1. I sing a song of the saints of God, Pa - tient and
 2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, And God's love
 3. They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, There are hun - dreds of



brave and true, Who toiled and fought and lived and died
 made them strong; And they fol - lowed the right, for Je - sus' sake,
 thou - sands still; The world is bright with the joy - ous saints



For the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a
 The whole of their good lives long. And one was a
 Who love to do Je - sus' will. You can meet them in



doc - tor, and one was a queen, And one was a shep - herd-ess
 sol - dier, and one was a priest, And one was slain by a
 school, or in lanes, or at sea, In church, or in trains, or in



on the green: They were all of them saints of
 fierce wild beast: And there's not an - y rea - son,
 shops, or at tea; For the saints of God are just



God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
 no, not the least, Why I should - n't be one too.
 folk like me, And I mean to be one too.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Postlude *For All the Saints*—arr. James Mansfield (2018)

Based on *Sine Nomine* by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Announcements

Speaker Series November 12: Respect, Empathy, Awareness

by Katie Rodriguez-Banister

Sunday, November 12 | 11:15am | Heritage Room & ZOOM

Our speaker, Katie Rodriguez Banister survived an auto accident in 1990 that left her a quadriplegic, paralyzed from the chest down. After six months of rehabilitation and fifteen months of living with her parents, she returned to living independently in 1992.

With her husband, Steve the two co-founded *Access-4-All, llc.* with a mission to educate and empower others through motivational speaking and disability education. Katie serves as a board member of the Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis since 1992, serving now three terms as President. Katie was a performer and founding member with St. Louis' *Disability Project* for six years. She served as a board member and President of the Delta Center for Independent Living from 1996-2002 and board member of the VSA Arts of MO from 1996- 2000. She co-produced her own motivational video *Change Takes Time* as well as two music videos, *Spring* and *Beauty in the Lou*.

The speaker will appear in person in the Heritage Room following worship. You may join us live or remotely by Zoom.

Zoom Link:

us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwdoEzVoVHV1IyQT0g#success **ID:** 8469147 6997 | **Passcode:** 181565 | 312- 626-6799

Circle of Concern Thanksgiving Baskets

Circle of Concern serves 650 families in West St. Louis County. As part of their Thanksgiving Basket program, 6 area churches pack boxes containing 8 sought after items, including: can of pumpkin, stuffing mix, box of mashed potatoes, corn muffing mix, can of fruit, can of cranberries, jar of turkey gravy, and a container of chicken broth. These boxes are then distributed along with a pie, fresh vegetables and a \$30.00 gift card to Aldi's.

Please bring your donated items to church and leave inside the entry doors before the deadline of November 12, 2023. We are slated to pack 100 boxes. Thanks for your generosity! Lana Biondo lanabiondo66@gmail.com

Sharing Our Food with Isaiah 58

We also have an opportunity to serve our midtown ministry with our neighbors at Isaiah 58. We are requested to provide 300 2-lb bags of flour for Thanksgiving Day clients. As you are able, consider adding the 2-lb bags of flour to your shopping carts until November 12. WE ARE ALMOST ONE THIRD THERE AS OF LAST SUNDAY. Place your donations in the marked box under the donation tables in the lobby. Thanks in advance for your continued support. Questions? Evelyn Buretta burettaevelyn@gmail.com; 636-220-1280

Gabriel's Senior Sermon at Eden Seminary Chapel

At 6pm on Tuesday, November 7, I will be offering my senior sermon at Eden. It's a huge milestone in a seminarian's journey, and I would love for my new church family to be able to experience this worship service with me. I hope you can make it! Eden is at 475 E Lockwood Avenue in Webster Groves 63119. Ample parking is available. Please follow the signs to the chapel – use elevator or stairs. Questions? Contact gabriel@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330

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

All are welcome to join us on Zoom on Tuesday, November 7 at 2pm as we work with the same book as TED—*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*. Come 15 minutes early if you want to chat and build community before we start the book discussion...

Zoom...<https://us02web.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

Intertwine Interfaith Coffee House in the Gathering Space

Saturday, November 11 | 7:00pm – 8:30pm | Parkway UCC

Join us here at PUCC with our Muslim and Jewish friends for a Coffee House. If you would like to share music, poetry, or another talent at the event, please indicate that when you sign up via the link below.

All ages are welcome! Coffee and tea will be served. Please indicate in the sign up if you would like to bring halal/kosher baked goods to share.

Now more than ever, we understand the beauty and blessing of interfaith friendship.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E49A9A72CA6F58-intertwine>

For your 2024 calendar ~~ Sunday, April 28 @ 1:30 tour of Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum led by our friend Vera Emmons from Shaare Emeth.

Questions? Lisa Mason (217-257-0525) lmason624@sbcglobal.net or Paige Penico andipaige@hotmail.com... *Shalom, Salaam, Peace*

Tuesday Evening Dialogue (TED) Concludes Book on 11/14

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

Please join us as we wrap up our discussion of *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.

All are welcome for Potluck and Book Discussion.

Questions? Contact Helen Race raceh@att.net; 314- 401-4382

SPROUTS OF PEACE

Saturday, November 11 | 2-4pm | Peace UCC @ Eden Seminary
Children K-5th and parents are invited to our interfaith Sprouts of Peace. We weave ourselves together with our Muslim and Jewish friends. For more info, please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-330-0629

TASOM Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 16th | 6:30 - 8.30pm | TASOM 664 Lemay Ferry Rd 63125
You are invited to the 2023 Thanksgiving dinner at TASOM featuring all of the traditional dishes with vegetarian options. This is a great opportunity to share a meal with old and new friends with our interfaith friends.
Free but donations are welcome to support TASOM Youth Club
Please RVSP by November 13...
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScx7PJin63d1JuonDzSb7ob_e19E54AVA6tciBPRhD8ulwpuw/viewform

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 for this organization 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.

New Guidance for Mental Health Services from the World Health Organization and the United Nations

Read the report on the WHO website:
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240080737>
This groundbreaking report has been published by the World Health Organization alongside the United Nations (on behalf of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights).
It prioritizes the human rights of people who use mental health services, which is an entirely different approach to most current mental health laws, which are focused primarily on compulsion and containment.
Of particular interest on p.57 of the report ~
Prescription of psychotropic drugs...
Countries should adopt a higher standard for the free and informed consent to psychotropic drugs given their potential risks of harm in the short and long term. Countries, for example, can require written or documented informed consent (e.g. expressed by a recording in video or audio formats) after providing detailed information on potential negative and positive effects, and the availability of alternative treatment and non-medical options.
Legislation can require medical staff to inform service users about their right to discontinue treatment and to receive support in this. Support should be provided to help people safely withdraw from treatment with drugs.
The prescription of psychotropic drugs and follow-up requires careful physical health assessment and monitoring.
For an overview of the report and its context, you could read the blog by IIPDW Chair Professor John Read in *Psychology Today*.

Lies

by Quinn Caldwell

A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed warrior.

~Proverbs 24:34 (NRSVUE)

The book of Proverbs claims for itself that it's the offspring of King Solomon and Wisdom herself, but most of the time it sounds like the bastard child of late capitalism and some old-timey schoolteacher. How wise is Lady Wisdom really if all she can offer is 100 different versions of “behave because it's naughty to be naughty”?

Some parts are worse than conventional or circular, though. Some are downright damaging. This passage is one.

So listen up: Poverty is not created by resting. Want is almost never the result of naps. Poverty is mostly constructed by the powerful, the result of the rich hoarding their resources. Want is mostly the result of being born on the wrong side of a society intentionally tilted so that its resources roll in one direction.

Listen up: Hard work is good if the work does good—AND you deserve to rest from it regularly. Producing is good when the products are righteous—AND you deserve to periodically fold your hands and stop producing.

Listen up: Jesus promised an easy yoke and a light burden.

He told Martha to put down her Swiffer for a minute. He did not disdain to receive a foot rub when one was offered to him. He took naps when his disciples thought he should be stilling storms.

He also got rather a lot done.

The lie that rest equals failure was created to serve a god that is not God. Ignore it. Be wise. Be like Jesus. Go take a nap, and then get back to surviving and saving the world.

Prayer:

Holy one, grant me good rest and good work. Amen.

**** This is a UCC Daily Devotional – *God is Still Speaking***
Please considering signing up for this free daily devo here:

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>

Prayer List

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Celebrations

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

Concerns

Karen Grayheck - preparing for upcoming back surgery.
Helen Buenger - cornea transplant October 24 (Lori Connors' mom).
Tim Pence - hospitalized with sepsis (Kathy Ferrell).
Nelson Spencer - medical concerns (Ellie Svenson).
Dodge/LaSalle Family - Jaime grieving over her father; Beckett as both his grandfathers have died in two months; nephew deployed (AF).
Aftermath of Hurricane Otis in Mexico.
The grief and healing happening in Maine after deadly violence.
The continuing war in Ukraine.
War in the Mideast - Israel and Hamas.... Syria, Iran, Yemen...

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.
Joseph Miller - long road to healing (son of Deb Carter).
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).
Gram Ruth - Lymphoma diagnosis; hip surgery recovery (L Schneider).
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).
The people of Afghanistan, Libya, Morocco after natural disasters.

The children are always ours, every single one of them, all over the globe; and I am beginning to suspect that whoever is incapable of recognizing this may be incapable of morality. ~James Baldwin

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 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.



23rd Sunday *after* Pentecost

November 5, 2023

Matthew 23:1-12

Partners in Service

Long before he was Pope, a priest called Francis developed a prayer he called the five-finger prayer. On this *All Saints Day*, it's a good way to call to mind those saints in our lives and in the world who have led the way in the faith.

Hold your hands palm down in front of you, and look at your fingers one by one, beginning with your thumb, which is the closest to your heart.

Thumb: Pray for those closest to you. Pray for those in your chosen family, or for your close friends.

Pointer finger: Pray for those saints who have pointed you in the right direction. Pray for older relatives, wise teachers, good employers, and thoughtful mentors.

Middle finger: This finger stands tall. Pray for the saints in leadership in your community and the world. Pray for those in business, government, and church leadership whose decisions affect so many.

Ring finger: This finger is the weakest of all the fingers. Pray for those on the margins, pray for the oppressed or the downtrodden. Pray for the ill and the dying. Pray for the addicted and the imprisoned.

Pinky finger: This finger is the smallest. This is where you put your prayers for yourself.

In today's scripture story, Jesus teaches the crowds and disciples about servant leadership. He showed them that when we are followers of Christ, our words and actions need to be consistent.

As we pray this prayer, we can get clearer about who are the ordinary, everyday saints in our lives and the world.

We can better understand who those are who walk their walk and talk their talk, those saints who have something to teach us here and now.